



Vox Voyageur

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May/June 2004

March Fun Trial Is A Success!

By Jon Pidde

The all-breed obedience fun trial our club sponsored March 27th was very well attended. Almost 90 different dogs showed up and most of them did two runs. This year, instead of doing a joint trial with the local Labrador Retriever club, our club did all of the work.

The trophy committee did a lot of the work at the fun trial. Kathy Patregnani organized the kitchen and turned it over to Sarah Salzwedel.

Patty Salzwedel lined up the stewards and with the help of Barb Kroke, Shirley Harford, Joan Beck, B. A. Breese and Julie Wilson the rings ran very smooth. There were some beginning stewards, including Nate Salzwedel and Michael Bury, who jumped into the Novice ring and did a great job!

Kathy's friend, Patty Raymond of the Golden Retriever club, did a wonderful job of selling raffle tickets for the trophy fund baskets.

I'm thankful my wife Sandy hasn't lost her sense of humor about how she had to spend a Saturday. Thanks Sandy!

Look for more member photos from the fun trial on page 3.



Shirley Harford and Aspen work a figure 8 pattern.

What is a "Fun Match" or "Fun Trial"?

Some of our new members may not know exactly what a fun match or fun trial is, except that evidently something fun is involved.

A fun match or trial is an organized set of practice run throughs for conformation, obedience or agility that are designed so that you and your dog can practice in a realistic setting without huge entry fees and without consequences if you mess up.

Most of the time there is plenty of time to visit and get to know other club members better. It can be especially fun for new members because matches are so informal. It is a great way to start getting to know people in the club.

If you want to attend an upcoming match, but are a little timid about showing up at a place where you don't know anyone, just phone any one of the TCVESSA Board members and we will set you up with a hospitality person to introduce you to club members at the match.

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Advertising Opportunity for TCVESSA's August Specialty

Our August Specialty will be here before we know it. It's not too early to think about the wonderful ad you may want to place in the catalog. The prices for advertising are \$40.00 for a full page, \$25.00 for a half page and \$20.00 for a quarter page. There is a \$10.00 up charge per photo submitted. All advertising proceeds (after expenses) will come back to TCVESSA as a Specialty Club.

The deadline for ad submission is June 30th. If you want additional information or detailed instructions, please contact B.A. Breese, Advertising Chair – 320-274-8900; cbiserv@lkdllink.net.

Treasurer's Report

Thanks to our generous membership, the annual banquet and raffle fundraiser was a success this year. We managed to raise \$531.67 for the general operating fund through meal tickets and \$569.00 was raised for the trophy fund via raffle profits.

Our new treasurer, Jon Pidde, reported that the club's total account balance is \$5,500.00. This includes monies for both the general operating fund and the trophy fund. About \$1,000 of this money is trophy fund, and the rest is the financial cushion the club maintains to cover costs if a catastrophic event forces us to cancel our specialty.

Many members may not be aware of the fact that the AKC requires their affiliate breed clubs to carry a liability insurance policy. As with everything else in our economy, the premiums have been steadily creeping up. Last year the club paid \$400 for insurance coverage. This year's bill was \$600. (Ouch!!) The insurance premium is paid from membership dues money, and this year our total dues revenue was \$800.00. This leaves very little to pay for operating expenses and member services through out the year like office expenses and newsletter costs. The result is we need to make a modest increase to our membership dues to cover the insurance increase. Raising our dues will require altering the club bylaws, which must be approved by AKC. The Board expects all the paperwork will be completed by the end of our fiscal year. The Board welcomes member input on this process.

Old Business**2004 Specialty**

The following individuals are handling the 2004 Specialty. If you have questions, or would like to help with the Specialty, please contact these individuals:

Hospitality Chairperson: Julie Wilson
Conformation Show Chair: Stephanie Bachman
Obedience Show Chair: Jon Pidde
Show Secretary: Cyndi Myhre
Reserved Grooming Chair: Ann Sunderman
Barbeque Meal Reservations: Ann Sunderman
Trophy Chairperson: Cyndi Myhre
Catalog Advertising Coordinator: B.A. Breese
Show Superintendent: Onofrio Dog shows
Agility Event Secretary: www.allagility.com
Show Photographer: John Downy Photography

Reserved grooming space with electricity will be available at the 2004 Specialty. Look for the reservation form in the premium list. Spaces will go for the following prices: \$20.00 for small set-up (1-2 dogs), \$30.00 for medium set-up (3-4 dogs) and \$40.00 for large set-up (5-8 dogs). Payment will guarantee a spot for the entire four days of the cluster.

Tentative schedule for Specialty Show:

At the present time, we are hoping to begin the Thursday specialty show with Obedience starting at 1:00 pm and Conformation beginning at 3:00 pm. Friday the schedule will reverse with Conformation beginning at 9:00 am and Obedience beginning after 1:00 pm. The exact schedule will be posted in the program.

New Business

Board member, Julie Wilson, has begun work on a TCVESSA web page and will soon be constructing a database of the entire membership that will include member activity preferences. The new database will help the Board plan club activities and will assist the club with finding mentors for new members who wish to learn specific skills.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan M. Beck
TCVESSA Club Secretary

TCVESSA Club Member Results



Reminder: Please be sure you get any results you wish to be published in the next newsletter to Krista Trempe by June 15.

Aspen's Chelsae Northern Reflection "Lexi", owned by Tracy Deling, Carol Hathaway and Karen Arnold
1/04/04 – Land O' Lakes KC, St. Paul, MN – **WB, BOW**
****Championship finished with 4 majors and a BOB over specials****

Ch Ramblewood Kryptonite CD MX AXP AXJ AJP CGC NGC OAC OJC "Spinner", owned/handled by Ann Sunderman
2/27/04 – TCOTC Agility Trial – **8th leg MXP (AKC Master Agility Excellent Preferred title), 1st place**
2/29/04 – TCOTC Agility Trial – **9th leg MXP, 1st place**

A/C Ch Ramblewood Keep the Faith OA OAJ NJP "Faith", owned/handled by Ann Sunderman
2/29/04 – TCOTC Agility Trial – **2nd leg OJP (AKC Open Jumpers with Weaves Preferred title), 1st place**

Dartek's Sprucehaven Gift of Gab OA, OAJ, CGC "Gabby", owned by Barb DiGiovanni & Tekla Viker
3/20/04 – Texas Kennel Club, Fortworth, TX – **WB, BOW with a 5 point major**
04/03/04 – Wichita, KS Agility Trial – **Exc JWW, 1st leg, 2nd place**

Cedarwood's Jaunty Lady "Jayla", owned by Pat & Wayne Welch
4/3/04 – Minnesota River Valley – **WB, BOS**
4/4/04 – Minnesota River Valley – **WB, BOW, BOS**

Kadrian Wild Card Solitaire owned by Carl Walin & Mike Redmond
9/14/03 – Rochester K.C. – **BOW, 3 point major**
10/25/03 – Sioux Empire K.C. – **Major Reserve**
10/26/03 – Sioux Empire K.C. – **BOW, 5 point major**
3/20/04 – Dubuque K.C. – **BOB 1, point**
****American Championship finished****

Edie's Own Specialty CD A/C TD "Edie", owned by Krista Trempe
3/27/04 – Thunder Bay Kennel Club Obedience Trial, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada – qualifying score, 3rd leg
****CKC Companion Dog Title earned****

Cedarwood's Laser Beam "Laser", owned by Jean Dockendorf and Pat Welch
6/18/04 – Mason City, IA – **WD, BOW, 3 point major**
****American Championship finished****

ICK!!! It's Tick Season

Ticks seem to be the product of one of nature's foul moods and they are out in force and early this year. With all the diseases that these nasty little creatures can carry, it is important to check your dogs on a daily basis. Rub your hands all over your dog's body, and your fingers through his fur, applying pressure, enough that you can feel any abnormalities in the skin. If you feel a small lump, pull the fur apart to investigate. An embedded tick will look like a small black or brown pimple, sometimes flat-ish, depending on location, and sometimes legs are visible.

How to Remove a Tick

Once you've located the little vampire you need to get him out of your dog. There are lots of urban tales for removing ticks, but a recent test by the CDC showed that most of them don't work. Five methods commonly advocated for tick



Male (left) and female American dog tick.

removal from a human or domestic animal were evaluated. The application of petroleum jelly, fingernail polish, 70% isopropyl alcohol, or a hot kitchen match failed to induce detachment of adult American dog ticks. Tweezing was the only reliable method for removal of ticks.

Tweezing it Out

Pull the surrounding hairs away from the tick's body. Take the tweezers or one of those new handy tick removal devices and grasp the tick as close to the buried head as you can possibly get. Do NOT squeeze, but pull gently up and away from the dog, slowly to be sure not to break off the head of the tick. Often, slowly twisting as you pull can help to disengage the tick faster. You may have to apply gentle pressure for sixty seconds or more for the tick to let go of its hold. Toss tick in toilet and flush. Wash your hands and your dog's skin with anti-bacterial soap. If you suspect you may have left a piece of tick still embedded under your pet's skin, watch your dog closely for signs of infection or a tick related illness.

Ticks may carry various infectious organisms that can transmit diseases to cats and dogs, including the following (listed with possible symptoms):

- **babesiosis** – lethargy, appetite loss, weakness, pale gums
- **ehrlichiosis** – high fever, muscle aches
- **Lyme disease** – lameness, swollen joints, fever, poor appetite, fatigue, and vomiting (some infected animals show no symptoms)
- **tick paralysis in dogs** – gradual paralysis, seen first as an unsteady gait from uncoordinated back legs (some infected dogs don't develop paralysis).

With all the ticks out early this year, it may be a good idea to apply Frontline Plus to your dogs to help keep the little monsters at bay.

—Adapted from the Internet by Joan Beck

Tracking Tests

By Krista Trempe

As stated in the AKC Tracking Regulations, the purpose of a tracking test “is to demonstrate the dog’s ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind. Tracking, by nature, is a vigorous, non-competitive outdoor sport. Tracking tests demonstrate the willingness and enjoyment of the dog in its work, and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved.” Most dog owners involved in tracking do so because it’s an enjoyable way to spend time with your dog and enjoy nature at the same time. Earning formal titles at tests allows people to earn some gratification and tangible rewards for the time and hard work they invest in training their dogs.

There are three tracking tests offered by the AKC: Tracking Dog (TD), Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) and Variable Surface Tracking Dog (VST). Passing all three tests earns a championship tracking title. Following is an outline of the major guidelines for each test. Also included is a typical TDX track showing obstacles and cross tracks. For a complete list of tracking test regulations see the AKC Web site (www.akc.org).

TD

- Track shall be between 440 yards and not more than 500 yards in length.
- The scent on the track shall not be less than 30 minutes nor more than two hours old.
- The start shall have a flag at the beginning, and a second flag, indicating the direction of the first leg, 30 yards from the first flag.
- A total of three to five turns is used. Both left and right 90° angle turns are used.
- The dog must find and indicate one article (glove or wallet) to pass the test.

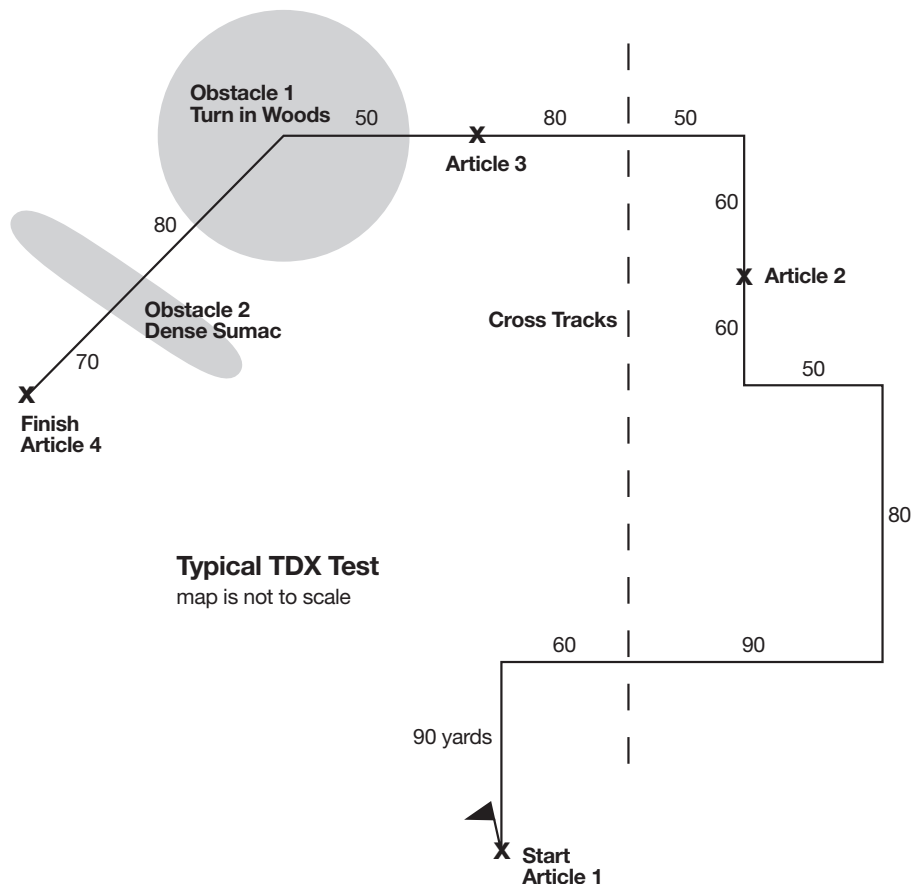
TDX

- Track shall be between 800 yards and not more than 1,000 yards in length.
- The scent on the track shall be not less than three hours nor more than five hours old.
- A total of five to seven turns shall be used. Both left and right turns are used. The first turn is in an open area.
- Track will have two sets of cross-tracks crossed at an angle of 90° to the original track laid at least 1 hour and 15 minutes, but no later than 1 hour and 45 minutes after the original track was laid.
- There are two obstacles to challenge the dog and handler. Obstacles may include, change of cover, woods, gullies, plowed land, streams, etc.

- The dog must find and indicate four personal articles on the track. The first article is dropped at the starting flag.

VST

- The track shall be at least 600 yards and not more than 800 yards in length.
- The track shall have a minimum of three different surfaces, which shall include vegetation and two areas devoid of vegetation (concrete, asphalt, gravel, etc.)
- The scent on the track shall be not less than three hours or more than five hours old.
- Turns shall be on various surfaces. There shall be at least four and not more than eight turns on a track. Tracks may be laid along the sides of buildings and fences, through buildings with two or more openings.
- The articles shall consist of four dissimilar, everyday items (not smaller than 2" x 4" or larger than 5" x 5"); one leather, one plastic, one metal and one fabric. The first article shall be fabric or leather. The last article shall be clearly and temporarily marked with the number “4.”
- The dog must find and indicate all articles, and the judges shall mark a dog “Passed” if an article is not found and cannot be located by the judges or the track-layer, provided that the dog worked continuously and intently along the actual track. Should a dog find additional articles along the track, the dog is not to be failed and is permitted to continue.



Remember The Good Old Days?

By Marjorie Martorella

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We have all engaged in conversation where we talk about how things were better in the past. This is very common amongst us “dog people,” as we claim the quality of dogs were better in the past, shows were better, and breeders knew what they were doing. The judges knew their breeds and handlers were truly professional.

If we were able to look in a crystal ball at the future of our sport, what would we see? Would the shows be even bigger than today? Would there be more media coverage and more dog food company promotion of shows? Would more people think nothing of flying from one show to another? Would the showing of dogs become international, with dogs crossing the Atlantic on a weekly basis? Would we be into cloning the great ones of the past?

Or would we see a totally different picture? A world that was devoid of companion animals? A world where a generation of children grew up without ever having had a pet? A world where the only references to household pets are in novels or photographs?

Think this is far-fetched? Think again. That is the goal of PETA and other Animal Rights Extremists, who want to put an end to all purposeful breeding. They are succeeding in many areas with Mandatory Spay & Neuter Programs. For those diehards among us who still want to breed our dogs, stiff license fees are being adopted. In North Carolina, the proposed bill states that if you own one intact dog, you are deemed a “minor breeder;” more than one intact dog and you’re a “major breeder.” With this classification come all sorts of regulations. How long before you think this will have an impact on the fancy, as we know it today? With fewer of us being able to pursue our breeding programs, there will be fewer dogs being registered. The AKC will suffer. Fewer dogs means smaller shows and the clubs will be hurting. So will the dog food companies, the veterinarians, the boarding kennels, grooming establishments, supply companies, feed stores, etc. You name it, the entire pet industry will be affected. You think this is not possible? Well, I am not so sure. Unless we all wake up, see what is happening, and take a proactive stand, we may lose our rights to own, breed, show and hunt our dogs forever.

We cannot assume that anyone else is going to go to battle for us. We are the soldiers in this war! Unfortunately, we have some traitors and misguided souls in our sport who feel that rather than go to war, we can compromise. There is no compromise with this enemy. If you give an inch, it is a sign of weakness, and they will seek more. To quote Sir Winston Churchill, “An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping that it will eat him last.”

In the past several weeks with all the anti-dog legislation being proposed from California to North Carolina and Texas to Wisconsin, there has been a lot of discussion on some of the lists and in e-mail messages. I have had some members in our fancy make the following statements to me: “Just what about the pending Law do you find to be onerous? With the price of puppies being charged by “hobby Breeders,” it would seem to me a small price to pay for an intact bitch (dog).”

A member of a Federation of Dog Clubs did not feel that the organization should become “political” in terms of fighting the anti-dog legislation. Her feelings were that the federation does more than just work on legislation. She is right, they do, but in the climate we are in now, I think that is perhaps not a wise road to take. It certainly won’t be a popular decision in the state she resides in when breeders are targeted while the Federation was busy with “other projects.”

Another person felt that legislation would be a good thing since there are so many irresponsible breeders in our ranks. One breeder suggested that the breeding restrictions followed in Europe should be utilized here in order to improve the quality of the dogs and to eliminate backyard breeders and puppy mills.

As long as we waste our energies on these types of conversations, we play right into the hands of the Animal Rights Groups. Their tactic of “Divide and Conquer” will spell our demise.

For years, we bought into this pet overpopulation theory (In northeastern states, there are actually not enough dogs to meet the demands of the public). We sell our pets with spay and neuter clauses and limited registrations. We tell everyone to buy from a breeder. We are also quick to accuse others in the fancy of being a “puppy mill” because they may have several litters a year. It doesn’t matter what care the dogs have received or the conditions of their environment. We abhor commercial and backyard breeders, and feel that they should be regulated.

Unfortunately, it doesn’t work that way. We are all going to either recognize that in this country we all have rights and we will fight to maintain them, or we will lose these rights for which our forefathers fought. We need to go to battle with the strongest army possible, which includes sportsmen, private and commercial breeders of all domestic animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, etc.), veterinarians, farmers, research companies, dog food companies, animal registries – anyone who is involved in the industry.

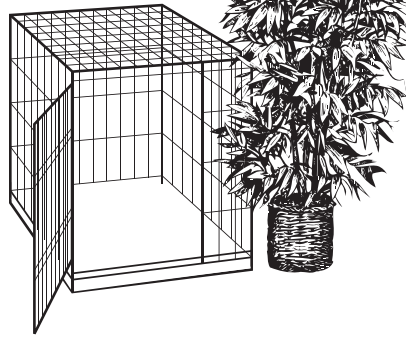
Let’s not rob the next generation of the privilege of living with companion animals. Get involved and protect your rights!

Decorating With Dogs

Decorating when you have pets can provide unique opportunities to express your own personal style and taste. Here are some tips I'd like to share:

1. Bare floors, without carpet or throw rugs, can give a nice open feeling to a room. It can provide a soothing balance when you have many art objects that reflect your love of animals.
2. Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break up glare and soften the light in a room.
3. Dog crates, when stacked three high, can add height to a room and pull the eye up. If fastened securely to the wall, the top can provide a safe and dramatic place for exotic plants or statuary that otherwise might be molested by your pets. An up light can make it a real focal point. Cats love to inhabit the upper crates, leaving the lower ones for the dogs.
4. Old towels and blankets thrown casually on upholstered furniture can add a wonderful homey, country-quilt look to an otherwise bland room.
5. Common smooth upholstery fabrics can look almost velvety when lightly textured with pet hair.
6. Vari-kennels, placed end to end and topped with plate glass can create an unusual coffee table, one your friends will really remember.
7. Doggie beds, randomly placed around a room, can add color and texture, much as throw pillows do.
8. Shredded or chewed books and magazines send a message to guests that they are free to relax and feel at home.
9. Dog crates can make versatile end tables, and can be slip covered to match any room decor.
10. There is absolutely nothing that makes a guest feel as welcome as three friendly dogs hopping in his lap as soon as he sits down. So throw away those videos by Martha and others, and express your own unique tastes. Your home should reflect what YOU like!

—Adapted from the Internet by B.A. Breese



Famous Dog Quotes

“The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.”

—Anonymous

“Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard.”

—Dave Barry

“Of all the things I miss from veterinary practice, puppy breath is one of the most fond memories!”

—Dr. Tom Cat

“Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate.”

—Sigmund Freud

“Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.”

—Robert A. Heinlein

🐾 Don't Forget... 🐾

Trophy Fund pledges were due on May 1. If you haven't mailed in your money, please do so as soon as possible. Contact Cyndi Myhre for more information.

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