Judge's Comments
"Tracking"

Thank you for inviting me to judge your National Specialty Tracking Test. The number of hours and effort it takes to put on such a test is unbelievable for persons not involved particularly when the test runs as smoothly as yours did. My compliments to your test committee and the trackers.

As you all well remember, both the day of the test and the day before when we were out plotting tracks, were extremely hot and humid and the ground was very dry. Scenting conditions were horrendous—probably the understatement of the century! In addition, it is difficult for all but the best dogs to be able to travel to new locations and acclimate to new ground cover and terrain quickly, particularly after long and tiring trips.

You should be very proud of your tracking Dalmatians. They worked exceedingly well under terrible conditions. It was a joy to watch all of them, particularly since I am somewhat familiar with the breed, having worked with a Dalmatian about ten years ago. The dogs all showed confidence in what they were doing and determination to get the job done. They were obviously happy workers and pleased with themselves when they found the glove.

Keep up your good work. I hope more of your members get out and try tracking. Most people become addicted to the sport if they have any inclination to work outdoors and enjoy watching their dogs do something they (the handlers) are not capable of doing. My hat is off to you. Why not go for a combined TD/TFX test? They are really fun and you certainly have the talent!

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Yours truly,
Anne Campbell