

# THE ART OF VST SEMINAR



**Saturday and Sunday June 18 and 19, 2016**  
**University of New Hampshire Campus - Durham, NH**

Presented by: Yankee Golden Retriever Club  
Presenters: Ray & Alison Desmarais

This seminar is designed for tracking enthusiasts who have achieved a Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Urban or Tracking Dog Excellent title or are close to that goal, and are working towards a VST. The seminar will be geared to helping handlers better understand the art of reading their dogs while tracking on a VST test site. The seminar will consist of both classroom work with a PowerPoint presentation and actual tracking. Each day all 10 teams will work a VST track of approximately 200-300 yards with various elements.

The seminar will begin at noon on Saturday and extend into the late evening in order to run the first 10 tracks under evening/nighttime test conditions. Sunday morning the teams will run another track utilizing head cam video, followed by classroom debriefing and seminar wrap up. Handlers will take home a copy of their head cam videos on a USB stick.

Ray and Alison Desmarais have trained and handled their golden retrievers to 5 VST/CTs, 6 TDs and numerous TDs. Ray is a well-known and popular AKC tracking judge who was asked to judge the 2013 AKC Tracking Invitational. Alison is the lesser known partner; she is the family Chief Track Designer/Layer as well as the eagle-eyed coach, observing and providing feedback during training. Alison has also served as a tracklayer, test chair and/or secretary for numerous Yankee and GRCA tracking tests.

Registration is limited to 10 dog and handler teams and 20 auditors. *Only one dog per handler is allowed, and due to the complexity of VST, dog and handler teams will be limited to dogs that have already begun variable surface training.* Auditing spots are appropriate for handlers at all levels.

Participants may bring a light lunch for Saturday. All other meals (dinner Saturday evening prior to running the tracks, coffee and scones Sunday morning before running the tracks and brunch during the debriefing late Sunday morning) will be provided, as will beverages and snacks throughout the weekend.

**Working Teams: \$300 for Yankee GRC members; \$350 for non-members**  
**Auditors: \$200 for Yankee GRC members; \$250 for non-members**  
**All registrations are final! No fees will be refunded.**

Registration priority to Yankee GRC members until January 31, 2016.

Questions? Please contact Susan Palus: [nicksfriendsusan@yahoo.com](mailto:nicksfriendsusan@yahoo.com) or 917-359-6268

## Registration

Please fill out the below form and email it to Susan Palius at [nicksfriendsusan@yahoo.com](mailto:nicksfriendsusan@yahoo.com).

Please snail your check payable to Y.G.R.C. to:

Susan Palius  
492 River Road  
Belle Mead, NJ 08502

Name	
Address	
Cell Phone	
Email	
Dog's Name	
Dog's Breed	
Brief description of your VST experience	
Yankee GRC Member?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Registering for	<input type="checkbox"/> Working Spot <input type="checkbox"/> Auditor
Food allergies or restrictions?	