

VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING (VST) TEST REPORT 2015

Yankee's thirteenth annual VST test was held Saturday evening, August 8, 2015 on the campus of the University of New Hampshire in Durham. We had lovely weather for summer in New England, partly cloudy without the high humidity we often have in August. Although there'd been no rain for several weeks most of the grass was still green with only a few dry brown areas.

Judges Ilene Morgan, from Vermont, and Meg Azevedo, who took a red-eye-flight from California, plotted 7 tracks plus an alternate. Tracklayers were Karen Tucker, Brian Huss, and Tibby Chase. Test Chair Pat Lindquist put in a track as did the Test Secretary. Site liaison and hospitality arrangements were handled by Ray Desmarais. The UNH Dairy Bar provided a delicious buffet supper — fresh greens with choice of toppings, vegetarian chili, chicken BLT wraps and awesome grilled pepper jack cheese and tomato sandwiches — and of course there was ice cream for dessert.

Six Golden Retrievers entered, with one withdrawing prior to the test. Four other breeds entered and three of them had the opportunity to run a track.

The Golden on Track 1 had the judges running to keep up with her. She was distracted by a squirrel at the final corner but eventually recovered to complete the last leg, only to miss the final article. This team will pass soon.

Several dogs went off the track, missed an article, missed a turn, or the handler made an error. It only takes one small mistake to hear the whistle.

It was a night to celebrate, however. Congratulations to Yankee member Joanne Baker and Cabot who completed their 635 yard track in just 14 minutes!



Many thanks to all who participated and worked at this event. It was a great weekend!

Roseann Mandell
VST Test Secretary