

Oak Ridge Kennel Club's Fourteenth Tracking Dog Test

ORKC's fourteenth Tracking Dog Test was set for Saturday, March 10, 2018 at the new location of Muddy Creek Farm in Lenoir City. These fields were sooo beautiful! Our contact for the fields is Lesley Hardin, and she did a wonderful job of making us feel welcome. It is so nice of her to open up these fields to ORKC for our test. Lesley also did a good job as first time tracklayer transportation.



The first thing we had to do for the test was to plot the tracks. Judges Darla Huffman and Karen Boyce met with all the workers at 11:00 on Friday. With six tracks to plot and plenty of field space, the plotting went very well. All the workers got their assignments and we were ready!

Saturday dawned a wonderful day with clouds and a little cool with a slight breeze. The draw for tracks began at 8:00 a.m. . . and oh, my goodness!!! Kathy Haynes did a fantastic job making the draw items. They were decorated wine glasses with tiny gloves and paw prints cut out by hand. Absolutely beautiful! Mary Jo, test secretary, supervised the draw.





Track #1 - **PASS** - Tracklayer Carol McCorkle. This track was drawn by Cheryl Tisdale and her Golden Retriever (bitch), Half Moon Unanswered Prayer, CGC from Milton, TN. This track was quite a challenge...to get to! So much so that the tracklayer, judges, and dog team had to access it via 4WD vehicles with a high clearance. Once there, it was a lovely field encompassed by woods. Getting to the start flag was a bit of an uphill hike, so the team got their

exercise in before they even started the track, but it was all downhill from there, or so the team made it seem! Cheryl and Stevie made this look like a walk in the park. They took off on the first 100 yard leg, made the left turn, traveled 75 more yards, right turn and 70 more yards like on a rail. At the third turn Stevie circled a bit before heading down the next leg. This put them on the crest of a hill away from any woods. The wind was coming perpendicular to that 100 yard leg of the track which caused them to drift a bit. This had Cheryl concerned, but not Stevie. She hit the last 120 yard open right turn and never slowed down. Cheryl was thrilled to see her stop and indicate the coveted glove! Congratulations Cheryl and Stevie, TD!

Track #2 - **PASS** - Tracklayer Jean Burdick. This track was drawn by Rachel Gilliland and her Beagle (dog), Swan Lake Fulmont Leader of the Band, RN of Maryville, TN. There was no gallery at this track because there was no place to park without disturbing the dog. Dan's first leg was 90 yards going uphill. He had a slightly slow start between the flags, but once he got started, wow! His first turn went left and he trucked right along the top of the hill those 70 yards. The left turn went down the hill and at the bottom he had a 115 yard leg that went right. About 30 yards into that leg, there was trash on the track, and he stopped to check it out, but no biggie! He finished that leg and turned right on another 90 yard leg up a slight hill to the glove! This was a joy to watch as this was Rachel and Dan's first TD. The first TD is usually emotional and everyone is ecstatic! Congratulations, Rachel and Dan, TD!!





Track #3 - **PASS** - Tracklayer Carol McCorkle. This track was drawn by Thomas Harding and his Standard Poodle (dog), Rebelstar Opus Wins the Scent Challenge, CD BN RE CGC of Easton, MD. The gallery got to see the first leg of this top hat shaped track that began near headquarters. Team Tom Harding and Opus got off to a good start. They made the first 80 yards and right turn without a stop. On the second leg of 115 yards up a hill near

the woods, Opus checked things out briefly before committing to the next left 100 yard leg. He navigated the next left turn and trucked 130 yards without a hitch. The last right turn at the bottom of the hill along the road gave a bit of problem. He clearly indicated that the fourth leg had run out, but left Tom and the judges in suspense for a while. He committed to the turn several times but would then go back to the corner. The last 50 yard leg was parallel to the road ending near a quaint old cabin on the creek. Unbeknownst to Tom, he was less than 25 yards from the glove a couple of times. The judges praised Tom's outstanding handling and patience while Opus worked through this, as he finally figured it out and took Tom to the glove. Congratulations Tom and Opus, TD!

Track #4 - **FAIL** - Tracklayer Jean Burdick. This track was drawn by Cindy Brizes and her Clumber Spaniel (bitch), Rezod's Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear, of Aiken, SC. CoCo was so distracted by the gallery and the neighbor's barking dogs that she never went far. Better luck next time!



Track #5 - **PASS** - Tracklayer Jeannie Galuzzo. This track was drawn by Jane Mohr and her Cocker Spaniel (bitch), Dunmorr & Lae's B52, MX MXJ, of Cane Ridge, TN. This little girl was a fast tracker, but checked out each corner carefully. The first leg was 105 yards, left turn, 50 yards, right turn, 55 yards, left turn 130 yards, left turn, then the final 120 yards to the glove. No problems at all for this team.

Congratulations Jane and her little girl!!!

Track #6 - FAIL - Tracklayer Gurusahai Khalsa-Moyers. This track was drawn by Judy Harding and her Shih Tzu (bitch), Hallmark Jolei Hot on the Trail Tova, CD BN RE CGC, of Easton, MD. It was fascinating and unusual to watch a Shih Tzu in the tracking field! She got off to a very slow start, taking her time sniffing everything and making sure she knew where she was going. Judy was super patient as she waited for her little girl to get her bearings. The 140 yard first leg was slow and deliberate with little variation off track. She made the left turn with no problem, but it was on the second leg she began to wander far afield. After searching for a while, she managed to find the track again only to miss the third turn. Whistle. Better luck next time.

Four out of six passes is absolutely great! Our chief tracklayer, Sharon Fesmire, did a wonderful job as usual. Entrant Escorts to most of the tracks were Susan Corum and Joyce Cardwell, who always do a wonderful job with this assignment. Susi Wilcher was on hand again to keep everyone in their designated parking locations. We all headed to headquarters for our celebratory smorgasbord. All the workers brought their specialty dishes, and we gorged on delicious food. Hospitality organization was courtesy of Susan Corum and Joyce Cardwell, served by Dottie Sherer, Patti Compton, and Ashley Richardson. The judges and Mary Jo Steger, our Test Secretary presented the passing entrants with a beautiful title ribbon. Pictures were made by Kathy Frank and the gloves were signed by judges and tracklayers. Kathy also took all the entrants who passed to the little cabin by the creek and made more pictures. BTW, Lesley's dogs and this cabin were included in the 2014 child's movie, *Bandit and the Saints of Dogwood*.

Special kudos to all the helpers again this year. I will not attempt to name them all for fear of leaving someone out, and every single person is important to these tracking tests. There is so much that has to be planned behind the scenes for this to be successful and every person did a great job again as usual. **Enjoy the beautiful pictures courtesy of Kathy Frank.**







