

MORAINES TRACKING CLUB VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING TEST - APRIL 18, 2010

By: Terri Everwine - Secretary, Moraine Tracking Club

An excellent day! A pass by Allison Bently, all the way from North Carolina, and her shepherd, Meghan, Both did an EXCELLENT, patient, calm job!!

A gorgeous sunny and cool spring morning brought 8 handlers and their dogs to Lincolnshire, IL for our annual Spring VST. Only one walked away with a title, but many looked great trying. Beth Walker and Ted Hoesel were officiating. This time around I played chauffeur to the judges & the occasional tracklayer or exhibitor. Lois Breslow had her usual array of wonderful food available for all, and club members (and an exhibitor!) contributed to the spread with desserts and salads.

1st to the start flag was an English cocker whose handler seemed unwilling to follow the dog's chosen path and so the dog changed tasks, squirrel hunting to the whistle.

Next up was Allison Bently of Conover, NC, who made the long trip with her 11 year old German Shepherd bitch, Meghan von Schultz, CD, TDX. Allison demonstrated a near perfect handling job, exhibiting calmness, patience and a willingness to follow. It paid off with a brand new VST and CT title! Meghan worked through a difficult turn near a building's diesel powered ventilation system that powered up just as the dog approached. Everyone could smell the fumes, but it didn't stop the dog, who worked steadily to solve the problem and came out of the turn on track. All on pavement, too! As the team committed to the final turn, the dog picked up speed, and we watched as Meghan tore across an open field to her final article! An outstanding job and well deserved title for this pair!!

Sadly, none of the remaining dogs did quite as well. A lab on track 3 severely cut a corner and missed an article. Handlers of dogs on tracks 4 & 5 declared they did not seem to have their tracking dogs with them this day when both exhibited less than ideal performances. Track 6 brought a golden who backed out of the MOT turn and heard the whistle. Track 7 another golden that tried very hard to tell a disbelieving handler where the turns were, only to be denied pursuing the correct direction. Tracks 8 found a whippet overshooting the first and MOT turn after having indicated and almost taking it, only to parallel the track, find an article from the wrong angle and continue ahead to the whistle.

Our tracklayers were terrific, as usual! Jason Sheldon, Kris Carlsson, Lea Marcou, Lois Leidahl-Marsh, Nancy Foster, Margo Milde, Teresa Higgins and Jean Eremo all committed the two days to perfectly execute their given tracks. Secretary Darlene Long and Chairman Lois Breslow headed up the staff and our crew worked together like a well oiled machine! Thanks to all of you for your help in running yet another excellent event!