

Results of the HOT Dog Club TD/TDX Test on Sunday, March 18, 2007 at George Bush Park in Houston, Texas

Last weekend our test site was bone dry. Three days of heavy rain this week left Bush Park flooded and rendered more than half the fields we use for our tests either underwater or inaccessible.



On Friday we weren't sure we'd have enough ground to plot the required number of tracks. There were currents of water flowing across our X fields and a wedge of swans had taken up residence on the new "pond" adjacent to our test head quarters. We have no idea where they came from and who knows where they'll go when the pond dries up.

We had two panels of judges for this test: Susan Eldred and Jeff Shaver for the Ts and Linda Bryan and Sally Elkins for the Xs, so on Saturday we broke into two groups and set out to find dry ground. These intrepid judges did a great job of carving out interesting tracks and even found room for an alternate T and X. This became important because of Section 5 of Chapter 2, which allows the judges to offer the alternate as a titling track if their judging limits are not met and the track isn't needed during the test.

Three new TD titles were awarded on Sunday.

LIESL VON FERNHEIM, TD a German Shepherd Dog handled by Gillian M. Salling. I didn't get to see this team run, but I heard they did a great job on a track laid by first-time tracklayer, Cynthia Krohn.



TORHEIT'S NDY-PENDENT MEANS, CDX TD, another German Shepherd Dog handled by Debra Lyons. Except for one short side trip to play in the water this Shepherd put his nose down at the start and worked slow and steadily through the whole track. He would circle at each corner, then commit to the leg and take his handler with him. He did a beautiful down at the glove to earn his TD on a track laid by Cindy Lottinville.



EL VIRUS, TD an American Staffordshire Terrier handled by Sandra Shaner. Virus wandered a bit more than she did when I certified her, and she took a side trip to investigate a large standing area of water, but Sandra kept her focused and earned their TD on a track laid by George Anna Bobo.



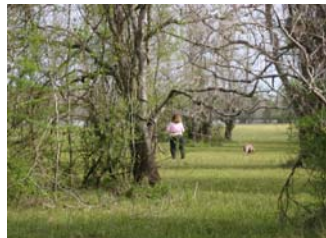
The other T entrant was a Labrador Retriever who missed his first corner.

The alternate T was run by a German Shepherd Dog, who did not start. This is her first dog, and it was their first attempt at tracking. Just being at a test was a great lesson for her.



TDX Tracks.

The first X was run by an Am Staff started cross track, once put back on track they There had been ankle deep standing water but by Sunday the water had drained into the track was mushy, but relatively dry.



well but took the first finished very strong. on one leg on Saturday, an adjoining creek and

A very frisky Dalmatian ran the second X. She was quite wound up took a while to start, made it through the first and second legs, overshot the second corner, but recovered, then took the first crosstrack. There was still a large area of water on park of her track and she never really settled in until she made it past the water.

The third X was attempted by a Labrador Retriever who missed the first corner.

The fourth X was a German Shepherd who bounded up to his start, made it about halfway down the first leg before wandering off into water. He recovered, returned to his track, found the first corner and plowed down a really wet leg, through a line of trees and water filled ditch, across a dirt road and found the next corner. He worked his way up to the first an article and indicated it with a nice down. They resumed tracking, found the next corner and started off on a very long leg that paralleled a water-filled ditch. The next leg crossed the ditch, and the dog made the turn, and splashed down about 50 yards of the leg before turning around and heading back to the previous corner, then headed off in the wrong direction. When it was put back on track it

finished up with ease; a down at the next article, a slight acknowledgement of the first cross track, totally ignored the second set, then downed at the glove.

The alternate track offered to the first alternate, a Golden retrieve who snuffled and snorted his was down the first leg. He took a brief side trip at the first corner, recovered, found the next leg, briefly worked the first set of crosstracks, indicated the correct direction of the next turn, but went the opposite way.

Many thanks to our tracklayers, Judith Bowers, Cindy Lottinville, George Anna Bobo, Cynthia Krohn (did double duty as hospitality chair), Kathy Daniel, Cindy Sheffield and Deanna Thompson. Thanks also to Buddy Whipple who oversaw the crosstracks, and to Jo Ella Dixon, Jason Klawinski and Nancy Goldberg Wilks who laid the crosstracks. This was not an easy test to conduct for many reasons: the water, sick committee members, electrical problems at test head-quarters, etc, etc, etc., but great volunteers, beautiful weather, and hard-working well-prepared teams made it a pleasure to be a part of the test.

Kathleen Milford
substitute Chief Tracklayer