

PAFTA VST 11/10/2019 Event Number 2019285406

Test Report

Many thanks to those who made this test possible:

Judges Pia Paulsen & Kaye Hall
Secretary Cindy Ievers
CTL Barbara Fowler
Tracklayers Barbara Fowler, Linda Knowles, Carol Vesley & Dale Noble
Hospitality Mary Ann Graziano – Saturday and Ann Begun - Sunday
Document Prep Terry Southard

There were 4 entries for the four tracks.

After a scouting mission by one of our judges, on Friday the judges met and roughed out 3 tracks at Evergreen Valley College (EVC) and one track at West Valley College (WVC) using Google Maps. Saturday morning Cindy drove the judges first to WVC, and then later to EVC to plot the tracks. This was a new way to try things, where the judges plot the tracks separately from the tracklayers. It makes it very easy for the judges to change their minds on the tracks, so they end up with the best possible tracks. Then when they show the tracklayer the track, the tracklayer can be fresh and then have energy to walk the track as many times as they want. Since the tracks were pre-plotted, one judge took each tracklayer on their track, and then we drove over to WVC to repeat the process with the last tracklayer, and then had lunch with Mary Ann – sandwiches, chips, grapes and homemade chocolate brownies – YUM!

Sunday morning starting at 6:30AM the tracks were layed in cold brisk foggy weather. All tracks went in without problems.

The draw was done at 9AM while the fog slowly burned off and the sun was thinking about shining. A Shetland Sheepdog drawing track 1, a German Shepherd Dog drawing track 2, another German Shepherd Dog drawing track 3, and a Belgian Tervuren drawing the final track.

Special thanks to Lynne Benson-Colbert for hanging at base camp to allow me to watch the tracking!! (the bad thing about being TS is after all the work, you usually miss the tracking!)

Also special thanks to Napoleon Tumonong, who was unsure about being a tracklayer, but came to lend a hand and was very helpful several times over the weekend. I think he will be laying track for our next VST test!

The first dog was a male Shetland Sheepdog, Scout, owned by Rita Crawford. This track took them down and across a soccer field full of screaming children. Then, on the third leg they ended up in the middle of some sort of boy scout troop rally! One of the children actually stepped on the 2nd article just before Scout backtracked through the children to find it! After that harrowing 3rd leg, the final was almost anticlimactic, when Scout found the 4th and final article to successfully complete the track. CONGRATS to Rita Crawford and **NEW CT** Scout's Honor! (Tracklayer Barbara Fowler awarded the smelly boot for this passing track)

The second dog was a male German Shepherd Dog. The dog didn't seem keen on meeting a rather large gaggle of geese who placed themselves on the first leg, but after some uncertainty, completed the first leg and turn, found the first article on the 2nd leg and was doing great until taking a wrong turn into the parking lot.

The third dog was a female German Shepherd Dog. This dog did very well, handling most of the track and working her way through some tough spots before turning the wrong way on the final leg.

The fourth dog was a female Belgian Tervuren. This enthusiastic dog had a great time both tracking and playing. She did complete the track, but unfortunately she blew by the final article!

After the last dog, we returned to home base and had a wonderful lunch by Ann Begun. Homemade Cheeseburger soup, salad, and ginger cookies – Delicious! (Ann also made a special soup for Cindy due to allergies... she is really thoughtful!)

Thanks again to all those who helped put on this test. It takes a community!