

THE ART OF VST SEMINAR



Saturday and Sunday June 21 and 22, 2014
University of New Hampshire Campus - Durham, NH

Presented by: Yankee Golden Retriever Club
Presenters: Ray & Alison Desmarais

This intensive seminar is designed for tracking enthusiasts who have achieved a Tracking Dog or Tracking Dog Excellent title or are close to that goal, and are working towards a VST. We begin at noon on Saturday with classroom work and a PowerPoint presentation covering the AKC rules, track requirements, articles, starts and line handling and continue outside with actual track work, with an emphasis on developing the art of reading your dog. Our time will extend into the late evening in order to run the first 10 tracks under evening/nighttime test conditions. Each day all 10 teams will work a short VST track of approximately 200-300 yards with various elements.

Sunday morning the teams will run another track utilizing headcam video, followed by classroom debriefing of each track and more instruction in tracklaying, training aids and troubleshooting. Handlers will take home a copy of their headcam videos on USB stick.

Ray and Alison will apply their extensive tracking experience to help you develop your VST skills. They have trained dogs to more than 20 tracking titles, including four Champion Trackers. They started in tracking when Alison took a tracking seminar more than 20 years ago and Ray has gone on to become a well-known and popular AKC tracking judge who was asked to judge the 2013 AKC Tracking Invitational.

A fine VST performance is like a fine work of art: it requires constructing a foundation, building the layers, training the eye and adjusting the fine details. When you have developed the exquisite teamwork that is required of you and your dog, your performance at this top level of tracking competition will be a masterpiece!

Registration is limited to 10 dog and handler teams and 20 auditors. *Only one dog per handler is allowed, and due to the complexity of VST, dog and handler teams will be limited to dogs that have already begun variable surface training.* Beverages and snacks will be provided during breaks. Dinner will be provided Saturday evening prior to running the tracks. Coffee and breakfast will be provided Sunday morning.

Working Teams: \$250 for Yankee GRC members; \$300 for non-members
Auditors: \$175 for Yankee GRC members; \$200 for non-members
All registrations are final! No fees will be refunded.

To register, please contact Susan Palius: nicksfriendsusan@yahoo.com