



# VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING TEST

June 2011

BOTC hosted its annual Variable Surface Tracking Test on June 11 on the beautiful campus of the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont. A steady rain all afternoon set up cool, wet and windy conditions for this night test. Perfect tracking conditions for the teams entered.

Track 1 was drawn by a young Cocker Spaniel that had a difficult time determining track direction, eventually leading the handler in the wrong direction.

Track 2 was a Labrador Retriever that took a long time investigating every possible way to proceed at the start flag. He followed the first leg parallel to pick up the next leg further on. A missed article brought the whistle for this hard working dog.

Track 3 was a Rottweiler that led his handler off in the wrong direction after revisiting the start area several times.

Track 4 was drawn by a Labrador Retriever who determined the correct start direction which was under a tree canopy. She executed several turns and MOT to find the first article. An incorrect turn later on resulted in a whistle.

Track 5 was another Rottweiler. A deliberate start and slow and methodical working moved this dog along finding the intermediate articles. The final turn proved to be illusive resulting in the whistle being blown when the dog was about 50 yards from the end article.

Track 6, a Labrador Retriever gave an enthusiastic start which was not in the correct direction.

Track 7 was drawn by a Golden Retriever who made a correct start as a thunderstorm approached. The judges called a delay for safety reasons and after about one hour of lightning and heavy rain, the storm passes so the team was permitted to return to work. Unfortunately it was not this dog's night to pass.

Track 8 was a German Shepard Dog that stepped confidently from the start flag but did not made the correct first turn.

BOTC extends a sincere thank you to judges Ray Desmarais and Ron Seeley for plotting interesting and challenging tracks for all these hardworking dogs. Special thanks go to the experienced tracklayers, drivers, Chair and Secretary, Lorna Fortune, and the Test Committee who made this a successful VST tracking evening in spite of having no passing dogs.