

Wisconsin Fall Test

by Diane Calandra



At their core, the DK and JGHV tests are a standardized evaluation of a hunting dog which assesses their natural hunting ability and their ability to be trained in particular subjects. The key word “trained” can be either a great opportunity on test day to perform to the standard or to prove more training is required.

On September 16-18, 2022, we held our third DKGNA VGP and SOLMS/AZP tests at the Richard Bong State Park and Dog Training grounds, in Wisconsin, a park with over 4,500 acres of fields and great ponds for water work, with over 900 acres set aside for dog training and testing. Bong contains open fields, pine and hardwood forests and multiple ponds for diverse dog training and testing.

The VGP test started our weekend with great weather and two prepared dogs with two nervous handlers. Sound familiar? Out of the 4 entries for the VGP, two dogs were ultimately tested. As the day went on, both dogs worked well within the JGHV standard of a good hunting companion.

Day one started with field work and game drags, commencing to water work and some forest. Unfortunately, dog two, did not pass at one of the water subjects and could not continue the test. The laying of the overnight blood track was laid by the three judges and then dinner was served.

Day two started with the successful overnight blood track and finished with one exhausted handler. Remaining subjects with woods work were completed and the dog earned a Prize 3.



Out of the 6 entries for the SOLMS/AZP test on Sunday, three dogs showed with one passing, earning a Prize 2. We had many moments of handler surprises with dog performances never seen before, both good and bad. Haven’t all of us said at one time or another, “My dog has never done that!”

A big thank you to our judges and apprentice, John Pagel, Mike Hack, Drew Johnson and myself, for spending the weekend with us and congratulations to Jon Stahl who can now begin his JGHV apprenticeship after passing the VGP.