



In the Spotlight!

Celebrating a New Champion Tracker

- Maris -



Champion Tracker Soliel All-Starr's Home Field Advantage

In February of 2020 an upcoming litter was recommended to me by Amy Booth. The sire was GCHP CH Micin's Broxden Riesling To The Occasion CGC, and the dam was Evening Star's Riddle Me This CGC. After contacting the breeder I was assured I could have second pick, she would be keeping first choice. They were born 3/20/2020, and in May I flew to Michigan to choose my pup. We flew home the next day, and two days later started training for tracking at 8.5 weeks of age. Maris took to the game quite easily, and progressed nicely. We trained for seven months, and entered our first test at our own Club's TD in January 2021. She was 9.5 months old. While training for the TD, we incorporated the elements needed for the Tracking Dog Excellent title, longer tracks with multiple articles that had to be found, and aged tracks. They would be 3-5 hours old before we started working the track. There were also obstacles on the track, downed trees, areas of no vegetation, and rocky areas to navigate. She passed her Tracking Dog test on that first attempt, running the 440 yard track, with three turns in 12 minutes.

We then entered the Agility Club of San Diego's TDX test on February 10. The TDX is much longer and aged for at least 3 hours. Maris completed that track, 840 yards, with six turns in seven minutes ! I was totally out of breath at the end!

On May 16, we entered the Variable Surface Test, hosted by our own Club. It can consist of 5-7 turns, and be aged 3-5 hours. The VST track consists of various surfaces, concrete, grass, gravel, mulch, dirt, blacktop. There is one point on the track that is called the "moment of truth". A turn on the track occurs at a point on a hard surface, and many dogs have a difficult time making that turn. Maris navigated it so easily I didn't even realize we'd done it. On the VST track there are several intermediate articles, usually metal and plastic, along with the start article and the glove at the end of the track. Our track was 3 hours old, 670 yards long, running through the college campus. We navigated our way through, tracking in and around eight buildings and walkways. Maris completed her track in 9 minutes, sitting on her last article, the glove!

And on this exciting day Maris was 1 year, 1 month, and 26 days old. A friend suggested that she might be the youngest Golden to achieve that feat. I contacted AKC Records Department and they ran a computer search of all Golden Retrievers that had ever attained the title of Champion Tracker. Maris is indeed the youngest Golden ever to achieve that difficult title! I'm very proud of her work ethic, and her trainability. We are working and training in agility and obedience, and Scent Work now. I look forward to many more adventures with this young one!

Bobbie Sevier

