



Hunting Fall and Winter 2013

On Sunday 6 October's **Opening Meet at Kennels**, it was great to see all our friends again to start the season, and give everyone a good look at the new hound trailer. We had a blistering hot day, with very little game—a quick one to ground as we moved out toward the upper hedgerows, and a short run to ground in the hedge line near the far upper woods. The young hounds, Yeoman and Yarrow, that will be a year old November 2, worked like veterans in the heat. Hounds were happy to submerge in the creek to cool off on the way in to kennels. I would have liked to join them! At the Kalmbachs' wonderful tea, I announced that the Wiedorns have received the highest individual award of the National Beagle Club, the Morgan Wing Award, that is given each year to those who are deemed by the committee to have given the most behind the scenes in kennels and in the hunting field to help their pack. It is a great honor, and we are thrilled that they have been given it this year. All in all a very good start to our 66th season. We hunted a 3 couple at Marsh Creek on Wednesday 9th October, with puppy Yeoman



Opening Meet—End of a hot day.



Pennsylvania National Horse Show

working well with the older hounds. Two rabbits were well-run to ground in the oval and another pair in the spike hedgerow and top field line to end the morning. Saturday we walked the pack and worked on hound presentation for the Monday event in Harrisburg. The pack performed really well. **Marsh Creek** on Sunday the 13th was a warm dry day, with little game. We put a couple of rabbits quickly to ground along the oval and had a quick run to ground in the far field hedgerow line. Drawing down the left side above the Brandywine we came upon a herd of deer and pulled back across the far field to the center, and after a blank draw back to the oval, ended the day with a wild scurry on three different rabbits. Two crossed the road and the third was put to ground in the trailhead tangle. We returned to a grand feast of a tailgate in the barn at kennels. The gals outdid themselves! Monday October 14th we presented hounds and paraded on **Hunt Night** at the **Pennsylvania National Horse Show** in Harrisburg. Our hounds were outstanding and the crowd went wild. The staff, Jonathan Schau, Dick and Holly Gross and Phyllis Allen, did a fine job. Wednesday and Saturday we walked all at kennels. On the 20th, we had a fine day at **George Jefferis's** farm. Hounds found and ran 7 different rabbits really well, putting 4 to ground and accounting for 3. The final one was the best, with Sabine getting one up at the far end of the tree cover. They ran it to the middle to a check, then Sabine fresh found it and worked it up again and the chase was on...down to the bottom and back up the far side into a brush pile. They drove it through to the left field side where Ginny viewed it out to run the edge right and back in again with all on in cry. They pushed and picked it up the middle to a mark to ground to end the day. Sabine, Salsa and Tuppence were the stars, with young Yarrow working like a pro the whole day long. It was an excellent tuneup for Aldie. Everyone had a great time, and the Hallowe'en tailgate with skull cake was a groaning board of goodies.



First rabbit to ground.



End of day.

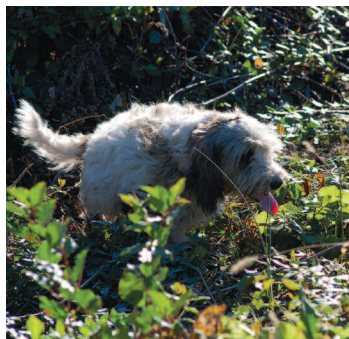


Hallowe'en tailgate.

Aldie was interesting. Jonathan Schau and Gene Bolt whipped in for the 3 couple, and Laura Booth and Phyllis Allen whipped in for the 5 couple. Dick and Holly Gross, James Overstreet, Pat Loughran, Marsha Scharnberg, Melissa Hancock, Deedee Heyward and Phil Metcalf were a lot of help along with them to make the trip and the weekend easy and fun. Our 3 couple on Thursday October 24th at 1:30 pm was a

good workout, with a find and circling run to ground in the upper end of the enclosure and another find as time ran out. The 5 couple at 4:30 pm Saturday afternoon the 26th was a blank in the heat. We had a nice trip home, and the hounds raced for their kennel beds after we fed and tucked them in. Frustrating hunting, but a fine time regardless with a great bunch of people.

Wednesday October 30 and Saturday November 2 we had two good training hunts at Marsh Creek. The Y pups are starting well. At Sunday's November 3 meet at **Church Farm**, we had a good though hard working hunt. Hounds did a great job digging out 5 rabbits from the burr-filled hedgerows for several nice runs, giving the field some exciting views. I wept for their burr-covered coats (it took over two hours of careful clean up to get them free of the awful stuff). The Wiedorns were thrilled with their engraved Morgan Wing Award cups at the tailgate



Out of the briars—



—in view—



—and to ground!



The Wiedorns with their cups

afterwards. Rosemary and Phil Heth gave a wow of a tea, and Marsha got some good photos too. Sunday the 10th at **Silberman's** was a mostly scentless day. After recovering from a fox run in the woods, hounds found a rabbit behind the McCarters' which they put quickly to ground in heavy tangle, then worked the woods edge back to a draw through Eli's lower hedgerow. We then drew the cover edges west along Scott Road and the McCarters' corner patch, and crossed the road to work the strip along the Plums' field back. A fusillade of gunfire began non-stop to the south, making it impossible to hunt there, so we drew down and past the tenant house to end the day. The tea at Eli's was super. Afterwards, David Harshaw, Dick Gross, James Overstreet and I deburred hounds and fed the pack. We had a nice morning at kennels on Wednesday November 13. Gene Bolt and David Harshaw and I got the pack out for a good walk on the hill and did some grooming. Saturday the 16th Ginny and I walked hounds at kennels. Sunday the 17th at **Twin Ridges Farm** we had deer coming out of every cover that hounds drew, but there were no breaks. Working down the lane edges to the lower field, hounds spoke in the swampy bit below the quarry on a rabbit that got quickly to ground, then we drew along the west bank of the quarry blank to the end where the first deer broke out. Then they worked the left point corner, where Salsa accounted for a rabbit in a deep tangle. Drawing into the quarry, hounds got a doubling one going the length of it, driving it out the east end across the lane to ground on the far bank. They opened again at the bottom in heavy briars, putting one to ground in the log pile. We worked west to the woods patch below the barns where a buck and a doe ran out toward the Moores'. Hounds worked the cover thoroughly, then we crossed into the upper quarry where they drove two rabbits in circles through the bottom, marking them to ground in the middle and at the far end. We crossed the lane and drew up the far hedgerow border to end the day. The tea at Susan Butler's was great, and Jim LeRoux's decorations were a riot. Wednesday November 20th Gene, Jonathan, Dick and I hunted hounds at Church Farm. A buck broke out at the start, but hounds worked the creek up to the bridge, then crossed to run two rabbits inside the trail hedgerow to marks. Crossing back over the field to the center creek line they got up another rabbit for a nice run to ground short of the center lane to end the morning. The young boys worked well. Tuppence and Salsa were super. Saturday the 23rd at kennels we had a good morning hunt, with three rabbits marked to ground. Yarrow and Yvette did very well. Souza, out of heat at last, was great. Sunday the 24th was very cold and windy at **Barbara Berry's** with little scent, and little game of any kind. There was one short run in the upper corner behind the house and one loop to ground in the woods behind Kent's. Coming back up to the hedgerows through the field, they worked the whole hedgerow and field, then worked down to the barn to end the day. It was frustrating to see hounds work so hard for so little. The tea afterwards at Julie and Tag Geers' Little Field Farm was super. Wednesday the 27th with the remains of the light snow and ice on the fields Gene Bolt and Dick Gross and I were able to get the pack out for a walk to the upper fields and back, and get the runs cleaned. We had a good training day November 30th at kennels. We watched hounds scour the oval track area with a short picking run to a mark, then the center field hedgerow where they accounted for a rabbit halfway up the line toward the top. We drew back around the north side to finish, and exercised the rest at kennels.

Sunday December 1st at **the Moores' "Marshlands"** was a tough workout for hounds and staff. We had rabbits. The first, in the cover along the farm lane beyond the Moores' house, got quickly to ground. The usually productive "Fox Hill" covert had game, but a fox ran through and out the right toward the swamp. We covered the upper tree line, then the long hedgerow line toward the turnpike thoroughly to the end, where hounds accounted for a rabbit. Drawing back to the ridge line was blank, then I decided to work the "Fox Hill" covert on the way back. There we got a rabbit going, which ran out the bottom and looped back into the center to ground. Hounds then thoroughly worked the thick stuff from one end to the other to end the day. The Grand Tailgate in the warming room back at the meet was most welcome. Wednesday the 4th we walked out the pack and cleaned kennels for the Dog Law Officer inspection and passed with flying colors. Saturday December 7 was a fine morning walk. On December 8th we cancelled the **Cheslen Preserve** meet due to the winter storm. We had a good morning training hunt at **Marsh Creek** instead. Hounds marked three short runners to ground in the hedgerows and accounted for one in the point cover out between the two fields. There were pieces of deer carcasses everywhere. Gene Bolt and Jonathan Schau whipped in, and Carol and David Harrison were our field. Of the three couple, Quarry and Sabine were super, and Yarrow is becoming a good pack hound. Marsha brought tea, scones, pate and hot soup to kennels, so we feasted while feeding hounds. The snow started as I was leaving. I got rear-ended at a stop light on the way

home from kennels during our snow/ice storm! The smartest thing I did all week was cancel. Snow fell again Monday night. Wednesday we walked the pack, and the same on Saturday before another snow/sleet/rain/ice mix. Sunday morning dawned with the ground a sheet of ice, and I donned spikes to walk out to get our paper. The temperature soared through the morning and ice fell from the trees and turned to slush. We hunted at **Kennels** instead of an iced in **Welkenweir** to the north. We got all hounds out for a stretch, then started hunting after 2 pm. Hounds drew the length of the stream cover, then holed a short runner in the left end of the upper field hedgerows. They worked across to the righthand woods above Dowlin Forge Road, then right along the ridge line to force a rabbit out for a good run. Yeoman roared after it as it popped out into the field in front of him and the pack was on. They drove it the length of a hedgerow and solidly to ground. Quarry found another in the hedgerow end at the upper side of the field that got quickly to ground, and they worked the line down to the center covert where again a rabbit got to ground quickly. Next we drew across to the corner cover near the tenant house and Sabine found, driving a doubling bunny out that looped down to the pool bushes and ran back up around the main house. Hounds roared through the hedges and drove the rabbit out along the upper drive and to ground at the corner of the barn. We tried one more draw through the hedge line north of the house, then went in to tea in the barn to end the day. Hounds were soon cleaned and fed, and staff and field enjoyed a grand hot tea to celebrate our weather beater of a hunt. Sunday the 22rd at **Church Farm** was a wow! Hounds drew the cover line near the barn very quickly, then worked across the field at the far end of the pond and ran two rabbits in loops through the heavy briar field corner. Deer broke out back toward the school, but hounds ignored them. The first rabbit got to ground in the middle of the briar tangle, and the second one did three loops in and



He's to ground—let's find another!



Rabbit in and out along the hedgerow—young Yeoman right on!

out around the cover with a final run up the hill to ground in a woodchuck hole in the open field. We drew back down and east along the stream toward the lane, working it the length with a short runner to ground in the patch on the way. Crossing the lane, they drove one out toward the bridge end of the field. They ran two rabbits back and forth in the swampy corner, forcing them out one after the other across the field to the the track hedgerow border line. Hounds worked right, then left, where they pushed one out for a race along the hedgerow cover to ground in heavy tangle near the east road. Drawing back for rabbit two, hounds found halfway down, and drove their rabbit in and out of the hedgerow to the end of the cover again to ground. Hounds got up another for a doubling run to ground to end this great day. Our **Boxing Day Meet at Allerton Farm Gate** Wednesday December 26th was a good workout in a snow squall. The hedgerow border at the meet was blank, then after flushing the deer out below Mose Cornwell's, they drove a short runner to ground in the creek edge. Crossing back, they worked the hill woods to Mose's where they accounted for one in the corner tangle, then we drew the hillside east and down to the stream. We watched them work the west side hedge line down to the bend and to the stream, and on to the lower fields and stream cover below the pond. We drew the stream bank, getting a good runner that ran down the far side almost to Allerton Road with hounds on. It doubled back into the hedgerow tangle for a burst to ground with all hounds digging frantically to get it out of the big tangle where they marked it to ground. We drew back up along the field cover edge to end the day. Salsa, Souza and Quarry were outstanding. Josie Parman's hunt breakfast afterward was wonderful. Saturday we walked hounds at kennels, and were rained out of a hunt at **Bob Berry's** on December 29. It poured all day to end the year on a sodden note. The weather has messed up meets more this season thus far than in recent memory. Let's hope for a better second half of the season. Our young entry, Yeoman, Yuengling, Yarrow and Yvette, are really special, and improving with each hunt.

Everyone is welcome to join us on bye days. Call Jim Scharnberg or Gillian Wiedorn Tuesday and Friday for times and locations. Our 64th season is going very well indeed so far. We will be exploring new locations on bye day hunts the second half of the season. Please let us know if you have any friends' properties in mind.

We owe our sport to our wonderful landowners.