



# SKYLINES

Newsletter of the Skycastle French Hounds



Summer 2013

Gillian Wiedorn, Editor

## Summer Report and Welcome to the Fall Season

Welcome to the start of our 66th season of hunting in Chester County. The young entry are very promising, and we are looking forward to good sport. Bring friends to see the pack as the season gets under way! As well as our Sunday meets, you are welcome to join us for the weekly training hunts Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Contact Jim Scharnberg for locations and times.

Our 2013-2014 season began well in June. Walking out and hunting three days a week has gotten the pack in fine shape. White Acres Farm, George Jefferis's, Bob Berry's, the Hallmans', Church Farm School and Marsh Creek all have had game. Our thanks to them all for letting us use their land for training hunts this summer. Our hard-working staff—Gene Bolt, Ginny Beards, Jonathan Schau, Dick and Holly Gross, Laura, Nick, Lisa and Henry Booth, Phyllis Allen, David Harshaw, and James Overstreet—have made this summer's training and exercise really work.

On Saturday 22 June at Marsh Creek, we had a fine start to summer training. We took out Yarrow with 5 of the usual suspects and had two good runs. Yarrow was very good indeed and caught on quickly. Ginny Beards, Jonathan Schau and I had a ball watching the tight-turning hound work and listening to the wonderful cry. The next week through Sunday 30 June, we walked the pack at kennels in heat and intermittent rain (the rains continued almost daily well into July). Sunday evening we had a great **Party Wagon Picnic at Susan Butler's**, at which our members raised enough with a raffle and dinner subscriptions to replace our aging hound trailer! Due to the heat wave, we started walking hounds across to the Brandywine Creek for a swim, and did the same Sunday 7 July after hunting at Jefferis's. It was Yuengling's first hunt, and he did very well. Sabine and Quarry got up two rabbits for short runs, then hounds found in the bottom and drove it up along the back hedge line. Deer were waiting, but Salsa came back quickly to horn and Souza stopped at the far woods edge. We drew back through the tree stand with a short burst to ground and went in as the heat was oppressive. The whole pack enjoyed the dip in the creek at kennels. Wednesday July 10 at Marsh Creek we ran our first rabbit from the beginning to the south side of the oval to ground, and lifted to the east side as a fox ran the path toward the creek. They put two rabbits quickly to ground, then on the field center line literally dug out two more for nice runs. Yarrow again was super. The 17th we hunted early at Marsh Creek and put three rabbits to ground—Yuengling did very well—and Saturday we had several good runs, with a solid performance from Yeoman. On the 21st in the heat we walked and swam the pack. Wednesday 24 July at Marsh Creek we had a short run to ground in the oval, then a long draw to the top of the big field where they got on to a good one in the right hedgerow that they put to ground after a good run in the right hand woods. Drawing back to the point hedge line they came to a tallyho and ran a tricky rabbit up and down the line with several views before finally putting it to ground. It was young Yvette's first hunt and she settled in quickly as the pack worked well to keep the rabbits moving in the thick cover. Lisa and Jonathan whipped in perfectly. Burr cleanup back at kennels was extensive. Saturday at the creek there were several small short runners and Yuengling worked very well. Wagtail was a wild child, but Salsa and Uwchlan held the pack together. Sunday the 28th in light drizzle we walked all hounds up to the top of the



Summer training at the farm—first 4 couple.



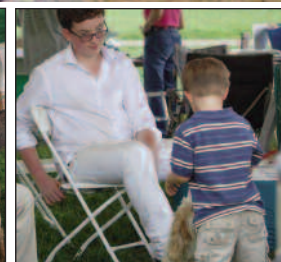
Second 4 couple.



Deburring — the price of rough coats!

property as the fields were finally cut. Wednesday July 31 we hunted at Bob Berry's in the first cool morning we've had for a while. Hounds were ecstatic and tore about before settling down to work. It was a long draw before they got up two rabbits for short runs and marks, then we drew the big corn field to run one rabbit to ground at the far end. A fox broke out as they worked, but it was ignored. Back at kennels we deburred them and got the rest out, then fed to end the morning. Saturday August 10 we had a good morning at kennels. The first rabbit was run to ground in the upper hedgerow, the second was found in the center covert and run for a loop inside, then forced out for a loop toward the house and back to ground. Drawing back up the far hedgerow, they pushed out the last one for a run to the bottom and back to ground. Yuengling and Yeoman are entering nicely. We walked the rest of the pack to end the morning. Sunday the 11th at Marsh Creek we had four rabbits—one in the oval that Salsa put to ground immediately, one in top hedgerow that crossed and went into the righthand woods area, and 2 in the spike hedgerow on the way out that got to ground. Yarrow did really well. Laura, Gene and Phyllis whipped in and covered well. Wednesday 14 August we walked all hounds. Jonathan Schau and Lisa Booth did excellent work with hounds at kennels from the 15th through the 20th while Marsha and I were in Vermont. Ginny, Dick, Jonathan and I had a fine hunting morning at Marsh Creek Saturday 24 August, from the moment we entered the trail at the west end. Quarry got up the first rabbit in the trail junction cover and the pack drove it in a loop south through the corner and back where it crossed the road. Jonathan was there to send the pack back and we immediately found the second in the west hedgerow for a run up to the far field corner. They ran it in cry along on the right side of the trail to the east curve and back for a solid run to ground. Hounds then worked the cover trail sides toward the road, putting two short runners to ground. We drew back along the open field side to the center hedgerow, where they found rabbit three for

a doubling run the length of the cover, getting it up for bursts twice before putting it to ground. They worked the upper field hedgerow blank, so we headed back toward the trailer. They got up a final rabbit that got quickly to ground as we headed in. Yarrow did a good job. As we packed up in the field, Jonathan spotted an awesome sight. A pair of bald eagles flew over for a beautiful end to the morning's hunt. Back at kennels, Paul and Gillian Wiedorn and their son joined us as we cleaned up the hounds. We all went out with the rest of the pack into the paddock for a good stretch before feeding. Paul is looking well, and now has more hair than me again! Gillian's iced tea was most welcome. It was great to have the Wiedorns out with us again. Sunday we exercised hounds at kennels. Wednesday 28 August we hunted at Hallman's. The fields were soaked, and hounds worked the L shaped hedgerow to the end before forcing a rabbit out to the upper field. They worked it solidly to ground in a cover patch, then we drew back down to the barn area and across to the left field center strip. A deer broke out toward the top, but we contained the pack and they drew the side hedgerow down toward Street Road as rain started. By the time we got back to kennels it was pouring. Happily we had stood out all the pack before hunting. We deburred the hunters and fed to end the day. Saturday we got good walks with all hounds and started grooming. Sunday we walked and finished grooming hounds for the **Ludwig's Corner Horse Show**, catching three



hounds' coats on the blow just in time. I then went to the grounds to set up in our big tent for the conservation groups and hounds. We have given the tent for over 20 years to help get out the news about protecting open space, watersheds and farmland here in Chester County, and will continue to do so in the face of heavy development pressure. Let's all work to make sure that the last crop in the county is not an asphalt strip mall parking lot. At the show, August 31, September 1st and 2nd, Green Valleys Association, Chester County Equine Council, Hope Springs Equestrian, and Ryers's Farm for Aged Equines had successful days at our 40'x40' Conservation Space Tent. The carriage classon Sunday was a visual delight. Lydia Willitts Bartholomew and Don Rosato had outstanding entries. On Monday, September 2nd, the Kimberton Hunt, Dr. Addis's Warwick Village Hounds, the Ardrossan Beagles and our Skycastle French Hounds paraded of hounds at 11:15 instead of our usual time, which was a lucky thing, as a heavy rain squall hit when we would have gone in later. There was strong interest during the day in the hound packs and the other groups in the tent. All in all it was a very successful show with over 400 horses in the classes.

Wednesday 4 September was a good day at Marsh Creek. Yuengling worked well with the regulars to thoroughly draw the oval and point hedgerows. They spoke and marked a couple of short lines on the oval, then got a tricky one going for a doubling run to ground in the point line to end the morning. Saturday I got all out at kennels for a stretch morning and afternoon. Sunday the 8th we hunted Jefferis's. We took both the boys along with regulars, and they were very good. Our first rabbit was run out of the pine stand near the house and put to ground along the edge of the field near the kennels. Hounds worked the whole upper tree patch blank, then we found in the strips along the drive, forcing the first out half way along and putting it to ground in a thick pile. The third broke out behind us and raced through the pine stand. Hounds drove it down to the bottom of the woods cover and back up through the center strip to ground. We walked the rest back at kennels after deburring the hunters to end the day. Wednesday September 11th we walked at kennels. Saturday and Sunday the 14th and 15th, Gene, Lisa and Ginny exercised the pack while I was in Charlotte with my son. Wednesday the 18th and Saturday the 19th were fine training hunts at Marsh Creek. Hounds drove rabbits in the oval and out to the far fields to ground both days. Quarry, Salsa, Larry and Souza were terrific. Yarrow was super on both days, and Yeoman did well on Wednesday. Sunday the 22nd we hunted at Jefferis's and had two runs on rabbits, one in the center woods strip and one on the far side of the tree plantings. Two deer challenged us but hounds were steady. Wednesday at kennels hounds put a rabbit to ground in the upper hedgerow, and ran another down along the stream by the carriage barn. It ran back up tp the tenant house and across to the center field covert where they drove it to ground. Sabine was outstanding picking it across the open. Cleanup was tough as houndswere pasted with burrs.

It has been an interesting summer, with wild heat and record rain swings. We pray that the hunting season's weather will be kinder!

## *We owe our sport to our wonderful landowners.*



### **Our Wessells (Chewy) is the hit of Long Island!**

Cathy Springer and Chewy in the Memorial Day Parade and the Hallockville Fall Festival's Black and White Drive on 9/14/13. Saturday 9/21/13, they were in the Maritime Parade in Greenport, NY.



**Important Dates:** *Sunday, October 6—OPENING MEET and Blessing of the Hounds at Kennels, October 23-27—NATIONAL BASSET PACK TRIALS, Aldie, Virginia*



## CONDUCT IN THE FIELD

We are all deeply indebted to farmers and landowners for permission to hunt on their properties, and for their cooperation in protecting game for our sport. We must be constantly alert to prevent damage to property and injury to livestock at all costs.

The following are a few common sense rules of behavior for people who hunt with our pack.

**1. FENCES.** Climb rail fences at the post where strongest, not in the middle. Slide under wire fences when possible. Don't stretch the wires. If a fence is broken, secure it if possible and immediately report it to staff.

**2. GATES.** If a gate is opened, make sure that the last person through closes it securely. If barways or rails are let down, make sure that they are put back up.

**3. GROUNDS.** Keep off lawns and gardens near houses, and winter wheat or other soft seeded ground, including golf greens, tees and traps.

**4. LIVESTOCK.** Keep well away from all livestock in fields and paddocks so as not to excite them. Move quietly around the enclosed area, rather than cross it, unless following the Field Master.

**5. SMOKING AND ALCOHOL.** No smoking or drinking permitted in the hunting field. One of our meets is at a school that asks that there be no alcohol on the property.

**6. PARKING AT THE MEET.** Don't park on driveway edges or where inconvenience will be caused to others. Be guided by the Field Master on arrival.

**7. HOUNDS.** Silence is golden when Hounds are drawing, or at a fault, or working a patchy line. And don't call to or urge on, alagging Hound. Hold up and notify the staff quietly.

**8. Finally, be guided by the Field Master.** Keep behind him unless Hounds are running. Keep at least 30 yards behind Hounds when running, and hold up for the Field Master as soon as they hesitate on the line. If no Field Master is present or appointed for the day, keep thirty yards between yourself and the Huntsman and Hounds when hunting so as not to turn rabbits back into cover, and a good twenty yards when moving off or going home.



## SKYCASTLE FRENCH HOUNDS 2013-2014 SEASON

AGE	ENTRY	SIRE	DAM
12	Sabine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '07+	Haxel de Fin Renard	Mireine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '04+
7	Quarry '06	Luron de Mounaidieres '96	Mireine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '04+
	Robin '06	} Ch. Oarsman '03	Pampa de la Bonne Franquette '04+
	Roguish '06		
	Gebeba's Larry '06	Raven des Marais de la Dives	Rafale des Landes Medocaines
6	Salsa '08	} Gebeba's Larry '06	Mischief '01
	Sousa '08		
5	Teasel '09	} Ch. Riddle '06	Sabine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '07+
	Trompette '09		
	Tuppence '09		
4	Uwchlan '10	Gebeba's Larry '06	Quarry '06
2	Ch. Gallion des Roccs du Plessis '12	D'Armor des Roccs du Plessis	Ukraine des Roccs du Plessis
	Wagtail '12	Cezar de la Font Française	Souza '08
1	Yeoman '13	} Ch. Gallion Des Roccs du Plessis	Souza '08
	Yuengling '13		
	Yarrow '13		
	Yvette '13		



### Helen and Robert Whittaker Memorial Trailhead Park

Jim Schamberg, State Senators Rafferty and Andy Dinniman, the East Brandywine Commissioner, Congressman Jim Gerlach, Dick Whittaker and Suzie Whittaker Castaldi, and County Commissioner Ryan Costello at the groundbreaking dedication of the on Tuesday, August 6th.



**Audrey Cole** Audrey Cole passed away Tuesday August 27th after a long illness. She had been an all around sportswoman—an accomplished equestrian, skier and sailor. She loved our hounds and still managed to come to a number of meets this past season with Mary Jane Wallace. She was a warm and welcoming presence in the field, recognizable by the jaunty feather stuck in her hat. Happily she was able to remain at her home until the end. Her memorial service was Tuesday September 3rd at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. She will be greatly missed by her surviving daughters, Cassandra and Jennifer, brother, Howard; and sister, Jean. It meant a great deal to her family that a lot of us from Skycastle came to the service. Pat Roche and Jean Dennis have made generous donations to Skycastle in her memory.

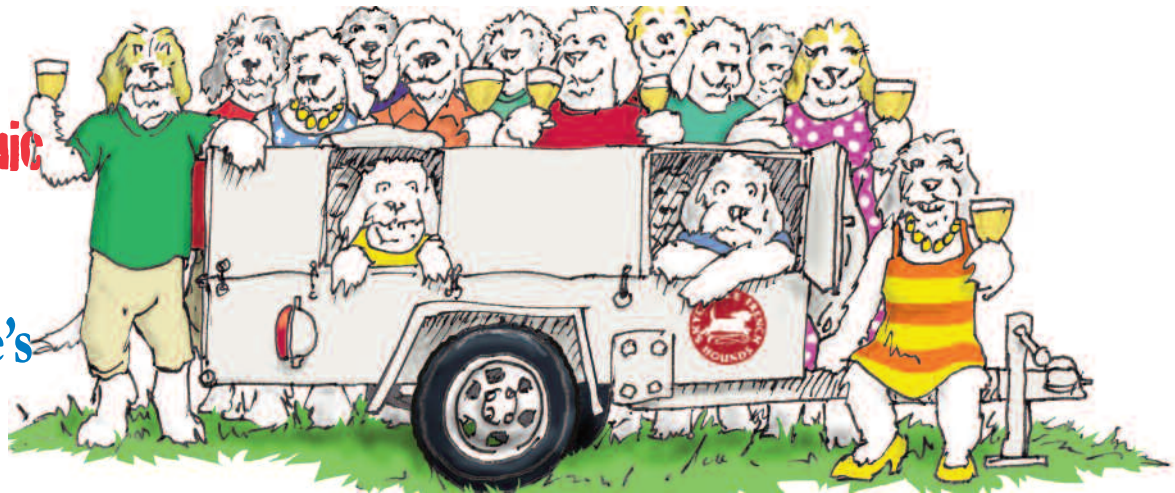


**Gayle Killeen** Gayle Killeen passed away June 27th at William Hill Gardens in Easton Maryland. Gayle was a long time member of Skycastle, and a dear friend. She and her late husband, Jim, were strong supporters and whippers-in before they moved to Maryland when Jim retired. At our annual puppy show, the Killeen Cup, an engraved silver trophy, is awarded to the highest placed hound. They still walked puppies for the pack for several years. Gayle had earlier whipped in to the Coldstream Bassets until it was disbanded in the 1980s. She was a delightful and caring person, and great with hounds.

We have made a contribution in her memory to her favorite animal shelter, Baywater Animal Rescue, in Cambridge, Maryland.



**The Great  
Party Wagon Picnic  
and Raffle  
June 30th  
Buys Skycastle's  
New Trailer!**



Our Party Wagon party made enough to purchase the new hound trailer (with a surplus for maintenance!) that is now ready for Opening Meet. Our grateful thanks to everyone for the effort and generosity that

went into the party and the whole membership for making this possible. Our special thanks to Susan Butler for giving the use of her lovely home so we could party regardless of threatening weather.



**...and here it is!**



# Late Summer at the Farm



**Kennel  
Teaser**



**Franklinia In Bloom!**



**Tiger  
Swallowtail**



**Rattie Swimming**



**He's in there!**



**Lisa Carved  
Gene's  
Pumpkins**