



SKYLINES

Newsletter of the Skycastle French Hounds



June 2014

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Spring Hunting and Bryn Mawr

Our **New Year's Day Morning Hunt** at CFS started 2014 in style! The pack worked splendidly, starting with a run from the east side of the lane along the stream cover to the bridge. The rabbit doubled back, then ran along the cover and went right to the tangle by the solar panels where they put him to ground. The second rabbit was pushed out of the track hedgerow line and broke back across to the stream for a run to ground near the lane. We crossed back to the track hedgerow and hounds drew north to put a rabbit to ground at the upper end. Hounds worked back to the lane and crossed to a tallyho from Jonathan Schau along the track briars. It ran almost to the end of the field to ground. They found another and pushed it through to the pond field that gave the pack a real workout, running the trail to the pond and back in and out of the field for the next quarter hour before they put it to ground. Working back, they fresh found and drove our last rabbit the length of the lane field to ground. They crossed to the stream again and worked up to the lane to end the day. The tailgate of hot tea, soup, sausage rolls and other goodies was most welcome. Staff coverage was excellent. Dick Gross's son Steven was a fine whipper-n—we wish he lived here rather than visiting from Sweden. A great start to the new year! Our hunt on Sunday January 5th at **BVA** had to be cancelled, as the icy crust and pouring rain later made it dangerous. Jonathan Schau, Laura Booth and the master had a nice Wednesday morning at kennels and got all



Last run New Year's Day at Church Farm.



Gone to ground at Jefferis's.

hounds out for short hunts. Saturday was rain again. On the 12th at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's**, we had a fine day. Hounds put a rabbit to ground in the tree plantings, then went to a tally-ho above in the tree patch on the lane that they ran through the the hill woods and back to ground in the bottom tangle. They got another going on the hedgerow along the upper left field that doubled back and ran the left edge of the tree plantings to ground. Crossing to the center field hedge covert, they got up another that ran to the woods, doubled back and ran the north edge where they accounted for it. Sabine then pushed out one to the left that they quickly ran to ground, then hounds worked the tree plantings on a nother that got to ground in the middle. We then drew the north edge hedgeline and went to a tally-ho in the woods that they ran to the trash filled tangle. It broke out and ran back to the hedge line to the end, and doubled back again to go to ground in the trash tangle. After a final draw toward the back we ended this exciting hunt. During cleanup, we found that Souza had badly gashed her right rear pad and would be at the masters' for a couple of weeks. Tea at the Yeakles's was super. Sunday January 19 at **Church Farm** was tough hunting in the powder. We first ran a rabbit down to the pond area tangles that doubled and went to ground in the stream corner. The hounds then ran several short-running rabbits along the track briar hedgerow, and drawing the stream back got up a runner back toward the pond hedgerow to a mark. We drew to the lane and crossed, finding in the swampy end two that they drove out across the field to the track hedgerow where they marked one in the corner at the road. After a couple of in and outs, they ran our final bunny out down the line and back in to ground to end the hunt. We took hounds back to kennels to clean up before the hunt breakfast at the Riverstone Cafe in Exton, which was grand—with oysters on the halfshell again as part of the buffet to end the morning! Sunday the 26th we met at the **White Acres Farm**. The snow was with us, but not too deep, so we walked and hunted two 4 couples around the house hedgerows and lower fields. With the first pack it was pick and mark holes until they got one up for a short run at the tenant house corner. Uwchlan led the way, pushing it out of the snowy briars to ground in the hedgerow above the pool. Larry almost caught another in the hedge along the drive. The second pack worked through the carriage area up to the hillside hedgerow, when Dick Whittaker spotted a rabbit running out from the pines toward the stream. Hounds came to the view and worked it across the stream to ground above the bank to ground in heavy briars, then drew back to the hillside covers. Sabine put a quick one to ground, then they worked the center field cover to end the day. The Gentlemen's Tailgate and a roaring fire afterwards was a delicious ending. We walked at kennels on Wednesday, and had a nice morning at Marsh Creek Saturday February 1st. The three couple ran a circling rabbit at the entrance trail which they drove across the road into the development hedgerow to ground, then worked the oval around to mark in another after a pick and push out hunt. The point hedgerow was blank and the upper field was drifted deep, so we called it and got the others out at kennels to end the morning. On Sunday February 2nd we hunted **Flagg's Warren Point** for the first time in a while. We started the day with a doe running through the pack in the right hedgerow as we drew toward th woods and pond. Walt Stewart was in perfect position to

hold up the back bunch, and they got back together to draw the bottom woods. A rabbit got quickly to ground on the right side and the pond briar tangles proved blank after a long draw. Working back to the woods and stream, Sabine got a big rabbit up that ran along the water edge and to ground on the west bank with hounds trying to get it out. They then worked the south end of the woods, rushing and checking on a dodgy rabbit that eluded all but Salsa as it jumped into the stream and ran it with her in hot pursuit to the upper end where she was joined by the rest as it got to ground at the base of a big tree on the bank. We then drew back around the upper woods edge and called it a day. The tailgate across the way at the church parking lot was great. We had to cancel **Allerton Farm** on the 9th due to icy roads and snow. Sunday the 16th at **Church Farm** we had a good walk with hounds and field to fight Cabin Fever. The tailgate afterwards was great, with hot tea, sandwiches and sweets and Roesmary's super broccoli soup! Wednesday February 19 and Saturday February 22 hounds got out for good long walks at kennels. Sunday 23rd February at **Stonewall** was a nice warm and sunny afternoon and we had a good long walk with the pack. A large field enjoyed getting relief from more Cabin Fever. The snow was still too deep and too sherbet-like to try to hunt. The hounds were dying for a run, and combined rolling in the snow to cool with occasional dashes into the deep stuff. Valerie McClintick gave us a grand tailgate tea indoors afterwards, with lentil soup, chili, sandwiches, sweets in profusion and hot tea and cold cider. More snow showers meant walking at kennels to end the month.

The Hunting Weekend March 1st and 2nd was a great success despite the continuing cold and snow/ice conditions. Saturday's hunting with Radnor and the joint meet with Ardrossan and Skycastle had to be cancelled due to ground conditions, but the Tally-Ho Ball on Saturday night was a blast. A big crowd of beaglers, basseters and foxhunters, some from as far away as Florida, enjoyed a super dinner and dancing to a great orchestra. At the Joint Meet Sunday morning, the Ardrossan and Skycastle hounds showed fine sport. They put their first rabbit to ground in a hollow fallen tree in briars above Warren Avenue, then drew up to the hill top coverts, speaking at a couple of holes in thick briars, before going down to the long covert in the middle of the steeplechase course. There they hit paydirt. The first rabbit was driven out left hand through to the far top edge, then doubled back. Sabine hit the line in the middle of the covert and worked it across the creek, where the pack opened and drove it through the pile tangles to a check. It was viewed crossing the gap, and hounds hit the line again, pushing it through to the back side into heavy tangle and trash where they marked it to ground. A smaller fresh rabbit got up and raced inside a line of briar tangle and crossed



Receiving line at the Tally-Ho Ball.



Coming in from Sunday's morning hunt at Radnor.

the creek, up the far side, then turned and ran back into the tangle again. If it had stayed up there, it would have escaped, but Salsa was working through and accounted for it, joined by the rest of the pack to end this fine morning. The hunt breakfast at Radnor afterwards was excellent. Hunt staffs and field fell on it like wolves, having worked up a ravenous appetite after slogging through the fields of snow and ice crust. Everyone agreed that this weekend was a huge success and must be repeated. Catherine Klaus's committee are to be highly praised for producing a super hunting weekend and ball. Wednesday 5 March we got hounds out and cleaned everything at kennels. Saturday we had a nice morning at CFS. The center stream rabbit ran to the bridge, then cut right and to ground in the tangle next to the solar panels, then we had a looping run to ground in the hedgerow next to the running track and went back to kennels to clean up and feed. Sunday 9 March at the **Cheslen Preserve** it was still snow/ice sloppy, but not deep. Hounds worked the cover north of the rail tracks thoroughly, but did not get any rabbits going until we crossed at the Potters Field gap and worked the hedgerow west below the hill. Hounds found their first rabbit at the base of the big center cover and ran it down to the woods edge to ground, and then got up a second for a doubling run inside the line above the tracks to ground back toward the other end. They spoke inside the cover on the way back to the gap, but couldn't get the third one out. The tangle was so dense that I lost the spike attachment from my left boot! We crossed the tracks and drew back with no more action, so called it a day. Our young dog hounds, Yeoman and Yuengling, worked very well, keying on Salsa and Sabine as they improve each hunt. The tea at Lisa Booth's was great! She and Gillian Wiedorn gave us a real feast of sausage rolls, sandwiches, sweets and wonderful hot soup to restore us after slogging through the snow, ice and mud. Wednesday March 12 Jonathan Schau and I did a thorough cleaning of kennels and paddock as the snow and ice finally began to recede. The Z pups were started on solid food and look very well. Saturday the 15th we walked the whole property for the first time in a while as the grass finally reappeared! Sunday March 16th at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's** was a day spent hoofing through the pines, wondering if we'd stumbled into the landscape of "Holes." Temp was in the 40's and air dampish but the 7 rabbits

were all short runners, except for the doubling bunny that circled the left woods to the kennels and back to ground. The one Marshall-hoed typically found a groundhog hole and dropped in for a quick visit. Most hounds worked well (Roguish, everyone noticed that you were just there for a walk with the Master), even the puppies. Tea at Holly and Dick's was marvelous: two, count 'em, two tables laden with food, port in the butler's pantry, and a view to die for. They take very good care of us and we are grateful!. We walked the pack Wednesday



Jefferis's...hounds with their fourth rabbit!

at kennels, Saturday at Marsh Creek we had a nice morning. Hounds holed their first short running rabbit near the entrance in the right hand hedge line and another in the hedgerow beyond the curve that they drove to ground near the road after a good run. Yvette worked really well. Sunday March 23 at **Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hallman's** was blank except for one rabbit that got immediately to ground, and two woodcock. The coverts and hedgerows were clean to the ground from browsing deer after this harsh winter. We drew the hedgeline and field covert blank, then the long line to the woods where they pushed the lone rabbit to ground and worked around the upper field edges. We then crossed the field and drew down past the house to the lower field to end the day. The Rosato's grand tea was scrumptious indeed. Saturday at kennels we had a good morning. Hounds worked the upper hedge line and forced a rabbit out across the field to the center cover and across to the tenant house, where it ran down to the creek. Working through they ran it west and finally to ground in the tangle. We then got the hot bitches out and did the monthly tick and worm treatment of the pack. Sunday March 30th, our **Closing Meet at Church Farm School**, was a good hunt, though with rain, sleet and high wind conditions. In the first draw in the center stream line, Uwchlan found and led the pack to a long race to the bridge, where they got the rabbit out of the reeds to ground. We crossed to the track hedge line and had solid runs on two doubling rabbits. They put one to ground back near the road end, and the other was almost caught as it got to ground halfway to the lane. On the other side of the lane they dug out a couple for short runs to ground in heavy briars, and crossing over to the stream line produced no further action. At this point, the driving rain/sleet picked up again in earnest, so we called it a day, to the relief of our sodden though game field. Tea afterward with plenty of hot tea and soup as well as goodies at Chris Peebles's was a fine ending to our 66th season here in Chester County. What a winter it was!

We began working on tuning up the pack for the spring Basset Pack Trials after the closing meet. Falling on Easter weekend made attendance light. The three couple on Friday was a near blank, and our hounds did not work well. Saturday in the five couple, they worked really hard with little scent, and got two up for short runs to marks, one in the center stone wall hedgerow of Field One, and the other in the woods cover below the holding pen. Larry was fourth in the bench show Sunday morning. All in all it was a good trip, and young hounds worked very well.

Our 66th season went very well indeed. Even with the strange weather cycle, we had to cancel only three Sunday meets. We can all be very proud of our hounds and staff that gave such fine sport through this season. **We owe a special thank you to George Jefferis and to Rev. Edmund Sherrill, Headmaster of Church Farm School, and Marsh Creek Park, who let us use their grounds time and again for training and hunting.** We will be exploring new and old meets on bye day hunts before Opening Meet this fall. Please let us know if you have any friends' properties in mind. Everyone is welcome to join us on bye days. Call Jim Scharnberg or Gillian Wiedorn for weekly Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday hunt training and exercise times and locations through the summer.

We owe our sport to our wonderful Landowners.

Annual Meeting at Vixen Hill Farm, May 18



James Overstreet receives Whipper-In Colors



Valerie McCormick receives Colors as Joint Field Master



Rosemary Heth receives Colors



Retiring Treasurer Chip Farnham given a picture of him and his family at a hunt



Retiring Chairman Carol Harrison given an enscribed LL Bean Bag



Osprey wins Best Retired Hound



Souza wins Best Entered



Sabine wins Best Veteran



Yvette wins best Young Entry and the Killen Cup for best in Show

Our wonderful kennel huntsman, David Duvall, was given The Eliot Kalmbach Award for his longtime devotion to our hounds and his great work this winter during the continual storms.

The Bryn Mawr Hound Show Centennial

The Bryn Mawr Hound Show Centennial Saturday May 31st was an interesting one with tough competition among eight packs. The classes were big ones—averaging 16 entries. There were many rough coated bassets in most packs, a result of Skycastle Duchess's get being used widely at the Ripshin over the years. The champions and reserves were *all* rough coats! We had 13 ribbons, placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in almost all classes, and James Overstreet placed 2nd in the Junior Handler Class. We placed third among 7 packs in the field, ahead of last year's winner. Our hounds did a great job all day. My grateful thanks to David Harshaw and James Overstreet for early morning help getting the pack to Radnor and set up in Kennels, to David, James and Phyllis Allen for their fine job in the ring showing hounds, to Gene for help getting hounds ready to classes, and to Phyllis for super whipping-in in the Pack Class. David Harshaw and James Overstreet helped afterwards at kennels to feed and tuck in our crew, and get the puppies home. It was a fine day for Skycastle. Marsha Scharnberg was the official photographer for the Bassets this year and did a super job. Copies of the Centennial history may be obtained from the Bryn Mawr Hound Show Association.



Yeoman 3rd, Yuengling 4th, Entered Dog



Gallion 2nd Stallion with Get



Gallion and Yuengling 1st Couple of Doghounds



James Second Place Junior Handler with Yeoman



Souza 2nd Brood Bitch with Produce



Rognish and Teasel 4th Couple of Bitches



We won second and third in the 2 Couples of Hounds Class



Our Third Place Five Couple Pack