



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 67th 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.

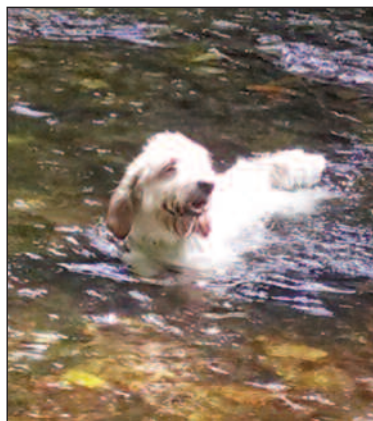
Our 2014-2015 season began well in June. Walking out and hunting three days a week has gotten the pack in fine shape. White Acres Farm, George Jefferis's, Bob Berry's, Church Farm School and Marsh Creek all have had game. Our thanks to them all for letting us use their land for training hunts this summer. Our hard-working summer crew—Gene Bolt, David Harshaw, James Overstreet, Jonathan Schau, Dick Gross and Phyllis Allen—made this summer's training and exercise really work.

Saturday June 7 was our first training hunt after Bryn Mawr—a nice morning at Marsh Creek with short runners and one good rabbit run. The 8th and the 11th we walked the pack with intermittent showers. The 14th was a good morning at Marsh Creek, with 4 good runs around the oval and in the long roadside woods. On the 18th we hunted CFS. They ran a rabbit the length of the center stream cover and across the field to ground in the next hedgerow. After a short run to ground on the second one to ground, we crossed back to the stream and got up another that they ran to ground near the lane. A fox got up, and only Wagtail crossed after it, but came back to horn. We hunted Jefferis's on the 21st. There were plenty of rabbits, though scent was poor. Sabine was stellar. Uwchlan went off on a fox to start, but came back to horn. Three rabbits were run fairly well after that, which Sabine got going. Gallion and Yeoman did very well. Wednesday the 25th at Marsh Creek we had 2 nice runs around the oval, and all hounds took a big mud bath in the standing water from the prior week's rains. They were plastered and had to be hosed off at kennels to end the morning! Saturday 28 June at CFS, we had a fine morning. We took out Yeoman and Gallion with 4 of the usual suspects. They accounted for the first rabbit in the center strip and ran a second out across the field to ground in the track hedgerow. They found a third in the corn and drove it to ground back in the center stream strip, and another to the end at the lane. Gallion is proving to be a solid addition to the hunting pack. Yeoman was very good and Gallion is improving each hunt. We walked the rest across the road at kennels and gave them a cooling dip in the Brandywine. Sunday the 29th we walked the pack in two groups and gave each a dip in the Brandywine. After feeding, Jonathan and I cleaned the drain in kennels.

Wednesday July 2 was a scorcher. We hunted Bob Berry's and should have started at dawn rather than 8:30. Hounds worked hard in cover and spoke at a couple of holes, but there was nothing above ground except for a cat in the long eastern hedgerow. They drew across to the north side, again marking sev-



A dip in the Brandywine.



Gallion cooling off.



Here come the pups!

eral holes as they went, and as the heat became really oppressive we picked up and returned to kennels. All hounds got a cooling swim in the Brandywine to end the morning. Saturday the 5th at Marsh Creek hounds found their first rabbit in the left patch as we came in, and worked it around the right of the oval to ground. They got the second up in the woods near the upper gate and ran it along the road strip to the far side and left handed around the oval again to ground in the back field edge to end the morning. Hosing off at kennels was again necessary, then we got the rest out for a stretch. Sunday July 6 was different story. Scent and game were non-existent, except for a rabbit viewed in the right field as we came in. The bitch pack were already in the left side working, so we stayed with that, and after a long blank draw around the oval and out to the far left hedgerow line, we headed back to try for the early rabbit viewed. Wagtail had other ideas, and took off like a shot to the bottom woods, followed by Souza, who came out to horn at the end. Yarrow and Yvette both found the line of the early rabbit as we walked to the trailer. We walked the rest at kennels and tick and worm treated all to end the morning. Wednesday July 9th, Jonathan and I cleaned and rebuilt the runs with fresh screening, got the hounds out in two groups for over an hour each while we worked. Happily there was no storm damage. We had a fine hunt at Marsh Creek Saturday, July 12, with a good long doubling run to a mark to ground to start. Salsa and Uwchlan had to be called away repeatedly from the earth. Gallion is now completely integrated as part of the pack and works cover thoroughly. His voice is nice, and he doesn't "me too". His son Yeoman also worked very well. The second rabbit was literally forced out of very thick briars and run to ground within 200 yards in the hedgerow. Sunday at the creek was a different story. As we started hounds got up a rabbit at the trail entrance that they drove around to the left and up

the hedgerow when it doubled and ran back quickly to ground. After that, they worked hard to no avail in the rising heat. Yarrow was super, working inside the whole time. Taking mud baths on the way to the trailer, they got a swim to clean up back at kennels, then we walked the rest over for a swim as well to end the morning. On the 16th Jonathan and I exercised the pack and did some needed kennel cleanup. Saturday 19 July at Hallman's we had a short run to ground in the hedgerow up the hill at the start, and a couple of barks at earths in the upper hedgeline, else it was a blank morning. Burr cleanup afterwards was extensive on Sabine and Salsa. Sunday at Jefferis's we had a herd of deer that ran through the pack and out left and right all over the area making scenting impossible, and recovery of Souza and Yarrow took about a quarter of an hour. After cleanup at kennels, we got out the rest of the pack for a good walk. On July 23rd and 26th, Jonathan Schau and I walked the pack in the fields across the road and swam them in the Brandywine. Sunday July 27th we worked the far hedgerows at Marsh Creek, avoiding a run/walk event, and walked the pack afterwards. On the 30th, we had a good two rabbits around the oval at the creek, and drew the rest of the area blank as it heated up. Cleanup at kennels afterward was tough. It's the height of the burr season this time of the summer.

Gene Bolt, Jonathan Schau and David Harshaw did excellent work with hounds at kennels from August 1st through the 4th while Marsha and I were in Vermont. Wednesday the 6th, we had the puppies out for over two hours with the pack, and they were a gas. This group fit in really well. Saturday the 9th we hunted at kennels for the first time in a while, as the fields were finally cut. Sunday August 10 we had a good morning at kennels. A 3 1/2 couple pack worked the upper hedgerows, speaking at holes, then in the center cover patch they put a big rabbit to ground. Salsa spoke on another at the far side and they worked in, but couldn't get it out. We walked the rest of the pack with the puppies on couples for the first time and they did very well. Wednesday the 13th through Sunday the 17th we walked all each morning and got grooming going well. Wednesday the 20th we hunted Marsh Creek. We got good walks with



all hounds and groomed. 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 30, and 31st, and September 1st, Green Valleys Association and Ryers's Farm for Aged Equines had successful days at our 40'x40' Open Space Conservation Tent. The carriage class on Sunday was a visual delight. Lydia Willitts Bartholomew and Don Rosato had outstanding entries. What a great day we had at the show on Monday! It was a rain free day at last, and we had a crowd in the tent all day, with a big group from each of the hunts, and many visitors. Their children swarmed our fuzzies. The hound parade was a hit, including a demonstration of the horn calls of fox hunting by the Kimberton Hunt. We also distributed the latest county info on agricultural easements, land grants, parks and trails and farmer's markets, and info for the US Sportsmen's Alliance and Brandywine Valley Association. All in all it was a very successful show with over 400 horses in the classes.

September 3, 6 and 7 we walked the pack at kennels and worked on training puppies. September 10th and 13th we walked at kennels. Sunday the 13th we had a good morning at Jefferis's. Cleanup was tough as hounds were pasted with burrs. Saturday we walked hounds at kennels, and the 21st was an interesting training hunt at Marsh Creek. Hounds drove rabbits in the oval and in the beans to ground. Quarry, Salsa and Uwchlan were super. Gallion was super and Yeoman did well. Wednesday the 24th we walked the pack on the hill at kennels and worked on coats—all had been shedding and cleaning the old girls was tough.

It has been an interesting summer, with wild heat and record rain swings. We pray that the hunting season's weather will be kinder! This season should be a good one. November will be a "no cap fee" month, so bring out lots of guests to share the fun.

We owe our sport to our wonderful landowners.

Important Dates: Sunday, October 5—**OPENING MEET and Blessing of the Hounds at Kennels,**
 Saturday, October 18—**An Evening With Dorothy Parker & Robert Benchley at Vixen Hill!**
 October 22-26—**NATIONAL BASSET PACK TRIALS, Aldie, Virginia**



Ruth Maconachy

Ruth Stevens Maconachy was born November 15, 1910 in Hartford, Connecticut, and died September 18, 2014 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by her husband Henry and is survived by her son James and daughter-in-law Margery of Whidbey Island, Washington, and grandson Randall of Fukuoka, Japan.

Ruth loved to travel and swim. She was one of the founding members of the Brinton's Quarry Swim Club. We attribute her long life to the summers spent swimming. She traveled her whole life and went on a cruise for her 100th birthday.

She hunted with the Skycastle Bassets from its beginning in the late nineteen-forties, which provided good exercise, companionship and teas during the winter months. She was one of the founding members of the Skycastle French Hounds when it became a subscription pack. Her husband Henry was the Field Master of the pack for over twenty years. She and Henry were great in welcoming newcomers to the group and helping them understand and enjoy hunting with our hounds.

Donations in her name may be made to the Skycastle French Hounds, 20 Beatty Lane Malvern PA 19355, or to a charity of your choice.

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	
13	<i>Sabine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '07+</i>	<i>Haxel de Fin Renard</i>	<i>Mireine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '04+</i>
9	<i>Quarry '06</i>	<i>Luron de Mounaidieres '96</i>	<i>Mireine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '04+</i>
	<i>Gebeba's Larry '06</i>	<i>Raven des Marais de la Dives</i>	<i>Rafale des Landes Medocaines</i>
7	<i>Salsa '08</i> <i>Sousa '08</i>	} <i>Gebeba's Larry '06</i>	<i>Mischief '01</i>
6	<i>Teasel '09</i> <i>Trompette '09</i> <i>Tuppence '09</i>		} <i>Ch. Riddle '06</i>
5	<i>Uwchlan '10</i>	<i>Gebeba's Larry '06</i>	
3	<i>Ch. Gallion des Roccs du Plessis '12</i>	<i>D'Armor des Roccs du Plessis</i>	<i>Ukraine des Roccs du Plessis</i>
2	<i>Yeoman '13</i> <i>Yuengling '13</i> <i>Yarrow '13</i> <i>Yvette '13</i>	} <i>Ch. Gallion des Roccs du Plessis '12</i>	<i>Souza '08</i>
7mo	<i>Zelda '15</i> <i>Ziva '15</i> <i>Zsa Zsa '15</i>		} <i>Ch. Gallion des Roccs du Plessis '12</i>

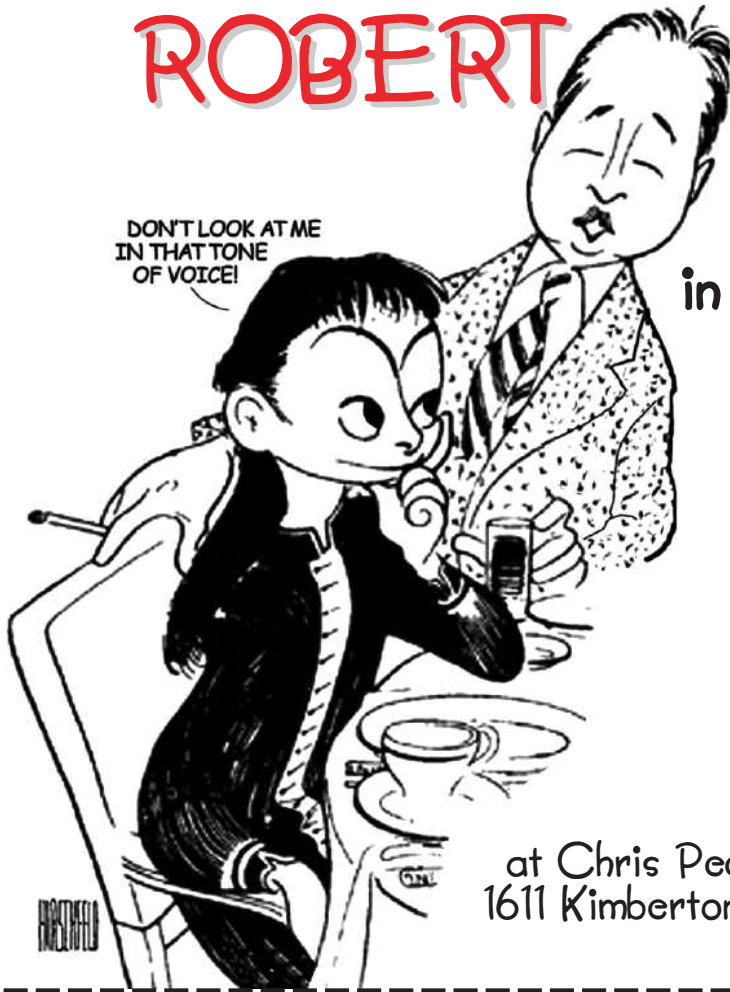
The Last of the Algonquins, or –
**AN EVENING WITH
DOROTHY PARKER AND
ROBERT BENCHLEY**

Direct from their smash hit performance at the Franklin Inn in Philadelphia!

Appearing at the
Vixen Hill Theatre In The Round
Saturday, October 18th
4:00 to 8:00 pm

Hors d'Oeuvres and Buffet from
the Algonquin Hotel Cookbook

at Chris Peeples' Vixen Hill Farm,
1611 Kimberton Road, Phoenixville



YES, (I) (we) plan to come to Skycastle's **DOROTHY PARKER & ROBERT BENCHLEY EVENING** at the Peeples', 1611 Kimberton Road, Phoenixville, on Saturday, October 18, 2014, at 4:00 pm. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ persons at \$35 per person (\$15 per child under 10).

NO, (I) (we) can't come to the **DOROTHY PARKER & ROBERT BENCHLEY EVENING**, but we'd like to contribute \$_____ to Skycastle French Hounds.

NAMES: _____
Please print.

Please make checks payable to "Skycastle French Hounds" and mail to:
Mrs. Philip Heth, 212 Kathleen Way, Glenmoore, Pennsylvania 19343
(610) 942-4951

Subscription is by mail only, with payment. Our seating is limited.
Checks must be RECEIVED by October 10, 2014. No exceptions. NO WALK-INS.

