



## Hunting Fall and Winter 2016

Despite chilly high winds and near zero scenting conditions, we had a fair day on October 9th for our **Opening Meet** at Marsh Creek. Hounds worked hard to get a rabbit up for a run in the oval east side to ground, then after a long draw across to the upper hedgerows and across to the far woods, they found, ignoring deer, and had a good long run on a big rabbit the length of the woods. They drove it out to me halfway down—it saw me and dodged back inside with the pack in cry right behind and they ran it to a solid mark to ground in the briar tangle at the bottom roadside break. The pack worked back to the oval and spoke in the heavy cover, but could get nothing more moving. After working through around the west side blank, I called it a day. Clean up was not too bad as we had a lot of willing hands. Valerie's tea at the house was great. We also reflected on the many older SFH members who have passed during this past year and season—Paul Wiedorn, Penny Yeager, Hilda Young, David Shaw, our senior field master Paul Green, Dick Whittaker, and my beloved Marsha. Hopefully the coming season will be



*Opening Meet Blessing and end of day.*

*Jefferis's—cooling off and tailgate.*

a much happier one for us. The hunt staff, augmented by the Farnhams, Jonathan Wiedorn and Bernadette Berezowski, are doing a terrific job in the field and in repairs and improvements to kennels as well. All in all a nice start to our 69th season. David Harshaw and I walked hounds and worked on pack training Wednesday and Saturday at kennels and worked on the runs. **White Acres Farm** on Sunday the 16th was a sunny hot and dry day. Hounds found one rabbit for a short run along the creek to ground, then deer ran out of the open creek briar line, so we drew up to the top hedgerow, where the field got a view of a dodgy, quick to ground rabbit which was the last game we saw as we drew to the woods above Dowlin road and down through the tenant house hedgerow line and back to the barn to end the day. The Kalmbachs gave us a great tea afterwards. On Wednesday, Gene Bolt and I got hounds out and did some kennel clean up. On Saturday, Dave Harshaw, the Farnhams and I got all hounds out for a good walk. On the 23rd, we hunted in hot, dry and windy conditions at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's**. Hounds found a couple of short running rabbits in the tree plantings, else it was a blank day. Everyone enjoyed the pleasant weather and the nice tailgate. Happily the burrs were not too bad—for once there were more on me than hounds! Wednesday October 26, I walked hounds and did some pack training at kennels.

This fall **Aldie** was a good, though short one for us. I entered only a three couple, as I've not been able to get in the training necessary over the past few months to get the pack up to the level needed for strong competition, and most of our staff was unable to get the time to go. We were told that scenting was tough and rabbits were scarce. Many packs had gone blank in the seven couple hunts and the three couple was no different. Our hounds did very well, however, and Gene and Phyllis did an excellent job whipping in. Hounds worked the enclosure cover thoroughly, and Sousa got up our first rabbit for a short run to ground. They covered a lot of ground before we found again, and two deer broke out of one thick patch, which hounds did not break on, thank goodness. Salsa then pushed a rabbit out in the center bottom cover strip which they followed in cry up the hill where it looped through the spectators and crossed the path into thick cover where they lost it as time ran out. Phyllis and I drove back after the masters' meeting—in heavy weekday traffic for the first time—and got hounds fed and tucked in before dark.

Sunday the 30th we had a bye day at Marsh Creek—a beautiful day, but too warm, and a couple of rabbits that got quickly to ground in the oval. Salsa and Ziva were the stars. It was great to see young Ziva confirm my feelings about her. She is going to make a very good pack hound. Deburring wasn't too bad. The Farnhams, Wiedorns, David Harshaw and Bernadette Berezowski were a big help, and afterwards, Jonathan Wiedorn completed the drain pipe extension.

Wednesday November 2nd we walked hounds and cleaned up. Saturday November 5th we exercised the pack and fed hounds. Sunday's November 6th meet at the **Bedwells'** was a testing workout for hounds with a lack of scent and rabbits—clear, windy, dry and warm. The long upper field hedgerow was blank as were the field coverts. We ended the day with a great tailgate at the Bedwells' barn. Many hands made light work afterwards—David Harshaw, the Farnhams, Bernadette Berezowski and Phyllis Allen deburred the pack. We hunted at **Janeice and Eli Silbermans'** November 13th—the hunt started with a long draw along north field hedgerow and the woods borders to the bottom line fence. Hounds spoke briefly at the bottom along the stream. Zilda and Ziva worked inside the whole way. Hounds worked up to the end of the hedgerow at Eli's west pasture, then across to the roadside hedgerow. Crossing the road, hounds worked the Plums' hedgerow down to the woods

and back where Quarry got up a short runner to ground halfway along the driveway inside the hedgerow. We then crossed the road and drew back towards Eli's to end the day. The tea afterward at the Harrisons' was grand! Afterwards, David Harshaw, Gene Bolt and Gillian and Jonathan Wiedorn deburred hounds as I fed the pack. On the 14th Gene Bolt and I walked hounds at kennels and did some repair work. Sunday November 20th at **Bob Berry's** was bitterly cold with high winds, so scent was almost nil except inside the hedgerows. Hounds worked



*Bye day—heading back.*



*Silberman's—stream bank mark.*



*Plum's hedgerow rabbit to ground.*

hard to find until Souza managed to flush a small rabbit out for a quick accounting. They then drew up toward the top of the hill, speaking at two thick tangles, then we crossed to the west side where they got one going and worked it in cry to a big chuck hole in the middle of the hedgerow. Salsa was half way to ground and had to be pulled away. From then on it was blank and the wind blew harder, so we called it a day. Happily Chris Peeples opened his barn for us to have our tailgate inside out of the wind. Bob Berry and his friend joined us for a feast of a tailgate put on by Mary Jane Wallace, Gary Sturts and Pat Roche. Sunday's hunt at **Welkenweir** November 27th was an interesting one. We started hunting the west end with no rabbits, but two fox ran out from the hillside cover, one north and one south. Happily hounds didn't break, and continued to work the dry and dusty covers across and down to the pond. Scent was almost non existent, and aside from a yip or two in thick piles it was blank. Working back from the east side, they finally got a small rabbit going on the hillside cover below the pavilion



*Welkenweir—crossing east.*



*Welkenweir—there he goes!*



*Geer tea after Hallman's.*

and drove it out toward the west, with a good view for the field. It crossed and ran the trail, cutting left into the lower far hillside tangles. Hounds worked through a couple of checks down toward the creek, but couldn't recover the line. They then worked west through the west woods cover, and Trompette jumped a big rabbit. The pack joined in and drove it out through the field for a run-and-check drive through the weedy slope toward the pavilion. They opened strongly on the hillside and ran the rabbit down into the woods cover where they put it to ground under a big tangled pile. Salsa and Ziva were inside and digging to finish the day. Hounds drank deep at the water buckets after this dry and dusty hunt. The tailgate at the pavilion was grand, with plenty of cider, chicken stew and sandwiches and pies and sweets. On Wednesday the 30th Gene and I stood out the pack. Sunday December 4th at **Hallman's** was a slow start with one rabbit driven out of the left field covert and run to ground in the center hedgerow line. We then drew to the upper fields and worked the hedgerows towards Theurkauf's with an occasional yip at a couple of earths above the west pasture, else it was blank. Hounds got a good coating of burdock and other burrs for their efforts. Tea at Julie Geer's was great, with grand deer chili, sandwiches and pastries. Wednesday December 7th was a training workout at kennels.

We marched in the **Downingtown Christmas Parade** on Saturday the 10th, and from the cheers we got we were a big hit. 6 couple of hounds, Kate and Helen and Ned Farnham, Gene Bolt, David Harshaw, Bernadette Berezowski, Gillian and Jonathan Wiedorn and I, tooting away on my horn, along with Gary Sturts taking pictures. We walked the 1.7 mile route through the center of Downingtown on Lancaster Avenue along with floats, bands, pipers and vehicle of all types. We gave out candy canes with Skycastle info attached as well. With the sun and temperature near 40°f and little wind it was a very pleasant afternoon and all went smoothly once the parade started. All were tucked in



*The Downingtown Parade!*

and fed by 5:30 and a hard working pack and crew settled in for a well-earned night's rest. Well done all!

On Sunday December 11th at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's** hounds scoured the tree patch hedgerows and patches of cover. The cover was very open and deer parts and droppings were everywhere. Hounds worked the upper field patches hard to no avail. We then drew the woods and cover strip along the drive toward the road, where hounds got a good rabbit going for a run to ground in thick cover by the fence to end the day digging at the earth. We had a nice tea at the Booths' after the hunt. On Saturday, Bernadette and I scraped ice in the runs and exercised the pack for a short time due to the weather conditions. Sunday the 18th the rain forced a pass at **Marsh Creek**. It was sodden and steady rain, so we put in a solid two hours grooming hounds and kennels at the barn. The pre-Christmas barn tailgate was grand, with quiche, pies, hot and cold drinks, cold shrimp, and other delights. Our **Boxing Day Meet at Allerton Farm Gate** on Monday, December 26th, was an interesting day for the pack. Hounds worked the upper field covert from end to end where Ziva pushed out a small one for an accounting as the rest of the pack drew the lower edge, and Sousa drove another out of a big tangle. We then drew across the hedgerow to Mose Cornwell's



*Allerton Farm—drawing back.*



*Breakfast at Josie's.*

with hounds marking a couple of holes and Uwchlan being relieved of a particularly disgusting hunk of deer on the way. The pack worked the lower bordered field and stream line, then the hillside next to Cornwell's where they marked in a big briar tangle, with Ziva down a hole in the middle. They drew back down to the stream hedgerow line and worked toward the road where Salsa jumped a rabbit in the middle of heavy briars. The rest joined in and I blew to ground as they dug at the earth in the center. We collected the pack in the adjacent field and made our way up the long hill back to the meet. It was a happy morning hunt. Josie's neighbors had a fine time. Our thanks to hostess Josie Parman for her Christmas present to Skycastle—the Boxing Day Hunt and the Breakfast afterward. Her warm welcome, grand ham and bean soup and giant elk hat rack were a fine ending to the last formal meet of the old year! On Wednesday the 28th, Gene and I worked with the pack at kennels and on Saturday Gene, Kate Farnham and I walked the pack and set up the barn to end the year for the New Year's hunt on Sunday.

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 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.*

## HOUD PROFILES

*With the Adopt-A-Hound Program coming next month we thought it would be fun to tell you a bit more about our individual hounds. When I started describing the hounds I found myself saying over & over again "loving & affectionate" but quite simply it is the nature of our little hounds in addition to their fine hunting abilities. So here goes & we hope everyone finds at least one irresistible fuzzy Valentine!*



GEBEBA'S LARRY is a purebred PBGV who is 11 years old and came to us from the Barths. He is an AKC Champion who had never hunted before but has adapted beautifully. It was very exciting to see him chase his own rabbit for the first time! He is very goodnatured, has a lovely disposition and is a real gentleman. He is the father of Sousa and Salsa.



SOUSA is a purebred PBGV, one of Mischief's puppies and is 9 years old. She is the most like her mother as she has her brown and white coloring. She is very, very smart and a natural leader and hunts extremely well. She is one of the leaders of the pack. She is the mother of the "Y" litter that Jim feels is one of the best we've had.



SALSA was the biggest of her litter, a purebred PBGV and 9 years old. She became a very good hunter at an early age and Jim is very pleased with her. She and Sousa are great buddies and have a wonderful time chasing each other around the kennel yard. She is very distinctive looking with pretty black and white coloring with some brown. She is a very handsome girl and one of the leaders of the pack.



TEASEL is 8 years old and from Sabine and Skycastle Riddle. She was the smallest of her litter, a sweet individualist who knows what she wants and is very quick to figure out how to get it. She is very affectionate and is coming along as a hunter. She may be dainty but in no way does she let anyone boss her around.



TROMPETTE is 8 years old and also from Sabine and Skycastle Riddle. She has a beautiful thick and wiry coat. In 2009 she gave us the "V" litter and she is the mother of our "surprise" litter in 2015. Wessells was the father. Trompette has been hunting very well and Jim is pleased with her.



TUPPENCE is also from Sabine and Skycastle Riddle and 8 years old. She is named for the large spots on her torso. Her coat looks as though it might be difficult to groom but it is surprisingly easy. She is very sweet and affectionate and is doing well as a hunter. Jim feels that Salsa, Sousa, Tuppence and Trompette are the solid core of the pack. She is the mother of our latest litter, the "Z" litter.



UWCHLAN is 7 and the elder of the two feisty boys that Quarry and Larry gave us. He has a lovely, large black saddle, a charming dark face and a merry disposition. He is an enthusiastic hunter and is doing well. His name is Welsh and means "upland" or "the land above the valley". He is an extremely handsome boy and loves to chase tennis balls and will bring them back to you for more fun.



GALLION DES ROCS DU PLESSIS is on loan to us by Logan Mazanec who brought him over from France. He is 5 years old and very sweet and affectionate. He is still learning to hunt and doing well. He has also been on the show circuit earning more points toward his championship. He is the father of the "Y" and "Z" litters. He is mostly white.



YARROW, after a wide working start, has become a very good pack hound, works hard in cover to find and has a strong voice. She is our big girl with a big heart and sports a lovely white and yellow coat. Her height and length sometimes cause us to joke that she leans more toward a Grande rather than Petite Basset. She loves a good long tummy rub. She is 3 years old and comes from Gallion and Sousa.



YVETTE also from Sousa and Gallion and 3 years old, is a tricolor, a lovely hound who has started working well, and works the cover thoroughly. She is bright and sweet natured and well focused in the field. On the shy side, Yvette has a good nose and enjoys exploring with it in the paddock and the field. Her strong coat makes her a joy to groom after a hunt.



ZELDA is from Tuppenec and Gallion and 2 years old. She has become a steady pack hound, works well in cover to find and has a good voice. Friendly and full of energy, Zelda thoroughly enjoys any and all attention she can get. Her long and fluffy coat is among the softest in kennels. She's coming along as a hunter but can take a few notes from her sister, Ziva.



ZIVA is also from Tuppence and Gallion and 2 years old. She has become a very good tight pack hound, works very hard in cover to find and has a good voice, is very responsive. She is becoming one of our best young hunters. Her nose is almost always to ground and she's discovered that the action is often right in the middle of the thickest hedgerows. Like her sister, Zelda, Ziva is very friendly and out going. Her distinctive light grey and white coat and smaller stature make her one of our easily identifiable hounds in the field.



BUTTON is just over 18 months old now and our youngest puppy in kennels. She is Yuengling's daughter from his first litter with Ch. Gebeba's Crown Victoria. She arrived as a cute, bouncy little puppy and captured everyone's heart at the Annual Meeting and Picnic that year! With seemingly boundless energy she is among our fastest runners in kennels. Although initially shy and reticent she warms quickly. Her three brown "button" spots on her back inspire her name. She is a very pretty hound, still walking on the wild side, but may calm down when she starts hunting!

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**April 12 - 16 - National Spring Basset Pack Trials, Aldie, VA.**

**Sunday, May 14 - Annual Meeting and Hound Show, Vixen Hill Farm**

**Saturday, June 3 - Bryn Mawr Hound Show**

**Monday, September 4 - Ludwig's Corner Horse Show**

**WITH THANKS to Jim, Gene and Bernadette for help with this issue of Skylines.**

## MEETS AND TEAS

**October 9th – Opening Meet & Blessing of the hounds** – It was a blustery day for our hunt at Marsh Creek, where Jim led the Blessing of the Hounds. Jim hunted a 5 couple & they worked hard & put up a couple of rabbits. After the hunt **Valerie McCormick, Delores Green & Diane Young hosted a Memorial Tea in honor of Paul Green**, our Senior Field Master, in the farmhouse at White Acre Farm, thanks to Peggy Whitaker. There was a picture board documenting all of Paul's many interests. It was a fabulous tea with three different kinds of delicious mini-croissant sandwiches, lovely cheeses & a really beautiful cake with Paul's name on & "Tally-Ho"! It was a great start to the Season & an opportunity to remember all the members & friends we have lost over the past year.

**October 8th – Pig Roast** – We had our Pig Roast in the Barn at Vixen Hill Farm thanks to the kindness of Chris Peeples. The Barn looked really attractive with round tables all decked out with fall foliage & many different kinds of gourds and Bernadette's beautiful flowers in pumpkin bowls. The roast pig was delicious & there were a number of yummy salads to choose between & Gene's lovely caramel apple pies, & pumpkin pies & Kate's brownies with ice cream. Fortunately the rain had cleared up & we had a lovely evening & a great start to the season. A very talented young musician played his guitar for us & provided a delightful musical entertainment.

**October 16th – White Acres Farm with Tea at Mr. & Mrs. John Kalmbach's** - Jim hunted the farm with a 5 couple, working up the stream to start with, & then in the field beyond on a lovely warm sunny day. In spite of putting up a deer & fox there were no rabbits so we finished early & headed over to the Kalmbachs for a most elegant tea with hot soup & cold cider, lots of elegant tea sandwiches & beautiful cakes & cookies. Julie Geer's family came, which was lovely, & the

cream puffs were a great hit with the grandchildren! It was a really lovely occasion. Whitney & her husband were there & it was so nice to have Mrs. Hallman come too!

**October 23rd - Mr. & Mrs. George Jefferis's & BYO Tailgate Tea** – A splendid autumn day with back drop of crystal clear blue skies & colorful changing leaves. We had a couple of short runs on rabbits and deer in the woods. Helen & Ned Farnham stood on the line when they saw the first two, then one came flying out right past them but staff managed to keep the hounds from going after them! The wind was quite gusty, so we had to hold things down. The menu included sandwiches, salsa & chips, veggies, & two soups – a wonderful chicken broth with greens, & a creamy pumpkin mushroom soup. For those with a sweet tooth, there was no shortage of items – oatmeal raisin cookies, mini cupcakes, Philadelphia's own Tastycakes, & a marvelous ooey, gooey pear tart, courtesy of Gene. Thanks to everyone for sharing all of these delights! Suffice to say, no one left the tea hungry!

**October 26 – 30th – National Basset Pack Trials, Aldie, VA.**

**November 6th – Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bedwell's & BYO Tailgate Tea** – Cool & breezy to start with! Jim hunted with 4-1/2 couple of hounds along the hedgerows at the top of the farm but there was no game but plenty of fox scat! Afterwards we had a lovely BYO tea with Bernadette's fabulous tomato/basil soup with meatballs' Julie's great turkey sandwiches, Valerie's delicious apple tart, Phyllis's crumb cake & lots of other delicious goodies that people had brought to share. Jonathan took Larry around to meet & greet! A fun afternoon for all!

**November 13th – Mr. & Mrs. Eli Silberman's with Tea at Mr. & Mrs. David Harrisons** - A lovely warm day for our hunt! Jim hunted a 5 couple & in spite of their trying hounds only put



# MEETS AND TEAS



**Memorial Tea for Paul Green  
At White Acres Farm**



**Julie Geer's**



**Harrisons**



**Boxing Day Meet  
at Josie Parman's**

## **MEETS AND TEAS (continued)**

up one rabbit for a short run, Afterwards, we had a really lovely tea at the Harrison's with Carol's delicious curried squash & apple soup, & lots of delicious sandwiches, fruit breads, & cookies. It was a delicious ending to a very pleasant afternoon!

**November 20<sup>th</sup> – Bob Berry's & BYO Tailgate Tea hosted by Mary Jane Wallace, Gary Sturts & Pat Roche** – Winter has arrived! We met at Bob Berry's with cold winds & snow flurries. A sharp contrast to the mild weather of the day before! Jim hunted a 5 couple up & down the hedgerows and we started a couple of bunnies. Because of the cold wind we repaired to Chris Peeples' barn for the tea, which was lovely with Pat Roche's deviled eggs, Gary's fabulous pumpkin pie \* Mary Jane's delicious sandwiches, brownies & lemon bars. The cold temperatures made for an invigorating hunt & the delicious tea topped it off perfectly!

**November 27<sup>th</sup> – Green Valleys at Welkinweir & BYO Tailgate Tea** – Cold but sunny with clouds for our hunt at Welkinweir Jim hunted a 5 couple & they worked hard but didn't get anything up until towards the end when we had good runs on two rabbits. It was a small field but Oh my goodness what a spread for tea! Bernadette's fabulous Hunter's Stew & cider,, Gene's great pumpkin pies, Julie's lemon meringue pie & roast beef sandwiches, Gillian's zucchini bread & hot tea, Valerie's chocolate chip cookies & banana bread, Kate's cupcakes & rice crispies, Phyllis' bagels, plus lemon squares & candy made for a fabulous ending for the afternoon! Gwen was over from Vienna and whipped for the hunt and it was lovely to see her again.

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hallman's with Tea following at the Geer's Little Field Farm** – Cold but sunny day, Jim hunted a 5 couple, although we found out later that Salsa had got left behind at kennels by accident &

had had her own adventures! After a slow start hounds put up one rabbit for a good run and put to ground. The tea afterwards at Julie Geer's was fabulous with wonderful hot venison chili, lovely dainty tea sandwiches, delicious miniature pecan pies. Carol Clements delicious coconut cake, big pies, and brownies – all absolutely delicious! We had a nice crowd out & it was a great afternoon!

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – Mr. & Mrs. George Jefferis's with Tea following at the Booth's Quiet Stream Farm** - Chilly day & small field. Jim hunted a 4 couple & deer parts & droppings were a distraction for the hounds. However, they did get a good rabbit going for a run to ground in thick cover by the fence near the road. It was lovely to come back to a warm house, blazing fire & Lisa's wonderful creamy chicken & vegetable soup, deviled eggs, great sandwiches & Gillian's hot minced pies, sausage rolls, mushroom rolls & mini fruit cakes. Laura was home from her travels and pitched in with whipping & it was lovely to have her back with us again!

**December 18<sup>th</sup> - Marsh Creek State Park & BYO Tailgate Tea** – Steady rain forced a pass at Marsh Creek but we did have a lovely Tailgate Tea in the Barn at kennels with Bernadette's tomato pie, cocktail shrimp, Gene's quiche, Gillian's mince pies, hot & cold drinks & other delicious goodies than everyone brought to share!

**December 26 - Boxing Day Meet at Allerton Farm Gate with Breakfast at Josie Parman's Allerton Farm** – Jim hunted a 4-1/2 couple & we covered a lot of ground – a good way to counteract all the feasting of the day before! Afterwards we had a lovely tea at Josie Parman's farmhouse, all decorated for Christmas with a lovely tree and train running below! We warmed up with hot tea, delicious ham & bean soup, shrimp, roast beef, lots of cheeses & a great selection of Christmas cookies. It was a lovely, warm reception to end the day!