



SKYLINES

Newsletter of the Skycastle French Hounds



Summer 2016

Gillian Wiedorn, Editor

Summer Report and Welcome to the Fall Season

Welcome to the start of our 69th season of hunting in Chester County. 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 2016-2017 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, Harold Hallman's 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, Bernadette Berezowski, Kate, Helen and Ned Farnham, Lisa Booth, Phyllis Allen and James Overstreet—made this summer's training and exercise really work.

Saturday and Sunday June 25 and 26 were nice mornings at Marsh Creek with short runners and Yarrow accounted for one. The 2nd and 3rd of July we walked the pack and did some cleanup work at kennels. We walked the pack and trained on the 6th and 9th, and hunted Bob Berry's on the 10th. It was hot early, and hounds found only one rabbit for a short run to ground in the upper hedgerows. Scent deteriorated as it got hotter. During the rest of the month we walked and trained at kennels as the heat was record high in the 90s for days on end. The same held for most of July, with early morning walks and work on the kennel borders, including a great job by Jonathan Wiedorn in cutting back the concrete platform inside to make trailer parking much easier at last.

On August 7th, Gene hunted at kennels. Zelda worked with Salsa and Quarry, but Sousa was a problem. Heat again made for walking out and pack training through most of the month. On the 28th Gene hunted a three couple at kennels. Salsa and Uwchlan got up two rabbits for short runs to ground in thick cover, and Ziva did well.



Summer hound walk at kennels.



The Ludwig's Corner Horse Show day.

September 3rd, Saturday, we walked and groomed hounds for the **Ludwig's Corner Horse Show**. We then went to the grounds to set up our big tent for the conservation groups and hounds. We finished grooming hounds on Sunday, catching three hounds' coats on the blow just in time. 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. What a great day we had at the show on Monday the 5th! We had a crowd in the tent all day. There was also a big group from each of the hunts, and many visitors. Their children swarmed our fuzzies. The hound parade was a hit. We 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. Ryers's Farm for Aged Equines had three successful days at our 40'x40' Open Space Conservation Tent. along with the French & Conservation Trust and Green Valleys Watershed Association. All in all it was a very successful show with over 400 horses in the classes. Lisa Booth's godmother, Vivian Gordon, came with a busload of friends from New York City, which was greatly appreciated by the LCHS committee, and made some donations to Skycastle as well. September 10th we walked at kennels and the 11th was a training hunt. Scent was poor in the heat—one rabbit at the start, then blank. On Saturday the 24th, we had a training hunt at Marsh Creek with the center pack hounds, which was pretty much a blank as scent was poor. Sunday the 25th was a different story with

cooler weather for a change. We had a very good 6 couple hunt at Marsh Creek. Hounds put a rabbit quickly to ground on a run at the start, then ran a big bunny for several loops to ground on the east side of the oval. Quarry and Uwchlan got them up, then the rest joined in. The spike and upper crossing hedgerow were blank. The Wiedorns, Kate and Phyllis gave good coverage. Salsa was great, and drove the insides of the hedgerows throughout the hunt. We had a good hunt October 1, with a 4 couple at Marsh Creek to check it out for the opening meet next Sunday. Hounds worked a short running rabbit to ground at the west side of the oval, then after we got Yarrow back from the end, hounds drew up to the east corner where Quarry and Uwchlan drove the second out at the trail head. It dodged around Jonathan Wiedorn and got in on the outside edge where they worked it along inside the hedgerow to ground. Uwchlan got up another that looped back and forth toward the north end and back. Yarrow then pushed one out into the trail and accounted for it in the east edge. We then drew the outside back to the long center hedgerow, and hounds worked it up to the east end, speaking a couple of times in the heavy briar, but could get nothing out for a run. The far crossing hedgerow was blank, so we drew back down the center line to go in. Salsa and Yarrow worked the inside all the way, with the rest working in and out, then we collected hounds and went back to the trailer for kennel cleanup. The pack worked well and came quickly to cry as fresh lines were found. It was a very good hunting morning, and staff coverage was great.

It has been an interesting summer, with wild heat swings and a mini drought. 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.

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, a lagging 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 2016-2017 SEASON

AGE	ENTRY	SIRE	DAM
10	Quarry '06	Luron de Mounaidieres '96	Mireine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '04+
	Ch. Gebeba Larry '06	Raven des Marais de la Dives	Rafale des Landes Medocaines
9	Salsa '08 Sousa '08	Gebeba's Larry '06	Mischief '01
8	Teasel '09 Trompette '09 Tuppence '09	Ch. Riddle '06	Sabine des Ajoncs de l'Aulne '07+
6	Uwchlan '10	Ch. Gebeba Larry '06	Quarry '06
5	Ch. Gallion des Rocs du Plessis '12	D'Armor des Rocs du Plessis	Ukraine des Rocs du Plessis
	Ch. Gebeba's Crown Victoria '12	Ch. Gebeba-Clancy Quality Is Job One	Ch. Clementine Cotton Eye Josie of Gebeba
3	Yuengling '13 Yarrow '13 Yvette '13	Ch. Gallion des Rocs du Plessis '12	Souza '08
2	Zelda '15 Ziva '15	Ch. Gallion des Rocs du Plessis '12	Tuppence '09
1	Button '16	Yuengling '13	Ch. Gebeba's Crown Victoria '14

Important Dates: Opening Meet October 9

October 26-30—NATIONAL BASSET PACK TRIALS, Aldie, Virginia

Marsha Gray Laubenstein Knight-Scharnberg



Marsha Knight-Scharnberg died on September 2, 2016, at the age of 70. Her death was sudden, and followed a path of unpredictability that highlighted her most amazing life. Marsha was born in Philadelphia on November 24, 1945, and grew up in Ashland, PA. She was the daughter of Raymond P. and Doris (Lappin) Laubenstein. She spent her summers at Pocono Lake Preserve, PA.

She was in the first graduating class of females from The Kent School in Kent, CT. Following her graduation from Kent, she spent a year in England at St. Helens School in a program sponsored by the English Speaking Union (ESU). Marsha graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY and took her first job in Boston at publisher Little Brown and Co. We all hoped she would stay there so we could get our first novels published. That was not to be, as she moved back to Philadelphia and became a paralegal, with no thoughts of meeting a wealthy lawyer. As luck would have it, she did meet and marry a Philadelphia lawyer, Dan Knight. Wealthy or not, he had excellent taste in wine and brie. That union produced a lovely daughter, Gwendolyne, currently pursuing her Ph.D., and living with her husband, Erik, in Vienna, Austria. Marsha and Dan were active participants in The Savoy Company of Philadelphia and she relished her perennial role as Queen Victoria in their Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

Dan passed away after a brief battle with cancer, and Marsha lived as a single mother until her daughter introduced her to Jim Scharnberg, Master and Huntsman of the Skycastle French Hounds. Jim had lost his wife also to cancer and was looking for the kind of disorder that only Marsha could bring to an otherwise orderly life. Marsha and Jim married in 2005 and she immediately assumed leadership of the household and the Skycastle Tea Committee with grace and aplomb. Her funny "Reports from the Field" became an institution eagerly anticipated by all. Marsha was an extremely witty, clever and intelligent person, and she and Facebook were a union like no other. Her comments and commentary were widely adored. Her photography was outstanding.

Her 71st birthday would have fallen on Thanksgiving day this year, so as you sit surrounded by family and friends, raise a glass in honor of our sister, mother, wife and friend.

A service in celebration of her life was held Saturday, September 17th at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Ludwigs Corner, followed by a reception at Ludwigs Inn. It was a grand sad-happy time for all of us, filled with tears and laughter over the wonderful reminiscences of family and friends. People wishing to remember her may make donations to the Savoy Company of Philadelphia and the Skycastle French Hounds.



Dr. Ralph Taggart Geer

Tag Geer died early Thursday October 13th, 2016, at his home in Chester Springs. As well as his love of the hunt as our field master for many years, he helped Skycastle greatly as a chairman of the hunt committee during our search for new kennels in 2005-06, and literally held us together during those turbulent times. Tag was also a true outdoor sportsman. Trout and salmon fishing, and deer and elk hunting (Marsha and I loved the venison shared from his successes!), were a yearly delight.

Tag's funeral service was held on Monday, October 17th at 11 am, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ludwig's Corner with a reception for relatives and friends afterward at Ludwig's Inn.

Captain Ian Farquhar, MFH, and the Skycastle at the Bryn Mawr Hound Show



Captain Ian W. Farquhar, LVO, MFH, with Bernadette Berezowski, Eugene A. Bolt, Jr., MBH, and Phyllis Allen

During the 2016 Bryn Mawr Hound Show, members of Skycastle French Hounds had a wonderful opportunity to chat with Captain Ian Farquhar, longtime and legendary Joint Master of Fox Hounds with the Duke of Beaufort's Hunt. Upon learning that Skycastle hunted with the long-haired French bassets, Captain Farquhar explained that he was smitten with these hounds and quite familiar with their hunting prowess. Later in the afternoon, he stopped by the basset ring to visit the Skycastle hounds in person.

Captain Farquhar provided us with a brief update on hunting with the Duke of Beaufort's Hunt, saying that he thought the hunting fields and followers had actually been steadily growing since the 2004 hunting ban passed by Parliament. He was most gratified to see how many young people, including grade school, college, and young professionals, were becoming involved with hunting and countryside activities, stating that these young people would sustain hunting for the next generations.

Before returning to his Bryn Mawr judging duties, Captain Farquhar smiled and said that on his next visit stateside he would love to add a few days to his stay in order to come hunting with Skycastle. We assured him that he had an open invitation to hunt with us!

Skycastle's PIG ROAST PARTY!



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



LUDWIG'S CORNER HORSE SHOW—CONSERVATION TENT



Ardrossan Beagles



Kimberton Hunt



Warwick Village Hounds

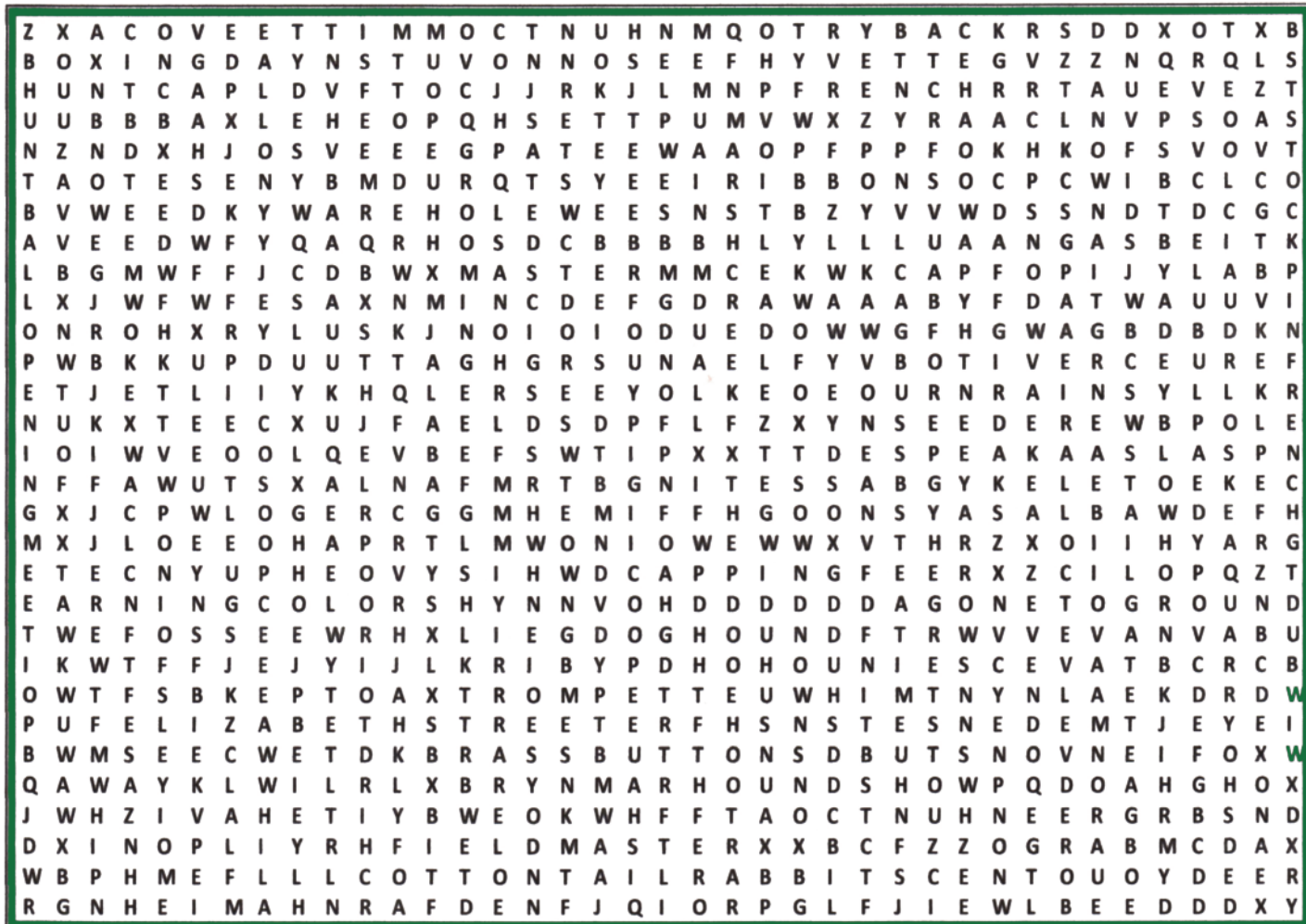


Skycastle French Hounds

LUDWIG'S CORNER HORSE SHOW—CONSERVATION TENT



Test your knowledge of hunting & all things Skycastle with this Word Search. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or a combination there of. The word list follows the puzzle area & the answers can be found in the back of the newsletter. Happy Hunting!



Find the following terms & names:

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Aldie VA | Dog Hound | Hunt | Pack | Stock Tie | <u>BONUS</u>
<u>SEARCH:</u> |
| All On | Draw | Hunt Ball | Pack In | Tailgate Tea | |
| Away | Dues | Hunt Cap | Party Wagon | Tally Ho | Name of one of our younger members |
| Basseting | Earning Colors | Hunt Committee | PBGV | Tea Time | |
| Blessing of Hounds | Elizabeth Streeter | James F Scharnberg | Quarry | Trompette | |
| Blow Horn | Field | Kennels | Cottontail Rabbits | Try Back | |
| Boxing Day | Field Master | Larry | Red Velvet | Uwchlan | |
| Brass Buttons | Fixture Card | Ludwig's Corner (<i>no apostrophe</i>) | Collar | Yvette | |
| Bryn Mawr Hound Show | French | Marsh Creek | Ribbons | Waistcoat | |
| Button | French Gray | Master | Riot | Ware Hole | |
| Bye Day | Gone To Ground | MBH | Salsa | Whip | |
| Capping Fee | Green Hunt Coat | Meet | Scent | Whipper in | |
| Chase | Grooming | Nose | Skycastle | Yarrow | |
| Couple | Horn | Opening Meet | French Hounds | Yuengling | |
| Covert | Huic | | Stern | Zelda | |
| Deer | | | Stock Pin | Ziva | |



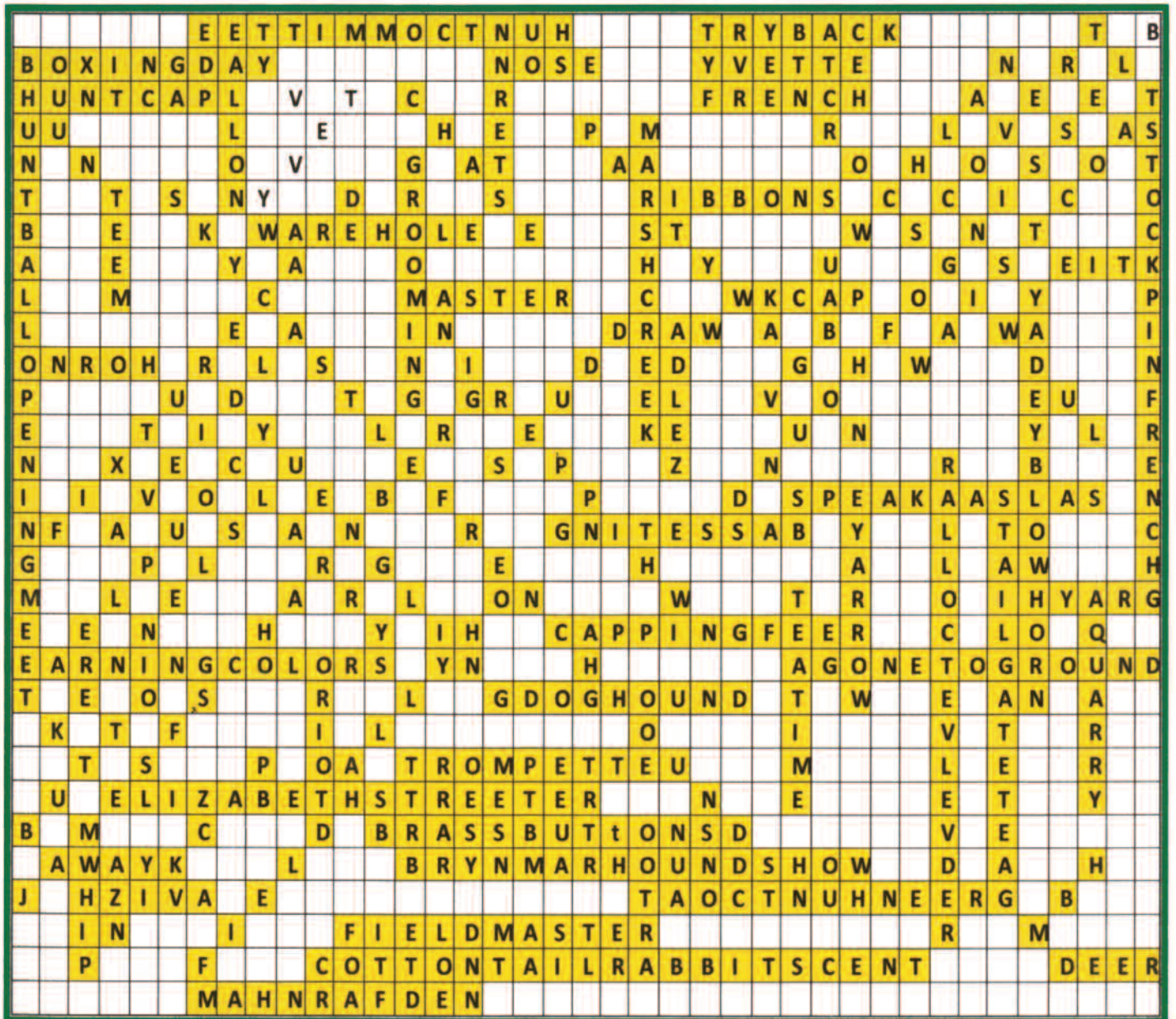
These handsome shirts, with Skycastle logo may be ordered through Phyllis Allen. Call her at 610-486-6203.



- Polo shirt, Dark Green or white \$40.00
- White with long sleeves \$44.00
- Dark Green Sweatshirt \$45.00



Answers to Word Search Puzzle.



BONUS SEARCH – Name of one of our younger members – **Ned Farnham**

WITH THANKS for help with this issue of Skylines to Jim Scharnberg, Chip Farnham, Bernadette Berezowski & Phyllis Allen.

IN MEMORIAM

**In memory of our lovely Pampa, gentle Osprey,
little boy, Zouave,
Sabine & the voice that thrilled us all,
our little chatterbox, Iris,
Princess Artful & sweet, kind Daphne, Rambo,
Gallop, Hoodwink, Chaser, Crescent, Badger,
Dervish, Doubtful, Dalesman, Estelle, Gretchen,
Garnish, Hustler, Helper, Ipine, Kestrel, Kingfish,
Luron, Magic, Magpie, On-Line, Quince, Bill, Bramble, Rebel,
Rawhide, Maggie, Mireine, & all those wonderful hounds
we've known and loved so much!**

Orion Be My Whipper-In

***As I look up upon a night
And see the skein of stars strung out,
I know for sure where my old hounds
Are running yet, are hunting still.
I seem to hear to my delight
Their hunting cries - O glorious din!
My tired legs glow with new-found drive,
My aching lungs draw deep again.***

***The moon beams down in patches bright
On grass, on road, among the trees,
And seem to bring them back to me
For yet a while as I run on.
They dash in joyful headlong flight -
Their shapes stretch on beyond my ken.
I hunt a ghostly pack tonight -
Orion be my whipper-in!***

JFS

