



SKYLINES

Newsletter of the Skycastle French Hounds



June 2015

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Spring Hunting and Bryn Mawr

Our New Year's Day morning hunt at **Kennels** was a fine start to 2016. We began with a draw along the creek cover, where hounds pushed out a huge rabbit that they ran the field edge down to the pond near Creek Road, then back up hill around the main house and to ground in the corner briar patch by the tenant house. They got up a small fresh one and ran it down to the carriage barn and to ground in the tangle in the pines. From there they worked to the west end of the creek line and the upper hedgerow, and the hedge line above Dorlin Mill Road down to the bottom of the hill and back to the hedgerow toward kennels, where Salsa almost caught a quick-to-ground bunny, then led the pack on



Rabbit out of cover New Year's Day at kennels.



Final rabbit run at Marsh Creek.....and Tea at Susan Butler's.



a second one that got to ground at the far end. Drawing across through the tenant house hedgeline, they crossed the drive and got another up from the hedge line near the main house that they ran in a big loop down hill and back to the tenant house tangle. It was viewed breaking out on the far side and hounds ran the line downhill to kennels and put this last rabbit to ground under the old chicken house next to the barn to end the day. The tailgate of hot tea, cider, sandwiches, salmon and other goodies was grand. On our hunt on Sunday January 3rd at **Marsh Creek**, hounds started on a rabbit that they drove down the right side of the trail cover to ground, then worked the oval around toward the road, markings several earths. The east side, the center spike hedgerow and the far line hedgerow were worked blank. Our last chance to find game was the north woods cover and we weren't disappointed. Hounds found a big rabbit at the upper end and drove it in loops through the woods and ran it to ground at the west end to finish the day. The tea at Susan Butler's was grand, a real meal with ham, sweets and bacon wrapped scallops as well as hot soup and tea! The 10th at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's** was spoilt by deer after a run to ground on rabbit in the tree cover at the start. The tailgate was welcome at end of day. Wednesday Gene Bolt and I got the pack out for a stretch, and on Saturday Gene Bolt, the Farnhams, David Harshaw and I got two four couple packs out for training and medicated all. Sunday January 17th at **Milky Way Farm** was a tough morning. Deer again were a problem as we worked the woods cover to the west, but after recovering we had two rabbits on the way back in the eastern hedgerow that they worked and ran to ground. Cleanup was extensive for Gene Bolt, Kate and Helen Farnham, and Bernadette Berezowski and the master. The hunt brunch at Brickstone Grille was very pleasant, with lots of oysters. Wednesday Lisa Booth and I exercised hounds and cleaned the kennels to get ready for the coming storm. Saturday the 23rd was a record blizzard, and what a whammy we got! Sunday the 24th was a workout. David Duvall and David Harshaw were terrific. I shoveled out the drive entrance a 9 am,



Milky Way Farm—second rabbit!



Milky Way Farm—end of day.



White Acres after the blizzard.

as the Whittakers' snow plow was stuck, then went home for breakfast. By then Jamie Reed had cleared my drive again. When I got back at noon, the Whittakers' drive was being plowed again, so we were able to get to the barn and start cleanup. Hounds were in fine shape, and the

12 foot overhang outside the run entrances had worked like a charm. They'd been able to get out during the storm and the interiors were clean, thank goodness. David Duvall and David Harshaw arrived to begin. We moved 4 to 6 foot drifts from the runs and by 5:30 all 4 were done. So were we! Phil Heth did a great job clearing the outside run gates so that water wouldn't back up when the thawing starts. It was great to be able to move so much in one afternoon, and would have been impossible without their hard work. We walked at kennels on Wednesday and Saturday and did more work to finish opening the hill drive to the barn. Hounds raced around the paddock yard after 4 days of stretching inside the barn. The ice crust was bad, so walking outside the paddock wasn't an option. Sunday January 31st's hunt was canceled due to the deep snow and ice crust, and we walked out the pack at the farm with the temperature in the 40's and did more snow removal. The tailgate at the barn was great for our fellow cabin fever sufferers, thanks to Marsha Scharnberg, Valerie McCormick and Gillian Wiedorn!



Stonewall—coming in.



Brandywine—moving off.

On Sunday February 7th we hunted at **Stonewall** for the first time in a while. Snow drifts and flooding in the cover area where we'd planned to have a hunt changed the day to a walk and hunting in the upper left wood strips instead. Valerie McCormick's and Dolores Green's grand tea inside the clubhouse was a fine finish. Wednesday Gene and I cleared the runs from a light snow, cleaned lodges and water buckets and got all out for a romp. Saturday in bitter cold we exercised hounds and fed hot food. The heaters have done yeoman service keeping the kennel warm to date. The hunt at Allerton Farm Gate on the 14th was cancelled due to the arctic cold and sub-zero windchill. Many thanks to Gene Bolt, Lisa Booth, David Harshaw and Bernadette Berezowski for their deep freeze help at kennels! Hounds got plenty of exercise and hugs, runs were cleaned, and hot food was the order of the day. Marsha brought hot tea, lobster bisque, and a scrumptious array of sweets to reenergize us afterwards. The balmy hunt on Sunday February 21 at the **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance** was a wow! Hounds drew the pond and stream patch from the south entrance first, where two rabbits got quickly to ground, then we went to the upper woods and stream pocket where the fun began, ignoring deer on the way. Hounds got a big rabbit going on the west edge and ran it down to the center path for a long doubling run to ground. Another broke and they ran it across the stream and swamp to ground in the east edge hedgerow. They soon found another that they drove back across the center, up the hill and back down again, with Salsa accounting for it in the tangle below the trail.



Brandywine—third rabbit to ground!



Brandywine—end of day.

Hound worked across to the other side again, marking several holes, then roared after another which they drove across the stream and up the far hill, then down to the center path for a run to the far end of the woods, out into the field and right handed to the east hedgerow line. They worked it up inside, then it doubled and ran back out toward the stream with the pack in full cry. They marked it solidly to ground in the bank below the trail. They drew back toward the south end, back and forth along the field hedgerow and the stream, speaking around several earths. When we reached the end, we collected hounds and blew home to end this super day. The tailgate at the Corinne Road gate was a needed and tasty cooler for hounds, staff and field, with a surprise birthday chocolate bomb cake for master. Gene Bolt and I exercised hounds and worked on pack training on Wednesday, finishing up just before driving rain began. Saturday we walked out the hunting pack, trained the young hounds and did monthly medications. Sunday 28th February at **Jefferis's** we had a great afternoon. Hounds worked the tree plantings thor-

oughly to start, speaking at holes, and got a good run from the far side that they drove to the upper end and back down the near side into the long gully to a check. The rabbit broke out in front of the field and got to ground in the tree plantings. We then crossed to the north hedgerow where hounds worked rabbit 2 to ground in the trash cover, then drew to a find another in the small covert in the middle of the field. They ran it in a loop to cross over to the trash pile cover and to ground. Salsa was head and shoulders into the earth! We then tried the woods toward the road, and hounds worked through along the entry road tangle. I spotted a rabbit sitting in the field edge watching us as we came. Unbelievably it sat tight until hounds got within five feet of it, then as Quarry and the pack roared it bolted and ran left for a loop across the entry road and back under a parked car into the cover around the towers and to ground, with Souza digging at the earth to finish this exciting



Jefferis's—final rabbit to ground.



Cheslen—In cry on their fifth rabbit!



Flagg's—first rabbit to ground.

hunt. The tea afterwards at the Gross's was grand.

The March 6th hunt at the Moores' **Great Marsh Farm** was a balmy day, with many rabbits that got to ground quickly. Hounds ran two to start—one from each end—in the fox hill covert. The first was run from the middle to the far end and out, but got back in and to ground. Rabbit 2 dodged in and out half way back and was run to ground in the north end, with Souza digging at the earth. They worked back towards the ridge hedgerow, marking holes as they went. The long hedgerow toward the south was good for a find and driving run through the briar tangles with Salsa down the hole at the end. They pushed another one quickly to ground further on, then we drew back toward the meet with marks at holes but no more action. The tea afterward given by Rosemary and Phil Heth and Marsha Scharnberg was a feast! Sandwiches, cheeses, cakes and wonderful hot chili made it a party. Wednesday March 9 we did a thorough cleaning of kennels and hunted a two couple. Saturday at kennels was much-needed hunting. Sunday March 13th at **Cheslen Preserve** the rain held off and it was a very good day for the pack. Starting off, we ran into crews spreading manure in the open fields, but were able to find rabbits in the upper left hedgerow and the big woods covert. Hounds ran seven rabbits in the big covert from one end to the other, putting three to ground and accounting for one on the northeast corner. Another broke out across the road which we stopped off, as there were dog walkers on the far side. Coming back to the east Jonathan Wiedorn saw three rabbits running into the bottom of the woods and again the pack was in cry, running one to the south end to



The Closing Meet at Marsh Creek.



End of day—coming in.

ground, and speaking on another back to the bottom to a loss in a huge briar tangle. They drew up the east hedgerow and ran another to the upper end to ground to end the day. Our guests, Tara Tracy, Tom Brightman, and Jim and Sue Geiger, got to see a lot of action and hear the hounds in cry. The buffet at the Lenfest Preserve center afterward was grand. Wednesday at kennels we had an action-filled hunt. Hounds worked the upper hedge line and forced a rabbit out to the top woods, then they hunted across to the tenant house and down to the creek, where they ran a second almost to the road. It doubled back to the carriage shed to ground. Yarrow had crossed over the left field, so I picked up the rest and took them in. She came back to horn to end the morning. The hunt on Sunday March 20 at **Bill Flagg's** was a chilly day in high wind with the threat of rain and snow. Hounds worked the big woods covert finding one quick to ground rabbit, then drew through to the pond line and upper hedgerow. There they ran a rabbit inside cover up the hill and out to the top hedgerow where it got to ground in a tangle and hay bale row. They worked on through the center field cover blank, then we drew back along the north side of the woods with no action to end the day. The grand hot tea with sandwiches, and paté and warm fires at the Rosatos' was most welcome. Saturday March 26th, our **Closing Meet at Marsh Creek**, was a good hunt. Hounds quickly put the first two rabbits to ground in the oval, then after drawing the

center hedgerow we worked toward the big northern woods covert where they found a good running rabbit. They ran it through the woods down to the cut to ground, then we lifted the pack to a tallyho where a big rabbit had crossed the road. They found the line on the far side of the road in the wide creek hedgerow and soon were in cry, running it down almost to the lake to ground to end the day. Several hounds took a swim to cool off! We then took hounds back to kennels and headed for the Heth's tea. With plenty of hot tea and Rosemary's grand goodies, it was a fine ending to our 68th season here in Chester County. What a weird winter it was, from arctic freeze outs and a blizzard to spring-like weekends!

We began working on tuning up the pack for the spring Basset Pack Trials after the closing meet. Sunday April 10th we hunted a 5 couple at the farm and got the hounds' noses full of rabbit. No action except for a couple of squirrels in the upper hedgerow til we worked around to the carriage barn and up to the tenant house tangles. Then for the next half hour they ran a big rabbit back and forth in and out of the hedge line to ground. Then they pushed out a fresh one that ran above the tenant house and down the hedge lines above the drive, and was driven out of the brush toward the barn, down the yard behind the house to ground under the old chicken house by the silo. Two hounds were literally to ground there to end the morning! Quarry was the standout, holding hounds to the lines throughout the hunt. Gene Bolt, Bernadette Berzowski, James Overstreet, Kate and Ned Farnham, and David Harshaw gave good wide coverage. It was a good focusing exercise for the field trials the next Friday and Saturday.



The Three Couple getting ready to start.



Presenting the Five Couple.



Judges checking Gallion over.

We had a good trip to Virginia for the pack trials at **Aldie**. Our hounds did well, though out of the ribbons. The three couple on Friday was disappointing, as the scent was poor and hounds showed little interest as a result. They found only one rabbit in the enclosure woods for a ten foot burst to ground. James Overstreet and Lisa Booth gave good coverage. The five couple Saturday was a different matter. In the heat and bright sun at 2 pm they worked very hard. They worked a rabbit on the left side woods of field 7 to a loss below the pond, then literally dug our second rabbit out of a heavy tangle in the tree cover along the enclosure boundary fence and worked it back up into the center hill hedgerow into dense briar. They were digging at several holes, but I couldn't be sure of the exact one to blow to ground. We then worked down through thick cover at the far end of the field as time ran out. James Overstreet and Phyllis Allen did a fine job. The judges, Katie Schoettle and Andrea Herr, were very impressed with our hounds' persistent work in the heat of the day. We finished just out of the ribbons. Several packs went blank. In the bench show competition, Gallion placed fourth in a doghound class of 17. On Friday night the dinner party and tributes to Jeep Cochran, Master of the Calf Pasture Bassets, for her 24 years as chair of the Basset Committee (it was also her 80th birthday!) was truly spectacular, and made the weekend very special.

During the weeks before the annual meeting, we trained in earnest for the Bryn Mawr Hound Show and began repairs to the runs and much needed cleanup after the tough winter.

Our Annual Meeting on Sunday May 15 at the Peeples's Vixen Hill Farm was a happy one despite chilly weather. We ended the year with a healthy balance in the treasury from great membership support of our Savoy evening, lower expenses, generous donations and breeding income. Retiring treasurer Phil Heth did a fine job. Kate Farnham and children Helen and Ned, Bernadette Berzowski, and Jonathan Wiedorn received whipper-in colors after working hard on hunts and training this past season, and Gene Bolt, our man of all work in kennels and the hunting field, has now become a joint master. David Harshaw, Phyllis Allen, Gillian Wiedorn, Lisa Booth and James Overstreet complete our hard working whipping in team. We owe them all huge thanks. It is grand to have more active staff to help out every week.

Our 68th season went well despite the blizzard and storms January through March. Even with the strange weather cycle, we had to cancel only two Sunday meets. We can all be very proud of our hounds and staff that gave such fine sport through this tough season. **We owe a special thank you to George Jefferis, to Bob Berry, and Marsh Creek Park, who let us use their grounds as well as the farm at kennels 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/exercise times and locations through the summer.

We owe our sport to our wonderful Landowners.

THE SAVOY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA SINGS
**AN EVENING OF
 GILBERT & SULLIVAN
 OPERETTA FAVORITES**



Skycastle's Saturday night dinner and Savoy Troupe singing of Gilbert & Sullivan Operetta Favorites March 20th at the Downingtown Country Club was a wow! It was great fun for all and they gave a super performance. The event ticket sales and donations, the silent auction, and 50/50 cash drawing, produced a solid profit for the hunt's treasury. Three cheers to Phyllis Allen and Phil Heth for their hard work in organizing the event, Bernadette Berezowski for making the auction forms and set-up, and James Overstreet for 50/50 sales. And thanks to Don Rosato for his carriage ride, Lydia Bartholomew for her Devon Horse Show box, and Chris Peeples for his Weekend Getaway Houses, that made the silent auction special!



Heavy Dragons Medieval Song from "Patience"



"You have betrayed me" Song from Pirates of Penzance



Dinner Theater Party at the Downingtown Country Club



THE SAVOY TRAVELING TROUPE

Annual Meeting at Vixen Hill Farm, May 15



Ned, Kate and Helen Farnham receive receive Colors



New Whippers-in: the Farnhams, Bernadette Berezowski and Jonathan Wiedorn



Checking a retiree.



Retired Hound Class won by Robin.



Yuengling
Best Entered Dog,
Uwchlan second



Watching the show.



Veteran Hound Class won by Souza.



Yarrow
Best Entered
Bitch and
Best Entered
Hound



Puppy class won by Ziva, BB second, Button third, Zelda fourth.



Yarrow, Best Entered Hound, wins the Killen Cup
for Best in Show, Ziva, Best Puppy, Reserve.

The Bryn Mawr Hound Show

We had a ball at the annual Bryn Mawr Hound Show on Saturday, June fourth. It was a fine day for Skycastle. We placed in most of the classes.

Yuengling was Second in the Stallion Hound and Stallion with Get Classes. Uwchlan and Larry were Third in the Couple of Dogs Class. Button was Second in the Unentered Bitch Class and Reserve Unentered Champion Bred by Exhibitor. Yvette was Fourth in the Entered Bitch Class. Vicky was Second and Souza was Fourth in the Brood with Produce Class. We were Second in the Two Couple of Bitches Class. We won Third in the Pack Class. I was Fourth in the Amateur Horn Blowing Contest on Friday evening. Gene, David, Jonathan, Bernadette, Gillian and Phyllis all were a great help getting ready, showing and getting hounds back and forth to the classes. And the party afterward at the Ganskys' was grand.

Marsha Scharnberg was our official photographer for the Basset division at the show this year, and did a great job!



Yuengling was 2nd in the Stallion and Stallion with Get Classes



Vicky was 2nd Brood Bitch with Produce BB and Button



Button was 2nd Unentered Bitch and Reserve Champion Unentered Hound



We placed 2nd in the 2 Couples of Hounds Class



We were Third in the Pack Class of seven packs.