



# SKYLINES

Newsletter of the Skycastle French Hounds



December 2017

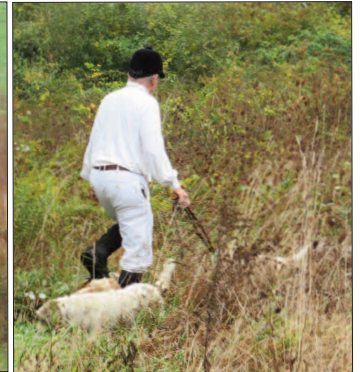
Gillian Wiedorn, Editor

## Hunting Fall and Winter 2017

Despite a chilly morning we had a hot dry afternoon and near zero scenting conditions on October 1st for our **Opening Meet** at the farm. Hounds worked hard to get anything in the south hedgerows, then after a long draw across to the upper hedgerows and across to the far woods, they found one that got quickly to ground. A fox popped out and ran the upper cover line above Dorlan Mill Road and dodged back to ground. Yvette pushed a rabbit viewed by Andrea Herr out down to the road and back to ground at the bottom roadside break. After the pack worked the lower hedgerow and the tenant house cover with nothing more moving, I called it a day. Clean up was tough. Dolores and Valerie's tea at the house was great. Hopefully the weather will improve and we'll get some rain. The hunt staff 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. Gene and I walked hounds and worked on pack training Wednesday and Saturday at kennels and worked on the runs. The meet at **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance** on Sunday the 8th was



*Opening Meet end of day and tea.*



*BRCA first draw and rabbit to ground.*

oppressively hot and humid. The showers held off, but rabbits were scarce. Hounds worked hard to get two moving in the hedgerows that got quickly to ground. Then they found a good runner in the "Sycamore Seep" that they ran the length to the far woods trail to ground in the drain under the trail. They then worked back through the far field edges and the stream cover blank, and we called it a day. At the Myrick Center plenty of cold drinks and sandwiches and sweets were most welcome. **Marsh Creek** on Sunday the 15th was a cloudy, cool and damp day. Hounds to start found one rabbit for a doubling run along the right side of the track oval to ground at the far corner, then worked the far side thoroughly, putting a short runner to ground on the way to the trail corner. Uwchlan ran the trail downhill heads up with no view, with the pack following working the sides. He gave me good reason not to take him to the Aldie field trials. I called them back and they worked the south side with one short burst to ground, then drew the center hedgerow across the big fields. They drew inside and got a rabbit going, running



*Marsh Creek—into cover.*



*CFS bye day—to ground in stream hedgerow.*



*BRCA hedgerow rabbit to ground.*

him inside to a mark to ground near the far end. Irmine and Iroise led the run in beautiful voice and Irmine was halfway into the earth. Hounds then worked the eastern hedgerow line from woods edge to woods edge, but there was no further action, so we drew back west along the center hedgerow and went to the meet area to give the thirsty pack water and tuck them into the trailer before having a fine tailgate tea. Young Artful has a good big voice, and is keying on the leaders more each hunt. Burr cleanup wasn't too bad. On Wednesday, Gene Bolt and I got hounds out and did some kennel cleanup. On Saturday, we hunted a three couple at CFS. There were plenty of rabbits, which got quickly to ground. Yarrow was the driver of the morning. Despite warm weather and dry ground, we had a very good hunt on Sunday the 22nd at the **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance**. It was a special meet for a group of families from the Chester County Night School Program, who joined us for the hunt

and enjoyed their day with us. They brought a lot of children as well, which was great. Beforehand, they were very interested and asked a lot of good questions during my talk about our hunt and what they were going to see. The hunt was a good one, with three good runs to ground and plenty of cry from hounds during the runs. Irmine, Sousa and Salsa were outstanding finding rabbits in the heavy hillside and bottom cover. At the finish Irmine had to be driven out of cover from the last earth. It was very warm and not as brutally hot as the last time there, but we all were glad to get back for the refreshments afterward. Wednesday October 25th, Gene and I walked hounds and did some packing at kennels in preparation for the Aldie trip.



*Aldie-hounds in kennels.*



*Gene, Jim, David and the pack ready for the 5 couple.*

This fall the **Aldie Pack Trials** went well for us. We entered a three and a five couple. 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. In our 3 couple on October 27th, hounds worked thoroughly and finally got up a rabbit right near the end of our allotted time that they put quickly to ground, when a second one bolted out past Irmine who roared after it as the horn sounded for the next pack. We quickly collected hounds and Irmine and headed back. The next pack had a blank. In our 5 couple, Gene Bolt and David Herr did a super job whipping in and hounds worked their tails off to find rabbits right to the end of our time when a big buck led them astray. All were recovered quickly. What



*Welkenweir—hillside draw....*



*...and tea at Butler's!*



*Run to ground at Silberman's.*

a happy surprise it was to win the 50% Performance/50% Conformation **Coldstream Plate** in the 5 couple over 10 other packs! I had an easy drive home Saturday as rain was predicted for the Sunday stake, and deburred the pack without too much trouble. They weren't quite as covered as on our Sunday hunts!

Sunday November 5th at **Welkenweir** was a good hunt, though it was a bit reminiscent of the field trials with tough work to find and get rabbits moving. Scent was poor. Tuppence had the best nose of the day. We had three runs—a short one to ground at the start and an accounting in the heavy briar cover down near the pond—and finally a wow finish of a run across the upper meadow from the big forsythia clump to ground on the hillside behind the pavilion. The 'tea' afterward at Susan Butler's was a full dinner! Burr clean up at kennels afterward wasn't too bad. Wednesday November 8nd we walked hounds and cleaned up. Sunday's November 12th meet at **Janeice and Eli Silbermans'** was a testing workout for hounds with a lack of scent and rabbits—clear, windy, dry and cold. After a quick rabbit to ground in the first hedgerow and a recovery of Uwchlan from the far woods, hounds worked the rest of the hedgerows to no avail. We ended the day with a fine tailgate. Gene Bolt, the Weidorns and I deburred the pack afterwards. Though Sunday November 19th at **CFS** was cold with high winds, scent was good and it was a rabbit marathon. Hounds worked the upper left side hedgerow and weren't distracted by a herd of deer as they ran their first rabbit down to the center stream cover on a doubling run to an accounting. After several rabbits run back and forth to marks between the stream and walking path hedgerows, we crossed the lane to draw toward the north end, again with runs to marks on both the east and west sides of the field back to the lane. Hounds crossed back and immediately got another one going for a run to ground in the path hedgerow and popped another out across to the stream, which they drove to the far end to ground. Drawing back they had a final run to the lane to ground

at the end of the cover to end this rabbit-filled day. Burr clean up was tough. Sunday's hunt at **White Acres Farm** November 26th was an interesting one. We started hunting the east side with no rabbits. They then worked around the tenant house and down hill to the carriage barn. Drawing the thick stream bank cover, they forced a big rabbit out and ran it in cry for a good long run along the stream and out the upper side for great views for the field. They ran it to ground toward the road in the steep streamside bank above the spring house. The rest of the day was blank as they worked every patch of cover and hedgerow to no avail. Tea at the Boisverts' was great fun. On Wednesday the 29th Gene and I stood out the pack.



CFS—on the line of rabbit 5....



...and tailgate.



Drawing the stream at the farm..Iroise spots him!

Sunday December 3rd at **Hallman's** was a slow start with one rabbit driven to ground in the trash pile at the end of the right 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. Drawing the long hedgerow back from the border of Thayer's they ran one to ground along the left edge, and Sousa accounted for one on the right side. We drew the lower field strip back afterward blank to end the day. Young Artful is now in good voice on the line. 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 6th was a training workout at kennels. Our Sunday December 10th meet at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's** was a disappointing day, starting with a flat tire on my car at kennels. Then with riot. It took a long time recovering the hounds that broke, so I decided to call the hunt early. We had a nice tea at the Booths' after the hunt. On Wednesday, Gene Bolt, the Wiedorns and I walked the pack, then did major clean up work on the unused side room to prepare it for use for kennel teas. Gene had surprised us by getting there early and getting everything out so that the work went quickly. We finished the morning in comfort with hot tea, hoagies and fruitcake brought by Gillian. Sunday the 17th at **Marsh Creek** was cool and overcast, but there was no sign of game of any kind. Hounds worked the hedgerows



Hallman's—in cry on rabbit 1....



CFS – Artful has the line!

thoroughly, speaking at earths. Artful worked and spoke on several lines inside, but could get nothing moving. Nice tailgate afterwards. Our **Christmas Eve Meet** at **CFS** on Sunday, December 24th gave very good hound work, especially by Irmine and Artful, with views for the field as they drove a rabbit back and forth across the northeast field to ground in the stream hedgerow, another to ground in the trail cover and a good run on the other side of the lane. The pre-Christmas barn tailgate was nice in our new "club room." On Wednesday the 27th, Gene and I worked with the pack at kennels. On Saturday as the snow fell Gene, Dave and I cleaned the runs and the hillside drive and gave the hounds a hot feed. In the extreme cold our kennels were warm; so far the new heaters are working very well. Our **New Year's Eve Morning Meet at Allerton Farm Gate** on Sunday, December 31st, despite the frigid weather, was a very nice one. Hounds worked hard and thoroughly in the upper woods covert to start off, and got up a big rabbit for a doubling run from one side to the other of the far end. Cry was good, with Irmine and Artful and Salsa leading the way. It got to ground in a hole under a big brush pile toward the south end, with Irmine and Salsa

underneath digging at the earth. The pack then drew the whole woods, marking and speaking around several holes, and worked out to the eastern hedgerow. After working that from end to the other hedgerow with no further action, we gathered the pack and took them back to



*Allerton Farm—moving off.....*



*.....and running the rabbit to ground in the upper woods!*

the trailer to get them to kennels out of the cold. Josie's neighbors had a fine time. Our thanks to hostess Josie Parman for her New Year's Eve present to Skycastle—the Hunt and the indoor tailgate afterward, with hot tea, soup, sauerkraut and sausage, deviled eggs and an array of



*Allerton Farm—crossing to hedgerow 2.*



*Breakfast at Josie's. What first!?!?*

cakes and other sweets. Cleanup of hounds back at kennels afterwards was easy, and we got hot food in them to finish up. It was a happy morning hunt despite the extreme cold—a fine ending to the last formal meet of the old year!

Everyone is welcome to join us on bye days. Call Jim Scharnberg or Gillian Wiedorn Tuesday and Friday for times and locations. Our 69th 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.***



## **Pat Theurkauf**

Patricia Ann "Pat" Theurkauf died peacefully at her home in Phoenixville, PA on October 9, 2017. Daughter of Winifred Fehmerling, she was born on July 2, 1937 in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

She was a graduate of Bridgeton High School, class of 1955. She received her RN from Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing in 1957 where she subsequently worked as an OR Nurse. It is there she met her husband, Dr. Edward A. Theurkauf, Jr, MFH of the Pickering Hunt. She was an avid foxhunter and was the backbone of the hunt for decades, and enjoyed bassetting with Elizabeth Streeter. She volunteered for countless community organizations. She later founded the Anselma Gallery and Framers of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Edward August Theurkauf Jr., her children Edward August III (Eva), Robert James (Linda), and Ann Elizabeth Dyer (Bradley) and grandchildren Jack, Mark and Anika. She had many friends and admirers and will be dearly missed.

Please make donations in her memory to the American Lung Association or the Paralyzed Veterans of America.