



Spring Hunting and Bryn Mawr

Our **New Year's Day Hunt** at Kennels, warm and sunny, was a fine start to 2017. We began with a draw up past the main house and to the corner briar patch by the tenant house, where hounds pushed out a huge rabbit that they ran down the field edge into the pine cover next to the lower barn and out across the creek where they put it to ground in a big briar tangle on the south bank. They then worked up the south field hill to the center hedgerow where a small one broke out and ran down to the creek halfway to the road, then dodged left into the hedgerow and back toward the carriage barn. They ran it back past the pines up toward the west field. It broke out and raced across the creek again and



Second rabbit run New Year's Day at kennels...



.....and super tailgate!



Church Farm rabbit number two!

was viewed running out into the south field and east toward the road. The pack worked the line in cry and drove it to ground in heavy briars. From there they worked to the west end of the creek line and across the lawn up to the tenant house hedge line. They worked it and the north field hedgerow thoroughly, putting a short runner to ground above Dorlan Mill Road, and back past the tenant house to kennels to end the day. The young entry again were impressive. The tailgate of hot tea, cider, a super saurkraut with sausage and pork dish, tenderloin, cheeses, fruitcake, a huge iced New Year's pretzel and other goodies, was grand. Wednesday we walked the pack, and Gene and Jonathan did some great weatherizing and window patching in the barn interior. On our bitter cold hunt on Sunday January 8rd 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 was worked blank. The wind chill at this point was terrible, so we returned to the barn to warm up hounds and people. We got welcome hot food in hounds, and the tailgate hot tea and soup and treats helped thaw us out. Wednesday and Saturday Gene Bolt, David Harshaw and I got hounds out for a stretch as the temperature warmed up. Sunday January 15th at **Church Farm** was a great hunt with good runs and marks to ground along the center stream cover and the trail side hedgerows along three fields. Hounds worked really hard to get rabbits out for runs and plenty of views for staff and field. The tailgate was welcome at end of day, with a special birthday cake for Gillian Wiedorn. Wednesday Gene Bolt and I got the pack out for a stretch. On Friday, Dave Duvall helped me get DNA swabs for five of our young hounds to be tested for glaucoma, and I mailed them off to the Animal Health Trust in England. Saturday Gene Bolt, David Harshaw and I walked two 3 couple packs out for training. Sunday January 22nd at **Milky Way Farm** was an unusual morning. Anyone who looked out his window at 9 am saw the dense fog we were faced with that morning. Hounds worked the hedgerows thoroughly, but the rabbits stayed in and



Milky Way Farm—moving off on a foggy morning!

dry. A yip or two and digging at holes only yielded a heavy crop of burrs! Cleanup at kennels was not too bad, however. The hunt breakfast at the Brickside Grille was outstanding as usual, including fresh oysters and a grand side of beef. On Wednesday Gene Bolt and I exercised

hounds. Saturday the 28th we walked the pack and cleaned the kennels to get ready for the hunt on Sunday. Sunday the 29th at **Kennels** was a rabbit filled day. We hunted the bitches, including young Button out for the first time with the big pack. Little wind, the thermometer in the 40s and very dry, making scenting difficult in the open, but the game was afoot! Our first rabbit bolted out of the tenant house briar cover and was run west inside the hedgerow to the end of the cover, where they forced it back along the upper fence edge and to ground. Hounds then worked down to the pine stand and the creek, finding rabbit number 2 which they ran to the end of the cover and back to ground in a big briar tangle. The east field hill hedgerow was blank, but they found rabbit 3 at the bottom of the hill in the stream and rhododendrons and ran it up across the lawn for a loop around the house and back down to the stream and to ground. Next a rabbit was viewed out of the pine stand next to the carriage barn, which they worked up to the west hill hedgerow where Salsa got it up for a good run in cry up to the dense



Kennel—creek run two.



Stonewall—moving off.

briar tangle woods edge above Dorlan Mill Road. She literally dug it out for another run and the pack worked it back inside the hedgerow line to ground near the farm road cut. We then tried one more draw to the lower side of the field in the hedgerow above Creek road, and our last rabbit burst out the east end for a run through the delighted field members back across to the west hilltop hedgerow and to ground to end this fine day. Everyone, staff and field, got plenty of views all through the hunt. The "Gentlemen's Tea" back at the house was grand, with quiches, pies, pasties, cheeses, sausage wraps and sweets, tea and cider. Clean up of burrs in kennel was not bad, and the bitches had truly done themselves proud, with Salsa leading the pack. We walked hounds at kennels on Wednesday and Saturday.

On Sunday February 5th we hunted at **Stonewall**. What a difference from last week. Dead quiet no game, not even a bird seen. Everyone brought hot food for the grand taligate tea inside the clubhouse to end the day. 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. The heaters have done yeoman service keeping the kennel warm to date. The hunt at **Allerton Farm Gate** on the 12th was a fine day. The predicted rain and fog gave us a break during the hunt after a drenching morning. The pack scoured all the cover to drive rabbits out. Two big rabbits were run to ground and one short running small one. The rabbit above Mose Cornwell's hedgerow line almost ran over Kate! The young hounds, Zelda and Ziva, are



Allerton—first rabbit to ground!



Jefferis rabbit 2...



...and end of day.

doing really well. I left Souza and Yarrow back which outraged the pair. If looks and the evil words they gave me could kill I'd be crippled at least. We had a big crowd of local people out for the hunt and the super tea afterward at Lydia Bartholomew's. This has been the oddest weather I can remember. Saturday morning the 19th at CFS hounds found and ran one rabbit in and out of a long dense field border hedgerow for almost an hour. The rabbit would run the length inside, then leap out 10-15 feet into the field, which made the line hard to pick up, run outside the length back and then leap back in at the other end. The last time they ran it the length back inside, then cast outside wide, picked up the line and finally ran to mark. The balmy hunt on Sunday February 19 at **Mr. and Mrs. Jefferis's** was a mixed bag of a day. It was sunny, very windy and the temperature was near 70°F! Scent was poor, and at the farm where we hunted the woods and fields were full of smelly deer parts left by careless hunters field dressing their kills, so the hounds had trouble staying on the line. A deer got up in heavy briar tangles in

front of the pack at one point but those that rioted were quickly recovered. The hounds worked hard and had good runs on two rabbits giving the field exciting views. The tea afterwards at the Gross's was grand. Sunday 26th February at **Church Farm** we had a good afternoon. Hounds worked the stream hedgerow to start and drove out three rabbits at the end near Creek Road, one of which crossed the field to the path hedge line. This tricky rabbit used the inside of the hedgerow to double from one end to the other before getting safely to ground. We then drew back across to a view on the other side of the creek that they marked halfway to the Church Farm lane. Hounds got up another across the lane for a run along the creek cover and back, then got up a fresh one that went to ground toward the end of the field. The creek was in flood after the rains, so we had to go back to get around to hunt the far hedgerow toward the school fields. Hounds worked hard and got a final rabbit



CFS—working a double....



...and the birthday tailgate!



Great Marsh—on the line of the first rabbit.

out of the line of the hedgerow for a run that ended down at the flooded creek. We then drew back to the lane along the creek banks to end the day. The birthday tailgate for master and Dolores Green was grand.

The March 5th hunt at the Moores' **Great Marsh Farm** was wintery again, with several rabbits that gave good runs and plenty of views for the excited field. Hounds ran two to start—one from each end—in the big fox hill covert. The first was run from 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 on the upper west side, with Souza digging at the earth. They then worked the ridge hedgerow, marking holes as they went. The long hedgerow toward the south was good for a burst out and angling run across the south field and into the ridge hedgerow to ground with Yarrow and Salsa digging at the hole at the end. We then drew back toward the meet and the fox hill covert with marks at holes. Yarrow was determined to get one more rabbit out and forced a small one immediately to ground on the upper side, then she was last out of cover at the end. She, the S sisters and young Ziva were the standouts of the day's hunting. The tea afterward given by Judy and Don Rosato was a feast! Sandwiches, cheeses, cakes and wonderful gourmet dips galore made it quite a party. Wednesday March 8 we did a thorough cleaning of kennels after the light snowfall and walked all. Saturday at kennels we exercised two groups. Sunday March 12th at **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance** the cold and wind made it a tough day for the pack. Hounds found a rabbit in the first cover area around the pond and worked it to ground on the right side in briars. We then drew the big sycamore area.



End of day at Brandywine.



Coming in at Moore's.



Coming to cry, closing meet.

Hounds got rabbits up on the hillside and on the far side of the swamp but had trouble keeping them going and they got quickly to ground. Salsa was a standout all day. Tuesday's blizzard petered out by noon, and after plowing ourselves out, Dave Duvall and I got to kennels and cleared the runs and cleaned the hill drive (and coated it with de-icer as well) from 3 to 6 pm that afternoon. It was an easy job thanks to my 5 hp snow blower and David's strong back! Also, the driveways and the parking area paddock were very well plowed. It warmed up for awhile, which made the snow very heavy, but it was freezing up again when we finished. Happily we didn't lose power that night. It was windy and bone-chilling Wednesday and Saturday, so we exercised in the paddock and added more hay to the beds. The hunt on Sunday March 19th at the Christiansen's Hearthstone Farm was cancelled as we still had 5" of snow and ice on the ground after Tuesday's mini-blizzard! Every night it got below 20° F, so it had been slow to melt. We walked the pack at **Jim Moore's** in the open fields and lane for about an hour and a half, and then had hot snacks in the warming hut before heading back to kennels to groom and feed hounds. Wednesday I cleaned runs and exercised the pack—most of the ice was gone and it was good to see grass again. Sunday 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 back and forth through the woods in two long doubling runs to ground. Yarrow almost caught it as she went partly to ground as well! 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 where Souza and Salsa pushed it around inside a big brush pile and briar tangle to ground to end the day. We then took hounds back to kennels and headed for the Peeples's tea. With plenty of hot tea and a grand feast, it was a fine ending to our 69th season here in Chester County. What a weird winter it was, from occasional spring-like weekends to arctic freeze outs and a blizzard in mid-March!

The trip to France, March 27-31, was a wonderful adventure. I got to Philippe Deschamps's home in Montarne au Perche on Tuesday evening and had supper with his wife and daughters after we visited the kennels to see the hounds. His pack of nine hounds is great looking and hunting fit. The hounds I was to take back with me were impressive. The next day was to be a boar hunt with the local pack Le Vautrait du Perche. We went in the early morning to the home of the Master, Christophe Levesque, to meet them and to get a hound, as we all went out to different parts of the area to locate a big boar to hunt. After harboring the quarry and reporting back, there was a meet of staff and field, where the master described where the hunt would start. Hounds, a fine looking pack of 29 couple Anglais-Française Tricolours, were loaded into the hound van, staff horses were loaded up, and the hunt moved off to the meet, followed by the field in cars. The pack drew the woods



Moving off.



Five boar breaking cover....



....and the pack in pursuit!



The end of the hunt celebration....



....and Hounds rewarded.



The presentation of the trophy.



Le Vautrait Au Perche kennel visit.

across a field and soon five boar were running out in the open, but not our intended big one. They caught one of them and were brought back to the covert where we'd spotted the big boar and were soon in cry. The hounds got him afoot and for the next two and a half hours they

pursued him in big loops over about 8 miles of country with many exciting views until the heat and bright sun made sure scenting impossible. They finished with the boar crossing a road down from a woods into a large thick swampy covert but could not follow after working up the hill to the top in the open. Hounds were collected there, and we finished by circling the area to recover the last nine couple. We then went to the meet for the celebration of the kill and rewarding the hounds. A chorus of french horns played the various melodies of the hunt that described the day, and it was a very moving sight. To my great surprise the master gave me the signal honour of presenting me with a slot (or foot) of the boar. We all gathered afterward at the home of one of the members, a beautiful medieval chateau, for refreshments. I thanked them all for their warm welcome and for the honour they had given me. Talking with Christophe Levesque, I found that Ben Hardaway, Master of the Midland Foxhounds, had visited them, and he mentioned that he enjoyed Ben's book of his hunting life, *Never Outfoxed*. It was a grand day indeed. On the way home, we went to kennels to feed Philippe's hounds in preparation for hunting rabbit Thursday morning. We hunted



Philippe Deschamps's hounds in kennel.



The new hounds arriving at our kennels...and walking out with the pack.

at a farm with fields bordered by wide swaths of dense briars and woods criss-crossed with trails. The pack were soon worming their way through and running circling rabbits underneath the tangles. After putting a couple to ground, they worked on to a small pond and beyond through cover bordering a farm track where they got up one that by its wide running Philippe thought might be a fox or a hare. They came back to his call and worked the far side of the big field, speaking here and there. It began to get hot and the sun didn't help. Then they got a good run going as we headed back to the wide briar area. They ran it up the evergreen covered ridge to the far side and back down to a check, then worked through to the briar trailed area and the shed where we were parked, marking solidly to ground in a woodpile to end the morning. Iroise, the hound Philippe drafted to us, was super with a big voice. We took hounds back to kennels and went to lunch and cold drinks at Philippe's wife Yoricke's restaurant. Afterwards, we went to the hunt kennels to see the combined packs of boar hounds, and give my trophy to the Piqueur (hunter), Patrick Bourgoin, who was going to prepare and mount it, with an inscription. M. Bourgoin invited me into the yard with hounds and commanded them to stand on a long bench against the back fence, then they took a nice photo of me with the pack. Afterwards we went to Yoricke's for a wonderful dinner of hare casserole, followed by a *real* crème brulet. Then it was time to get packed up, check the papers for my hounds one more time, and get the crates and collars and leads ready for the early Friday morning departure. It was a bittersweet leave taking for Charles de Gaulle airport after this wonderful, all too short stay with the Deschamps family. The flight home was smooth, and soon I was driving to Malvern in heavy rain to tuck us all in for the night. The crates were clean and hounds had traveled very well.

During the weeks before the annual meeting, we worked on blending in Iroise, Irmine and Artful, and began training in earnest for the Bryn Mawr Hound Show. The new hounds fit in very well and are a delight to work with. Also we began repairs to the runs and much needed cleanup after the tough winter.

Our 69th season went well despite the weird March blizzard and wild weather swings through the end of the month. 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 Jim Moore, George Jefferis, to Church Farm School, Bob Berry, Harold Hallman and Marsh Creek, 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.



New Years Day Tailgate

Hunt Breakfast



The Gross's Tea



**The
Rosatos's
Tea**



**Chris Peebles pouring at
the Closing Meet Tea**

Annual Meeting at Vixen Hill Farm, May 14



Jonathan Wiedorn receiving the Eliot Kalmbach Cup



Dolores Green, new Hunt Committee member, receiving her ribbon.



Keep 'em moving!



*The Brood Bitches, our Future:
Vicky, Irmine and Iroise.*



Andrea Herr, our Judge, checking Yarrow.



Skylark, Best Retired Hound.



Watching the show.



Larry, Best Veteran.



Irmine, Best Entered Hound and Winner of the Killeen Cup

The Bryn Mawr Hound Show

This year's Bryn Mawr Hound Show on Saturday, June 3rd was low on ribbons for Skycastle, except for the super Junior Handler wins by Ned Farnham and Larry. They won first of the younger Junior Handlers, and finished with a Reserve Champion win over all! Souza was Third in the Brood with Produce Class and we placed 4th in the 2 Couple of Bassets Class. Several made the first cut in some classes, but lost to the bigger smooth coats. Larry won the Old Dog Trophy with a first place in the Veteran Hound Class in his swan song performance. Not too shabby for a 12 year old hound! Souza was third Veteran Bitch. Our pack put on a stellar performance in the Pack Class, to loud cheers from the crowd, but the judge was more concerned with pack conformation, and right now ours are not a very even looking lot. For the first time in a long while we didn't place. Our breeding program should give it a challenge next year.

Our staff, Gene Bolt, Bernadette Berezowski, Kate, Ned and Helen Farnham, Phyllis Allen and Jonathan Wiedorn, did a great job getting ready for each class and showing hounds, and Phyllis was super in the pack class. The new French hounds did well, and Irmine was solid in the pack class. All in all, it was a satisfying day. The after show party at Esther Gansky's was outstanding.



*Souza placed 3rd Brood with Produce
Yarrow and Yvette*



*Ned was Reserve Champion
Junior Handler with Larry*



*Larry won the Veteran Hound Class
Old Dog Trophy*



We were 4th in the 2 Couples of Hounds Class



The pack put on a great show for a cheering crowd