



KENNEL NOTES

MASTER'S REPORT

Another foxchasing season of fun, friendship, and good sport has come and gone. When I was growing up, it seemed common wisdom that we would hunt a lot through December, not get out much in January and February due to snow and ice, then pick up again in March. This year, Mother Nature fooled us. A rainy fall was followed by a warm December, as 2006 was the warmest year ever recorded in North America. There were some days when there would be frost on the ground with temps in the twenties early in the morning with sun and temps in the sixties by noon on the same day! By February it was cold and windy, and March was a soggy mess. Thus, we were able to hunt fairly consistently until about mid-February but then didn't get out much the rest of the season. The wide fluctuations also reeked havoc on scenting and as a result we had some slow days but also some of the best hunting we've had in a long time! We were also able to have some fun joint meets with Red Mountain, Goshen, De La Brooke, and Fairfax. It is always fun to meet fellow foxchasers from different Hunts, see some different country, and enjoy a day's sport together.

John Ward and I were also able to attend the annual Master of Fox Hounds Association meeting in New York this past January. This was the Centennial year, so the event was especially well attended. It is always great to be able to "network" with Masters from all over the country, exchanging ideas and concerns. This year there were an impressive array of speakers. Ben Hardaway, the legend, MFH for 57 years, spoke about the early days of the MFHA and how he mixed the famed July Hounds with English Fell Hounds and a touch of Penn-Marydel to create the foxhound line for which he is now famous. There were also Masters from Ireland, England, France, Belgium, New Zealand, and Australia who spoke about the status of foxchasing in their country and their efforts to preserve it for future generations. I was particularly enthralled with the Master from Bel-

gium who pointed out that they hunt the Ardenes forest as did Charlemagne before them. This is also the forest where Saint Hubert, the patron saint of hunting is buried, for it is here where he had his revelation, converting to Christianity after seeing a stag with antlers in the shape of a cross. What a great reminder that when we ride to the hounds we are part of something bigger than ourselves, very old, and very beautiful.

Frank Becker, MFH



Photos taken by Jt. Master John Ward Jr. at the private hunt on April 1st

The Prince Philip Cup

The day was April 27. It was our last day of competing for the Prince Philip Cup and the title of being the best games team in the country. Our team, SWAT, and six other teams were in a battle for the cup. We had been in first now for two days, but were being followed close behind by the Luck of the Irish, a team from Pennsylvania, by only one point. As we went into our last day of play I was a bit nervous but mostly just excited. We were going to play ten more games this day to determine the winner. As the races went by I was getting a bit discouraged because it seemed like we were always in second to the Luck of the Irish. I ended up being wrong, but all I seemed to hear on the loud speaker was our name right after the Luck of the Irish in almost every race. When it came to the tenth race we were tied for first with the Luck of the Irish.

The last race was called the Balloon Race. We were lined up right next to the Luck of the Irish. In this race the first rider gallops down the field toward the other end with a stick with a nail in the top in hand. In the middle of the field is a board with balloons on it. As you gallop down you have to pop one of the balloons and then hand the stick to the next rider on your team, and so on, until all four of your riders are finished. I was the first rider in this race. I walked up to the start line and waited for the flag to drop. When it dropped I took off as fast as I could pointing at the balloon, but somehow it did not pop. I turned around and quickly popped it. Then I gave the stick to our next rider and she popped it perfectly. I was scared now that we were far behind, but then I saw that the Luck of the Irish had messed up even worse than I had and we were ahead. Now that I could breathe, I watched as our last rider crossed the finish line. At that point I knew we had won the Prince Philip Cup. It was an exciting week at the beautiful Kentucky Horse Park, we had some fierce competition and also made a lot of friends.

Evan Becker

2007 Annual Meeting

NM- MVH will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, May 11 at our hunt club in Middletown. A pot luck supper will be served at 7 pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 8 pm. Annual elections will be held for the Hunt Committee, including the positions of (Joint) Master(s), Honorary Secretary, and Treasurer. All individual and family members of the hunt are eligible to vote; family members are given two (senior) votes. In order to receive a ballot at the meeting, one third of one's annual dues must be paid.

All members are encouraged to attend the meeting, enjoy a great dinner, and listen to news of hunt goings on and a recap of our last season from Masters and Staff. The forum will also present an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Masters, Committee, and Staff, and, most importantly, place their vote in support of the governing body of your hunt.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may place an absentee vote prior to the Annual Meeting. Ballots will be prepared after the May 8 Hunt Committee meeting and will be available online on May 9. You may download and cast your ballot in a sealed envelope addressed to Treasurer Bob Robey, complete with your dues payment check. Envelopes may be dropped into the closed ballot box at the Hunt Club between May 9 and 7 pm on May 11. Again, envelopes must be SEALED. No ballots in unsealed envelopes will be counted. All votes will be counted and elections will be announced during the meeting.

Stay tuned for email newsletter instructions regarding the potluck dinner and which members will be asked to contribute what sort of dish. As with most of our events, the club will provide paper goods, utensils, and sodas. BYOB.

Jennifer Sponseller Webster, Hunt Committee

Hound Show Season

The hunting season may be over but the fun with hounds never stops! This is the time of the year when most of the hunt clubs trot out their best hounds in conformation classes known as "bench" classes. Dogs and bitches are shown separately according to breed (American, English, Penn-Marydel and Crossbred) and type (Entered, Un-entered, Couple, Stallion and Brood Bitch). The hounds are brought into the ring and shown to the judge both by trotting around and standing square in the center, or "boards". The judge will then pick the best five or so and look at them again to place them first through fourth. At the end of the day, the top hounds from each class will compete against each other for overall champion of the show.

Hound shows are a good way to meet or reacquaint yourself with other folks with the same affliction of foxhunting (without the bother of horses). Members of their clubs come out to tailgate and give support. The Huntsmen are looking outside their kennels for potential outcrosses. We hope to repeat last years success with a full slate of hound shows.

The 30th Annual Maryland Foxhound Show-May 6

Hosted by the Wicomico Hunt in Denton, MD

Carolinas Hound Show-May 19

Hosted by Moore County Hounds In Southern Pines, North Carolina

Virginia Hound Show-May 26

Held on the Morven Park grounds

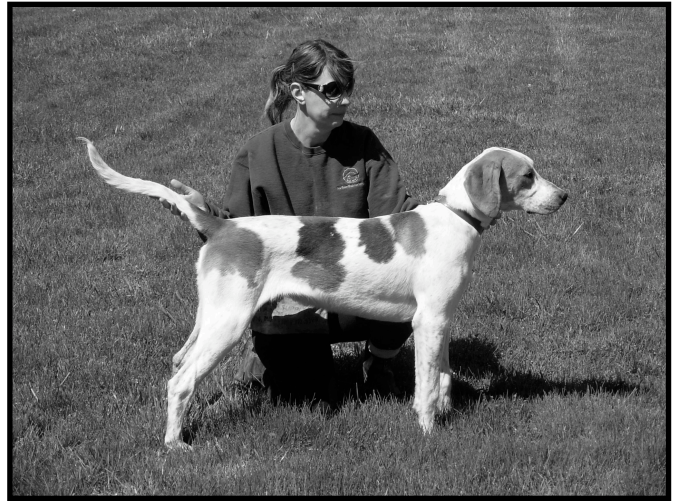
Bryn Mawr Hound Show-June 2

One of the nation's oldest hound shows, held at the Radnor Hunt club grounds in Malvern, PA. Beagles and Bassets are also shown.

Contact Amy or George if you need directions or want to help show hounds. Summer hound walking (and Wednesday pot lucks) start after school is out.



Un-entered dog, NM-MVH Limerick out of NM-MVH Dancer by Blue Ridge Lapworth.



Un-entered dog, NM-MVH Logic out of NM-MVH Dancer by Blue Ridge Lapworth.

Remember the November newsletter? Those puppies have gotten big and ready to show!

R—N&S—
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From The Huntsman-Season in Review

I thought that cubbing started off real well, hounds worked well and the pups entered fairly easily. One member who hunts all the time said she had never seen the hounds run so well. I told her to enjoy it cuz they were bound to cool off at any time. I was right.

Opening Day came and started the regular season. The hounds ran well and I didn't fall into any gopher holes this time. The hounds were still running well, and the hard work of the whippers-in during the summer and cubbing paid off. Our hounds barely looked at deer and if they did the posse stepped in and they forgot all about them. The deer rut finally starts and I leave the pups in the kennel. I was most proud of how our hounds ignored deer during this time, and I mean proud!

But this is also when the scenting for our pack went south for a period. Here was the slow down that I had predicted. One, two, three weeks and I'm getting a little touchy to talk to! Then one day at Station Road, St. Hubert blessed us with some scent. Our first kill came this day and then the hounds ran all the way through Mary Miller's paddocks up past Alban Tractors lot and straight through the next farm to Rt. 70. We gathered them all up, Mike Farber and Amy Saydoff repaired 1/4 mile of electric fence and we were back to hunting. We came back to Boutelle's and ran for another hour for what was the best day of the year!

The hounds continued to run well until the snow hit. Bang! We were done. The snow finally melts and the herpes hits VA. Season done except for a few scattered hunts. Here are a few of my highs and lows for the season:

My favorite hunt of the year was the one described above, Staff and three field members left at the end and all hounds on! My favorite joint meet was at Del La Brooke. My friend [Huntsman] Adam Townsend and his pack showed us what a pack of Penn-Marydels could do! And our hosts gave us a top notch breakfast afterwards.

My favorite moments were numerous and they mostly involved our junior members. I saw Devon Hoffman on my old horse Winston jump her first fence while hunting at Fairfax. I watched Evan Becker and McKenzie Taylor hunt my hounds on Junior Day. I'd better watch my back, those kids have talent, and McKenzie sure can blow that horn! I got to run with Nicholas Jacobsen and Evan at

Heritage Hills as we played cat and mouse with the field. And I still smile when I think of my "brat pack". There aren't any kids around who are as game and as fun and well-behaved as our juniors - thanks for the memories, kids! I also remember the glow on Tabitha Palmer's face when she was asked to whip-in with Amy. Her dad Kevin, the huntsman for the Fairfax Hunt, was proud to see his little girl ride with the staff and conduct herself well. And last but not least this year's private hunt where Jason Daisey learned to fly!

I also have some sad memories of this season. I lost some very good friends. I lost Jasmine, Mary Lee and Dinah, my most respected and steady bitches. I get sad when I realize that I will never hear their lovely voices again. Rest well, ladies. Then there are Havoc and Elkridge, my upcoming young hounds. Their potential will never be realized. What a shame! I never was able to account for Elkridge- maybe he runs still? Goodbye, my friends.

My regrets are few. One is running into Linda Becker and breaking her hand. Sorry again! The other is still losing my temper and being moody. I still need to work on that.

Many thanks need to go out as well. I give thanks to the good horses that I had this year. I give thanks for the staff I have. They tolerate a lot, especially Amy- she takes up my slack all the time. I also give thanks to my hounds. They love me and work for me regardless of the mistakes that I make. They always forgive me. Then there is the thanks that I give for the successful hound show season. Jade, Travis, Bandit and others represented NM-MVH very well with a championship at VA and many first, second and third places.

Last, I give thanks for working for a club like NM-MVH. This is a very vibrant club that is very generous to me in many ways. Horses at discount rates, tack provided as fast as there is a need for it. Pocketbooks opened for my Huntsman's Purse, and a cold beer after a hard days hunt from someone's cooler. Thank you for this year-every one of you!

PS: I didn't mention that hunt with Red Mt. and that problem Leroy and I had with the ditch. I have amnesia and a lot of the pieces are still missing.

George Harne

Hunt Ball 2007

This year's hunt ball on March 3rd at Holly Hills Country Club was a welcome respite from a month of no hunting due to the late arrival of winter. The dance floor couldn't hold everyone! The band was good as was the food and the silent auction items were first rate. The Masters presented the "Best Turned Out" award to Rick Jones and awarded colors to Joe and Marcie Michael, Kevin and Andy Curran and the buttons to Jr. Luke Curran for their work and service to the hunt. Congratulations to all! All told, the hunt ball also raised over \$6,000 for the hounds.

Private Hunt

The topper of the silent auction was a private hunt for ten at Station Road followed by a home cooked dinner at the clubhouse hosted by the staff and several volunteers. Michael Moreland submitted the winning bid of \$1,600 as a going away gift for Jason Daisey, who is relocating to TX due to work. Master (for the day) Jason stated he had not had a view, so George set out to get him one.

The day was nice and cool and the hounds ran pretty well but no view for Jason who ended up the day riding with George who took him over every coop he could find. However, Michael, riding with Jt. Master John Ward Jr. in the "Tally-Ho Wagon" got a nice view just sitting in the middle of the fixture. After over 3 hours, we retired to the clubhouse for the best fried chicken I've ever had along with homemade potato salad and homemade ice cream to cap it off. A fantastic day for all involved in what is fast becoming a NM-MVH tradition!



Spring Hunter Pace

Despite the weather, our Spring 2007 Hunter Pace was a success! And if there was ever a group effort to pull something off, this was it. The response from members, masters, landowners and friends of the hunt was phenomenal. On one workday alone we had 23 volunteers, led by Master John Ward, our workday Chairman, readying the course. Landowner extraordinaire, Kerry Mattern, went way above and beyond this year. He spent three days with a crew of his own workers building six fantastic telephone pole jumps, and then the day before the pace he was back out on the course one last time grading in front of them.

These six jumps may have been the biggest hit of this year's hunter pace. With our new course, spectators and vendors alike had a beautiful view across the river as riders negotiated them both ways, coming and going. And during breaks in the action, our guests could shop at one of five vendor stands, including our Food Booth, back for just its second showing ever. Thanks to Marcie Michael's idea whereby members sponsored just about everything we needed for the food booth, even people like the Medds, vacationing in Florida, were allowed an opportunity to contribute and support their club. In fact, offers of sponsorship, donations and help poured in at such a rate that one of my toughest jobs this year was responding to all the e-mails!

Another first this year were several generous, unusual gifts donated by various sponsors. Ron LeGore offered nine dozen yellow roses awarded to the winning teams in each class and as thanks to our landowner sponsors. Ladies were thrilled and gents were dashing, presenting the roses to their spouses. Also, *The Equiery* gave clever tote bags, adorned with their logo, to all the winners, and *Maryland Life* magazine donated limited edition etched glass Christmas ornaments, as well. Neat details such as these certainly help set our great event apart from the rest.

But when all was said and done, this year's Hunter Pace will probably be remembered for the weather. More than one guest was spotted buying warm clothes from our clothing vendors and with occasional snow squalls blasting through, the dash across the river to the finish line, water flying and kids shrieking, was a sight to see!

Thanks to all that helped pull this off. Rest up! We go at it again in the fall!

MJ McGinnis
Hunter Pace Chairman

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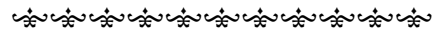
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Ms. Mary Ann Jacobsen

Ms. Mary Jane McGinnis

Ms. Marcie Michael

Ms. Dicky Gibson



Workday Committee Chair

Jt. Master John Ward Jr.

From The Editor...

If you have an article, photo or advertisement to be considered for submission, please contact the editors. We would like to have all items by the 20th of the previous month in order to get it all put together (the next issue comes out in July). Remember, this is *your* newsletter so feel free to participate. Ads are business card size at \$25 per insertion.

Congratulations to the S.W.A.T. team of Evan Becker, Shelby Kepner, Isabelle Brace, Aaron Cone and MacKenzie Taylor! They are the best Games team in the country! Let them know it!

MM



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