



KENNEL NOTES

Master's Report

Another enjoyable hunt season has come to an end. This season, the weather was unusually warm with frequent rain. The good news was that we were therefore able to hunt on and off all winter. The bad news was that the wet, soft ground posed new problems as to where we could ride and park our trailers. This in turn dictated which fixtures saw more use this year. For example, we hunted Monocacy Park and Station Rd. a lot this winter but stayed away from Pennterra which typically gets very boggy when it rains and where we could easily tear the ground up. Next year, if the ground is frozen, our choice of fixtures could be totally different.

In the spring and summer, the Masters always meet with the Hunt Staff to discuss the past season and plans for next year, what worked well and what needs improvement. Expanding our territory is always a challenging priority, and we will spend a lot of time this summer visiting landowners and trying to find new country. It is our hope that our club will continue to thrive and that each season will prove better than the last!

Dr. Frank Becker, MFH



Group photo taken by Sarah Falls Curran at the St. Patricks Day party hosted by the O'Curran and the O'Michaels.

2008 Annual Meeting

The 2008- 2009 hunting season kicks off on Friday, **May 9** with the Annual Meeting at the Hunt Club. A potluck social hour begins at 6:30 PM and the meeting and elections will start promptly at 7:30. Look for further instructions about pot luck assignments in our weekly email bulletins during the month of April. This is a BYOB event; the club will provide non- alcoholic beverages and eating and drinking utensils for all members.

Elections will be held at this meeting for the positions of Master or Joint Master, Secretary, Treasurer, and Hunt Committee. Ballots will be handed out by the Treasurer to members with voting rights (Individual and Family members over the age of 18) upon receipt of one- third of their annual dues.

Members wishing to vote but unable to attend the Annual Meeting may arrange to do so via absentee ballot prior to May 9. This ballot will be made available on the NMMVH website no later than April 28 and must be received via mail by Bob Robey in an envelope also containing one- third of the members annual dues on or before May 9th. Ballots received after that will not be counted. Ballots in a signed, sealed envelope may also be left at the Club House (please make prior arrangements to do so), or sent to the annual meeting and presented to Bob by another member. Additional questions or information about absentee ballots or voting by way of such should be directed to Bob Robey, Treasurer (301-898-7794 or bob.robey@hughes.net) or Bonnie Kepner, Honorary Secretary (301-582-2686 or bonskep@aol.com).

JKSW

POKER RIDE

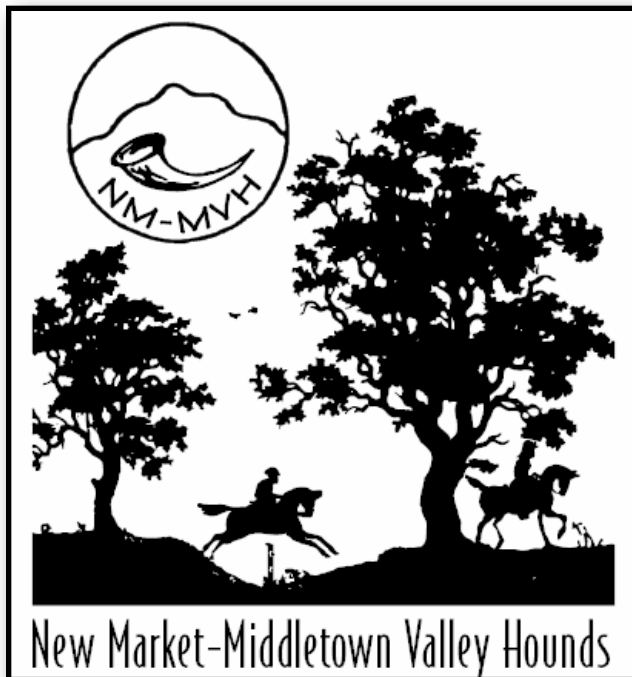
Please join NM-MVH for our 2nd Annual Poker Ride! This event will be held **May 4th** starting at 1:00 PM. Held at Pleasant Valley Farm, 9010 Old Hagerstown Rd, Middletown, MD.

What is a Poker Ride you say? You are dealt 7 cards at the start. There are 3 stops. At the first stop you can turn in 4 cards & get new ones. At the 2nd stop 3 cards, and at the 3rd stop 2 cards. At the end you will turn in your best poker hand. Go as you please; it is not a timed event. At a walk the course would take approximately 1 hour. Walk- Trot riders are welcome! This year we are having two courses: one longer course with jumps for people with experience who want to move on. A separate course will be aimed at the people who only want a nice walk in the woods! This would be a perfect event for green horses or a spouse/friend who has limited riding ability.

Refreshments/drinks served at each stop. Prizes will be awarded for the "Best Poker Hand". When finished, we will have a pig roast served by Mike Bailey, including pork, coleslaw, side dishes and desert. Water & iced tea will be served. BYOB. Cost is \$40.00/person to ride & play for those who pre-register, \$45.00/person the day of the event. Non-riders/poker players are welcome to the picnic at \$25.00/person. All proceeds go to NM-MVH.

Follow signs on Old Hagerstown Rd., turning right at Pleasant Valley Farm entrance. Parking will be in the upper fields.

Please RSVP to Maryellen@logorific.com or 301-371-3167. This will help tremendously with the food options. Please ask your friends to join us!



Spring Hunter Pace

Sunday April 6th, 10 am

Coming up this Sunday, April 6, 2008 is our Annual Spring Hunter Pace. Once again it starts off from the Mattern Farm at 2710 Station Road in Middletown Maryland, our Station Road fixture, at 10:00 AM. The courses start and finish with a dramatic river crossing made all the more exciting last year as the riders splashed across the finish in frigid temperatures and blustery snow. The intended plan this year calls for much more mild weather. But just in case, keep your fingers crossed!

Our courses are 3 1/2 miles of beautiful mountain vistas. Both the low and high courses have 18 jumps, which at the riders discretion can all be ridden around. Low jumps are up to 2' 6" and high jumps are up to 3'. Thanks to Kerry Mattern and Dicky Gibson, landowners extraordinaire, and a lot of hard working NM-MVH members, we have a nice variety of jumps including coops, rail jumps, bank jumps, stone walls and log jumps and a phenomenal piece of property on which to hold our event that challenges riders with lots of hills and two river crossings. And for the enjoyment of both spectators and riders alike,

Nancy Issacson and Mary Ellen Bailey will once again be setting up their wares and Maggie Johnson will be managing our food booth.

So come and spend the day. Ride, shop, eat and have fun! And support NM-MVH! Tell your friends. Spread the word. Hope to see you there!

MJ McGinnis
Hunter Pace Chairman

Also known as "pairs" races, a hunter pace is a team of two or more riders following a cross country course of about 3- 4 miles in simulated hunting conditions (no hounds). Required attire consists of protective headgear, tall boots (NO CHAPS!) and formal hunt attire or ratcatcher (show coat or tweed). Junior riders are 18 years of age and under. Get a group together from your barn and enter as a team!

Classes are:

1. **Fast Time Over High Fences (3'-3'6")**
2. **Optimum Time Over Low Fences (up to 2'6")**
3. **Jr. Optimum Time Over Low Fences**
4. **Optimum Time Over High Fences**
5. **Optimum Time Flat**
6. **Jr. Optimum Time Flat**

*(*Team closest to pre-set time wins.)*

Contact-Mary Jayne McGinnis 301-662-7313
 Race Day-301-371-4081

NO RAIN DATES

The entire spring hunter pace circuit is:

Potomac Hunt Club - Sunday, March 30, 2008

Nellie Hanagan (301) 972-8105

New Market-Middletown Valley Hounds -

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Mary Jayne McGinnis (301) 662-7313

Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds -

Sunday, April 13, 2008

Mary Anne Ridgely (301) 854-5559

Marlborough Hunt Club -

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Iris Wagner (410) 991-5209

Goshen Hounds - Saturday, April 26, 2008

Holly Hamilton (301) 509-8478

It's Showtime!

With the end of the season upon us and no performance trials close by, the staff and volunteers will be turning their attentions to preparing our hounds for the show ring.

We have quite a few hounds to campaign this year. First up will be the Maryland Puppy Show on May 4th. For this show we have Kelly and Hercules' pups to show, and a few of them look quite nice and have a good chance. Then we will attend the Carolinas Hound Show on Saturday May 17th, the Virginia Hound Show on Sunday May 25th and the Bryn Mawr Hound Show in Pennsylvania on Saturday May 31st. At these shows we will be showing Hercules in the American Stallion class, Louise in the Crossbred Brood Bitch and Jury in the Listed Penn Marydel- Entered class. Jade, Jury's sister who has done so well for us the past couple of years will not be showing this year as she has had an amorous adventure with a certain De La Brooke hound, Konniver. Jade, we wish you luck!

Logic will try to better his placing in the Crossbred Dog- Entered class with another year of growth under his belt. We may give Liberty a chance in Crossbred Bitch-Entered. Melody, one of Kelly's pups, will go in the Crossbred Bitch- Unentered Class and her brothers, Master and Marker, will try for the Crossbred Dog- Unentered honors. Then they will team up for the Couple of Unentered Dogs. We may even try to get together a pack class if we can field five couple that look uniform enough to compete.

The three big shows we go to are all different. The Carolina Hound Show is in Southern Pines, NC, and is a laid back, comfortable show. There is a pre-show barbecue on Friday before the show that is really fun. Saturday we show hounds in the most beautiful rings I have shown in, under a canopy of pines. At this point, it is my favorite show to attend.

The Virginia Hound Show is a more formal affair and is the closest for our members to attend, being held at Morven Park in Leesburg. We normally set up our canopy at the end of the Crossbred ring in the shade and members and friends from other clubs stop by. The Goshen folks set up next to us at the American ring and we banter back and forth all day.

There is an area where vendors set up and food is available aside from our tailgates.

The Bryn Mawr Hound show at the Radnor Hunt Club is the oldest show in the United States. It is the Upperville of the hound show circuit. Beautiful shade trees at a beautiful club house and grounds. This show is classy and comfortable to attend. It takes about three hours to get there and I think it is worth the drive

These shows take place in May and the first week of June. At the end of the circuit we are tired of the work and traveling, but we are proud of our hounds. We want everyone to see them and we love to compete. When we win it is a great feeling and when we don't we still know we gave our best.

As I say every year, hound shows are great fun. You get to network with other clubs, see old friends and make new ones. Come out to some of the closer ones and see what I mean! Anyone who is interested in working with and showing hounds please contact me at 301-371-8966. Any juniors that want to show in the Junior Handler class, please see me and we will pair you up with an experienced hound for you to learn to show with. Last year we had five juniors show and they all did well and had fun doing it.

Why not come to some of the shows and see another side of foxhunting activities? You just might enjoy it!

George Harne, Huntsman

NM-MVH Master and Marker (ears up)



Photo by Kathy Blank

Honoring St. Patrick And The Finish Of The Season

Overnight rains and cancelled hunting did not damper the spirits of the NMMVH, who turned out a' plenty for a fantastic end of season breakfast at the Hunt Club on Sunday, March 16. Themed in honor of St. Patrick's Day and kindly hosted by two club families of Irish descent, the Currans and the Michaels (Marcie's maiden name is McCleary), members and guests were treated to a fine spread of traditional Irish foods, entirely prepared and served by Sarah Curran Falls and her able team of Currans. Buffet tables filled with corned beef appetizers, leek and baked cheese tarts, stuffed mushrooms, dips, and soda bread flanked a main course of Irish potatoes, baked and presented with an array of topping choices.

And then there was the bar! Two fine lads known as Patrick and Shawn brought a bevy of beverages from the Emerald Isles, from a Warm Whiskey Punch to the old American-Irish favorite, GREEN BEER, and served them up with charm and a good tale or two. In fact, their act was so spot-on that I'm not sure even now that some in attendance are aware that these two "lads" were actually the youngest Curran brother, Matthew, and his soon to be (and very American) brother-in-law, Jason Kilmore.

As we assembled on the front steps of the clubhouse for a group picture, we witnessed some fine sport by the Middletown Valley Beagles, who hunted their kennel fixture this same day and who joined us after their meet for a bite and a pint. It is always a pleasure when we can gather as a fellowship of folk to toast the countryside and a good day's hunting.

Slainte!! (Cheers!!)
JKSW

Hunt Ball 2008

The Hunt Ball again this year was a great success. Due to the very able organization of Bob and Pam Robey, the evening went off without a hitch. It was lightly attended compared with last year due to many people being out of town at that time. We had approximately 85 guests for dinner and dancing. Everyone looked so elegant dressed up in ball dresses and and tails. We had a great group of juniors that showed up and showed us up on the dance floor. Being a smaller group had its advantages—a much less crowded bar and more room to dance!

The Silent Auction on the other hand was huge. 104 items were auctioned off, and a live auction was held for some of our more popular items. The members of NM-MVH really came through with donations for this fundraiser. Many people donated multiple items, and it was really fun to see what was available. We had caps from all the local hunts, original artwork, certificates for a B & B, lawn care, pony rides, grooming supplies, hunt coats, kids items, and even a bathroom sink. So even with a smaller group of people we still raised about \$5500.00 for our hunt.

The band played to a full dance floor until 11:30 when everyone remembered they were planning to hunt the next day. A very sincere thanks to everyone who helped with this event. Hunt Ball takes a lot of planning and hard work and the Robeys do most of it. Also thanks to Michael Moreland who worked with me on the Silent Auction. Michael set up a new computer program to organize the auction items and make check-out faster and easier. Erin and Gretta Benson, Nicholas Jacobsen, and Lisa and Mackensie Smith worked the day of the Ball getting the centerpieces made and the room ready for the evening. It was a great joint effort and it showed in a really fun evening. Thanks again to the whole membership and hope to see everyone at the Hunt Ball again next year.

Mary Ann Jacobsen
Social Committee Chairman



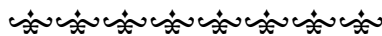
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Ms. Jennifer Webster

Current Hunt Committee:

Mr. Kevin Curran

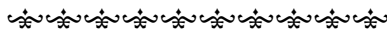
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Ms. Mary Ann Jacobsen

Ms. Mary Jayne McGinnis

Ms. Marcie Michael

Ms. Dickey 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 June). Remember, this is *your* newsletter so feel free to participate. Ads are business card size at \$25 per insertion. Don't forget to check the website for other information, www.nm-mvh.com

We could also use some fresh photos on there as well, so get your cameras out!

MM