



HUNTING NOTES

The Newsletter of the Fairfax Hunt

2009/2010 Season ♦(Autumn)



Message from the Masters

It is a great honor for the Fairfax Hunt Joint Masters to welcome Linda Devan, MFH as our newest Joint Master of Fox Hounds. Her considerable knowledge of fox hunting and vast experience hunting the Fairfax Hunt territory as an Honorary Whipper-In makes her an invaluable asset to the hunt staff.

It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we conclude the cubing season and enter the formal hunting season. We have the unique privilege to be members of a very special hunt. We not only share the love of the sport, but, thanks to our most generous landowners, enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery within Virginia's hunt country. We urge everyone to bring at least one guest to hunt with us this season. We look forward to sharing the day's sport and wish everyone a safe and most enjoyable season.



Randolph D. Rouse, MFH, Senior Master
Mrs. S. Bruce Smart, MFH, Emerita
Raymond C. Moffett, MFH, Joint Master
Linda Devan, MFH, Joint Master

A New Season begins!

By Liz Renaud

Members once again enjoyed Opening Breakfast at our delightful club house. Although the day's hunting had been postponed to the following day due to the deluge of precipitation, it was rather pleasant to partake in this event without the usual "hat hair" and "aroma" that we all exude. Perhaps there are some who may argue that the perfume of a day's hunting far surpasses any scent that even the most experienced cologne designer could concoct.

Conversation was sprightly and enthusiastic, all in great anticipation of yet another exhilarating season of hunting with the Fairfax Hunt. Great admiration was voiced for our newest, "Huntswoman" Tabatha Palmer, who in true family tradition took up the horn while her father was temporarily out of commission due an injury sustained from a horrific fall from an ATV. (Four legs rather than four wheels seem to be a much safer mode of transport for our huntsman!) Members were all in agreement that Ms. Tabatha did an outstanding job, and most definitely has earned the right to wear our Hunt's colors! Congratulations!



Huntswoman Tabitha Palmer



Ambassador Smoak, Robert Simon, Randy Rouse MFH

Guests were honored to have the pleasure of listening to Senior Master Randolph Rouse welcome in the new season. Mr. Rouse is a true inspiration to all with his wit, humor and his enthusiasm for living life. He shared a very interesting note on the newest government proposal, Mr. Rouse told the audience that, "Democrats, realizing the success of the President's "Cash for Clunkers" rebate program, have revamped a major portion of their National Health Care Plan....."CASH FOR CODGERS"Couples wishing to access health care funds in order to pay for the delivery of a child will be required to turn in one old person. The amount the government grants them will be fixed according to a sliding scale. Older and more prescription dependent codgers will garner the highest amounts. Special, "Bonuses" will be paid for those submitting codger in targeted group, such as smokers, alcohol drinkers, persons 10 pounds over their government prescribed weight, and any member of the Republican Party. Smaller bonuses will be given for codgers who consume beef, soda, fried foods, potato chips, lattes, whole milk, dairy products, bacon, brussel spouts, or Girl Scout cookies. All codgers will be rendered totally useless via toxic injection. This will insure that they are not secretly resold or the body parts harvested to keep other codgers in repair.....Remember you heard it here first." Mr. Rouse, old codger you are not! May the new season begin! Tally Ho and away we go!

Did you know?

By Steffanie Burgevin

The Fairfax Hunt Race Association had donated a large silver tray as a trophy to be won by the Green Working Hunter champion at the Washington International Horse Show in 1958? It is a perpetual trophy, to be won only after three successive wins. I don't know the last time anyone from the Hunt has presented this but it was many many years ago.

Reston Home Tour, 2009. The Clubhouse was included in the Home Tour for the first time this year. JR's provided refreshment, and a cooking demonstration which was a good drawing card for the rainy day. Bob Best, who looked resplendent in his scarlet hunt coat, and white britches, provided a running commentary about the hunt history, our traditions, and hunting in general for the whole day. He also ran the video of our hunt that was made several years ago by a graduate student. It has interviews with Kevin, Randy, and many members, and was narrated by John Anderson. Jean Stafford and Steffanie Burgevin also dressed in formal hunt attire, answered questions by the curious attendees for several hours. Spelling them was Susan Bishop, Ann Harrover-Thomas, and Carolyn Smith, all long time members of the Hunt. The attendees included Black Oak owners, Mark and Wanda Salser, as their "town" home is in Reston, Robert E. and Cheryl Terio-Simon, and many people who remembered attending weddings or cotillions at the clubhouse in years past. However, most of the people had never heard of us, or knew the building was here. Our secret is out. Several guests took brochures about the rental information that JR's had provided. All and all it was a terrific event, with probably about 200 people coming and going. Obvious concerns of hostile anti-hunting comments did not materialize, but more to the point, just fascination and curiosity. The Reston Home Tour docents were pleasant and helpful as well.

Opening Hunt Breakfast highlight: Because of the chance meeting of Robert E. Simon, Jr., and his wife, Cheryl Terio-Simon at the Reston Home Tour the prior Saturday, Steffanie Burgevin invited them to be her guests. He met Randy for the first time, which is very surprising, since their paths were so aligned for

years. They appeared to really enjoy each other's company. The Simon's talked with many of our members, who all found them very engaging, and interesting. Mr. Simon, who is now 95, is as sharp physically and mentally as Randy, and Joe Smoak, another nonagenarian. Mr. Simon told us that after his father died at a young 58, he was elected chairman of Carnegie Hall, which had been majority owned by his family. He was 23, and a recent Harvard grad. Many years later, he sold his interest in Carnegie Hall, to purchase the Sunset Hills farm, at the time around 6,700 acres, from a defunct developer, with the express purpose of developing a planned community. At the time, in the 60's the area was very remote, with only a two land route 7, and small farm roads. The Hunt kennels, huntsman's house, and clubhouse were there, on 12 donated acres. Lake Fairfax Park had not been built yet. It was later built and donated by Jack Crippen. Mr. Simon wanted a continuous living environment, with emphasis on living and working in the same locale. He also was adamant about preserving open space, and providing diverse recreational opportunities. His "experiment" as it was then, has turned out to be the most successful planned community in the country. Columbia and Charles City were local attempts to replicate his vision, but clearly are not even close to the beautiful Reston. It was a real honor to have him in our midst, while we celebrated our 80th opening breakfast, and he was celebrating the 45th anniversary of the founding of Reston.



Steffanie Burgevin, Robert E. Simon Jr., and Bob Best

The Fairfax Hunt's First Puppy Naming Auction

By Liz Renaud

The Fairfax Hunt first annual Puppy Naming Auction was an absolute rip-roaring success!

Auctioneer Mr. Troy Graham set the stage with an impressive demonstration of his art. The first puppy was brought to the table. The audience waited in great anticipation, auction batons at the ready in one hand and a glass of courage in the other. Assisted by the Pit Boss, Mr. Tennessee Graham, the first puppy was handed to huntsman Kevin Palmer who described the new entry's unique attributes. With the words, "Let the auction begin!" Mr. Graham soon had batons waiving as members battled to be the one to name the fine specimen of an American foxhound. Those who were beaten in their endeavor had seven more opportunities to be the one to name a puppy.

The day was spent in the foot hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains on a balmy late summer afternoon, surrounded by people who truly love everything that is foxhunting, came to meet eight formally nameless Fox Hound puppies. Basking in the laughter and great merriment, members of the Fairfax Hunt demonstrated what Fox Hunting was, is, and will always be -- a celebration of nature, life and the pursuit of sport.

Many thanks to our most graceful hosts Petra and Ulrich Dollwett, a special thanks to the Palmer Family -- Kevin, Pam, Tabatha, and Ben for all of their work in puppy handling, a huge thanks to Mr. Troy Graham whose speed of wit and tongue

contributed greatly to the success of the auction, to Mr. Tennessee Graham for all his work in making it a very special day, and to Mr. Bob Best who was very efficient with his position of "The Enforcer!"



Thank you to all of those who contributed so generously as over \$7,000 was raised to assist the Fairfax Hunt in continuing the tradition of fine fox hunting.

Four beautiful girls and three handsome boys

A name we all found to join in the chase.

Killarney, Karma and Keystone are anxious to learn

To run fast and true and answer the horn

Kilo, Kirby, Kayla and Kyra too!

*Will join in full cry as together we are
Proud to be Fairfax Hounds!*

A Rare Honor ***By Lolly Burke***

For only the third time in 50 years, the Joint Masters of the Fairfax Hunt awarded colors to non-hunting members. At the November 21, 2009 Thanksgiving Breakfast Senior Master Randy Rouse, Ray Moffet MFH and Linda Devan MFH presented Fairfax Hunt colors to Patricia and Bernard Presock in recognition of their exemplary contribution toward the rebuilding of the Fairfax kennels and the care and kindness they administered to our distressed hounds.

Orange County Team Chase ***By Paul Wilson***

This year, October 25th was a beautiful fall day. It was also the Orange County Hunt Team Chase held at Old Whitewood. The cross-country course was spectacular with 23 jumps over almost three miles of the most gorgeous riding terrain. So many different jumps; there were stonewalls, loose fence, timbers, polls, coops, an in & out and hay bales. Jen Stewart, Marge Fowler, Karyn and Paul Wilson proudly represented Fairfax Hunt at the competition. Ladies were spectacular in shad belly, top hats and all the accompanying finery, placing the team in fourth place in the Best Turned Out competition phase. We were fortunate to be nearly the first team over this pristine cross-country course. What a thrill! With Jen leading, we did a good job of staying in a group without any riding or jumping faults. With 23 jumps, there was always the next obstacle to focus your attention. It was an experience I wish all our riding members could have. Our time was based off the optimal pace; which is kept a secret until after the competition. Our team learned a great deal about this annual event. Fairfax Hunt will mount a new team in 2010 that will have all the benefits our experience can provide.



Karyn Wilson, admiring Orange County's craftsmanship.

Huntland: A Treasure of a Day!

By Liz Renaud

The gentle glow of the morning sun greeted me totally opposite to previous years hunting on the cold, wet, and foggy mornings of the Yorkshire Dales in the north of England. There was an echo that resounded in my mind reminiscent of the Yorkshire greeting -- "Hey-Up!" It was with this ringing in my ears that I prepared Oliver for a days' hunting with the Fairfax Hunt. This was a day where my heart was not really into hunting, distracted by the continuing echo.

The fog that was clouding my mind began lifting as I entered the fixture -- Huntland. I looked up in amazement to the splendor and grandeur of the magnificent estate. The sky was of the clearest blue, the sun was gently warming my back as Oliver and I rode over the stone bridge, up the perfectly manicured driveway, and onto the front lawn of this beautiful historical building. As I sat there sipping from a stirrup cup observing the scene before me -- it was hard to believe that I was not in England, except perhaps that I was much dryer and warmer! What more would any fox hunter ever want then to hunt this incredible fixture? Our huntsman gathered the hounds, his pink coat in sharp contrast to the autumn colors that surrounded us, raised his horn and we were off! In just a few minutes we were in full gallop following hounds in full cry. The echoes of the Yorkshire Dales were now silenced. What a day! A day that would compare to any of the finest days' hunting anywhere in England -- and it was not over yet!

Our most gracious host Dr. Betsee Parker not only so generous to offer her grounds for our meet, but also opened her house for us muddy booted hunters, for a delectable breakfast which included a piano and a harp. How very apt for this heavenly day. We sat

in surroundings reminiscent of days gone by, enjoying the lovely breakfast, comparing notes on the days hunting. All contented, happy and privileged to be able to experience a day such as this. It was a treasure of a day that will be always remembered with a smile.

Everyone from the Fairfax Hunt would like to thank Dr. Betsee Parker for her wonderful hospitality. It was simply heavenly!

The call of the Yorkshire Dales is strong, more so for my husband who yearns to continue his search for the perfect pint and a plateful of sausages! But for me, I think that I have found a little piece of England right here in Virginia -- "Hey-Up"



“There really was a harp!”

Etiquette Tips for Fairfax Hunt Guests

A major concern of people wishing to hunt for the first time is the possibility of doing the wrong thing. This is a guide to be used by those hunting with the Fairfax Hunt for the first time.

It is much more relaxing to allow plenty of time to get to the meet and unload your horse from the trailer. Please do not park in gateways or opposite other vehicles. Park alongside to allow plenty of room in between trailers.

Etiquette demands that you should find the Hunt Secretary and offer her your cap, rather than waiting for her to approach you. Similarly you should say good morning to the Joint Masters (the correct greeting being "Good Morning Master", even if you know him/her personally). In particular, find out who is the Field Master for the day and keep behind him/her and obey their instructions.

The Joint Masters carry full responsibility for the day and have invested considerable time in the preparation of providing you with an enjoyable day. You should understand that if anything goes wrong or if damage is done, it is the Joint Masters who will have to put the matter right. In return you should treat them with respect and give them priority at gates or jumps.

If you know your horse is liable to kick it should wear a red ribbon at the top of his tail. If it is a young horse and you are not sure of its temperament it should wear a green ribbon, in both cases they should be kept to the back of the field.

Do not assume that because your horse does not kick your dog at home that he/she will necessarily tolerate a pack of hounds. Even if he/she will, the huntsman does not know that and you will worry him if you get amongst the hounds. Hounds are particularly bad at getting out of the way, so it is your duty to keep away from them.

Do not attempt to jump if there is a hound anywhere near a jump. Give Hunt Staff priority and if

you know your horse is a poor jumper - let others go first. If your horse refuses, clear the jump quickly and let others go before you try again. If you break a jump make sure to notify the Field Master so he can ensure it is stock proof before going on.

The Fairfax Hunt utilizes two fields. The first field hunts at a faster pace and tries to put in as much jumping as possible depending on the area being hunted and ground conditions. The second field will find an easier way round a jump for those who prefer to jump less or not at all. If you do not want to jump - it is best to talk to the Field Master who will know of a regular non-jumper to pair you with.

When riding near or through livestock ensure you are between the stock and the fence and ride at a speed they will tolerate without getting upset. If stock bunch up in a corner, stop and wait for them to move out. You should not enter any field without the Field Master, unless instructed to do so.

It is surprising how many people leave their manners on the ground when they get on a horse. Please thank cars for slowing down, wave cars on when you see the Masters wave them on, and keep to the nearside if you hear the shout "car please". A smile and "Good Morning" to people on foot will help to dispel the myth that everyone on horseback is a snob and too good to talk to people on foot.

It is important to remember that without a huntsman and his hounds there would be no sport. A thank you goes a long way in helping these people feel appreciated, especially Hunt Staff who will probably be cold, wet and tired at the end of the day. It is traditional to say "Goodnight" at the end of your day.

Did you fall off or get shouted at? Don't worry, we've all been there. It's all part of becoming an experienced horseman/woman!

Have fun, that is what you are there for, and we want you to enjoy yourself and come back again.

Source: Wiki

Special thanks to all our members who have dedicated their time and commitment to fly The Fairfax Hunt colors high and proud!

Please send news, articles of interest, recommendations and input to COL John and Liz Renaud at shelnik@aol.com.

The Fairfax Hunt
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Fairfax Hunt photos are located at the following locations:

<http://ffxhunt.shutterfly.com/>; courtesy of Ken Arthur

<http://www.shutterfly.com/progal/gallery.jsp?gid=768a5498ce7cbc5bb7a1>; courtesy of Michael Johnson

http://www.pbase.com/susanwhitfield/fox_hunting; courtesy of Susan Whitfield