

Bull Run Hunt News

November 2005

Hunting Culpeper, Orange, Madison, and
Spotsylvania Counties



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Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our new members Eric Gibson, George Wiltshire, Alice Meyers-Paulin, and Rosanne Berkenstock.

Welcome Back, Returning Members!

A warm welcome to returning members Rick Nishanian, Joanne Norman, Chuck & Jonnie Heider, Pamela Ault, Carla Abramcheck, Caron Stowell, Ellie Hurt, Sandra Worsham, Sally Burrell, Karen Killion, Paul Kraus, GiGi Cassese, Jeff Rizer, Dennis & Becky Beach, and Pam Cross.

Joe's Corner

When Bull Run Hunt hosted their day for Virginia Hunt Week on October 17, it was a huge success with 86 riders. We were fortunate to have great weather, which helped contribute to us running four different foxes. The last run lasted over 45 minutes with lots of running and jumping.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Virginia Hunt Week meet such a great day!

Joe

Virginia Hunt Week Kudos

Judy Berger writes: A HUGE thanks to everyone who made food and brought drinks for the Hunt Week meal... the spread was fantastic! Special thanks to Lisa MacDonald, Carole Pivarnik, and Debbie Hunt for helping with the setup. Thanks to Jim Craig, Cameron Toms, Jeff Hunt, Carl Kincheloe and Carole for shuttling people back and forth.

As for everyone riding that day... thanks for showing our friends from neighboring hunts a good time. No wonder Bull Run has the reputation for being the **friendliest and most fun hunt in Virginia!**

A Hunt Report by Gordon Smith

The Pot and Kettle fixture has not been on my list of "The best fixtures at Bull Run Hunt" because it has been too wet, too small and you can't get around very well, due to the lack of trails.

We fixed this last summer by cutting trails through the woods from the "pines" back to the pastures behind Bruce Williams' farmhouse. We also added over 600 acres of rolling crop and pasture land which is high and dry. On top of that we built a half dozen fences to take us over the barbed wire. This set the stage for some fun yesterday.

About 20 of us met at 9:00 a.m. and immediately roaded the hounds up the gravel road and down the Williams farm lane, past the house and over the coop at the run. From there Billy cast them across the cattle pastures and hay fields. Nothing much at first, except it was a treat to see the hounds all spread out and working to find scent.

After jumping several of the new coops we came to the one into the Sunflower field. My horse Shannon was first and she took it beautifully. I was in a lovely two point, hoping that Douglas Lees or Jake Carl would be on the other side with a camera. I had forgotten the ditch, one stride after the jump. It was filled with water and Shannon was very surprised! As she landed, she lowered her head to look at it and then stopped dead.

When I got up off the ground (I had just missed landing in the water), I quickly climbed back on and we took off after the hounds--which were only a little way ahead. This means that the bottle of Sandeman Vintage Porto 1994 which I was planning to sip with some Stilton in the evening, will now have to be donated to the Hunt Bar. Of course, I'll decant it into a screw cap bottle of Sheffield, so no one will feel that BRH has gotten too aristocratic.

On we went. Charlie Selby and the Second Field viewed in the pasture. It was a big, red dog fox without much of a white tip but plenty healthy. Hounds found the fox in the woods and ran him all the way out to the Winston Road where they lost him in the swamp. Billy picked up the hounds and then drew the power line leading into Gordon Kincheloes' farm.

They found another fox behind Hackley's, (whose kenneled coon hounds joined in the chorus from behind their chain linked fence), and ran him through the woods. We galloped through the rocky crossing of Buck Run, down

the woods trail, over the log into the field and lickety-split up to the School Bus, over the coop and then the rails into the back pasture. There we found the hounds still running in the woods towards the pines. Lots of cry and they were pretty much all together. They put him to ground somewhere in the center of the pines.

The last fox was found near the Winston Road. He ran all the way back to Williams', through the pastures, past the corn, through the soy beans and was headed for Rte. 15 when he decided to go to ground behind the house on the hill. Billy blew him in and we all rode back to the meet feeling proud of our hounds and ourselves. Clyde and his buddies were there at the end with the pick-up truck pointing right where the fox went to ground. A pretty good day!

Stu's 75th by Paul Kraus

Holy Mackerel, man alive,
Stuart Grodd is seventy-five.
So today we make a toast
To a guy who does everything the most.
Like running and jumping on horseback, that's true,
Which explains why sometimes he's black and blue.
He's still got the strength and skill and verve
He's never been known to lose his nerve.
Going around fences is not his style--
The bigger the fence, the bigger his smile!

And though he hasn't the prettiest of faces,
He has no equal at winning paces.
When Bobby was champ, Stu said, "You schmuck,
Winning paces is all about luck."
A few years later, things had changed.
When Stu became champ, to all he explained
"Winning paces is an exacting test
Of which horse and rider are the very best.
My ribbons of blue make it plain to see
I'm the best in pacing history."

On weekdays this season, Stu's at the front.
It doesn't really matter if the hounds do hunt.
As long as there are fences and running, he's fine;
And when hunting is over, he will always opine,
"Billy gave us a really good run—
Boy oh boy, did I have fun!
My enthusiasm for jumping knows no bounds!
What's the difference if we don't follow hounds?
So many fences they couldn't be counted.
Did you happen to notice that I was well-mounted?
I jumped each fence I could find, of course;
Did you happen to notice, I had the best horse?
I cleared each jump no matter how tall
A heck of a lot better than that creep Paul!"

No Stu though you're getting long in the tooth,
You're still "the champ" and that's the truth.
You've been a great companion and friend—
May the fun and excitement never end.
And may your love of life and people stay pure,
Your zest and enthusiasm long endure.
Though the years go by, I know you won't fret—
There are still some fences we haven't jumped yet.
And we shall ride together until by God's will
We're under instead of over the hill.

Important Upcoming Dates

December 10: Christmas Party at the Clubhouse

Judy Berger is collecting donations for the live and silent auctions now. If you have questions about what to donate, call her for ideas at 540-832-0899 (before 9 p.m.).

Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation

Montpelier is now not only a historical landmark--it is a great place to adopt a retired Thoroughbred racehorse! The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF), running there since 2003, is home to more than 40 Thoroughbred retirees. Some are sponsored and some are permanent residents (including steeplechase Eclipse award winner Correggio), but most are available for adoption. There are show, foxhunting, and pleasure prospects.

These horses typically do not come straight from the racetrack, so they've had a chance to let down. There are some wonderful individuals available, with a few months to a few years of rehabilitation and retraining for a second career. Ages range from 3 to 18 years of age, with the majority of the horses being geldings.

If you are interested in adoption, volunteering, sponsoring a resident horse, or donating any horse-related items (such as blankets or tack), please contact Kim Wilkins at 540-672-3986.

*--From an article by Lisa Casinella, DVM,
submitted by Jim Craig*

From the Editor...

Please send news, tall tales, photos, or other fodder for the newsletter or Web site to editor Carole Pivarnik by email at mulelady@bullrunhunt.com (or call 540-987-8566 before 8 p.m.). To get BRH's weekly email announcements, email Cathy Marco at cathy@bullrunhunt.com and ask to be added to her mailing list.

Through the end of the year, the Web site will be getting a "fresh coat of paint" with a new look, more information online (including archived copies of newsletters and fixture cards), and new features. My plan is to update content at least monthly—or more often when there is something good to share. Visit the site frequently to see what's new. The URL is www.bullrunhunt.com.