



March 2008

Full Cry

VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DEN

By Jay Young

Great praise and kudos go out to everyone involved in the Foxhall Keene Race. Special thanks go out to the landowners, the Elkinses, Brumfield/Swann and especially the Picketts, whose property bears the burden of most of the vehicular and foot traffic. I most especially want to thank all of the volunteers that make the event possible. The course is far more spread out than a normal steeplechase race. For that reason, much more manpower is necessary to run the race. Through the work of all the volunteers and the particular expertise of the course designers, this year's entries were particularly impressive. The timing of the race lends itself to being an excellent prep race for the upcoming timber season. As a result, we had some of the finest horse and riding talent in the region participate in the race.

All of that makes the incredible victory of Geoff Hyde, Eddie McLaughlin and Kristen Fisher even more impressive. Although all three riders deserve equal congratulations for their performance, Geoff Hyde deserves particular note. First of all, he has a few years on his team-mates (I am guessing more than double that of Kristen). Post time for the grueling race was 24 hours after the commencement of the previous day's three plus hour smoking hunt. While pondering this impressive performance by Geoff, I started to think about how demanding it is to hunt three days a week in every



kind of weather, following hounds on paths that are not always defined and not always safe. Think about some of the fallen trees and limbs in the woods caused by the strong winds we have experienced this spring. Then think about galloping at full speed to keep up with your hounds not knowing what might be around a corner or on the other side of a coop. Three or more days a week, year after year.

I then started to ask around – curious about how many days Geoff has missed hunting since he became Huntsman. What I found was that Geoff has never missed a single day's hunting in his entire career as a huntsman, which spans over 17 years. So, although equal credit belongs to all three riders, I will take the liberty of raising my glass just a little higher for Geoff. I would also like to thank Lynn Staples for her generous donation to the Club of the horse Geoff rode in the event, Bear Saddle. Thanks Lynn

for your donation of such an obviously talented horse.

As I said in an E-mail to those of you who are electronically inclined – fasten your seatbelts, we are embarking on a busy and fun time for the Hunt Club. With tailgate, tent and post-race events for the Elkridge-Harford and My Lady's Manor Races there is much work to do and much fun to be had. This is also an important fund raising time for the Club when we make the money which allows us to keep our dues as reasonable as they are. Without belaboring the point made in my E-mail, it is important that all members put forth an extra effort to volunteer and assist with the upcoming races. Congratulations again to Geoff, Eddie and Kristen. Thanks for keeping the Foxhall Keene Trophy here at home where it belongs. Let's all celebrate by having a profitable, safe and fun racing season.

View From The Back

By Orsia Young

More than several years ago, Joe Davies and I engaged in a "point/counterpoint" in Full Cry. Joe was not yet married and had just moved into Sycamore. He wrote an article for Full Cry encouraging the hunt club members and landowners to panel their land with challenging fences, the way things were in the glory days. He discouraged putting in small fences next to big ones and gates and clearings near each fence for fear that the fox hunters would take the easier route and not jump the big fences.

Needless to say, I had some thoughts on the subject and wrote an article for the following month. I disagreed with Joe and advocated for smaller jumps, easily accessible gates and clearings so non-jumpers, green riders, good riders on green horses and children could hunt – and keep up - without fear of taking a helicopter ride to Shock Trauma.

The irony is that I, and my friends in the second field, now regard Joe's beautiful farm, Sycamore, as one of the friendliest and most fun meets for the second field because Joe has done exactly the opposite of what he encouraged other members and landowners to do in the past.

Good for you, Joe.

We applaud you for realizing that you can have as much of a thrill fox hunting and keeping up with the adventure by not taking unnecessary risks over bigger than necessary jumps. Sycamore is one of the few meets where the second field is actually able to stay with the Field. Sycamore encourages children and chickens (like me) to keep hunting, which in turn keeps our beloved sport alive. Please keep that in mind next time you have wood, hammer and nails in hand.

ELKRIDGE HARFORD HUNT P.C. OPEN HORSE TRIALS/ROUND ROBIN SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH



BABY NOVICE/BEG. NOVICE/NOVICE DIVISIONS
(18"-2") (2'3"-2'6") (2'6"-2'11")

AT ELKRIDGE HUNT CLUB
MONKTON, MD

ENTRY FORM ON WEBSITE:

www.elkridgeharfordponyclub.com

**Congratulations to Todd and Blair Wyatt on the birth
of their son James Farley Wyatt b: 2-14-08**

News from The Manor Conservancy

Members and friends of the hunt are no strangers to land preservation efforts. Many of us are supportive, if not quite active, behind the scenes of local land trusts and environmental stewardship groups – and that is probably an understatement! The Manor Conservancy has recently launched its website in order to improve communication and information sharing. The site address is www.themanorconservancy.org.

Among other things, the site is intended to celebrate The Conservancy's motto – "Preserving a Heritage". It is full of local photos, useful information regarding easements and land preservation tools, links to other programs and organizations, and news of related activities. The site also provides for feedback and questions. You are invited to register to receive notices of news and events and keep your memberships current. We hope you will visit!

Gallagher Services to Hold Golf Tournament

Gallagher Services, a program supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, is holding its 19th annual golf tournament at Hunt Valley Golf Club on Monday, May 5th, 2008. Gallagher Services is an exceptional program that provides services and support to meet each individual's needs and looks to the broader community to support its mission. The golf tournament includes play beginning at 12 noon followed by an open bar, awards, prizes and a buffet dinner. Gallagher Services is seeking players, ad sponsors for the tournament program and **donations for the silent auction**. If you'd like more information about Gallagher Services and how to participate in this wonderful event, please contact Chris Peddicord: 410.935.9091 or arcpostman@cs.com.

"A Sweet Addiction" or "When The needle Hits The Vein"

By Don Scott

I, as many of you, have enjoyed Bill Pierce's recount of his introduction to fox hunting. While only slightly less new to the sport, I thought it may be a decent idea to commit my first day of hunting to paper, or some other durable medium while it still fresh in my mind. Those of you who remember Eisenhower as President know what I'm talking about.

Sarah and I have lived in Monkton for 14 years or so, and have observed the hunt as you pass by, occasionally through our small farm. Sarah has been riding all her life. I started when we met in my late 30's. A little jumping, then, since she loved dressage, (now stop), I kinda went that way . . . so to speak. We have ridden dressage (stop will ya?), trained in Portugal etc, for years. Dressage and nothing but.

We slowly met members of the club, Cory and Michael, Jay and Orsia at first, and very much liked everybody. The thought of actually going fox hunting was out of the question, as we were, after all, enjoying the perfect depart, the correct half pass, a passable passage and timely tempi's. For a number of months, Jay invited me to go hunting, and although mildly curious, I respectfully demurred. Then, a week before opening day, I guess two years ago, at a party, Jay invited me again. Alcohol was being served at said party, and Jay's invitation sounded suspiciously like a dare. I accepted. I was to be a Highfields at a specific time. I would be riding Orsia's mare. A mare?, I had ridden geldings, and stallions, (wonder what that's all about). She was a proven hunter, and IF I could ride worth a lick, it would all be good. I spent the previous day getting my kit in order. I had something in my stomach I have not felt in a while - Butterflies. Big ones. Boots? check, got em. Britches, yep. Coat? Oh oh, off to buy a coat. I had most of what I needed till the day of the hunt but still no vest or stock tie. Dean and Michele Durbin bailed me out on that. All dressed, I arrived. The mare ready to go and we were off to hunt. So far so good. At the meet I saw some folks I know. Comforting.

Then, we're off. Second field. Nice canter down toward the bridge on Tom Voss's and across the road. I was settling in. The death grip on the reins relaxed, as did I. Then I heard the hounds give voice. I grew up breeding and hunting over beagles. The sound of the pack stirred memory's, good ones. The game was afoot. After my first little run we arrived on the hill across from Andor and stopped. A check, I learned it was called. See, I read every book I could read on hunting in the previous week, paying particular attention to the rules, lots of

rules, important rules. I vowed to observe the rules to the letter. I understood breaking these rules was, well, not good, the authorities may have "a word" with you. At the check there were many of us, as it was opening day, say 70ish. As I sat relaxing, I noticed a Pink Coat heading back through the second field, of which I resided comfortably at the back. "Oh, oh, looks like somebody's in for it". As the horses parted for this Moses in red, I noticed the rider was coming straight at me. Can't be. It was my host, Jay Young. Probably just checking in with me. As Jay approached, I heard him say: "Mr. Scott, would you care to join me in the first field??" GULP. Now there are occasions when time slows to a stop, and your mind races. In my mind I have "better Angels" and, lets call them, "not so good Angels." They argue with one another. "Let's go! (said one). The other said: " I haven't jumped in 15 years, and I was terrible then! C'mon sissy. What? You heard me, I said "sissy." He wins a lot of arguments that way. Then I heard my voice say "Yes, thank you". Several people covered their eyes and I swear I heard a muffled scream. Cory I think. Oh,oh.. Jay instructed me to follow him. We picked up a canter and looped out to the fence. I thought, "coop....down hill... keep an interval...hold her a bit." I was going down the check list to do all I could not to flat bugger it up. 20 strides out, straight at the middle... sit back ... heels down...rate her." THEN JAY TURNS AROUND and yells: "Now, that Mare will try to quit on ya at the first fence." Oh...my...God!!! Check list now gut check. Now I'm not sure whether the Mare quit, or I helped her, but we did. I could feel 140 eyes boring into my back. This won't do. I spun her, kicked her, and we flew over the coop.

Grab mane? I was eating mane!!

Jay, who has this unique ability to ride while looking backward, met me at the next check. "Well, now the skunk's out of the bag. Get over the first one or two fences and she's on automatic." And so it was. I think it was around the 5th or 6th fence of the day that it hit me. A warm glow. Morphine like. I fell in" like". The day was remarkable in every way, especially the encouragement from the field. I felt like I had come home. And so did the Mare. She lives with me now and is teaching me how to hunt.

Well that's my little story. Better have preceded and better will doubtless follow, but I have a particular interest in one yet to be written. See - I have noticed Sarah is spending an inordinate amount of time perusing the Horse Country catalog. A new horse showed up last week. Not for me. And he is definitely NOT a dressage horse. Thank you all. Especially those who have mentored me.

EHHC Social Calendar 2008

APRIL

Apr. 5, 2008 EHHC Point to Point
O. Young
Members and Landowners
Appreciation Party

Apr. 12, 2008 Manor Race –
Tent Party
J. Baldwin

MAY

May 9, 2008 Wrap Up Party
C. Giddings

JUNE



GSVHC

Many thanks to our gracious friends at Greenspring for rescheduling their Hunter Pace which originally conflicted with ours. The new date is April 13, 2008 at 1:00 at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Baratta 13500 Longnecker Rd. Any questions call Becky Naylor at 717-428-1043 or Sheila Brown.

HOUND SHOW SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 4 HCIBH, Damascus
MD Maryland Puppy Show
Sunday, May 25 Leesburg VA
Virginia Hound Show
Saturday, May 31 Malvern PA
Bryn Mawr Hound Show

The hounds will be staying close to home this year, so it will be easier for everyone to come out and show their support. This is a great opportunity for members to get up close and personal with the hounds. There are plenty of hounds to go in the ring at the puppy show, so we need many volunteers. Please check on the web site for details or contact Kerri Smyth at (410)666-2236 or kerrismyth@hotmail.com.



2760 Hess Rd.
Monkton MD 21111

Stay in touch with what's happening with our juniors:
www.elkridgeharfordponyclub.com



The Foxhall Keene Fox surveying the post race conditions at Andor following the weekend's activities.

Photo courtesy Turney McKnight

Manor Hill Farm

(Monkton, MD)

The "Main House" will be available for rent on August 1 for \$2,500 per month. Enjoy the privacy and tranquility of a spacious home surrounded by 250 pastoral acres. This charming traditional features a large country kitchen, formal living & dining rooms, wood-paneled family room, and fire place with pellet insert. The property offers scenic views and horse trails. Openings for full and/or field boarding may exist. For more information, please call John Baker at (410) 849-2629.

Farm For Rent

(former Polly Riggs residence)

3 BR 2.5 BA House on 26 acres in a beautiful setting in Hunt Country. 10 stall Barn can be included or leased separately.

Contact Jack Fisher

410-382-6815

Horse Trailer

I have a 2002 4 star slant load with minimal living quarters, 4 horse with back tack room for sale, \$9,000...it needs some work, but the body is in great shape. Contact me directly...

Michele Sanger 406-360-2252