

Babbling Hound

Journal of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt

Fall 2008
Volume 3 No.3
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Website: www.wwhunt.ca



Photo courtesy of Allan Harold

President's Foreword

Once again I have to thank so many fellow W-WH members for their help and support since the last issue of Babbling Hound. To try to name everyone who has given of their time over the last few months helping with all the activities and events which have taken place will only risk omission, so suffice to say "Thank you all!"

In the articles that follow you will read what has been happening, hunting and non-hunting, which show that the affairs of our hunt club continue in a healthy state.

Our website www.wwhunt.ca along with other chat sites and on-line discussion groups continue to be active conduits for enquiries about our hunt and have resulted in new members joining us. These avenues were also instrumental in publicizing and encouraging participation in our Spring Games & Horseshow, Pony Club clinic/hunt and Hunter Pace all of which were well attended by non-members who we were delighted to welcome.

We must continue to encourage young riders to sample our sport – we offer two complimentary caps per season to junior guests – as they are the future of Riding to Hounds. But let's not rule out parents as it's always good to see families riding together in the hunt field.

You will read Master Kris' comments about my carrying the horn for the time being. Firstly, let me say that it is wonderful to see Kris bouncing back to fitness and joining us in the field, with a very large smile on her face. Hunting the hounds is a task I am honoured to have been asked to fulfill and will do my very best, for as long as needed, to show you good sport, helped by regular Whippers-in - Robin Cook, Allan Harold and Jeff Peller. I must also mention the great work done by our invaluable road-whips in keeping the hounds safe – many help with this to whom we are very grateful but special mention should be made of our "regulars", Anne Peace, David Craig and

Field Secretary Lyn Sherman.

So far, hounds have cooperated and given us a successful Fall Cubbing Season. I am looking forward to the formal season with a great deal of enthusiasm. We have some varied country to hunt on Sundays including a joint-meet with Hamilton Hunt in early November and a Wednesday joint-meet with Eglinton & Caledon Hunt also in November.

One couple of our hounds has been retired from hunting and is currently residing at Pitcaple thanks to the good offices of Master Jock & Virginia. At the same time, we have taken into kennels three un-entered hounds from Eglinton & Caledon – very attractive American foxhounds who are currently joining in on

hound walks. If all goes well this new entry should be ready to hunt with us next Spring.

As usual, we continue to walk hounds on Friday mornings at 8am during hunting season and everyone is welcome to join us. Once hunting is over for the year, we will resume hound walks on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays (times to be confirmed later). These are wonderful occasions to get to know the hounds, socialize with fellow members and get some healthy exercise. Come and join us!

All that now remains is for me to wish you happy reading of this issue of Babbling Hound, once again so ably edited by Celia Stone and to wish you all Good Hunting!

Paul Sherman



Joint-Masters Message

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over! Where has the time gone? Spring hunting was marked by having some generally warm and dry weather. Fields were not as great as they were last fall and although live quarry was down as well, the hounds' noses were up to snuff and the scenting conditions were adequate to provide some long, fast and generally fulfilling drags. One of our hunts at the end of the season (a joint meet with Eglinton Caledon) had to be cancelled due to seeding of crops and shortage of space. Although the spring season is short, it does provide opportunity to keep ourselves, horses and hounds limber with a view to the longer and more energetic hunts of the fall. Those who did attend hunting in the spring were rewarded with this experience.



Following practice for the last couple of years, we held our Spring Games and Horse Show at the end of the spring season on Sunday, May 25th. The program was generally divided into a young riders' program, including a jumper show and gymkhana, in the morning with a jumper show for adults in the afternoon. There were almost 80 registrants with many more for the morning than the afternoon program. There were various excuses from adults including lack of

practice and/or timing conflicts, for not registering for the afternoon. Come on - we want to see more adults compete in this fun event next year! Especial thanks this year go once again to Pat Van Esch-Dussault for chairing this event - your knowledge of this type of show and efficiency in execution are greatly appreciated, Pat!

Continuing on equestrian activities, although it took place in the early part of the fall season, we must acknowledge the successful Pony Club hunt held during the late afternoon and evening of Wednesday, August 27th. at Pitcaple Farm. This event had taken considerable time and effort on the part of many of our members in its organization. These efforts paid off. With nearly thirty 'Pony Clubbers' from across Western Ontario Region in attendance, together with a handful of parents as well as adult members from our club, this made for a very large field. Paul Sherman blew his horn with Spirit (!) and Pat Van Esch-Dussault ably mastered the field.



Jock Buchanan-Smith aboard Monty at the Pony Club Hunt (Jackets excused!)

Following a very brief clinic, we then mounted our steeds first for a hack around the field without hounds and then for a more typical program of riding, mostly at the walk and trot, with hounds. Two successful drags were experienced and the riders had great opportunity to watch the hounds. The evening concluded with hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks on the lawn. We felt that this was a successful event that should promote our sport among 'pony clubbers' within our own club and other clubs in the region.



On the non-equestrian side of things, there have been several outstanding events in the life of our club during the past six months. It started out in early April with the Old English Feast. This was our best ever in terms of attendance and funds raised. Many thanks are due to Tommy Blake for allowing us the use of his home and to the many members of our club who

participated in putting it together. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to Paul Sherman who comes up every year with novel ideas and twists for the live and silent auctions. We don't know if he can 'better' this year's production next year! But especial thanks also to those members, as well as visitors from other hunts who participated by either donating or buying items in the auction and contributing to the upkeep of our hounds. This event is our major fund raiser of the year and without it, we would have to increase membership fees to afford the sport we love so dearly.

The landowners' barbeque at Pitcaple Farm was notable this year not just for the usual high standard of food provided by our chef and members attending but also for the number of landowners who came. When we talk to members of other hunts, we have come to realize that the landowners' barbeque forms an integral part of both establishing and maintaining territory for our riding to hounds. Based on this year's barbeque, we are fortunately on this track as well and hope to build on it with even more landowners attending in next and subsequent years.

Our annual workday at the kennels took place just a week after the Landowners' Barbeque. Attendance was off this year but it didn't seem to matter as the number of jobs possible for this sort of day was also more limited than in previous years. Thanks go to Carl Cook for having the interior of the kennels spray washed a couple of days early. We did succeed in repainting much of the

interior of the kennels and also in rebuilding some of the partitions around the hound beds with concrete blocks. Thanks to all those who did attend and help the club on this day! Before leaving the subject of the kennels, you should take note of the new metal roof that has just been installed in the last few days. All in all, the hounds have informed us that there living conditions have much improved this summer!



'Off our hunt territory', Jock and Virginia had the good fortune to attend the Canadian MFHA district hound show and Masters' meeting that was held at

Grandview Farms, home of Wolf Von Teichmann, MFH, on the shores of Georgian Bay in early June. Although our hunt hasn't had the resources in humans or time to participate in the hound show in recent years, as more resources come available, we would hope that we can show some of our best hounds at this event in future. Considerable business was discussed at the meeting including presentations by U.K and U. S. visitors on many issues relating to our sport, some of which dealt with the anti-hunting lobby. Please note elsewhere in this newsletter, Jock's report on the Amendments to Animal Cruelty Legislation in Ontario, which are under review (Bill 50). We were informed that

Covertside is going from strength to strength by increasing in size and scope. Please look for this excellent magazine in your mailboxes. In other news, the plan for a mini-festival of hunting, under the auspices of Beaver Meadow hunt, was announced for the weekend of October 24 to 26th this year. Although these dates coincide with our Annual Hunt Ball (on October 25th), we would encourage any of you who can attend any of you who can attend to hunt on Friday, October 24th at Warkworth. Anthony Gaylord, huntsman with the Montreal Hunt, will be hunting the BMH hounds on that day. Also please note that there is to be a full festival of hunting to be scheduled in Southern Ontario in the fall of 2009. In other plans, the Masters affirmed that

there is to be a hunt night at the Royal on Friday, November 7th. This is to coincide with W-WH participating, as in previous years, in the Spirit of the Horse exhibit during that day. Please come and help us during the day and participate in the hunt night that evening!

Many thanks to all of you for participating in W-WH activities, mounted and otherwise. We hope you have an enjoyable fall and look forward to riding with you in the hunt field. Foot soldiers are most welcome and encouraged to cheer on the riders, be road whips and enjoy great breakfasts!

Kris Hallman, MFH and Jock Buchanan-Smith, MFH

Trail Riding in the Rockies

Jock Buchanan-Smith MFH

Virginia and I were fortunate to partake in a trail ride in the Rocky Mountains this past August. What an exhilarating experience! We were fortunate to have great weather and great company that included our own Marcy Lowes and David Craig. David - you are a trooper! (David took riding lessons before we left and he gracefully accepted all challenges that came our way during the 6-day, 5-night experience.)

We were hosted and guided by an outfitter in Banff and our trip involved two lodges on the south side of the trans Canada

highway that goes through Banff - generally between the ski areas of Banff and Sunshine. Day one involved riding from Banff to Sundance Lodge which was a trip along straightforward trails and through mature pine and spruce forests. From Sundance, our second day saw us rise up another 1000 ft or so to Halfway Lodge, close to the base of Og Mountain. Beautiful wildflowers became more and more apparent to us as we went along. The third day was one of the most challenging. Up steep climbs and across rock screes to the Allenby Pass, above the tree line at just under 8000 ft, we went. At



this point, we were shown petrified wood and other items thrown up from the bottom of the sea as the Rocky Mountains were formed. We went down the other side of the Allenby Pass before returning to Halfway Lodge that night. The fourth day saw us return to Sundance Lodge. Then the fifth day was the most spectacular and challenging as we made up a beautiful trail along Fatigue Creek to Fatigue Mountain and through Fatigue Pass to cross the inter-continental divide into B.C. The view we got there of Mount Assiniboine was the most memorable one on the whole trip. The last day of our trip saw a weary group of 10 riders and 2 guides sadly turn our horses into corrals on the

edge of Banff.

The logistics and general organization that went into our trail ride were outstanding. To see the mule trains packed and then carry the riders' duffels, feed for riders and horses and then to be supplied with outstanding food in both lodges and for lunch every day was extraordinary. Finally, we were very well served by two excellent guides who informed us of what we saw on the trails and lead us in exemplary fashion that included a campfire sing-a-long each evening. One of our guides even took about 1000 photographs during our ride!

Other members of our hunt did a trail ride in the Rockies this summer. David and Meghan Payne



Dave Craig, bearded and astride!! Soon to be seen in the hunt field perchance?

and Christine Lehmann-Smart participated in a different trail ride but in the same general area and that also crossed the inter-continental divide.

We can't recommend this type of holiday too highly. The western saddle and lore do a lot to remind us of something we don't get enough of in riding to hounds in Ontario - great as that is! As we were driven back to Calgary Airport for our flight home, Virginia and I were saying to each other - 'why didn't we start doing this 20 or even 30 years ago?' Besides, it is a great way to let your horse at home have some more pasture before fall hunting and in the meantime adapt yourself well for the season ahead!

Tales of the Terrified Rider

Abridged from EMG postings from AMC2



Some of you might be fellow blog addicts on EMG and have been reading with delight our own Ann-Marie's progress in returning to riding and hopefully to being a vibrant member of the hunt field. When I asked to use the notes, Ann-Marie said she hoped the article will give some hope to someone like her...who

is sitting at home lamenting why they can no longer get up the courage to ride.....so remember....25 days ago she had not been able to be on a horse for years- try as she might- any horse no matter what- after losing her confidence....

June 2 – So - long story short - broke my knees a few years back- and while I recouped I developed a phobia of riding and couldn't even be lead around on a lead line. Tried everythingnothing helped... kept buying slower and slower horses- hoping to solve the problem- but still terrified sitting on a plug with a lead rope on. tried a bunch of things.....it just kept getting worse....

Decided this weekend I

would just take the hubby's Wonderhorse while he was away on business....and go on the Hamilton Hunt's Dundas Valley ride.

Goal is trail riding my big horse Doofus by the summer....

June 3 - Oh happy day!....so built on the Valley ride success with a lesson at home last night- thanks to a caring friend- who traveled over to give me a lesson on hubby's Wonderhorse.

I had originally planned to ride my big moose Doofus- but thought since I felt so safe on Duke I'd stick to him.

We did well- walked and trotted around a bit - worked on feeling in control- I wasn't nervous for even one minute....

Will ride him again this week and then maybe hop on my big lug to see if the safe feeling transfers to my big guy....

Otherwise hubby is due home from business trip tomorrow - only to find out that I have commandeered his horse and he is going to be riding my mare permanently... or the big Doofus horse.....

June 7 - Soooo excited.

Today I had wanted to go to conservation area with hubby with me riding his Wonderhorse- and him riding my mare.....'Maybe tomorrow,' he says.....

So I go into bedroom, emerge with breeches and boots on, and ask him on the way out the door- 'would you mind bringing a book and coming

outside for 1/2 hour- I'm going to ride'....(yes me....the terrified rider)....

I go out to barn- get Duke the Wonderhorse, saddle him up- by then hubby shows up in breeches and boots- (guilt is amazing thing) and says he will ride with me. I had planned only to ride in the paddock- but instead we set out down the driveway (me holding the reins with 1 hand- no fear and we cross the road- through the ditch and hack out in big open field (remember I don't do open places) I was GREAT.

Then we hack down and through our ravine- I was totally not caring about what my mare may do with hubby that may cause Wonderhorse to do anything- even when the mare he was giving him some pushback about going into a deep ditch boggy area- I passed her and rode in instead.

Finally we rode up the back trail (me leading) and then I cantered the Wonderhorse along the path and back up the hill to the barn!!!!

Outside of last Sunday's ride at Valley this is the first time in more than 3 years that I was completely comfortable and relaxed and having fun!

Can't wait to see what tomorrow brings.....!

Pretty certain that Hubby has officially lost his Wonderhorse to me. At 16 he still has lots of years left in him for me.

June 12 - Last night I decided it was a lovely day and I should be riding- asked the hubby- but he had somewhere else to be.....almost stayed in and worked.

But then decided what the

heck- got my breeches on went out and got hubby's Wonderhorse and saddled him up - rode down the drive by myself- and yelled in for my daughter to come and open the jumper ring and stay outside with me. Rode WT and a few minutes of canter- in the ring for about 30 min- then rode him back alone and it was great.

My poor gentle giant Doofus. He meets me at the gate when I go into get the Wonderhorse every day.....comes over and just stands by me and snuggles me....I'm sure he is thinking.....mom....take me...I am really good too! But for now- I'm sticking to the Wonderhorse as it seems like I'm not so afraid.

Next going to try another trail ride on Saturday afternoon- weather permitting....fingers crossed

June 15 (10 am) It's Sunday morning- yes its fathers' day. but hubby put off riding with me yesterday- so he's had his breakfast in bed and as soon as he emerges from the bedroom- we are going off together on a nice long trail ride- (me on Duke the Wonderhorse- and Hubby on 'Tay the stunning but prima donna mare-

June 15 (6 pm) - ok we are back- safe and sound- and SOOOO HAPPY.

What a perfect day for a ride in the conservation area. Duke the Wonderhorse gave me an uncharacteristic fight at the first bridge- after my mare that hubby was riding refused the bridge- usually this would reduce me to a mess- but I asked, I told, I made- but when push game to shove- I hopped off- walked him over the

bridge and got back on- did this after a brief fight on the 1st 2 bridges then we was like- whatever- and was trotting over the bridges.

We had a blast- walk trot and in some open areas where there was no one around- we cantered up a few hills.

I even took the lead a bit as the Wonderhorse doesn't care much about anything where the mare hubby was on was hadn't been there before so was taking in the bikes, and people, and dogs and bridges, and people with kids in wagons etc. she was very good though.

It was perfect- about 2 hours- nice day- horses and we were happy and tired.

Planning a horse camping trip.

June 15 (7 pm) I'm so excited- I just booked 2 nights at Sandaraska- can't believe 2 weeks ago I wouldn't ride on the lead line for the last 3 years and today I was cantering around the conservation area, and booked 2 days riding somewhere I've never ridden before.

Asked 2 friends to come with us and offered her hubby my big Doofus horse- my hubby says he will ride my mare- and I can ride the Wonderhorse again! I'm soooo excited. I won't be able to concentrate on work the next 2 weeks- I don't even LIKE camping.

Hoping this winning streak continues!

June 25 Latest news.....didn't get to ride this weekend- weather and busy being a groom at my daughter's horse show left me no time....told hubby-

last night- no excuses I'm coming home and we are riding- left mid meeting from work to catch the train home.

Ran in, changed my clothes and headed out with hubby on my mare.....and me on - of course- hubby's Wonderhorse Duke.

Happily hopped up- didn't have a flutter when he walked off as I was mounting- then headed off for about 1 1/2 hours in the countryside here- trotted and then cantered along in open wheat field- (open spaces was my biggest problem).....didn't fuss when Wonderhorse opened up a bit to catch up with the mare in a field- (he is not accustomed to being 2nd).

When my mare wouldn't go past something for my hubby- I happily braved the scary item on the Wonderhorse...rode home a bit on the road- didn't flinch when the crazy drivers sped past- had a few seconds of reasonable worry as we were cantering back home in a big open field- I say reasonable as I wasn't worried about losing control- but rather had a brief moment where I didn't feel like I had the best secure seat- reasonable...it has been a LONG TIME since I cantered a horse across an open uneven field- I just jammed my heels down and enjoyed the ride.

Hopefully a few more rides this week- then off we go camping....

July 5 - just updating to say we are back from our camping trip in Ganaraska...what a month this has been, from terrified leadline to camping with horses and riding trails with dirt bikes...even did a little

bit of cantering (still a bit nervous at the canter)

Even did a bit of leading and what my husband called maniacal trotting for a very long time.....

Loving riding hubby's Wonderhorse.....friend's hubby rode my big Doofus horse and of course he was a charmer too. My mare did very well- was a bit unsure of the dirt bikes but was a trooper.

Very fun! Loving being back in the saddle again...

July 12 - hello- latest update from the (NOT SO) terrified rider.....

this morning my daughter wasn't up to her dressage lesson with Awesome coach....due to her having a root canal yesterday and having her braces adjusted too.....so I figured...what the heck...need to pay the coach anyway...will get up and pack up hubby's Wonderhorse and take him and have a dressage lesson.

Awesome coach expresses surprise that horse has changed colour and style (Wonderhorse is a buckskin male, not a friesian wb mare).... then agrees to give me a lesson instead of daughter...

We didn't do too much- just some walk and trot- but time well spent and I was comfortable and confident.

July 13 - another success today.... Late this afternoon- hubby and I took the Wonderhorse and the mare- to the Dundas Valley for a nice ride - we rode for close to 2 hours today- main loop and a few of the other trails- walk trot and some cantering.....even wandered off the trail (don't tell) to the stream to give my horse a drink and won

the battle of walking into the stream.

Great day- felt very confident.

Hubby once again had to ride my mare (I know poor thing- having to ride the stunning friesian warmblood- but she was certainly way more looky at bikes and bridges than the Wonderhorse....

Another win!

July 14 - don't know quite why things are turning around- but no doubt it is thanks to me finally accepting that I happily recommend the Wonderhorse to everyone's hubby etc that wants to start riding- or maybe it was just "time".

Even was ok with the battle into the creek in the conservation area which was pretty major for me....

I'm thinking maybe hunt field in the fall too...hill toppers at least...maybe will convince friend's hubby that Doofus's dance card has his name on it....and we will all ride together- the booze cruise in the back.... I think a bit about riding other horses...but don't want to mess with success...when and if I bore of the Wonderhorse...I will try Doofus or maybe when I'm really back to myself....I'll try my WB mare in a lesson maybe....

So excited.....anyone who is experiencing the same problem as me...there is hope!

July 20 - This weeks challenge for the (not so) terrified rider.....a dressage lesson Saturday on the Wonderhorse with amazing coach....(Wonderhorse is NOT a dressage pony!)

then have signed up to ride the one walk trot test at the Cadora show on Sunday.....

My daughter is riding anyway on my friesian mare so I figured rather than just going to watch I'll bring the Wonderhorse and ride...

Hopefully we won't unexpectedly exit the ring!

July 27 - Ok, did the lesson with amazing dressage coach....much to my daughters chagrin I brought Duke the Wonderhorse to my daughter's lesson to have a lesson after she was done.....

Wonderhorse was quite the handful being left behind at the trailer while my mare was off having a lesson - and that made the mare less attentive during the lesson. Daughter unimpressed.

Once I had a short lesson, we made progress.

Goal number 2 this week was to take the Wonderhorse and go to the Cadora show in the walk trot....47% score...but went to the show-he was busy calling and carrying on in the class so the 47% was well deserved....but I was

amazingly not nervous- so I consider it a win....

This weeks goals?...hmmm I think maybe a trail ride ..

August 3 - Had gone through the week without getting a chance to ride- Saturday morning - hubby was heading off to the gym and I just didn't feel like it....so sitting in front of the TV- offered my 16 year old daughter to grab our mare and I would take her and I to the conservation area....

Now I usually don't ride with her as she is a bit more of a nervous rider- and I don't need any help pushing me over the edge- but we packed up the horses in 15 min flat-hopped over to the valley and rode for close to 2 hours.

We had a blast- I wasn't nervous for a second. What a great day!

...don't know if I am in the clear yet- but I can say- the right horse- is the key- that doesn't mean the slowest horse per say- as I have tried to ride alot of them- rather find a horse that you trust with your life- your kids, your friends who are non riders- that is hubby's Wonderhorse- and so far- cross fingers - so good.



Ann-Marie aboard Duke "The Wonderhorse"

Hunt Season Cut Short By Injury —Pat Van Esch-Dussault

My wonderful cross bred, Frisco Bay, sustained an injury that was discovered right after the second week of Fall Hunting, last year. Frisco is a 19 year old Clyde/French Coach/Hackney cross that I've owned for 12 years. He and I have been part of the Wellington-Waterloo Hunt since 2001 and have never had an injury while out in the hunt field, or anywhere else for that matter.

So, it was with little worry after a Stratford Hunt that I noticed a slight filling up and swelling in the left front tendon area. There was not a lot of heat and Frisco appeared sound at all gaits. A few days of rest were called for (along with the usual topical lotions and potions and wraps that we owners like to use so we think we are doing something to help) but after a week or so, the tendon looked worse.

I decided to give him more time and simply did a little hacking at the walk and trot to keep him happy and somewhat legged up for when we returned to the hunt field. After 2 weeks of this the tendon still showed no improvement. It was fat in the middle and reminded me of a bowed tendon but the swelling was sideways rather than out as in a bowed tendon.

I decided it was time for an ultrasound. So early October, 4 weeks after seeing the initial swelling (don't forget, this horse was sound the whole time), I took him to the vet. The resulting ultrasound showed a 1 1/2" tear along the check ligament! The vet was

amazed to see this as he believed the horse should have been dead lame at the time of the injury.

Right away 6 weeks of full stall was prescribed with only 20 minutes hand-walking a day. Frisco handled the stall rest amazingly well with no medicinal help what so ever. I had the ultrasound done again in January and it showed progress in healing. The vet looked at the fiber patterns and for

any open areas that may show that the tendon was not knitting properly but all looked well so we started our rehab program. It took 8 weeks for us to reach the 45 minutes of walking stage. It was another 7 weeks before we were allowed to canter for 5 minutes and another 7 weeks after that before we were allowed to even think about schooling and jumping again. The whole time the only thing that was done to the leg was a

ceramic wrap applied for 12 hours every day. This was done to help with healing as it provided heat to the area. I liked the ceramic wrap because there were no topical applications of any ointments; it was airy, yet warm and did not bother Frisco to have it on everyday for months.

During that whole time I was cautioned that these injuries are hard to predict and that Frisco may never be back to 100% and able to jump and get back into the hunt field. Well I'm very happy to report that Frisco and I jumped a 2'3" course last week and he is happy and completely sound these days.

I believe that the long rest period and gradual build-up of the rehab program contributed greatly to the ligament being well healed and sound. The ligament/tendon area is still fat (I think it will always be so) and it will always be a weak area for the horse as the fibers don't fully repair themselves back to their original strength. I cannot say Thanks enough about the support, care and genuine concern shown by the owner and staff of Waymark Farm; they were absolutely great the entire time.

Frisco Bay will not go back into the competitive jumper ring and he'll not be the 3-4 hour hunt horse anymore but there is still plenty of spit and vinegar in him and I look forward to having him out in the hunt field again this fall, albeit for a shorter time but still having a GREAT time as he always does.



Vet's Rehab Plan

Walk work can include light "schooling", on the bit, 3 tracks, stick to firm level footing, either road or sand ring. Under saddle is generally safer than in hand. Use Ace or other tranquilizer as needed.

Week 1, 2: 15 minutes walking

Week 3, 4: 20 minutes

Week 5, 6: 30 minutes

Week 7, 8: 45 minutes

From week 9 onwards, under saddle for 1 hour, can start moving over light "terrain" when walking

Week 9: Include 5 minutes of trot-straight lines, large circles

Week 10: 2x5 minutes trot

Week 11, 12: 2x10 minute trot sessions

Week 13: 2x15 minute trot sessions

Week 14, 15: Introduce short canter sessions (max 5 minutes total) and more intensive trot schooling

Week 16, 17: Longer canter sessions (max 10 mins broken up)

Week 18,19: As per 16, 17, can trot over light terrain

Week 20: Start light jump schooling

Week 24: Conditioning can resume

Spring Games Report — Pat Van Esch-Dussault

May 2008 was much kinder to our Spring Games and Horse Show than was 2007. We had a beautiful day for the event and a great turnout.

The Mini-Pace was a real hit with 51 entries and from what I could see, all had a good time. Robin Cook did an excellent job in creating and grooming the mock 'Hunt' and trails and we owe her many thanks!

The Musical ride by the Mount Nemo Pony Club was here again this year and it's a feature that really adds to flavor and success of the day. We enjoyed watching the riders perfecting their skills to music and making it look oh so easy!

The Gymkhana was very ably run by Anne Peace again this year and we cannot thank her enough for all the effort put into setting up the ring and all the associated items needed to run a gymkhana. She was also the ring master and if you've ever had to herd cats you'll know...it's a big job! It is this author's view that this event was really a hit with the youngsters...and with the oldsters who got a chance to pit themselves against some very tough competition! With 24 participants, it was a happening place and smiles were seen all

around!

Next up was the Hunter Trials portion of the day. Entries in the green/novice classes were up from last year but entries in the traditional Hunt classes...Pairs, Teams and Versatility were somewhat disappointing. The Show committee will need to do a little more work to understand why but my feeling is that we missed quite a few of our regular members this year and perhaps these types of classes are not understood by the general public (or perhaps everyone had such a good time with the pace and gymkhana that there was nothing left over:!) That would be a good problem!

We instituted a new class this year - the Gunnar's Run Cup. Generously sponsored by Pat and Beth Uptegrove, the winner of this special class won \$50.00 and will be the first name to be engraved

WELLINGTON-WATERLOO HUNT: 2008 SPRING GAMES & HORSE SHOW - RESULTS

CLASS	PLACE	NAME	HORSE NAME
MINI- PACE	(Optimum = 48m 21s) +/- OPTIMUM		
	1	Charlotte Palmer-Benson	
		Christopher Kerr	+ 0:10
	2	Courtney Hatton	
		Shannon Crocker	- 0:43
	3	Rebecca Mottin	
		Erica Diefenbaker	- 0:44
NOVICE			
Junior	1	Jessica Ritchie	Dollar
	2	Jacklyn Brown	Dixie Chick
	3	Annie McKay	No Matter What
Senior	1	Susan Morrison	Raven
	E	Monika Stevens	Curly
LOW HUNTER			
Junior	1	Keshia Krucker	Kashmir
	2	Sophie Grapentine	Andy
	3	Paighton Smythe	Victory Matters
Senior	1	Shirley Szilvasy	Paris Jet
	2	Nakita Krucker	Milton
	3	Paul Cary	Archers Salute
OPEN HUNTER			
Senior	1	Sara Pedersen	Incognito
	2	Colin Peace	Heidi
	3	Melanie Mireault	Caught You Looking
VERSATILTY			
Senior	1	Melanie Mireault	Caught You Looking
	2	Sara Pedersen	Cedar
GUNNAR'S RUN			
Senior	1	Colin Peace	Heidi
	2	Melanie Mireault	Caught You Looking
	3	Sara Pedersen	Incognito
PAIRS			
	1	Keshia Krucker	Kashmir
	1	Nakita Krucker	Milton
	2	Sophie Grapentine	Andy
	2	Monika Havelka	Betsy
	3	Sara Pedersen	Incognito
	3	Melanie Mireault	Caught You Looking
JUNIOR CHAMPION SENIOR CHAMPION (Joint)		Keshia Krucker	Kashmir
		Sara Pedersen	Incognito
		Melanie Mireault	Caught You Looking

Pony Club Hunting Clinic – Staff

A field of over 40 horses turned out on August 27th for our first ever Pony Club Hunt Clinic. With participants ranging in age from 7 to 70 this event was open to members of the Pony Club and their parents and was generously hosted by Jock and Virginia Buchanan-Smith at Pitcaple Farm.

Highlighting the field were three generations of the Peace family with Colin, Dawn and Jazmin all mounted.

Recognizing that many hunt members are graduates of the Pony Club, our Hunt executive felt we could encourage future members through providing an opportunity to learn about our sport and experience a small sampling with their horses. Extending the invitation to the parents hopefully relieved some misconceptions about the 'pace' and demonstrated that hunting can be as safe a riding sport as any.

Pat Van Esch-Dussault

led the field, beginning with a controlled walk through a fenced field and then leading the group out across the territory.

A small pack of 4 ½ couple was hunted through two drags and the field was perfectly situated to enjoy a view of the hounds working.

The biggest success of the day was the absence of any incidents with over excited horses or altercations with hounds. Nevertheless, everyone

got a taste of how their horses react to being assembled as a herd and to having hounds quietly appear nearby or bound away in full cry.

An elated field was admittedly disappointed when the Huntsman Called-In the hounds and Pat led us back to the house after an hour, another hour would not have been too much. Hopefully this tantalizing taste will lure many back to try the real thing.



From The Vet By: *Colin Peace, M.A., Vet. M.B., M.R.C.V.S.*



Do we really need to vaccinate? Do we need insurance? It all depends on you but first perhaps we should weigh up the facts. Some diseases kill, some maim and others are just an inconvenience.

Let's take **Tetanus**, This is a disease caused by an organism which lives in the soil. *Clostridium Tetani*.

When soil containing the bacteria gets into a deep puncture wound, along with other pus forming organisms and the wound goes septic, oxygen gets used up and the site becomes anaerobic. Under these conditions the *Clostridium Tetani* organisms produce a neural toxin which escapes from the wound crosses the

blood and settles in the nerve tissues of the brain. The nerves to the muscles become involved and the muscles go into spasm. As the condition progresses the animal cannot use its limbs and facial muscles and this progresses to the chest and in days death follows. With treatment, some do hang on and can recover

but it's not a good prognosis. There is a good, reasonably cheap vaccine which works if given regularly once a year after the initial two dose primary course.

Rabies used to be very common. 25 years ago, Ontario was the capital of the world for the disease seeing more than 2000 cases annually. The Swiss developed an oral vaccine that could be dropped by aeroplane over the mountains and forests of first Europe and now worldwide. The disease is caused by a virus which affects the brain and is usually spread in animals' saliva. Bites and contamination of wounds are the common method of spread. The nasty thing is that if the disease develops in the recipient there is usually no cure. One or two people are believed to have survived but it used to be the one disease for which human euthanasia was permitted. There were just over twenty cases in Ontario last year, in fox, skunk, raccoon, dog, cat and cattle. Horses have been infected quite commonly due to their inquisitive nature. Once infected, the horse often presents with a nervous type of colic. Once again there is a reasonably cheap and effective vaccine available from several different companies which usually requires yearly boosting in the horse.

West Nile Virus. Although this disease has been known since the first half of the last century in Africa and Egypt where it

apparently recurred every few years along the banks of the Nile, it suddenly appeared in epidemic form in central Europe in the late 1990s and within a couple of years arrived in North America with disastrous results. Over 100 horses died in Ontario but something like 10,000 to 15,000 died in the USA. Fortunately the major drug companies responded with new vaccines which have proven highly successful. It is not surprising that the equine insurance companies have now incorporated West Nile Virus vaccination into their requirement before underwriting equine health risk. The disease is caused by a virus which is spread by certain strains of mosquito who in turn collect it from a variety of wildlife reservoirs. Fortunately, whether from the wide vaccination coverage or from nature's natural variation, we now have very few cases each year. The insurance companies are still requiring WNV vaccination before accepting our premiums.

Equine Influenza has been around for a long time. Before vaccination the flu would arrive in areas of dense equine population. Some animals appeared to have immunity while the susceptible ones picked up the infection in hours or days, coughed, went off feed for a day or two, and then recovered surprisingly quickly. In racing stables, training was held up for two weeks. This disease is rarely a killer but can rumble on. Nowadays

there seem to be many different strains and the immunities provided by the vaccines do not always work. In recent years different immunostimulants have become popular with varying success. There are several different vaccines produced including some given intranasally.

Rhinopneumonitis is different but similar to influenza. There are different strains and the disease comes in three main forms. The common indoor show strain presents as a nasal cold which may take several weeks to leave a stable. Then there is the plague of the broodmare farms which arrives as an abortion storm when several mares lose their foals often a couple of months after contact with animals from the shows sales or racetracks. The third form, the neurological presentation, is rare but often lethal and a relatively new problem. The problem with this disease complex is that the vaccines are not terribly effective, need boosting frequently and sometimes produce local and even systemic reactions.

Strangles is still here. It is caused by a bacteria *Streptococcus Equi*, and is another very infectious respiratory condition. The horse usually runs a high temperature 104 F (40 C) goes off his feed and within one or two days develops hot, hard abscesses either behind the angle of the jaw or under the mandibles. The horses may have a

nasal discharge and feel very miserable until the abscess bursts, after which the horse feels better but the poor attendant has a messy infectious lesion to keep clean for several weeks before it dries up. There seem to be some forms of strangles which do not produce the open wounds. Vaccination is by both nasal and intramuscular inoculation and there are mixed veterinary opinions as to the usefulness of both types of vaccine.

We have covered the main diseases but there are more - each of which can be a worry if you and your horse become involved. These are listed but you should discuss all of them with your vet and together plan your programme. Equine Arteritis, Potomac Fever, Eastern and Western Encephalitis. Each of these has its own vaccine.

When you weigh it all up, Tetanus, Rabies and West Nile Virus top the list, for the show people Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis are useful but need keeping up. For the other diseases, it depends on the year and problem of the moment, but remember, nearly all vaccines take eight to fourteen days to stimulate a defense and for those animals who have not been vaccinated for certain diseases, if the primary course is two injections there may not be much resistance for several days after the second injection.

MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS OF NORTH AMERICA BIENNIAL STAFF SEMINAR: RENO, NEVADA April 18 – 20, 2008

As announced by the Joint-Masters at the last Hunt Ball and thanks to subscription by members of Wellington-Waterloo Hunt, long-time Whippers-in Robin Cook and Paul Sherman were given the opportunity of attending this event. Here are some of their observations.

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Firstly, we would like to thank all our fellow members for providing us with this memorable trip. In any organization, for a volunteer to be acknowledged is always appreciated but the magnitude of this particular recognition was very special as it allowed us to attend this unique edition of the Biennial MFHA Staff Seminar.

What made the 2008 version unique was that a hunt had been arranged for those who wished to participate on the Friday before.

The normal format is for Masters to have their sessions on Saturday, a party for all on Saturday evening and seminars on Sunday. So lesser mortals like us would travel to arrive for the Saturday night festivities to meet and mingle with like minded foxhunters from all round North America and further afield. The fact that we were invited to hunt with Red Rock Hounds on Friday meant that we needed to be in situ at Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada by

Thursday evening, necessitating a full day's travel from Toronto, lugging our saddles with us - a small price to pay for the wonderful experience which lay ahead.

Approaching the airport at Reno, wonderful views of the Sierra Nevada mountains were breathtaking as, perhaps, this photo taken from the aircraft will show.....



and on checking-in into our rooms we were treated to yet more eye-catching vistas.....



Friday morning saw us up at 5am to be ready to leave in time to reach Red Rock's kennels by 7am. We had been told that we would then go in convoy to arrive in good time for the 9am Meet where our liveried horses would be awaiting us. Plan "A"!!

It transpired that so many riders had asked to hunt that it would be an almost impossible task to gather enough borrowed horses

– about eighty were needed! – anywhere except the Kennels. So, having arrived as instructed by 7am we found we had plenty of time to finish dressing, find our assigned horses and tack-up before the Meet without the need to convoy off somewhere else. Plan "B". This was no bad thing as with so many horses needed we found a motley selection of mostly working cow-ponies, many of which had not felt English tack on their backs before. While everyone there was, of course, extremely grateful to all the local owners for lending their horses to be liveried for the hunt, the tacking-up, mounting and warm-up provided for some interesting athletic performances from horses and riders alike, in some cases accompanied by interesting colloquial expostulations in a variety of North American (and the occasional British!) dialects and accents. It's amazing how genteel the most colourful of language can sound in an elegant southern drawl coming from a perfectly turned-out hunting lady!



Having, eventually, all participants mounted and for the most part in control your W-WH

representatives joined the rest of The Field to enjoy the traditional Stirrup-Cup and welcoming remarks by MFH and Red Rock Huntsman, Lynn Lloyd.

Red Rock Hounds was founded and registered with MFHA by Lynn Lloyd in 1980: The first foxhunt in the state of Nevada. It became a MFHA recognized hunt in 1987. Before forming Red Rock Hounds, Lynn Lloyd gained foxhunting experience in the UK (1968) and founded her first foxhound pack in Pennsylvania, the Berry Hollow Hunt, in 1974. More information is available on their website: www.redrockhounds.com

Hunting coyote in the high dessert was a totally different experience for most of the eighty or so visitors hunting that day. One seldom rides in a Field of a hundred or so riders (including local members) behind a pack hounds numbering almost fifty couple – virtually Red Rock's entire kennel population of American foxhounds. As you can imagine, the country is mountainous, at times rising to over a thousand feet above sea-level and it is not unheard of for the pack to split on different quarry with the two halves on different sides of a very large hill – really a small mountain. Although it didn't happen to us, on those occasions, two separate hunts develop: One with the Huntsman and one with the First

Whipper-in, both carrying horns but with little danger of interfering with each other due the vastness of the country and the natural baffling effect of the intervening mountains.



One great advantage of the country was that the Field was able to climb to high vantage points which allowed for some terrific sightings of hounds working on the lower slopes and in the valleys. It was also very unusual for us to be able to witness hounds feathering up a steep slope rising

steadily for several hundred feet. While following hounds we came across a small herd of Mustangs grazing on the slopes – yet another opportunity for the cameras to come out.



After about two and a half hours we checked for a second Stirrup-Cup where there was water for hounds and horses and a variety of cold beverages for the Field – most welcome!



Quite soon, the hunt continued but it was not long before some local members offered to guide those who wished it back to the Meet. For the rest of us, it was onwards and upwards – literally! Upon our eventual return to the Meet, after five and a half hours hunting, we all agreed that, despite not finding, it had been a memorable and exciting experience – one that it will take a long time to forget – if ever.

We were entertained to a fine Breakfast in Red

Rock's clubhouse and were able to meet and talk to many new friends about the day and compare notes about our different hunts and the way things are done in different hunt countries.

More reminiscences about the MFHA Staff Seminar in Reno, Nevada will appear in the next issue of Babbling Hound. In the meantime, more pictures can be seen on Paul's Facebook page by going to:

<http://www.new.facebook.com/album.php?aid=22836&l=c77da&id=646609029>

Once again, our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this trip possible for us.

Robin & Paul

Notes From The Huntsman - The Season That Never Ended -Kris Hallman

That's how I look back on the spring hunt season...I was having a great time, everything was going along as it should.

To keep my mortality in perspective, I was thrown a curve, the day before I was to host/hunt the spring hunt from Lexington Farm. One minute I was clearing the path in the sugar bush across the road, the next, I was on the ground with the sinking knowledge that I wasn't going to get out under my own steam. Things that I learned while flat on my back...

- We are not immortal, and yes, always, always wear a helmet! (This didn't help my tailbone

one little bit.)Horses, are still dumb animals

- Always carry a cell phone when you go out for a hack. Years ago, in the 70's before cell phones, I always hung a "hack plan" on my horse's stall door. Someone would find me...eventually!
- If you leave your tack in your trailer for a couple months, it gets pretty green...yikes
- You don't have to die to know who your friends are, just have a nasty spill, and you realize how many good people there are in your immediate world.

Thank goodness for Paul

Sherman, ready to take the horn! The years of whipping in and exercising the hounds have stood him well. The hounds have responded to him well, and his dear horse Spirit has put up with the change of pace, along with many hounds clamouring around her heels. Trust me, not every horse welcomes that kind of attention.



Now that I've successfully cantered on my ol' faithful K2, (skinny, and easier on

the back), I feel that I'm well on my way back to the hunt field. Cannon has been eating well, and his girth is wider than it's ever been. Until he and I am fit, I am very happy that Paul is enjoying hunting the hounds, and in the meantime, I will take up Gord's position of outrider, a part of the safety crew, ensuring that there's no one left behind during our hunts. Every perspective of a hunt is interesting, and to see what goes on at the rear of the field is just as interesting as the thruster's view. Tally ho, wherever we are!

Bill 50: Amendments to Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act – Jock Buchanan-Smith MFH

I would like to draw the attention of our readers to Bill 50, concerning Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which goes before the Ontario Legislature for third reading within the next few weeks. The amendments are designed to improve animal welfare in Ontario through closing loopholes in existing legislation. For example, they propose to forbid the sport of animal fighting. This is well and good. The difficulty that many of us in the foxhunting community have had with the proposed amendments is that they are very vague in defining activities such as animal fighting. Further, the amendments would set up process for appointing a Chief Inspector and Agents who would have the power of a police officer to stop an undesirable activity and lay charges to those involved.

Is a hound killing a fox or

coyote animal fighting?

The amendments are very vague in the sense that in one section, they state that 'No person shall cause an animal to be in distress' but in another that refers to this one, it states that the amendments 'do not apply to native wildlife and fish in prescribed circumstances or conditions'. Provincial acts and regulations in Ontario permit hunting but the legislation does not carry a guarantee that those who are hunting animals lawfully under this legislation would be exempt from these amendments.

To police these activities, the amendments would appoint a Chief Inspector, who in turn would appoint agents to evaluate what is cruelty and what is not. These people would have police powers without appropriate training. They could act on a personal point-of-view or on a whim.

This could have catastrophic impacts on how the new legislation would be enforced.

For further details, a copy of the proposed amendments is on the following website:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/committee-proceedings/committee_business.do?locale=en&BillID=1979&CommID=7348&ParlCommID=8855&BusinessType=Bill&detailPage=references

What has been done to rectify these issues with the proposed legislation? The Canadian MFHA under leadership of Dr. Ron House, MFH (Eglinton & Caledon Hunt) presented a brief at Committee hearings into these amendments that were held in July. Care was taken not to identify the brief with foxhunting or riding to hounds specifically. There

were separate letters forwarded by other hunters to the committee. If you feel so concerned, I would urge you to submit a letter of your own to your MPP.

Is this the beginning to the end of our sport? Likely not. We all have observed instances of animal cruelty and inadequate welfare of animals in our lives and this should be stopped. However, from the tone of these amendments one can detect the hand of people who wish to see live hunting of animals eventually banned. Although we are a drag hunt, our hounds do hunt live and what affects live hunting will likely impact drag hunting in some fashion.

If you have any questions or comments on this legislation, I would love to hear from you. My email is: beeftech@buchanan-smith.com.

Upcoming Events

Monday October 13
Saturday October 25
Friday November 7
Sunday December 14th
Sunday January 11 2009

Thanksgiving Day Hunt
W-WH Ball
Royal Agriculture Winter Fair
W-WH Christmas Party
W-WH Annual General Meeting

Lexington Farm
Galt Golf & Country Club
W-WH participating
Badenoch Community Centre
Badenoch Community Centre