

Metamora Hunt Newsletter

December, 2010

www.metamorahunt.com

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Tip of the Month:

By Joseph Maday, MFH

If you get lost or separated from the hunt, go directly to the nearest public road. Stay on the public roadways until you are able to rejoin the field. If you were to wander through the countryside looking for the hunt, you might trespass on land that is not open to the hunt, or you might find yourself interfering with scent, hounds, or Staff.

If you need to retire early from the hunt, you must ask your Fieldmaster for permission. Your Fieldmaster is responsible for your safety, and must know where you are while out hunting. When retiring early, your Fieldmaster will give you directions away from the hunt that will not interfere with the day's sport and be acceptable to the landowners.

Hounds & Hunting

By Joe Kent, MFH

While October's fall colors provide a spectacular backdrop for [fox hunting](#), and November's cool weather stirs the hunter in us all, the season's best action often comes in December. That's because male foxes are now traveling far and wide looking for females to mate. Their travels make for the stuff of great hunting days and memories that will carry us through to next season.

Interestingly, one of the only and best studies ever undertaken in the U.S. was carried out in the 1950s by none other than the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#). The results were published in a small book that is somewhere in my bookcase and, I believe, still in print. Researchers tagged and monitored male "dog" foxes and documented travels up to 50 miles. The tagged foxes maintained a network of dens and stops along the way. It appeared as though they remembered and re-used each one. Think about that the next time that you look out across a moonlit, snow covered forest. It is probably alive with activity.

Changes to our pack have more or less been completed with the November arrival of three puppies from the [Battle Creek](#) Hunt and seven entered hounds from the [Orange County](#) Hunt where Adrian was Huntsman before moving on to Deep Run.

The puppies (Flint, Flash, and Flapjack) were sired by a full brother to Metamora Razor. The dam also goes back to Metamora lines, most notable Metamora Cooper 1992, a wonderful hound that excelled both in the field and "on the flags". We have a recent history of trading breedings and puppies back and forth with the Battle Creek Hunt, with great fun and benefit to both clubs.

Safety First:

By Bob Carden

Start Stopping Sooner!

All of us should be keenly aware of what is going on with the horses ahead of us. Whether on a screaming run, or just trotting along to the next check, we all need to be vigilant about our responsibility to stop safely. You should be able to stop your horse a full horse length behind the rider in front of you. Using the rump of the horse ahead of you as an emergency brake is a good way to get yourself or your horse kicked, or possibly hurt someone else. Be aware and stay safe out there!

Looking Your Best:

By Guest Columnist

Priscilla Tuttington, QFP
The Doubtfire Hunt, UK

As much as I have enjoyed my stay with all of you in Metamora, the call of my Homeland has prompted me to return to England. My travel was most harmonious, with the exception of some rather intimate attention from the TSA people in your airports. I have not experienced such a ruffling of my feathers since the passing of my beloved husband, the Major.

I should think that each of you will be making a Christmas list of what you might like to see under the tree for yourself this year. If you might ask for a new helmet, do be sure to ask for one that is covered with plain

We are hugely fortunate and grateful for the Orange County hounds and their immediate contribution. Orange County Jamjar 2003 played a key role in [Thanksgiving](#) Day's exciting coyote run only a week after arriving in Metamora. Not bad for a hound that is in her seventh season. We look with much excitement for these "Modern American" hounds to take our pack and breeding program in a slightly new direction. Interestingly, our pack was entirely of this hound variety in the 1950s when Gene Lasher was Huntsman here. American hounds are generally smaller and more sensitive than crossbreds and require quiet skill and careful handling by Staff. But those who advocate the type make a compelling case for their ability to find and follow scent under widely varying conditions, and then stay in pursuit for hours despite whatever dense undergrowth or other challenging terrain that they encounter.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the joint meet with the London Hunt in Ontario. We enjoyed our first visit to their vast and gently rolling Exeter hunt country to the north of London. Hospitality was, as always, over the top with a lovely dinner the night before and lunch after in a deer hunting lodge adjacent to trailer parking. New friends were made and old ones revisited. Great fun for all despite windy and challenging scenting conditions.

Additional News:

Holiday Tables in Hunt Country: December 3-5th.:

You are invited to attend this interesting charity event to benefit Banbury Cross this weekend. Top and Sandy Cornell have graciously offered their home (Windward Farm, on Hendrie, east of the corner of Hendrie and Gardner) for the event. [Friday night](#) will be a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, \$50 per person. Each room of the house will be decorated by a member of the community and a table setting will be the focus. Tickets are also available for Saturday and Sunday, \$20 per person. Contact Kathleen Whitman: [810-516-1546](tel:810-516-1546).

Hunt Ball: The date for the Hunt Ball is [Saturday, January 29th](#). We have a new location! The Hunt Ball will be held at the fabulous Devil's Ridge Golf Club. We will have a new band this year and an open bar! Please set this evening aside and please plan on bringing some friends for dining, dancing, and fun. For information, please contact Marcia Turner ([810-796-](tel:810-796-)

velvet rather than one with a stripe of some sort down the middle. I understand that those helmets are fashionable in the show ring as of now, but they always remind me of the striped head of a badger! Ladies, if you are asking for some stock ties for Christmas, do make sure that they are not the pre-tied style. Learning to tie a proper stock is one of the benchmarks of a fox hunter and you will look beautiful with a proper tie and pin.

Merry Christmas to you all. Do make me proud of each and every one of you by looking your very best while out hunting this month.

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Hunt Photos: We are most fortunate to have some talented and devoted photographers that cover many of our hunts. To view the work of Photographer Peter Gilles just click on: www.metamoraphoto.com and then click on Recent Events. Additional photos may be viewed on the Metamora Hunt website: www.metamorahunt.com

Capping: Guests may hunt with the prior consent of one of our Masters of Foxhounds: Joseph Kent: 248-628-2065; Joseph Maday: 248-628-7203. The capping fee for regular hunts is \$55 for adults and \$25 for juniors. To make your arrangements to cap, please contact our Honorary Secretary Cindy Dillon at: cindy@dillonreo.com 586.531.1859

Hunt Activities:

Hunting: Wednesday and Saturday Mornings:
Call the Hunt Kennels for updates: 810-678-2711

Hound exercising: including Members is available most non hunting mornings. Huntsman and Staff are on bicycles, please call the Kennels (810-678-2711) for updates.

Calendar of Events

Holiday Tables in Hunt Country:

December 3-5th. at Windward Farm on Hendrie Rd. east of Gardner Rd. Each room will be decorated by a member of the community and a table setting will be the focus. Benefits [Banbury Cross](#). Ticket information from Kathleen Whitman: 810-516-1546.

Hunt Ball: The Hunt Ball is in the planning stages. The date is [January 29th](#) and we will be at Devils Ridge Golf Club this year. Marcia Turner (810-796-3359) is heading the planning committee. Please contact her if you would like to help out, or if you have a silent auction item to offer.

