

Metamora Hunt Newsletter

December, 2011

www.metamorahunt.com

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Activities:

Metamora Hunt **Hunt Ball - February 4th.**

Please save this date and **join us!**

The Metamora Hunt Hunt Ball will be held on February 4, 2012. In addition to a wonderful meal, a great band, an open bar, and a fun silent auction, we will have fox hunting images for you to view and enjoy with your friends.

Mr. Peter Gilles will have a "slide show" of the wonderful photographs that he takes at our meets and activities. In addition, there will be a screen running of the "helmet cam" video taken at some of our hunts. So be sure to come to the Hunt Ball and see yourself and your horse on

Hounds & Hunting

By Joe Kent, MFH

Somehow it has become December. I am fairly sure that it was September just a few weeks ago, so am bewildered as to where the time has gone.

There will be harsh weather, but we will also have some good hunting days and memorable winter scenes. Dog foxes are on the move looking to mate. When foxes move, they create sport.

Other than this Saturday, meets have for the most part moved to 11 a.m. - an hour later than in years past. This puts us more in sync with other foxhunting clubs. Additionally, the warming ground should create a modest improvement in scenting conditions. This is somewhat opposite the logic that applies in warm months, so do not feel badly if you are confused.

The re-making of your pack to one dominated by American blood has recently been completed. The process took 18 months, and the notion was hatched even longer ago than that. Congratulate Adrian if you are pleased with the result. The coyote that we chased last weekend noticed that we are locked and loaded.

There is talk of a trip south to hunt with friends there in the latter half of February. Georgia and Aiken are among the likely destinations should this materialize. The plan would be similar to the trip that we made two seasons ago. We will keep you posted, but feel free to ask for details or express your preferences.

Additional News:

Metamora Hunt Photos:

screen!

Tip of the Month:

Given reasonable footing, we will continue to hunt this month. It is important for the sake of both comfort and safety that you and your mount stay warm while in the hunt field. Here are a few things that many veteran foxhunters do to stay warm during wintery weather:

Blanket your horse on way to the meet, and cover yourself with an oversized long coat that will protect your riding clothes and keep you warm before mounting. Those stick on foot warmers work wonders if you put them on the tops of your socks, just behind your toes, and on the outsides of your legs, just above the ankles. Those small hand warmers really help if you put them inside your gloves.

Minimize heat loss by wearing a neck gaiter and those ear flaps that are made for riders. Remember, a warm rider will be an alert and flexible rider! Take care and enjoy hunting this month.

Lots of links:

Here are links to interesting activities in the Metamora countryside:

Metamora Hunt:

www.metamorahunt.com

Masters of Fox Hunting Assoc:

www.mfha.org

Metamora II Pony Club:

www.glrpc.org

Metamora Chamber of

We are very fortunate to have Mr. Peter Gilles photograph many of our hunts and activities. To view Peter's photos of the most recent hunts just click on: <http://www.metamoraphoto.com/gallery/index.php?cat=13>

Pony Club News:

By Linda Hagerman, USPC Foxhunting Committee.

Pony Club Adds Foxhunting Discipline

When Pony Club was founded in the 1920s in Great Britain, its two primary goals were to educate children to become competent horsemen and teach them to confidently ride in the sport of foxhunting. The original Pony Club was founded by foxhunting enthusiasts who recognized the need for skilled instruction for all children interested in horsemanship and riding. Pony Club quickly became a foundation that assisted many families in educating young riders without the high price of expensive lessons, or worse, the breaking of parents' patience as they tried to educate their own children!

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. has recently implemented a Foxhunting Program to recognize members who participate in both the mounted and unmounted workings of the sport of foxhunting. Along with the incorporation of this new program, there is located on the USPC website the *new* USPC Foxhunting Certification Guidelines and paperwork (www.foxhunting.ponyclub.org). In addition, one can also find stories of hunting, photographs depicting the sport throughout the country, and other opportunities as they arise.

As USPC members experience the joys of foxhunting, the Foxhunting Certification Program has recently been created in two parts to reward their effort and skill. This program is unique in that no minimum rating level is required for the achievement of the certification, and at no point is a competition involved.

The first section of this certification consists of unmounted learning about the hounds, the hunt, and the educational (knowledge) approach of the sport. Upon completion of the first section, the USPC member will earn a certificate and a fox-head pin to

Commerce:

www.metamorachamber.org

Metamora Carriage and Driving Association:

www.metamoracarriagedriving.com

Banbury Cross Therapeutic Equestrian Center:

www.banburycrosstec.com

Crescent Ridge Farms:

www.crescentridgefarms.com

Fair Play Farm:

<http://hstrial-dpace2.homestead.com/>

Hunters Run Farm:

www.huntersrunfarm.com

Win-a-Gin Farm:

www.winaginfarm.com

Seven Ponds Nature Center:

www.sevenponds.org

The Eventing Assn. of Michigan:

www.micheventing.org

If your organization has events or activities that may be of interest to the equestrian community near Metamora, please submit your information for consideration to: bob.carden@jewellphoto.net

wear alongside the Pony Club pin on a shirt's lapel. The second section is offered for independent riders who are tested during an actual hunt under the supervision of a staff member. The riding portion of this testing will earn the member a USPC Foxhunting pin; the pin will resemble the highly valued discipline pin earned at USPC Championships—the USPC logo on top and the word “Foxhunting” in black and white attached below it.

It is through this program that I hope to bridge the gap between The United States Pony Clubs and Hunt Clubs across the nation. There are currently USPC members who have earned recognition from their hunt clubs and been awarded their “colors.” These colors are worn on their formal jackets and worn with pride at USPC rallies and activities. How wonderful it will be to see our new Foxhunting discipline pins representing USPC out on the hunt field!

Introductory Membership Offer: To accommodate riders that have never been members of a fox hunt, the Metamora Hunt is now offering an Introductory Membership for the 2011-2012 Hunt Season. For information on this very affordable, full season offer for unlimited hunts, please contact Cindy Dillon: cindy@dillonreo.com, 586-531-1859.

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. Guests may cap a maximum of 3 times per season.

Hunt Activities:

Metamora Hunt Ball - February 4, 2012:

Please make plans to join us for the Hunt Ball! The Ball will be held at Devils Ridge Golf Club again this year. Devils Ridge provides a close to home location, and their food and service were excellent last year. The evening will feature a live band and an open bar, plus a "slide show" of Peter Gilles's fox hunting images and a "helmet cam" video of some of our hunts! Please

set this date aside and please plan on bringing some friends for dining, dancing, and fun!
For additional information, please contact our Hunt Ball Chairperson Marcia Turner: (810-796-3359).

Hunt Ball Silent Auction:

Each year the Hunt Ball Silent Auction proves to be an exciting part of the evening! This year's Auction will include items that will be donated by our Members, Guests, and other Hunt Supporters including activities like golf at private clubs, clays shooting, with lessons if desired, dinners, riding lessons, and more. Donated Auction items may also include jewelry, art, gift certificates, photography, and gift baskets.

The proceeds from the Auction help support the Hunt and the Metamora Countryside. Please contact Auction Chairperson Michelle Mortier (586-914-5802, michelle.mortier@jewellphoto.net) to donate an item, an activity, or gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, spa, or retail store.

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

Metamora Hunt - Hunt Ball February 4, 2012

Contact Mrs. Marcia Turner (810-796-3359)

If you have equine related events in Metamora Hunt Country that you would like us to consider posting in this Calendar of Events, please email them to:

bob.carden@jewellphoto.net

Hunt Items for sale:

Hunt Member Abby Robertson is offering a hunt coat:

"I just received a hunt coat that I bought on eBay, but it is too small. I wonder if anyone might be interested in buying it. It is a heavyweight black Pytchley hunt coat that is size 34. It is beautiful and looks very warm. I wish that it fit me! I am asking

\$200. If anyone wants more information and photos, please email me at abbyeliz03@hotmail.com I hope that someone can use this beautiful jacket.

Hunt Members who have hunt clothing, accessories, or tack for sale and would like us to consider posting them on this newsletter should contact Bob Carden at: bob.carden@jewellphoto.net