
Metamora Hunt Newsletter

February, 2011

www.metamorahunt.com

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Metamora Hunt Ball a rousing success!

The Metamora Hunt Ball held January 29th. at Devil's Ridge Golf Club was one of the best Balls in years. Thanks to Marcia Turner and her committee of hard working volunteers, Hunt Ball attendees were treated to a well orchestrated night of dinner, dancing, and good company.

Hunt Members, Land Owners, and guests were greeted by a display of "[Horse and Hounds](#)" upon entering and then mingled for hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, portrait sittings by Dan Mitchell, and the silent auction. When dinner was announced, everyone descended an artfully decorated staircase to a dining room filled with tables that were turned out with hunt inspired finery. A scrumptious dinner was served as the band provided a background for lively conversation.

Hunt Masters Joe Kent and Joe Maday rose to thank our Land Owners for their continued support and the privilege of crossing their land. Thanks were also given to Hunt Members that had distinguished themselves during the season for their volunteer work, and Ken Matheis was awarded the Phil Maxwell Award for his service to the Hunt.

The band struck up again after dinner and filled the dance floor with couples who entertained themselves and others with their revelry. This party did go on into the wee hours of the night. To view photographs of the Hunt Ball by Peter Gilles, just click on: <http://www.metamoraphoto.com/gallery/thumbnails-130.html>

Hounds & Hunting

By Joe Kent, MFH

Your pack hunted well last Saturday evicting a coyote from the banks of Jessie Reynolds' stream bed and providing us with wonderful music. But the crust on the snow was just thick enough to pose a problem, so the chase was called off after an hour. Whipper-in Gay Kent scooped up Cookie (2006) from the front end just as he was about to carry the line into Crain's and no doubt on to Hunter's Run Farm. He is probably still trying to puzzle out the ways of the human.

This week's storm does not bode well for hunting in the near term, but hound exercise will resume as soon as possible. Unlike your hunt cap and whip, hounds cannot be put on a shelf until spring. They know nothing of seasons and think only of hunting. Our Midland Tablet wakes up each morning with her nose to the air.

Breaks in the action provide useful moments to think about how to support your hounds in ways that might be less than obvious.

Protect their occupation. Consider joining the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. These fine organizations have low membership fees and are the last and best line of defense between field sports such as ours and well-intentioned but wrong-headed urban values. They are populated by people such as you who insist on high standards for the care and handling of sporting dogs and know there is no comparison between playing a game on an I-Pod and watching a happy, well-trained gun dog or hound throw itself into its work.

Also make sure that you are a Subscribing Member of the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America. Some of the Metamora Hunt's membership categories include this. It is the single most important thing that any of us can do to help protect our sport and insure that it passes into the hands of the next generation. As an added bonus you will receive the MFHA's wonderful magazine Coverside.

Here are their web addresses:

<http://www.mfha.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Hunting-Dog-Federation/124699380888598>

<http://www.ussportsmen.org/>

Keep checking with us. Snow always melts. There is more hunting to come.

Additional News:

Metamora Hunt Subscriptions: Please renew your subscription in the next few weeks. The 2011-2012 Subscription forms may be downloaded from our website:<http://www.metamorahunt.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Metamora-Hunt-2011-2012-Subscription-Form1.pdf>

Please download the back page as well:<http://www.metamorahunt.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Metamora-Hunt-2011-2012-Subscription-Form-Back-Page.pdf>

And the liability release form that must be renewed each season:<http://www.metamorahunt.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/HoldHarmless.pdf>

Please mail your forms and payment to Honorary Secretary Cindy Dillon at: Metamora Hunt, P.O. Box 263, Metamora, MI 48455

Good news, our subscription rates have not changed from the 2010-2012 season. Some changes have been made:

An Associate membership is no longer offered.

Associate Members from the 2010-2011 season may renew their Associate membership for the 2011-2012 season only, or they may become full subscribers this season.

A Professional membership has been created. This membership category is only offered to those who derive more than 50% of their income from professional equine activities. Board review and approval required.

A two payment option has been created. Please see the 2011-2012 subscription form for details. Members may now pay their subscription with a credit card.

Credit card forms are also available on the Hunt's website. The deadline for subscriptions is [March 31, 2011](#).

Metamora Pony Club News:

By Linda Short-Lowe

Our Club continues to grow as we welcome more wonderful families at each meeting. At our last meeting we had seventeen youth participating, and most of those will represent the club at Quiz Rally in March. This will be the largest group that Metamora Hunt II Pony Club has ever sent to Quiz Rally, with five teams competing. Pony clubbers always compete as a team, without the assistance of parents. This builds tremendous confidence and responsibility. Our members are preparing for success and looking forward to a great time at Quiz Rally, their first rally of the season.

The Pony Club Pledge

"As a member of the United States Pony Club, I Stand for the best in sportsmanship as well as horsemanship. I shall compete for the enjoyment of the game well played and take winning or losing in stride, remembering that without good manners and good temper, sport loses it's cause for being. I shall endeavor to maintain the best tradition of the ancient and noble skill of horsemanship, always treating my horse with consideration due a partner.

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 walk hounds at a brisk pace, please call the Kennels (810-678-2711) for updates.

Calendar of Events

Earth Day Celebration; April 23rd.

We will celebrate Earth Day this Saturday by getting together at the Kennels for a clean up effort of the Metamora area roadsides. Picnic to follow.

Metamora Hunt Horse Show:

Will be held on June 9-12, 2011. Details to follow.

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