

Metamora Hunt Newsletter

March, 2011

www.metamorahunt.com

In This Issue:

[Hounds & Hunting](#)
[Hunt Activities](#)
[Calendar of Events](#)

Tip of the Month by Joe Maday, MFH:

With the weather improving and spring just around the corner, we all are soon to be out riding on the roads and trails of the Metamora countryside. Please remember that you need to renew your relationship with each Landowner that allows you to ride on their land this year. You should contact them now and ask for the privilege of crossing their land as you trail ride or exercise your horse. Do not make the mistake of assuming that Landowners who allow the Hunt to cross their land welcome all riders the rest of the year.

On each ride you must be aware of the turf conditions. If you have any doubt about the ground being too soft to be on trails or to cross land, keep to the roads only. A rider that leaves damaged turf or deep hoof prints invites having that land closed off to all horses. Please remember to be courteous and friendly to the public as you ride out. A smile, wave of the hand, or tipping of one's cap does wonders for the good of our sport. Public relations are every Hunt

Hounds & Hunting

By Joe Kent, MFH

Winter is sometimes kind to us. This year's has not been. Hunting opportunities have been scarce. We hope for a few more times out. As with every year, we have new "entries" - hounds in their first season. With such puppies there is no substitute for experience and the chance to imitate older, more experienced hounds. That and encouragement or scolding from a skilled huntsman is how the magic of a good pack is created.

Although winter has been harsh outdoors, your hounds have been quite comfortable indoors. For that thanks go to Ken Matheis who generously gave us a new furnace and manpower to improve the circulation of the ample supply of warm air. The difference is huge, and the pack is most grateful.

More drafts of the Modern American variety of hounds should arrive about the time that this newsletter is published. Some are entered; and some are not. We are excited.

Next comes spring training. Not the kind that pro baseball teams undertake in Florida, but rather the centuries old kind in which next season's entries learn about leashes and being part of a pack. There is also the task of teaching manners and concentration to pups that are already leash-broke, but not old enough to have been entered. That will all begin in earnest next month.

Additional News:

Metamora Hunt Subscriptions: Are due March 31st. Late Fees do apply. 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>

There are some significant changes to our subscription form. Please take a moment to read carefully and explore your options:

- The age limit on the Young Adult category

Member's responsibility.

Landowners Yearbook:

The 2011 Landowners Yearbook is now in production and once again in the capable hands of Mr. Peter Gilles.

Each year we count on our Members and local businesses to place advertising in the Yearbook. For your convenience, we have placed the link to the advertising sales form below.

<http://www.metamora-hunt.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/2011-LANDOWNER-PROGRAM-AD-FORM.pdf>

Please note that Peter is now the Editor of the Yearbook and that all ads must be submitted to him. You can reach Peter at: 248-628-7203 or

www.metamoraphoto1@aol.com

The advertising copy deadline has been changed to May 20, 2011, so you have ample time to work on your ads. Please do not wait until the last few days to place your ads. It takes time and effort to prepare the Yearbook for printing, so please be respectful of Peter's time and efforts.

The 2011 Landowners Yearbook will be ready for distribution this summer at the Landowners Picnic.

Thank you for your support! Please contact Bob Carden (586-907-8594) www.bob.carden@jewellphoto.net right away and let him know who you will be selling to this year. That information will be used to assure that our advertisers are not called on by more than one person from the Metamora Hunt.

has been raised to make this option accessible to more people.

- The Associate category has been dropped; however, people who were Associate Members last season may renew as Associate Members this season at last season's rate.
- Payment terms have changed considerably and require at least half-payment by March 31 in order to take advantage of the most favorable rates. Please read the details carefully.
- Payment by credit card is welcome as a means of spreading your cost over whatever time frame is most convenient. Simply submit our credit card payment, which can be downloaded at <http://www.metamora-hunt.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Credit-Card-Payment-Forms.pdf>

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

Subscription forms and liability releases have been mailed to all of last season's Members. If you have not received yours, or if you are considering becoming a new Member, please contact our Honorary Secretary: Cindy Dillon: cindy@dillonreo.com (586-531-1859)

Metamora Pony Club News:

By Linda Short-Lowe

My daughter's new leather tall boots are covered in scratches.

Recently I traveled with my daughter Sharlee to southern California, and the highlight of her trip was an opportunity to go fox hunting. The farm we visited was owned by the Master of the Hunt, who was incredibly welcoming. Right away he asked Sharlee what her Pony Club rating was. From this there was an instant recognition of her skill set, and he knew what type of mount she was capable of riding. The next morning brought the hunt. What a difference location can make! The weather was warm and sunny as we drove to an Indian reservation in the mountains. The quarry there is the wily coyote. Much of the hunt was spent galloping on the side of mountains, jumping cactus and dodging jackrabbits.

One unfortunate fellow was dislodged from his mount due to a jumpy jackrabbit and landed in the very bush that had given the rabbit cover. His horse then proceeded to charge to the other side of the mountain. As the foliage out there tends to be quite prickly, Sharlee was warned to keep her toes in. Of course she is used to Metamora trees which don't give at all! The riding members were all quite interested in what our terrain is like in Metamora. We described it as hilly and wooded, with much water. It is certainly nothing like southern California. There were two active Pony Clubs in the area we visited. On the second day of our visit, one of those Clubs was at the farm preparing horses to be borrowed for a "wine" ride. I knew they were Pony Clubbers as I pulled in the drive and saw them meticulously grooming the mounts. There was even an application of hoof polish, in spite of the dusty conditions. What fun it was to meet Pony Club members from California! I am always amazed at the similarities among club members. Because they all come up the ranks following the same set of standards, the young person who is produced shares many of the same qualities. They spoke to Sharlee as if they had known her forever, inquiring about her rating level and what upcoming national events they might see her at. The DC of the Club even exchanged information with me so that she could send Southern California regional pins to our Metamora members. Hunting in California was an amazing experience for Sharlee. She was proud to represent her home Hunt, as well as the United States Pony Club. Our Metamora Pony Club currently has sixteen active riding members. As we all continue to support their growth as riders and young people, I hope to see many of them representing Metamora in the show ring and the hunt field. We have a right to be proud of our youth, and I'd like to see many of them polishing the scratches out of their boots.

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: Weather permitting:

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:

Teen/Kid Eventing Camp: March 12 & 13.

At Fair Play Farm. Contact Debby Pace: 810-678-8762

Mulligan Dressage Show: April 16th.

At Fair Play Farm. Contact Debby Pace: 810-678-8762

Earth Day Celebration; April 23rd.

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

Jonathan Holling Eventing Clinic: April 23rd.

At Hunters Run Farm. For info: 810-796-2588.

Cross Country Schooling Days:

April 23-24, May 14-15, June 4th., July 2-4.

At Hunters Run Farm. For info: 810-441-6481.

Metamora Hunt Horse Show:

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

Hunt Weekend: July 16-17th.

Hosted by the Metamora Hunt: Intro to fox hunting clinics, both classroom and mounted. Contact Bob Carden: (586-907-8594)

Metamora Hunt Hunter Pace: July 17th.

Contact Bob Carden: (586-907-8594)

Metamora Hunt Youth Hunt: August 8th.

Hunters Run USEA Horse Trial: August 12-14

For info: Susan Emmons: 810-796-2588.

Hunt Country Stable Tour: August 21st.

T.E.A.M Benefit Horse Trial: August 21st.

At Hunters Run Farm Info: www.micheventing.org

Metamora Days Parade: August 27th.

Opening Day - Clare: Sept. 17th.

Opening Day - Metamora: Sept. 24th.

Metamora Hunt - Hunter Trials: October 9th.

Gymkana: November 17th.

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