



THE BABBLER

Early November 2014

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Masters

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Important Dates

November 5th -
Last Hunt, Swede Lake
Saturday, November
15th - Color's Ball

Complete fixture list is
emailed to all members
Check the Hot Line
[952-473-1303](tel:952-473-1303)
for updates

Things are full cry in the Long Lake Hounds country! The Junior Hunt, Hunter Pace, and the Tack Sale are over, and Ball preparations barely leave us time to breath. Country keeping is never ending. It seems there is always last minute trail prep before each hunt and as often as not an adjustment of route. We began the season with much of our country under water. It did dry out though and despite losing some country and being more limited in our use of other areas, we have used our country evenly and made good use of it. The exception is our Hollywood country, which will require more work in organization and labor.



Masters preparing Pace

Featured Hound - Mitch



Mitch is an outstanding hound who is all business. Never do you hear a cross word from Junior directed towards him because he is SO good, unlike some of the other hounds whose names we know well. His sire was Long Lake Kaiser and his mother was Belle Meade Ingrid and he is 3 years old. As a puppy he took to kennel training like no other and would grab Junior's sleeve and drag Junior to the run. When he started to hunt at 1 ½ years old he trained himself. He is our strike hound. Besides being a great hunting hound, he is so kind he is used to couple the puppies. He is the father of our P litter. Interestingly, Prince has begun to grab Junior's sleeve and drag him to the run - apparently a genetic trait.

Mitch is one of our sponsored hounds, supported by a generous LLH member. Mary Kay Jans bought his name at one of our puppy auctions as a 60th birthday present in honor of her friend Mitch Kornbelt. She and husband Paul winter at the Ford Plantation in Georgia, as does Mr. Kornbelt who lives in New York. The sponsorship is maintained every year. Mary Kay hunted with us for years and served as Secretary. Since retiring her injured hunt horse, Ted, she has become a social member.

Featured Person - Kristin Bechtold



Not many of us know Kristen well. She is a whip so is usually off on her own somewhere. Besides that she is quiet and unassuming even when she's nearby.

Junior says she is a talented whip with great hound sense. She feels that has developed as a result of the advanced agility training she has done with her Siberian Husky Abby.

She grew up in the Monticello area and her first exposure to horses was to her grandparent's Percherons that they rode and drove. Her uncle also had horses that she rode Arabians and Quarter Horses. She took lessons anywhere and everywhere and while working at Kadler farm heard about an ad Cindy Piper ran looking for help.

So at age 17 she began working for Cindy and had her first exposure to hunting and showing. Under Cindy's sponsorship she quickly moved up to the position of whip with LLH and it is because of Cindy she has the opportunity to show and hunt. She now keeps her horse with Lisa Foster and hitches a ride to the hunts with Lisa and Tory.

Kristin has an associate degree in Equine Studies from the University of Findley. She now attends Metro State in St Paul where her major is Technical Communication and Professional Writing. Her goal is to write for equine publications. In the meantime she holds down several jobs. She lives at Thomas Farm where she does night check, still works for Cindy, and works as an all around stable hand at Altair Stables.

The bald faced horse you see her on is Seamus, who was brought to MN by Cindy. He is an 18 year old Clydesdale Thoroughbred cross. Cindy sold him to James Cullen who took him along to Boston when he moved there. James found that he didn't have the time to justify keeping a hunt horse and returned him to Kristin, an arrangement that has worked out well for all.

Hunting



Junior reports that this has been a trying year and that he has worked harder than ever. Introducing 3 new puppies and the 4 Montana hounds into the pack has been a project. He does say though that they are finishing the season well.

From your editor's viewpoint, having watched our pack for around 30 some years, I think the hounds are hunting great! We continue to wish for perfection - hounds that always wait until they are released to look for the lines, hounds that all hunt the line instead of just following (or not) the others, and hounds that hunt the line instead of just the trail where they expect the line to be; but they are not machines and that's what makes this an interesting sport. Don't we wish we all had the joy and exuberance of those puppies, who after all are just puppies? We often hear Junior calling for or reprimanding Dallas, Polly, or Missy, but they all come in, so checks are short and all of us, even the whips, can go home at the end of the hunt. I can remember a time when the pack was walked inside a fenced area. The hounds were surrounded on both sides by head to tail horses. Even then they sometimes left the enclosure and rioted. Today they are walked in the open through fields and along the road. Usually Junior is assisted by only one or maybe two other riders and sometimes he is by himself. I am proud of our hounds.

Featured Horse - Honey



This issue's featured horse is actually a 14 hand pony who is a Quarter Horse Welsh Pony cross. Though her name is Honey, you often hear her referred to as Wonder Pony. At 16 years old she is older than her 12 year old rider Sonja Henze. They hunt first flight, jumping the jumps, and never causing a problem. At the Junior Hunt they had the honor of hunting up front beside Junior.

A student at St Paul Academy, Sonja only has time to ride twice a week. The Mantana daughters, ages 8 and 11, also ride Honey. Honey lives at Majestic Pines in Woodbury. Honey originally trained in dressage, though she is not a big fan of the discipline, with Natalie Hineman. Suzanne Wepplo found the pony for Sonja. She was available because her previous owner was afraid of her. Sonja takes regular jumping lessons, except during hunt season, and has shown Honey in jumping classes at Carriage House. She is schooling 2 ½ feet regularly. Sonja's goal as a rider is to be able to jump 3 ½ feet.

Though very food driven, especially when apples are involved, Honey is willing to do whatever Sonja wants her to do. She is sweet and perfect. Most importantly she

really cares about her rider's well being. Don't we all wish for such a horse!!

Sonja and Honey are grateful to the Lieder family who introduced them to hunting and provide transportation to the meets. Without that we would not have the opportunity to get to know this great pair.

Breakfasts/Tailgates

We have been well fed this year thanks to our many generous members. Nothing tastes better than it does after a hunt. Below is the winner of "best desert presentation" which we experienced at the Gardiner Breakfast. Cookies were prepared by Carmen, her sister, and our wonderful new social member Ruth Webster.



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