



THE RAPP SHEET



June, 2020

The RAPP SHEET is alive and well and back online. This is a monthly newsletter and update for our hunt members to keep in touch while socially distancing, although you don't need to wear a mask while reading. Please send any ideas, suggestions, articles, videos or whatever you would like to see in the RAPP SHEET to Barton Hitchcock (bartonhitchcock@gmail.com). Let me know what would interest you and any updates on hunt activities and hunt members. Let us know what your favorite hunting memory is.

Jeff Woodall, RH Huntsman

We give a warm welcome to Jeff Woodall as our new huntsman. Jeff comes to us with a lot of hound and hunt experience; in fact, he whipped in at Rappahannock Hunt for a while. Jeff has over 30 years experience riding and showing hunters and jumpers and training equitation riders and horses. He was Huntsman for Old Dominion for 4 years and served as whipper-in at Keswick and Bull Run. He knows us and our territory, and we're excited to have him back in "God's Hunt Country!" Please reach out and give Jeff a warm "Welcome Home!"



On the Rocks

Congratulations



Congratulations to Sarah Bryson and Riley De Borde who got married this spring.

The Masters and Board are meeting on a regular basis and are trying to get us through this Covid 19 situation. As soon as possible, we plan to start having trail rides and hunter paces. Safety is the top priority, so the situation will be monitored closely.

Hunting Memories

By Barton Hitchcock

The day began as a typical late winter hunting day, but it ended anything but typically. The morning was cool and crisp. Hounds and riders prepared to set off and the day began.

The beginning of the hunt was also typical, but things changed when Michael cast the hounds into the woods on the northwest side of Elmwood Farm. This section of woods is rolling hills, creeks, and many wandering trails and is usually good for a fox or two. As the hounds cast about for a scent, the temperature started to climb.

Suddenly, the pack opened in full cry on a fox. Off we went, through the woods, up and down the hills, crossed the creeks and over the coop at the top side of the property. The pack, sounding glorious, continued to the old stone wall area. Fortunately, the field was able to keep up and be close to the action.

Emerging on the far side of the woods, the fox was put to ground. The hounds joyfully, cried gone to ground, with Michael urging them in their song. Suddenly, Bilberry, a small bitch hound, went down the hole, too far for Michael to extract her. The road whips arrived on the scene to help get the hound out of the hole.

Meanwhile, the temperature had skyrocketed, and everyone shed their hunt coats in an effort to stay cool. Coats went in the trucks and members watched and waited for the rescue of Bilberry. To everyone's amazement, the fox popped out of the hole at the other end a distance down the tree line. Lo and behold, Bilberry popped out after the fox and then the pack joined her for a further chase. As the chase continued, the temperature plummeted, and the wind

picked up. Many a member was regretting leaving their coat in the truck. The weather worsened as the chase went on with sleet beginning to pelt us.

The fox was put to ground again. Hounds were gathered. Riders shivered. Then as we began our trek back to the meet, the sleet stopped and a rainbow appeared. What an unforgettable hunt!



The Kennel Club

Introducing Warrior



Melanie Mervis and Robin Bolt raised Warrior as a puppy. “Warrior got his name the first time we saw him because he had a distinct arrow on his head. Robin named him Warrior that day and then later paid for that to be his official name. He was the first pup of the nine to open his eyes, the first to pull himself up onto four legs, the first to climb out of the whelping box. He was also one of the friendliest pups in the litter.”



When he was old enough, Warrior was brought to the kennel to be acclimated into the pack. First he was put into a run with other hounds that he has never met (quite a change from only knowing his siblings). Then came walking out with the pack. First he was coupled to an older hound so that he would learn commands from the older hound. Then when he knew to come to his name and a few other commands, he was walking out without being coupled. Now he enjoys the freedom of walking within the pack on his own. Jeff’s comment on Warrior was “he is a natural and took to being in the pack like a fish to water”. Look for Warrior as he starts his hunting career this season.

“Foxhunting is not a sport for the tepid,” Rita Mae Brown says, of riding in the hunt field. “Anybody out there is pretty capable and gutsy, but also they're people that love life.

Look for more information on Rappahannock Hunt
www.rappahannockhunt.com

