

**Celebrating One Year
"Bull Run Babblings"**



BULL RUN BABBLINGS

December 2023

Can you believe it's already been a year since the reemergence of the BRH Newsletter? I can't - mostly I can't believe I've found that much to babble about. Hopefully everyone is still enjoying the newsletters and finding them helpful.

You may have been wondering about the title of our news letter "Bull Run Babblings". Babble is a fabulous foxhunting term, I first heard (and still often do) at Sedgefield's Foxhound Performance Trial.

Babble noun (ba-bəl): In general, to utter meaningless or unintelligible sounds. Specifically in foxhunting, to give tongue on scent other than fox, on no scent at all, or on a scent too faint to follow.



Many thanks to everyone who has submitted articles, asked questions, noted bottle reports, and sent in pictures. Please keep them coming! Special thanks to those of you behind the scenes that act as a sounding board, help brainstorm, and submit articles and photographs.

Opening Meet 2023

Wow was it warm! A huge thank you to the masters for waiving coats after the quintessential group photo, in addition to the lovely breakfast that followed.

Everyone looked lovely for the annual awarding of colors and traditional blessing of the hounds. Congratulations to those who were awarded their colors as well as Best Turn Out recipients. It was a great hunt and we certainly appreciate the foxes that decided to participate, despite the heat.

Mark Jump's official photos of the event are on his website: MarkJumpPhotography.pixieset.com



Photos Continued
on
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PC: Clay Chase



Above: Staff giving the hounds a quick dip before hunting during an unseasonably warm Opening Meet.. PC: Clay Chase



Busy Holiday Season

Holidays are always a busy season for everyone.

Reminders for a few important dates and traditions Bull Run celebrates this time of year!

12/2 - Orange Christmas Parade: This is a fun tradition we missed last year. Who doesn't want to ride in the parade? If you would like to participate, park on the grassy area beside Family Dollar in Orange by 3:30pm. The streets close at 4pm, and the parade starts 4:30pm. Formal attire required. Please check in with Adrianna Waddy, MFH if you have any questions.

12/9 - Christmas Party in Honor of Our

Landowners: All members, landowners, and their families are invited to attend this annual event at Inskip Hall for drinks, dinner, and a great time! The party starts at 6pm and will be held at Inskip Hall. Please contact Kristi Clore if you'd like to help with this event. Set up & clean up crews are always appreciated, as well as sponsors and those willing to bring a dish.

12/26 - Boxing Day: Reminder that this will be a formal hunt as it's a holiday, even though it is Tuesday.

12/28 - Junior Meet & Ugly Sweater: Wear your BEST holiday garb. The more holiday spirit, the better - who knows, you might just win a prize!

Huntsman's Cap: Our talented huntsman (along with his family) work extremely hard ALL YEAR LONG to make Bull Run Hunt a success. There is no off-season (really not a day off if we're being honest) in this role. Please show your appreciation by participating in the "Huntsman's Cap". Contributions can be given to directly to Tim, or to our treasurer (Laurel Moore) or one of the Masters if you prefer it be anonymous.



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Fox FAQs

Arctic foxes depend on lemmings as their main food source in inland areas, creating a tight-knit predator-prey relationship between them. Consequently, most of their populations fluctuate between years in response to lemming numbers going up and down, as part of their natural population cycle.

While the Arctic fox numbers are stable in their frozen environments, they are still vulnerable to lemming populations crashing at regular intervals.



PC: A-Z-Animals.com

What is a lemming? Any 90s gamer will tell you that they exhibit herd mentality, jump off cliffs if you haven't built a blocking obstacle to save them. In reality, a lemming is a small rodent (5-7 inches in length), usually found in or near the Arctic in tundra biomes. Lemmings form the subfamily Arvicolinae together with voles and muskrats, which form part of the superfamily Muroidea, which also includes rats, mice, hamsters, and gerbils. Snowy owls also consider them prey.

From The Archives

In honor of the holiday season,
"The Christmas Fox"
from December of 1998



❄️ The Christmas Fox ❄️

by Will Ogilvie 1923

If I were of the gods that rule
the game of Fox and Hound,
There is a thing I'd do at Yule
whenever it came round.

I would provide as Christmas Box
for every sportsman's child
A very special Christmas Fox
with manners specially mild.

From covert he should boldly burst
And stay so long in view
That each could say, "I saw him first
I saw him before you!"

And he should choose a careful line
Avoiding wire and walls,
That little folk of eight and nine
Should have but comf'y falls.

And he should set a gentle pace
Towards the distant whin,
That every child might keep his place
The cheery hunt within;

That every boy on holiday
And girl from lessons freed
Might see as much as grown-ups may
When foxes run at speed.

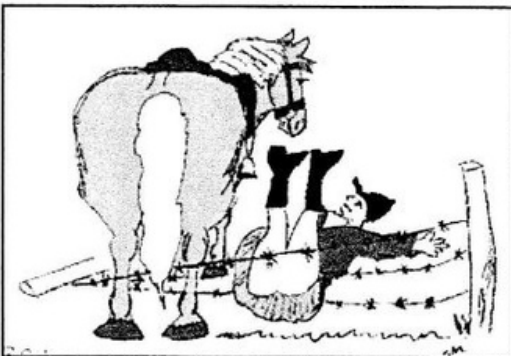
And when he'd gone a mile or two
The hounds should catch him fair,
And Michael, Madge, and Montague,
And all the rest be there.

And there should be no jealous lads
Nor tearful lasses found,
For he'd have brushes, masks, and pads
Sufficient to go round!

Bottle Reports? Anyone? 🍷

If you didn't know, BRH tradition states that any rider who falls owes a bottle to the club. (It's actually in the handbook!) Typically the collection is auctioned off during the hunt ball. The story behind the falls has become known as the "Bottle Report" over the years. So, don't be shy! We're well into the season and I'm sure there are some amusing reports to share.

While we wait for a few of you to fess up or tell your friend's tale on their behalf, a related drawing from March of 1999



drawing by Sherrie Mincks

December 2023

Mark Your Calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Orange Christmas Parade
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Christmas Party
10	11	12 New Moon	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 NYE 31	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day (Formal)	27	28 JR Meet Full Moon	29	30

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 New Moon	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Full Moon	26	27 Game Dinner
28	29	30	31			

Fall Hunter Pace Results

The weather was much more cooperative for our rescheduled Fall Hunter Paces, held on November 12th. It was a great success and everyone had a great time on our beautiful trails.

Congratulations to our winners!

- **Hunter Division**
 - Champion: Fox Haven - Vicky & Mark Mitchell, MFH
 - Reserve Champion: Team Viper - Emily Peck & Lauren Fritsch
- **Pleasure Division**
 - Champion: Mayfair Farm - Jackie Cleaver, Mel Hardy, Lexi Rankin, Jessica Roebuck
 - Reserve Champion: Black & White - Leah Roehl
- **Junior Division**
 - Champion: Half Awake - Elizabeth Menist, Katherine Szafran, Rebecca Stetter
 - Reserve Champion: Soul Sisters

Full list of results is available on our website:

[HP Results](#)

Special thanks to Andy Stahling for chairing the Fall Hunter Pace, and Mona Stahling for her support. We'd also like to thank Nancy Burnett, David & Kristi Clore, Charlene Isner, and Linda & David Newland for their help with running this event.

Last, but not least, we send our appreciation to Shelly and Jay Moore. MFH for hosting the event at Highlands, and to our gracious landowners for allowing us to ride across their properties.



If you have ever had a question about anything hunt related, please send it in to Miss. Appropriate.

Dear Ms. Appropriate: One of my favorite things when I'm out hunting is seeing foxes. Many of us get very excited and wonder it's okay to hoot and holler with joy. Or if maybe we should yell for the Huntsman. It seems like we ought to do something. What should we do?

-Foxy Voyer

Dear Foxy: That's a great question that is often asked. There are a few different answers depending on the circumstances. The most important thing to remember is that however exciting the moment may be, always stand still and be quiet until the fox has safely passed. We do not want to turn him back or startle him. A startled fox may have an involuntary, protective reaction that temporarily shuts his scent down, making the hounds unable to follow him. Note where the fox travels and quietly let your Field master know so that he or she can alert the Huntsman or staff. Do not holler as staff does, as this is a staff/hound directive that will summon hounds within hearing distance, and the Huntsman may not want to hunt your fox. If the Huntsman is bringing hounds to your view, be prepared to show him exactly where the fox ran and was last viewed by standing on the heel end of the line and pointing in the direction of travel.

-Ms. A.



Radio Etiquette Part 2

A continuing theme as people develop experience with radios is the need to improve clear communication. Environmental conditions including weather, terrain, distance, and even the composition of the surrounding soil all interact, often negatively, to impact your ability to communicate. Additionally, user variables like stress (i.e. galloping on a horse) can also negatively impact your immediate capacity to convey a situation clearly. With so many variables working against a user's capability to operate a radio additional emphasis needs to be placed on improving clear communication.

One way to increase the likelihood of understanding, and being understood, over the radio is to use a common vernacular. This can speed up explanations of common situations or locations. For example, "South East corner of the field" to describe a location might be self explanatory and require no additional explanation. But descriptors like "the saddle," "quonset hut," and "the lookout" all correspond to specific locations within fixtures known to the hunt. If you anticipate being in a position where you may need to assist the hunt, make an effort to learn the fixture specific terminology.

Brevity codes are another way to improve communication by making transmissions more concise and clear. You've probably heard "10-4" or "rodger" over the radio. These are used to convey "I understand what you just said," in a more efficient and clear way. However, you may not have heard terms like "wilco," "over," "out," "break," and "come in". These shorthand terms all have specific meanings that assist in improving communication efficiency and clarity. For instance finishing a transmission with "-over" indicates that you have completed what you were saying and the channel is clear for someone else to transmit. Waiting for that "-over" at the end of a transmission before you start talking helps prevent accidentally 'stepping' on someone else's transmission.

Compared to "-out", which following a transmission, lets everyone monitor the channel that you are done speaking about the topic and don't plan to say anything else. Note that, unlike in the bad movies, it is NEVER "over-and-out" because that is saying two conflicting things. If you think you may find yourself in a position requiring the use a radio, it might help to become familiar with some of the common radio shorthand or brevity codes.-out

Submitted By: Clay Chase

Submissions?

If you have an article, bottle report, advertisement, photo, or question for Miss A that you'd like included in next month's newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!

Submissions are due by Dec 20th and can be submitted to Jessa at 603-479-6006 (text preferred) or bullrunhuntva@gmail.com.

The next newsletter will be released on January 1st (maybe January 2nd given the holiday!).



PC: Clay Chase