

## Old Dominion Hounds Report

(written and digested by HonSec Betsy Burke Parker – direct replies and comments to [betsyburkeparker@gmail.com](mailto:betsyburkeparker@gmail.com); distribution by Sheila Quinn deHart – [quinndehart@msn.com](mailto:quinndehart@msn.com))

January 16, 2021

### \*\*\*\*HUNT REPORT: SATURDAY, January 16, 2021. Fixture: Hunter's Rest, Flint Hill –

Rhetorical question for the day – How smart is a foxhound?

The short answer – Fox smart.

The more complete answer – A brilliant day in a string of increasingly brilliant days this season, the North Poes corridor was brimming with three game foxes full of run, and several “you shoulda been there” moments.

From the 10 a.m. meet, huntsman Steve Farrin trotted the pack from Hunter's Rest across the little green bridge into the Poe's Run riverbottom, drawing north across Dr. Dove's to Last Resort. They struck, hard, at the top of Crawley's cliffs above the pond, sounding like the whole pack was going to plunge over the cliffs (which are, surprisingly, mountain-goat-steep) into the Rappahannock River before cutting towards the hilltop riding arena and down the otter-slide hill to the Ridgevue back pasture. The fox – a big healthy fluffy red, according to the road whip and several delighted first-time car followers – crossed North Poes at Ann Callaway's, jinking south before he turned again at the Jordan River back towards Cary Ridder's to begin a second circuit.

It was at the start of round no. 2 that Steve says he witnessed something as beautiful – pure foxhunting science – as he's ever seen in more than 20 years of professional hunt service and in his youth hunting in England with his father Michael, huntsman for the Quorn 1968-1998.

Steve found himself alone with the hounds below Clorevia in the Last Resort hayfield along the Rappahannock, he says, whips and fields posted closer to the road at this point in the run. Hounds were still roiling on the fresh line, taking it from the woodline across the open pasture towards the Rappahannock.

The river, which emanates at Chester Gap on the eastern front of the Blue Ridge 10 miles northwest, is about 25 feet wide at this point, just above the confluence with the Jordan River and Hungry Run. It's a pretty big stream, and Steve says the water was high, there near at the site of the old concrete bridge over to Crest Hill.

He wasn't actually certain a fox could/should/would even attempt to cross it.

But the hounds pressed on. And Steve pressed on, just in time to see the hounds, one by one, hop on top of a mature tree recently fallen horizontally across the river as they kept up a conga line of full cry on the ersatz footbridge. Hounds stayed right on the line, he says, looping north on the Fauquier County side of the water, but made a loss at the back of Riot.

Steve gathered the pack, crossing the Lake Sunset dam into Coleman's woods and Wilson Keyser's, site of a notable fox footrace a couple weeks ago. As if set on a timer, the handsome, black-pointed red got up and running quick, making a couple circuits before skirting east towards Dr. Bowman's and Buikstra's. Former ODH joint-master Tim Colgan captured an excellent shot of the fox (posted below) hitting full stride.

Hounds were moved to Nelson's woods after a loss, picking up yet another fresh line, crossing Cornwell Lane and Sunnyside into Payne's woods, where – true to red fox form, s/he traced circuit after circuit before scent evaporated as clouds and a cold dry breeze signaled a front settling on the area.

Photo below – Photo credit to Tim Colgan. Fox #2 dashes across the top of Lake Sunset Lane entering one of his (her?) circuits around Coleman’s and Wilson Keyser’s places.



**\*\*\*\*HUNTING THIS WEEK: \*\*Remember, always call the monitor to confirm: 540 364 7457\*\***  
- MONDAY, January 18: 10 a.m. Hunter trial field, Orlean. (holiday meet – formal attire)  
- \*\*\*Stay alert/call the hunt monitor – we may hunt Tuesday as well, or possibly Wednesday and-or Thursday because of currently forecasted weather moving in later next week.

**\*\*\*\*NEW EQUINE LITERARY MAGAZINE: Seeking readers, writers, photographers, poets, artists –**

(from writer and horsewoman Jody Jaffe – her current farm is in Rockbridge Hunt territory near Lexington; she used to live at the northwest edge of ODH territory between Hume and Markham)

\*Attention writers and artists: Hope you’ll send us something about horses for our new "Gallop" magazine.

Introducing, "Gallop," an equine literary magazine coming this spring.

I am collaborating with Ron James, the editor of the award-winning travel magazine I write for, "Wine, Dine and Travel. He will bring his wizardry, along with many of his 300,000 readers, to the pages of "Gallop."

My vision is to offer high-quality reading material and art. Short stories, essays, memoirs, poems, book excerpts, photos, drawings, book reviews etc.

Please send submissions to: [readgallop@gmail.com](mailto:readgallop@gmail.com)

If you are curious about my credentials: I am the author of the horse-show mystery series: "Horse of a Different Killer," "Chestnut Mare, Beware," and "In Colt Blood," featured in People Magazine and translated into German, Japanese and Czech. I co-authored the novels, "Thief of Words," and "Shenandoah Summer." As a journalist, I was on the Charlotte Observer team that won the Pulitzer Prize. My articles have been published in many major newspapers and magazines including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times and Washingtonian. I have written columns for The Chronicle of

the Horse and Practical Horseman. In addition, I taught journalism at Georgetown, Washington and Lee and Hollins universities and taught fiction writing at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Md.

Thanks

Jody Jaffe

**\*\*\*\*ODH CONSERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FOOD PANTRY:**

Old Dominion Hounds and the Old Dominion Conservation and Education Foundation have set up a self-serve (both taking and giving) food pantry behind the Orlean post office, with another to come soon in Flint Hill.

Please direct neighbors in need to find free food in the box, and please direct those more fortunate how to donate to it.

Food item contributions will be collected at each Saturday's ODH hunt meet, or you can place food directly in the box. Donation ideas: peanut butter, jelly, rice, grains, cereal, oatmeal, cooking oil, canned or jarred pasta sauce, canned meat and fish, canned veggies and fruit canned soup, boxed pasta and other side dishes, personal items (soap, shampoo, etc.)

Contact [odfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:odfoodpantry@gmail.com) for details or with ideas of how to help.

**\*\*\*\*ODH FIXTURE MAP:** (Credit Jennifer Farrin and Babs Timmerman)

Meets are 'pinned' with parking notes

[google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1pb\\_IoihkWji63lNqRTsHMnfFOJX31tzn&ll=38.810853337228764%2C-78.03545085&z=12](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1pb_IoihkWji63lNqRTsHMnfFOJX31tzn&ll=38.810853337228764%2C-78.03545085&z=12)

\*Reminder from the masters and landowners: Please do not arrive to a fixture more than 50-55 minutes prior to the meet time. Parking at each meet is fairly specific – if someone parks 'the wrong way' to start out, it makes it hard for all the trailers to fit. Zoom in on the map, but please wait for a "lead" if you don't know exactly which gate to enter.

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE HELP OUT YOUR HonSec:** Please keep track how many times you've hunted so we can reconcile the new 5-pack and 10-pack bundles and Pony Club parent package.

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE SEND** any news, or notes, photos, interesting items or upcoming events to be included in this ODH online newsletter.

**Feel free to forward** this to friends and family and anyone you think might be interested in ODH happenings.

**Send current/updated email** addresses if you'd like to be included on our direct newsletter list.