



The

Red Rock Rioteer

Publication of the
**RED ROCK
HOUNDS**

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AMAZING—INCREDIBLE—AWESOME!

The end of Red Rock Hounds 33rd season was all of that and more! In the time-honored traditions of fox hunting around the world, members, friends and guests celebrated the end of the formal hunt season with awesome activities galore.

Beginning Wednesday (March 27) at their Ft. Sage fixture near Doyle, California, a hearty band of riders braved wind and weather on a cold and blustery day. But, hey, there was a rainbow, and they did end the day at the Doyle Bar! It's all good.



Friday's hunt in Hungry Valley had great participation and the hounds showed their hunting skills.



The 'Breakaway Farm Team' scored optimum time at Saturday's Hunter Pace. Left to right: Hayley Bowin, Ashlin Bowen, Gina Luciano, Rachel Roberts, and Tessa Ting!

Saturday's Hunter Pace was HUGE success, thanks to Georges Schneider, Bonnie Lind, Tamara Erickson, Myrna Moore and a crew of volunteers.

Horses and saddles put away, it was time to gussy up and head to the *Atlantis Hotel and Casino* for the Hunt Ball.

What do you get when you mix fun folks with fabulous food, amazing auction items, marvelous music and, okay, a few cocktails? One great party, that's what!

(See additional photos, page 4.)



'Whipping Whitney' Vaughn shows style and grace in the whip contest. Admiral Vance admires while staying safely out of range . . .

End of RRH's 33rd Season—End of My FIRST! Contributed by Emily Freeman

It's safe to say that horses have been my life. Beginning my horse career at around 4 years old, I grew up learning to ride on my family's Connemara ponies. Three Day Eventing, the United States Pony Clubs and Connemara breed showing have filled up the last 12 years since I began riding. Now I have a project horse who I am rehabbing and retraining.

Knowing that some foxhunting experience would help me, since I plan to attend Vet School in the UK, I thought I'd give Red Rock Hounds a shot. What I've gained, and am still gaining, from the experience is more than I ever could have imagined. Since my first hunt, I've learned an incredible amount about foxhunting - the different types of hounds that can be hunted, the difference between the bark of a hound on a rabbit and the bark of a hound on a line, how to correctly tie a stock tie and, perhaps most importantly, the quality of riding breeches foxhunting demands (Yes - I literally rode my pants off on my first hunt!!).

Though hunting with Red Rock Hounds has been extremely enjoyable, I can't say the riding has been easy. I remember looking down from the top of a hill at Hungry Valley thinking, "Oh, my gosh, we just rode up that!" And knowing that I better keep up even though we are galloping down the side of a mountain because I have absolutely *no idea* where we are and *absolutely no idea* how to get back to anywhere! Not that a single one of the kind members of Red Rock Hounds would ever leave me behind; everyone I've met has been incredibly welcoming to me and my family. Even though I'm only 16, I know that hardly any horse-related experience will ever be able to compare to the wonderful people, fantastic horses, and amazing hunts of Red Rock Hounds.

Emily's mother, Kathryn, also commented on their first RRH season: "I can't thank everyone enough for being so warm and encouraging. Emily has had a tough year with her own horse and being able to get out and hunt on Lynn's horses has allowed her to enjoy riding again and improve her skills. I am especially thankful to Lynn and Angela for welcoming us and allowing Emily to always have a great mount for the hunts, to Jane Cozart for really taking Emily under her wing, and to 'Big John' for his off road driving skills. Emily and I are looking forward to the 2013-2014 RRH season!"



Red Rockin' with the Navy by RW John Kirch

What weighs 0.54 tons, has a tactical speed of Mach 0.03 and can leap sagebrush in a single bound? A Red Rocker fox hunting at the Fallon Naval Air Station!

Rear Admiral Mark Vance and his lovely wife, Darien, arranged for RRH to hunt the area south of the flight line and stable our horses at May Ranch, the base stables. When horses and hounds were settled, Admiral Vance escorted RRH members to the billeting office to book their rooms at the BOQ (Bachelor Officers' Quarters) and then on a tour of Top Gun's "ready room", complete with pilots demonstrating how they put on a "G" suit. Public Affairs Officer Zip Upham arrived in the VIP van and transported the group to the flight line for an up close and personal view of jets taking off. At the ready line, jets hold short and power up before takeoff. The engine roar made your chest vibrate and photo ops had to be temporarily suspended so we could use both



We could make it to 'Coverside' with this photo! RRH and guests poised before the start of the hunt.

experience, RRH gathered at the O'Club for drinks that evening and enjoyed breakfast with the troops at the 'galley' the next morning.

Friday, with a somewhat clear eye and a

good turnout, the RRH flag was raised (thanks, Roger), toasts were made by the Master, cinches tightened and hounds released. The hunt country around the base is brush covered flats and high rocky ridges, with lots of miles for a lonely whip to cover. Coyotes were following the range cows and their calves so we stayed back from the newborns and let Wiley go this time.



Back at the trailers, with hounds and horses watered, and a stray cowboy along, breakfast was served



Admiral Vance briefs RRH members as an F18 'Super Hornet' rumbles past on the flight line.

hands to cover our ears (even though ear protection had been issued). To add to the military



Jane Cozart, Angela Murray, John Kirch and MFH Lynn Lloyd join Admiral Mark "Cyrus" Vance at NAS Fallon's Silver State Officers' Club.



from the tailgate of the Road Whip's truck. Thanks to the US Navy, and especially Admiral and Mrs. Vance, we had access to a great new hunt fixture that's a mere 2 hours from the Ross Creek Ranch. We hope to continue our partnership with NAS Fallon and repeat this great experience again in the future!

Nebraska's North Hills Hunt Visits Red Rock

Cross-country road trip in mid-February? Why not! MFH Dave Keffeler and 4 other members of the North Hills Hunt from Missouri Valley, Iowa, headed out February 12 for a tour of the



West at the invitation of MFH Lynn Lloyd of Red Rock Hounds in Reno, Nevada, and MFH Paul Delaney of Grand Canyon Hounds in Flagstaff, Arizona.

After arriving in Reno, the NNH group spent 3 days hunting with RRH. The Nebraska riders noted RRH were "fabulous hosts for their out of town guests." Although the terrain in Nevada was completely different from home, they were pleased that NNH hunted well in spite of the challenging conditions.

After Nevada, NNH's itinerary took them south to Flagstaff where more members rendezvoused to hunt with the Grand Canyon Hounds.* The Arizona segment of the trip introduced NNH to more new terrain and chal-

lenges and even beagle hunting. Tragedy struck, however, during the Grand Canyon hunt when "Spiderman", an 11 year old TB, collapsed and died from a heart attack in mid-canter.

Carrine Stava said, "It was quite an adventure and I can't quite bring to life the beauty of America, the thrill of hunting with other hunts and the joy of laughing and crying with my friends."

*En route to Arizona, part of the group spent the night at Ft. Carson, Colorado, where a round table discussion was held about having an invitational/joint hunt with Ft. Carson Hounds, Red Rock Hounds, Grand Canyon Hounds and North Hills Hounds during the 2013-14 season! Stay tuned for more information on that event as details are worked out.

Saturdays—contributed by Paulette Schneider

Lynn & Angela formed a pack of older hounds and asked me to hunt them on Saturdays. This way, these hounds can continue to work and stay more fit and happy. They aren't left behind by younger hounds and are able to scent at their own speed and do what they do best.

We hoped to achieve some additional objectives with this pack besides giving the senior hounds something to do while they wait to be adopted into new homes for their retirement:

- RRH members that are bringing a new or a younger horse to hunting will have an avenue in which to introduce horses to a pack that is a little more quiet and doesn't move at gallop (warp) speed.
 - If you would like to bring someone new to hunting that thinks we are a bunch of crazy nuts running through the sage, this is the pack for them to try — a slower, quieter pack that doesn't hunt as long. No 4-5 hours for these old ones (including me)!
 - RRH members that come from out of town to hunt on weekends will have an extra day to hunt.
 - If a RRH member is interested in trying their hand a whipping, this is a good starting place. I can always use the help and don't mind teaching.
- So far, for me it has been an awesome experience. For once I am able to know the names of all the hounds I hunt and can call to them by name. I'm able to bond with them (with the help of some biscuits, of course). I am hunting a pack that is steady and methodical. When they tell me that they have a scent, I can believe it. They are more disciplined and know what the horn sounds mean.

Oh, those runs we get on! In all the books you read about foxhound packs the term "throw a blanket over the pack" is a term that I finally understand. These hounds stay close together on a run, close enough to literally "throw a blanket over them". And the speed, well if you're looking for a hot gallop, that's not what we have. It is a strong and steady trot where the field can stay with them and watch the whole pack during a "run". We have gotten on "runs" each time we've gone out!

Finally, the most prevalent comment I get is that it's so much fun to be able to be close to the hounds and be able to watch them work their magic. Unlike the regular RRH packs that move a lot faster and cast themselves in a larger area, you can stay up close and see each hound as

it works. Everyone that has ridden with me likes that part the best!

Of course I could go on and on about "my" hounds, but I'd rather you come out and see for yourself. Don't worry about your horse getting too tired for the Sunday hunt, that's not our style. Just look at it as a warm-up for Sunday. Since we are in the "hood" hunting, it is a formal dress day. If you do join us, just bring a sack lunch or snack and refreshment for yourself. We always like to socialize afterwards. I hope everyone gets a chance to join us and see what all the fuss is about. It's great fun.

Tally Ho!

Paulette, RRH Kennel Huntsman



Paulette Schneider and Lisa Smith.

Notes from Rita, Retired Red Rock Hound

contributed by Bonnie Lind

So, now that I have retired from hunting, I've decided to change it up and live in town instead of on the ranch. I live with my new person Bonnie Lind in the heart of Reno and take her to work in Carson City. Let me tell you, it takes some training to get these humans to realize how things should be for retired hounds. Clearly my place is on the couch where I can watch everything out the window and nap comfortably amidst the cushions. Nor is 6:30 am an appropriate time to wake me up to go walking in the freezing cold! What kind of a girl gets up that early when it doesn't involve hunting? I also had to set her straight on the food front...kibble is not enough of an incentive to do tricks like sit, down, stay and off. Rotisserie chicken and steak or really gooeey (Bonnie says disgusting) canned dog food are much more appropriate. I even suckered Bonnie and Georges Schneider into giving me a whole can of it to "teach" me to go through the dog door. And I gotta tell you,

being in town, I'm one hot bitch, though Bonnie's says no more dog park until that's done. Apparently one of me is more than enough for anyone.

I have learned to tolerate a leash as it seems to be critical to Bonnie taking me out for my three to four walks a day. With Bonnie waiting for surgery on her knee, I'm incredibly polite and don't even pull. One of these days she's going to realize that leashes are silly - I'm a Red Rock

Hound and clever enough to know where home is... I mean seriously, I tracked coyotes and bunnies...houses don't move. I've also taken on the responsibility of making sure she's doing a things right at work, though I'm still adjusting to everyone in her office wanting to pet me. I know I'm wonderful, but why do they all want to touch me...a gracious nod from across the room would acknowledge my wonderfulness without musing the do. After road tripping

with Bonnie, Georges Schneider and Georges' dog, Emma, to California, I've decided this is a new great way to explore new places just with a smaller group than when I went with all the hounds. All in all I think this might do, especially when we move into the new house with a yard.



CLOSING WEEKEND PHOTO GALLERY



Above: MFH Lynn Lloyd and Field Master Mary Tiscornia lead the hunt from Ross Creek Ranch on closing day.

Below: About 35 riders in 3 fields enjoyed the gorgeous weather of Sunday's final hunt. Watching the riders climb the hills from the barns to the first checkpoint was a photo op not to be missed!



Preston Smith was thrilled to ride with the masters in his newly-awarded scarlet (we're confident he'll purchase his own jacket once he has the opportunity!).



Above and right:



Proud to show off their colors (awarded at the 2013 Hunt Ball), Georges Schneider and Marianne and Roger Merriam couldn't wait for new jackets, so they fashioned duct tape colors for Sunday's final ride! Carol and Cormac Devine also earned their colors for their many contributions to RRH, including 'Healing Hounds.'



Dr. Pat Hodges and Jann Flanagan sported elegant pink dancing slippers with their basic black at the Ball. (photo provided by Rhinestone Pony Photography).



Above: RADM Mark Vance and his wife, Darien, were honored guests at the Hunt Ball. The Vances were instrumental in arranging and sponsoring the February hunt at NAS Fallon. (photo provided by Rhinestone Pony Photography). Left: Cormac Devine and John Kirch (the amazing road whips) say 'See you next year!' at the season comes to a close.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

THANKS to Georges Schneider, Bonnie Lind, Tamara Erickson, Myrna Moore, and all the amazing volunteers for making the hunter pace a success! Another big shout out **THANK YOU** to the hunt ball committee- Jim and Jo Bourie, Cormac and Carol Devine, John Edwards, John Schafer, Jeff Hodges, Liz Kelley, Pete Lazetich, Georges Schneider, Mark Murphy, and Dianne Karp for making the hunt ball and amazing success! **THANKS** to Joy Smith and Carol Devine for the awesome photo show of hunts and hounds they prepared for the Hunt Ball—and to all those who contributed photos. **THANKS** to our road whips John Kirch and Cormac Devine and their lovely assistants Mark Vance, Susie Kirch, and Kathryn Freeman for the awesome whoopee wagon on closing day and to Amy Lessinger and Robin Keith for hunt breakfast. **THANKS** to our field masters, Mary Tiscornia, Georges Schneider, and Joy Smith for a great day and to our hounds and horses and staff for all their dedication to the sport!!! **THANK YOU** to Virginia Rivers of Rhinestonepony.com photography, along with hunt members Kathryn Freeman, Cathy Evans, Susie Kirch, and Joy Smith, who all provided photos for the Riteer (to show you just how much fun we had!!!).



Bits and Bridles

- Temperatures dipped low in late December and the early weeks of January, but the hardy RRH rode on!



pups have been moved from the whelping pen to the puppy kennel.

Audrey "Hollywood" Norrell continues her superstar performances in Southern California. She recently participated in the HITS Desert Circuit competition in Thermal, CA, and did very well.



Photo provided by Roger Merriam

- The "Y" puppies are growing! The

RIDGECREST

A Tale of Denby the Beagle—contributed by Amy Lessinger

This is a tale of Denby the beagle - an inappropriate story. Reader discretion is advised!

If you have never been on the Ridgcrest away trip, you **SHOULD NOT GO** if:

- You are adverse to sun and 65 degrees in January.
- You despise having a cocktail in the hot tub every evening.
- You dislike fun of any kind.
- You are not open to laughing your head off during the Saturday night skits at Jack and Joanne's house.
- You prefer to slave away in your kitchen at home rather than enjoying scrumptious catered meals at the end of a beautiful day of hunting.

Yes, definitely stay home. - knitting socks. But know this...without an adventure to Ridgcrest, you might miss out on stories like this...

It all began at our annual joint meet in Ridgcrest, CA with the Red Rock Hounds, Santa Ynez Valley hounds, Kingsbury Harriers and the Paradise Valley Beagle pack. It was day two: Beagle/Harrier day. Sun shining, people smiling - Master Amanda Wilson casts the beagles and harriers and we are off! I'm trotting along and all of a sudden my horse has a mini freak out and I realize choya cactus is the culprit. I climb off and start to remove it and when I look up, a group of my very best buddies has come to my rescue. Preston offers me his flask, Angela offers me her Leatherman, Syd holds my horse and Joy takes pictures. Everyone else is now passing Preston's flask around, watching the entertainment. I finally get the last one out and am back on my horse when we realize the hunt has swung around and

is headed our way. Perfect! That's when we see a lone beagle weaving and dashing through the brush and two harriers in hot pursuit. We look for the rabbit, don't see one. We hear the long note of the huntsman's horn and a single whipper-in scrambling through the brush yelling "Get back to her!" The huntsman has stopped and continues to blow while Denby is still running at Mach 12 in little circles - Harriers hot on Denby's tail, whipper-in whirling, horn blowing.

Denby pauses behind a bush, doubled over, trying to catch a little breath and the harriers arrive. Without even offering Denby a drink first, one proceeds to mount Denby and gyrate like Elvis the pelvis. "Leave it! You get back to her!" Denby's eyes are wide and wild! Confused and furiously trying to stave off the lewd harrier advancements, Denby takes off again and the entire process repeats itself. It was during the second gang rape of poor Denby that we realize she is actually a *HE*. I'm pretty sure at that point Denby looked up at us and said, "Can you believe this shit?"

Enter Joy Smith... humanitarian, master cat rescuer and now head of the beagle gang rape prevention unit. The whipper-in is now off her horse and has Denby in her arms. He is ever so grateful and would prefer to be on the top of her head, as far away from the horny harriers as possible. Joy says, "Give him to me." Keep in mind she's on a baby horse. All of us gasp and think, uh oh, this gay rodeo could just be getting started. Whip lifts Denby up to Joy and he lays over her pommel, quietly and happily, while Joy delivers him back to Master Amanda's loving care.

You can make donations to Joy's new foundation, BAGHIM "Beagles Against Garish Harrier Incest and Molestation" by visiting baghim.org.



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Editor's Note: Thank you to everyone who contributed photos and articles for *The Rioteer*. It's great to have such enthusiastic member participation for our newsletter! *Susie Kirch*

From the Hunt Masters

Words cannot express our gratitude towards all of our members, friends, sponsors, and especially those amazing volunteers who made our hunt ball and closing hunt weekend such a success! The hounds certainly appreciate everyone's generosity and are hoping to finish the post season hunting with great sport!

We want to thank you all for participating this past season, coming each day to the fixtures, investing your money/time to the club, always being positive, and being willing to go the extra mile to make RRH "the place to be" in the hunting world! Thanks to all of the staff members - Paulette Schneider, Amy Lessinger, Jann Flanagan, Preston Smith, Dianne Karp, Jerry Dugan, Whitney Vaughan, and Lisette Kramer for putting yourselves and your horses to the task every time you are asked. Kudos to our amazing field masters, Liz Kelley, Jane Cozart, Joy Smith, Mary Tiscornia, Tamara Erickson, and Georges Schneider for their patience and grace to insure every rider has a safe and wonderful day! And finally, a hip hip hooray for our super road whips - Big John Kirch and the Irishman, Cormac Devine - with the taxi cab, and much needed thirst aid for hounds, horses and people!

We are looking forward to the fall, and are proud to have the best hunt staff and volunteers out there! Georges has graciously volunteered to be our "steady eddy" second field master, and I (Angela) will try leading the first field some this fall if you guys will be patient with me (hopefully Liz, Jane and Mary will teach me, so I can help out). We are always looking for folks who want to step up and lead a field or learn to whip... Please contact one of us if interested!

Congrats to all of you who received your colors

- Georges Schneider, Roger Merriam, Marianne Merriam, Cormac Devine, and Carol Devine! Now we gotcha... Here comes an open check-book and more calls from the Masters to volunteer! Also, a big shout out for Preston aka Pecos Smith... receiving his much sought after Scarlets! He's really going to have an empty wallet!!

Just a few more days hunting here, then off to Montana for a day with Treasure State hunt (April 17) and then three days of our hounds in Three Forks (April 19, 20, 21). It is not too late to jump on a plane and come join us. Horses are available at both places. Contact us for more info!

After returning from Montana, all the hunt horses go on much needed R and R, as do those amazing hounds! Green horses come in, and puppies need training, so... we will begin walking out hounds on foot mid May every morning at 9 am from the kennel, and will be roading puppies and hounds on horseback just after that! Everyone is welcome to join us and please bring your friends and new horses! There is no cost to participate, we welcome all the help. We will do this throughout the summer, daily, Wednesday through Sunday, and will send an email if there is a schedule change. Big John has even agreed to make the trek off the mountain once in a while with the whoopie wagon, so please join us on foot or on horse back for lots of fun and great training!

The weekend of May 4-5, we will load up some hounds and head down to Santa Ynez for the Pacific District Hound Show. We would love to have anyone join us... It's a beautiful place, and a great event... Also, if interested, we have lots of hounds to show! Shortly after, Sunday, June 2,

we will have the Red Rock Hounds and Volunteer Fire Department Charity Horse Show. Bring your horses out and let's have fun!

Enjoy your summer, and keep your eyes open for a membership packet for the 2013-2014 season to come out soon. We will introduce some new membership categories, offer the ability to pay dues over time and with credit cards, and will be soliciting volunteers for the various hunt committees. We are working to improve all aspects of the hunt each year, and your input is greatly appreciated!



With much gratitude,
Lynn and Angela