



**Old Chatham Hunt Club  
Cry of the Hound**

Volume 1

Number 6

**Welcome to the June Issue of the Cry of the Hound!**



**Masters of the Foot Beagles Report  
Beagle Bio... “B”. That’s him in the red collar!**

You know you have clout when you are simply known by your first name. When referring to ‘Hilary’, ‘Tiger’ and ‘Shaq’ few ask for a last name. Well, the Old Chatham Beagles have their own semi-celeb named Bailiff – “B” to be short. Call him by either and he knows you’re talking to him...

Bailiff was drafted (received) from the Farmington Beagles in 2001, when he was about two years old. As a pup he was a bit unruly and hardheaded, leading the pack on an unwanted deer chase or two (or three . . .). But, then he began to settle down, apply himself and become one of the most important members of the team. His low howling voice is quite distinct – recognized not only by staff members, but by the other hounds who immediately hark (join him) he speaks. Bailiff is the proud father of two litters, both producing excellent pups. Several of

his get (children) can be recognized by their wiry, low tail – a Bailiff trademark. And like their father, they are well tempered and determined.

Far and away, Bailiff is the best “Hole Hound” of the pack. Dare a rabbit consider hiding in his underground lair, Bailiff will DIG DIG DIG! in a valiant (yet never successful) effort to reach him. Indeed he tosses mouthfuls of soil, roots and rock to the side in pursuit. At times, only his tail can be seen at the surface. The huntsman can be assured the rabbit has gone to ground when Bailiff starts digging.

Bailiff is a strong leader and an honest follower. He seems to improve with age and has passed on his legacy to his kin.

*Jess, Bob and Jack*

**Masters of Foxhounds Report  
THIS COLUMN IS NOT JUST FOR  
FOXHUNTERS**

By now, foxhunting members have received a packet full of need to know information regarding the about to begin 2006 season. We are counting the days until Roading begins, and we hope you are too. But, this column is directed to **all Old Chatham Hunt members.**

On Sunday, June 18th beginning at 8 AM, the Old Chatham Pony Club and the Old Chatham Hunt Club are jointly sponsoring the second Spring Schooling Dressage Show & Combined Test at Margie Hutchison’s Larkin Hill on Route 32 just outside of North Chatham. To make this

fundraising event at success, **we need your help and support.**

The Old Chatham Pony Club (OCPC) is one of 600 individual clubs making up the United States Pony Club, which provides opportunities for instruction and competition in English riding, horse sports and horse management for all young people willing to make the commitment. Over the past few years Natalie Epstein, District Commissioner (DC) and a dedicated group of old and new pony club supporters have worked really hard to revitalize the OCPC. And, they have been very successful. OCPC activities include mounted lessons , summer camp, rallies, drill team, vaulting and more. Responsibility toward horses, and fellow teammates is stressed. Older members gain leadership experience through teaching younger members. Last year the club was designated "A 50 Year Club" making it one of oldest clubs in America.

The future of our hunt club for beaglers and foxhunters alike depends on our juniors. That is why it is so important to support the OCPC. We will need help setting up on Saturday, June 17th, and during and after the event itself the next day. If you can volunteer your time, please call Natalie Epstein at 518-766-7800 or ghepst@aol.com.

You can also show your support by becoming a patron or sponsor of the event. There are five levels of sponsorship:

- 1) \$100 – a full page ad in the program
- 2) \$50 – ½ page
- 3) \$30 – business card size ad
- 4) \$25 – ribbon sponsor (listed in program)
- 5) \$10 – patron (message for competitors of 25 words or less printed in the program)

Individuals as well as businesses are welcome to participate. We can take camera ready artwork; business cards that can be sized to fit the level of

participation you choose; or give us the words and we'll create something for you. Please contact Pam Cohen at 518-369-2825 or phcohen@hotmail.com

Another way to show your support is by coming by the event to watch the young and some not so young competitors going through their paces. The food (available throughout the day) is pretty good too.

Hope to see you there,

Pam and Glenn, your MFH's  
Natalie Epstein, DC and Linda Romeo, joint DC

### **Huntsman's Horn...** *Springtime is for Breeding...*

Two of the most frequently asked questions directed to your huntsman are: " Why are there so many hounds whose names begin with 'N' " and "How do you decide who to breed?" Actually, these two seemly different questions are related. The decision of who to breed is usually several years in the making. The Masters, Huntsman and staff are continuously observing and evaluating the hounds, on the field and off. The criteria is much higher than "Who finds the fox?" or "Who is always in front?" Breeding the best to the best and hoping for the best, can result in a few "chance bred" great hounds, but there is a more certain formula. It's called "line breeding." At Old Chatham we have four tail-female lines, and five tail-male lines. Tail-male (or female) line refers to the doghound, his sire, his grandsire, his great grandsire, his great great grandsire and so on , back as far as records permit. A majority of our breeding lines have been in either the Millbrook or Midland kennels for at least 50 years. The tail-male and female lines are the most valued by breeders, because

they feel these carry the most pre-potent characteristics. Our pack has been bred in this way for over 20 years.

We line breed because it produces the most predictable offspring. It is the fastest route to a level pack, and best way to maintain it. A level pack runs tightly together, which as you may remember, results in better sport. Not only does it put pressure on the game, who obliges us with better runs, but it keeps the hounds safer too (see the Navigator article in Jan. "Cry"). Level refers to evenness in looks, shape, ability, pace, etc. The best packs are a large family unit, not a collection of dissimilar unrelated individuals. Of our four tail-female lines, the strongest is #2, Gogerddan Damsel '47 (English).

We acquired this line from Toni Roesch in 1985, thru Midland Nancy '78. It's standard operating procedure for foxhounds to be named for the letter of the bitch, in this case "N". That is why 26 out of 59 hounds' names begin with that letter, they are tail-female back to Nancy '78.

Incidentally, when you breed out of kennel to another hunt's doghound, you name the litter with his letter. One can also deduce that these bitches were bred from within the kennel (no change in the litter letter,) indicating ownership of a depth of bloodlines.

Hounds selected to be bred must come from a successful litter. We want to see a high percentage of the parent's litter hunting, further increasing our prospects for the future. We are not a hunt that can house or afford 200 puppies a year (You laugh, it is done!) therefore we need the most "bang for the buck". Our goal is to breed litters

successful enough that we keep a high percentage of the puppies, without lowering our standards. We're back to longevity and economics here.

Most of our other considerations are obvious, and were covered in the "Navigator" article. However, and we can't over emphasize this, biddability must accompany all other hunting attributes. We want a cooperative hound, who wants to do what we need him to do, with the minimum reinforcement.

Best, Patti

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### **Classifieds... Where You Can Advertise the Gear You've Got For the Gear You Want!**

Don't Forget About Classifieds for the *Cry* of the Hound. It is a great way to trade or sell the gear you've got for the gear you want! Please e-mail Susan Smith at [freling2@taconic.net](mailto:freling2@taconic.net) if you would like to place an ad.

Feedback for this e-news would be greatly appreciated. Please e-mail Bob Worsfold at [rqworsfold@berk.com](mailto:rqworsfold@berk.com) if you would like to contribute to the next issue or just have an idea that could help improve communications.