

# Spring Valley Hounds February 2018 Newsletter

Hunt Hotline (973) 300-7742    [springvalleyhounds@hotmail.com](mailto:springvalleyhounds@hotmail.com)

## January Events

- January 1 – New Year's Day Hunt – Jan Hartley's Pot Luck Breakfast

Keep an eye out for silent auction items!!!



## Upcoming Events

- March 24 – SVH Hunt Ball

## Anonymous Question

**Question:** When did foxhunting start in America?

**Answer:** The first record of the importation of hounds was in 1650. By 1700, mounted foxhunting was already spreading through the colonies. According to the MFHA, it wasn't until 1840 that Piedmont Hunt (Virginia) was established.

## Hunt Breakfasts

- Thank you Jan Hartley for hosting the New Year's Day breakfast!
- If there are any activities that you would like to promote, please contact the Honorary Secretary at [springvalleyhounds@hotmail.com](mailto:springvalleyhounds@hotmail.com)

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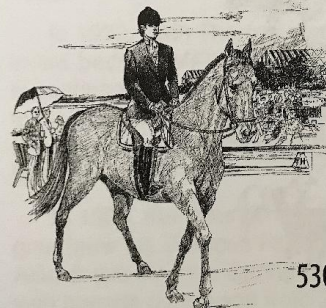


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## January Rooding



Photo Credit: Charles Frase



## Featured Hound



Photo Credit: Charles Frase

### **Trademark**

Trademark came to us in 2014 from Red Mountain Hounds. We know trademark as "Bobble-head." His sire's name was Trainwreck. Trademark can always be counted on to speak when he picks up a scent.

## A Poem for the Season

"Company"  
by Sarah Weeks

Forehead numb against the windowpane,  
hands pinching the old gluey paint on the sash,  
I look to the yellow cast from the lamp across the street –  
the only way to gauge the pace of the nighttime Nor'easter.

Drubbing down like a working hound's tongue,  
flakes form hedges on tree branches –  
at once fortifying and laying bare the vulnerability of the season.

The air smells like a static charge, saying:  
"Retreat! with your little, dry-skinned feet  
to your gently pilling, warm flannel sheets!"

And clangs of heat roll from copper pipes, and  
gusting winds bid me back to my snug bottom-bunk,  
but I stay and I wait for the grey boom of the plow.

I can see it as I hear it still a mile away...  
a channel gliding open, sidewalks vanishing, a wake of gritty slush  
whose bitter cold is like a shell of sea spray around and old salt's pipe.

I covet the clatter of the plow,  
even as it rattles foundations and rasps the asphalt:  
someone is still out there working.  
I don't feel so alone in the dark.

## A Whipping from the Staff

Road safety is of vital importance. When on the road, stay in a single file line at all times: it is difficult to negotiate traffic when a member of the staff has to turn around and make sure that the field is not riding side by side in the road. The only exception is second whip; they ride the yellow line to protect the hounds. Riding in a single-file line also makes manure pick-up easier. As a member of the field, you are not supposed to give hand signals to drivers unless told otherwise by a member of the staff. This avoids possibly conflicting signals and any confusion for drivers on the road.