

FLH Annual Meeting, 8 May 2024
McGuire's (FLH Clubhouse)

Members (full/social) in attendance:

John Blankenship; Deanna Palacios Brauer; Verona Chaffin; Lillian Davis; Joyce DiMarco; Jim & Angela Fain; Simon Gardner; Teresa Griffith; Tammy Hane; Ruth Hensleigh; Jason & Missy Hill (Callie); Mel Sadler; Steve & Susie Jaster; KayLynn Johnson; Ken Keister & Gerry Bernard; Bruce McEnroe; Nick Redman; Gayle Rue; Candy Smith; Dawn Staver; Steve Thomas; Lexie Trickett (Macie); Pat Wolf

Potluck dinner and meeting commenced at ~17:45.

Recap of the 2023-24 Season

- Budget/Membership (Candy)
 1. Budget/Balance Sheet: The balance sheet was not available/printed for distribution at the meeting, but the essentials were described and discussed. FLH closed out the fiscal year ~ \$4,200 in the black, and that money was absorbed/reallocated in accordance with US Army FMWR financial processes. (The balance sheet was subsequently made available electronically as an attachment via email and as a linked attachment on Facebook. Any member desiring a copy of the EOY Balance Sheet can reach out to MFH Candy Smith.)
 2. Dues: Masters expressed the intent to retain dues at their current levels for the 2024–2025 season in anticipation of being very close to the breakeven point of our operational costs given current conditions. (Please note the dues structure was listed incorrectly in the masters' letter to membership. Dues are unchanged and the Dues Information Sheet available on the website is correct.)
 3. Member numbers: For the 2023–2024 Riding Season there were 109 Riding Members—Full Riding Members – 68, 2nd Hunt Members – 9, Junior Members – 6, Family (additional riding members w/in a family) – 26, Social Members – 14
 4. Recruitment: MFH Candy Smith reported we gained 10 new members from the Intro to Fox Hunting sessions. FLH continues to recruit members through the Fort Leavenworth FMWR Pair Day, the Tally Ho Endurance Ride, local equestrian centers/barns, Kansas Hunt Week, and advertisement of Intro to Fox Hunting.
- Summer Activities/Hunt Activity Related Communications (Jim/Teresa)
 1. Familiarization Rides: The plan for weekly summer familiarization rides/mock hunts (beginning 4 Jun) was described/discussed. The question related to camping out overnight following Fam Rides was addressed – this NOT supportable due to insurance and landowner permission limitations.
 2. Full Moon Rides: [The intent to conduct monthly “Full Moon” rides was discussed. Dates (21 Jun/21 Jul/20 Aug/17 Sep) – each ride will be “themed”.
 3. Other: Described options/availability of trail and arena riding on post; including a discussion of the regular weekly arena session organized by Gayle Rue, which includes Fort Leavenworth Stable Activity patrons and guests. Interested FLH members should reach out to Gayle for information.
 4. Communications: (Facebook; GroupMe; email; website) The purpose(s) for the various “lines of communication” used to communicate FLH operational/social activities was discussed. MFH Jim Fain encouraged members to ensure they are connected on each of the systems, and asked individuals to consider self-monitoring their FLH Group FB posts to mitigate diluting FLH specific content posts with generic content posts. Please note that the Resources page of the website includes all current information, including links to the weekly email newsletters.
- Intro to Foxhunting (Candy)
 1. Format similar to last year's, with four sessions. Positive comments were received from new riders who participated last season. Feedback from last year's facilitators requested that final session be an informal hunt.

2. Dates: Aug 25th, (skip Labor Day weekend), September 8th, September 15th, and September 21st. This allows the sessions to be completed before MFH Candy Smith travels with juniors to JNAHFC Finals, the start of the new membership dues year, and Kansas Hunt Week.
 3. Format: Sessions will have approximately one hour of riding followed by one hour of classroom time. Riding will be in small groups—divided among self-identified riding skills—with leaders/facilitators to show riders the terrain of hunt country. The classroom sessions will cover the roles of Huntsman, staff, field masters/secretaries; hunt attire; and hunt etiquette. They will also provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions. Discussion was had regarding the appropriateness/value of an arena session to start Intro to Fox Hunting. An arena session will not be part of the Intro sessions, however members interested in arranging a separate hunt-focused arena event are encouraged to contact MFH/Huntsman Steve Thomas, who offered to head a committee regarding this topic. Additionally, MFH Candy Smith will make changes to the first Intro session to ensure all participants have an understanding of hunt commands given in the field.
 4. How to participate: Flyers were handed out to those present and will be made available electronically. Those interested in assisting, please contact MFH Candy Smith.
- 2024-2025 Calendar (Jim)
 1. Printed copies were distributed. An electronic version that includes corrected dates for the Intro sessions and adds two events is available online (Facebook files and website Resources page).
 2. Opening Autumn Hunting: 7 Sep.
 3. Opening Hunt: 12 Oct (MVH Opening – 9 Nov)
 4. Highlight Time Changes: Conditions permitting, Wednesday Hunts will be at 1500 throughout the season; Formal (Sat) Hunts will be at 1000 from Opening Hunt through December; 1100 from December through the end of February; then 1000 through Closing Hunt.
 5. Closing Hunt: 22 Mar (MVH Closing – 29 Mar)
 - KS Hunt Week (Steve/Teresa)
 1. Dates: October 6-12. FLH will hunt Easton fixture October 6 & 12 (Opening Hunt). Remaining hunts will be in the Flint Hills to make logistics easier.
 2. How to participate; sign up; cost: Sign up on FLH website. \$350/week or \$75/day. No fees for FLH or FHH members.
 3. Participating hunts: FLH, FHH, Juan Tomas (New Mexico)
 4. Lodging/stabling: Arrangements on your own, but information on local stabling/boarding/accommodations will be posted on the Kansas Hunt Week page of the FLH site.
 - LFA Led Events: KS Hunt Week Social Activities; Opening Hunt; Hunt Ball; Closing Hunt – details deferred to the LFA Annual Meeting (Friday, 26 July 2024).
 - Workdays (Jim): Open discussion with the Membership – we need support! Membership was advised that we are looking at options to increase participation and effectiveness. This issue is ongoing and the masters welcome member suggestions/input.
 - Hounds/Kennel Update/Volunteer requirements for Kennel/Trailing (Steve)
 - 15 ½ couple of hounds. Volunteers always needed in kennel and to trailer hounds (using the dedicated hound truck and trailer). Contact Steve for details.
 - “Objective” Standards for Colors (Jim):
 - MFH Jim Fain shared a “Member Log Book” that can be used by interested members to maintain as a “hunt diary” or capture objective data for consideration in the awarding of FLH colors. The log book is not mandatory, but is intended to help members better understand the basic criteria/levels of participation expected to be considered for colors. As always, awarding colors is the purview of the masters and there will always be some subjectivity in these decisions.