

The new Riding Academy was sold in the spring of 1940 to Mr. Arthur Hannum and Major and Mrs. Mathews returned to Victoria, B.C., to become active in war work.

A Junior Hunt Club was organized in January 1941 and drag hunts were held for the young members every other Saturday on the odd hunt weekends. They had their own Master, whips, secretary and treasurer. This taught them a great deal about hunting besides being a lot of fun.

In spite of the many wartime restrictions the club continued to hold its weekly drag hunts. There had been some movement in January 1942 to cut the pack down to three couples of hounds and have them boarded out. Later in the year this was done and 3 couples of hounds were boarded out at a kennel near Olympia. The club house and cottage were rented to servicemen's families. Art Hannum rented the Riding Academy to the government for a box factory and it wasn't until October 1945 that it was reopened and resumed business again.

Post-World War II

Following the war the Club decided to resume drag hunting again under the new Master, Mrs. Joseph Gilpin. She resumed drag hunting that fall. The Riding Academy came under new management, having been acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Craig. In 1946 on the club began holding bi-weekly drag hunts. The Annual Horse Shows were revived by the club to raise additional money for maintaining the hounds and kennels. However, these were discontinued in 1964 and Hunter Trials were substituted being less work but earning less money. A major achievement was securing recognition in 1962 by the Masters' of Foxhounds Association.

The Second Millenium

Woodbrook enjoys a lively cross-section of age groups, from lifetime members and veteran riders, to proud parents leading their youngsters on ponies. First, second, and on High Holy Hunt days, third and fourth fields, are generally followed by a Hilltopper group. Members of the hunt, in this millenium, are not solely of the Tacoma area, as they were in the past but, of the entire Puget Sound region surrounding Seattle. Members live and drive from approximately two hours north of the hunt kennels to an hour and a half south and south-west. It's a long commute for many of our members but, evidently, worth the trip since participation is at an all time high.

Into the Future

Many hunts in our country face the challenge of shrinking territory. For Woodbrook, the dilemma is a bit different since the hunt territory is secured by a military reservation. A major highway threatens to cut the hunt's access to that reservation. Should the highway become a reality, the Club will need to purchase land to the south of its present location in order to maintain access. The cost of such a move, facilities needed and reasonable commuting time for members are all under consideration at present.