

Bijou Springs Hunt Summary of Hunting Etiquette

While trying to maintain 300 years of Fox Hunting tradition, we are involved in this sport to *HAVE FUN!* It is the obligation of all members to conduct themselves, and manage their horses, with a degree of courtesy, caution, and attention that will assure the pleasure and safety of every other member. Following are reliable guidelines which have evolved from years of hunting experience. Whether at home kennels or visiting another hunt, we expect our membership to be an example of correctness.

Concerning the Staff and Hounds

1. Please keep clear of the staff (Huntsman and Whippers-In) and the hounds. Always allow them the right of way. Let others know they are impeding progress with a quiet but firm "Staff Please!"
2. If the pack moves past you at close quarters, turn your horse's head toward them. Never give your horse a chance to spook from, or kick at, a hound. Alert others if hounds are crossing into the field with a quiet "hounds in the field" or "hounds, please". Do NOT yell. Never use "ware hound", which will frighten the hound. On a run, staff must stay with hounds, please do not impede them.
3. Do not speak to hounds unless given permission by the staff.

Concerning the Field Master

1. The Field Master is responsible for the pleasure and safety of the field. He will keep the field where it can see the action and not be left behind if hounds find.
2. His word is LAW, do NOT pass his horse, unless waved on.
3. Preventing the Field Master from doing his job, which in turn spoils sport for others, gives him the right to censure the offending party.
4. Stay with your field, unless given permission by the Master to leave. DO NOT ride off on your own. You will be provided a partner to return with you.

Concerning Hunt Responsibilities

1. It is courteous to greet the Masters upon arrival. Let yourself be known, so the Masters know who will be hunting that day.
2. It is your responsibility to seek out the field secretary and introduce guests, pay insurance and capping fees or sign releases, and present them to the Masters.
3. If you bring a guest (especially to ride), you are responsible for the safety and conduct of that guest, before, during and after the hunt. This means riding with and enlightening them to the traditions and rules of hunting.
4. Special Hunts, noted on the fixture card, are usually followed by a Formal Hunt breakfast. This means that members are expected to come to the breakfast dressed as they ride. Wipe your boots, and wear your hunt coat to breakfast.

Concerning Riding with the Field

1. Be courteous, cautious, and concerned with safety above all
2. Field Master rides first and alone except by invitation. Members with colors should be allowed precedence within the field, due to their experience.
3. Generally, there are at least two and sometimes three fields.
 - a. First flight (field) - Stays with hounds and staff (may be over fences)
 - b. Second field - Stays with hunt but follows through gates (no jumping)
 - c. Hilltoppers - Follows the hunt from vantage point to vantage point (slower - and appropriate for new members, and new horses)
4. Help others with any problems in the field, either with a horse or general lack of etiquette knowledge.
5. Do not get too far to one side of the field, as hounds may turn back sharply.
6. Wave on riders coming faster than you wish to ride.
7. While there are not a lot of jumps in our territory, there are several guidelines to follow when necessary. When jumping, wait your turn. If you have a refusal, pull out and rejoin the end of the queue. Do not cut in front of an oncoming rider. (this should also apply to any trappy area negotiated)
8. If you have an experienced fieldhunter who jumps, offer to lead a less experienced horse over the jump.
9. Do not stop after the jump, but continue on for several hundred feet.
10. Do not school the jump. If your horse does not want to jump today, proceed to the nearest gate, so the field may continue. Do not lark jumps.
11. While hunting, please speak only in a whisper, when necessary to speak, as sound carry and distract hounds and staff and alert the coyote to our presence.
12. If you view a coyote, please do not "Tally Ho", but get word to your fieldmaster or a member with colors.
13. When stopped during a check or break, do not mix in with staff and hounds. IF hounds come into the field, at any time, please turn your horse TOWARD them and stand quietly until they move through.
14. NO smoking in the field or hunt country under ANY circumstance
15. Be sensitive to the condition of your horse. If he might kick, please tie a red ribbon in his tail. If fatigued, please withdraw so you may hunt again another day, unhurt. If unmanageable, please take him home.
16. You may always return early, but you must notify your fieldmaster and wait for his acknowledgment and instruction, as you may not leave unaccompanied.
17. Gates MUST be left as you find them, (Either open OR closed) unless laid aside, in which case, they should be closed
18. It is good manners before you leave, to thank your hosts or landowners, and the staff for their work in providing you sport for the day.

Hunting Phrases

- "Hold Hard" - stop where you are immediately
 - "Tally HO" - there he goes (the coyote)
 - "Ware - wire, hole, haunch (deer), hare" - beware of (usually a hazard)
 - "Staff please*" - when you need to give way in the field
 - "Hound in the field*" - when a hound lags or comes through the field
- (*Do not use "ware" it causes hounds to startle or jump away)

Bijou Springs Hunt Hunting Attire

New members are not expected to purchase all new equipment immediately, however, proper turnout shows respect for your friends, the traditions, and your hunt. At a minimum, new members and guests must wear boots with heels and a helmet. As soon as feasible, all members are expected to dress appropriately as possible.

Men Formal Attire

Black Coat
Canary or tattersall vest
White shirt, white stock tie with plain gold pin
Beige breeches
Black Boots
Black Velvet Hunt Helmet
Gloves of Brown leather or white string

Men Formal Attire, awarded Colors

Scarlet Coat with gold collar
*Brass buttons, or with Hunt Insignia
*if awarded
White shirt, white stock tie, plain gold pin
White breeches
Black Boots with Brown tops
Black Velvet Hunt Helmet
Gloves of Brown leather or white string

Ladies Formal Attire

Black Coat
Canary or tattersall vest
White shirt, white stock tie, plain gold pin
Beige or buff breeches
Black Boots
Black Velvet Hunt Helmet
Gloves of Brown leather or white string

Ladies Formal Attire, awarded Colors

Black Coat with gold collar,
silver cast buttons if awarded
Canary or tattersall vest
White shirt, white stock tie, plain gold pin
Beige or buff breeches
Black Boots with Black Patent tops
Black Velvet Hunt Helmet
Gloves of Brown leather or white string

*White breeches are not proper except with scarlet coats

Informal or "Ratcatcher" Attire,

Men

Tweed Coat
Canary or tattersall vest
Ratcatcher shirt with white or colored
and stock pin Or oxford shirt with tie
Beige, buff, gray or khaki breech
Brown or black boots
(field boots are acceptable)
Black or Brown Velvet Helmet
Gloves of Brown leather or white string

Women

Tweed Coat
Canary or tattersall vest
Ratcatcher shirt with white or colored stock
OR collar and pin OR oxford shirt with tie
Beige, buff, gray or khaki breeches
Brown or black boots
(field boots are acceptable)
Black or Brown Velvet Helmet
Gloves of Brown leather or white string

Please do not wear colognes, drop earrings or other dangling jewelry. If your hair is not covered by your helmet, please use a hairnet or other means of restraint.

Tack should be flat, and unornamented. Pad should conform to the saddle (not square). Pads should be white or natural, unless a special pad is required for horse comfort. Horse boots should be kept to a minimum and be black, brown or white. Tack should always be clean and in good repair.