



RIDER SPOTLIGHT: JOSEPH HARDIMAN



Written by Joseph Hardiman

I grew up on our family farm in Ireland. Our farm is in the Galway Blazers hunt country and when the hunt would come through my brother and I would follow them on foot. I was about 8 years old at that time. I started riding with the hunt when I was about 14 years old. I developed a passion for the sport and horses. I spent all of my spare time at my neighbors equestrian facility, breaking and training young horses for fox hunting and show jumping. I left Ireland and came to the US in 1984.

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I spent some time working on the show jumping circuit in New York. Then, I had the opportunity to get a job as a whipper-in at the Rolling Rock Hunt in Pennsylvania. Five months later, I took over as Huntsman. I got married, started a family and spent the next 14 years there. While in Rolling Rock, I trained and rode our own horses over timber and brush for a few years. We moved to Ohio where I hunted the Chagrin Valley Hounds for 7 seasons. We then moved to Aiken where I am currently the Master and Huntsman for the Whiskey Road Fox Hounds.

As a fox hunter, I have used a wide variety of horses but I have always preferred a thoroughbred.

From a fox hunting point of view, Stable View has the perfect terrain. It has rolling hills and ravines which is the ideal habitat for wildlife. Stable View provides acres of groomed trails with good footing for the horses with the combination of sand and clay. Also, the hills at Stable View provide a fantastic panoramic view of the country side. We are very grateful to Stable View for allowing us to enjoy their beautiful facility.

As Huntsman of the Whiskey Road Foxhounds, I am responsible for the training and well being of the hounds and for providing good sport.

When I'm not hunting, I enjoy traveling and visiting our family and friends in Ireland. I also enjoy playing some golf.

I am fortunate that my wife and our 2 daughters also enjoy horses and hunting. My wife and I have been hunting together for 40 years. This year is my 40th year as a Huntsman and we have enjoyed bit of it!