



September 1999

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Announcements!!!

- We have a new Hunt Line telephone number: **464-2220**. Go reprogram your phone now.
- The October 16th 3pm (not 3am as the fixture card proclaims!) hunt has been designated as "Junior Day". RH junior members are requested to be sure to attend this hunt and help introduce juniors from local 4-H clubs and pony clubs to the sport of foxhunting. Note this is not a Junior Hunt (i.e. when the juniors get promoted to staff positions).
- Members of the field are requested to keep in mind basic field etiquette. Please make sure your horse is facing TOWARDS the staff/trail during a 'ware staff' so that the staff does not feel like they are taking their life in their hands riding past your horse. Please remain quiet during checks. Always give the hounds right of way. This is particularly important during cubbing as you can very well come upon a very confused hound in the trail trying to figure out what he/she is supposed to be doing. That confused hound expression is pretty easy to spot if you watch out for it. If the hound is just off the trail, sometimes stopping your horse will encourage them on their way (usually forward).
- Hunter Paces - Both the Bedford hunter pace, and the Maury River hunter pace are scheduled for Oct 10th this year. The newsletter editors have personally checked out both of these venues and declare it a draw as to which one to attend - they have both been quite fun in the past. The Bedford version is being held in conjunction with their 'races'; if you received the flyer you almost have to read between the lines to realize there is a hunter pace in the morning. (Erica Jones)

Capping rules and suggestions:

Any hunting member may invite a guest or guests to ride to hounds. Visitors are also welcome to call the master of foxhounds or the secretary for an invitation to hunt. A liability waiver should be signed and a cap fee of \$25.00 paid before the hunt begins. Guests and visitors are limited to three appearances in the hunt field in any one season. The master of foxhounds is bestowed complete control of a hunt including time, place, and persons who may participate; therefore the MFH may invite any guests to hunt without requiring a capping fee and without regard to the number of times an individual has

hunted in a season. Even though social members are not permitted to ride, according to the Rockbridge Hunt by-laws, The master of foxhounds has declared social members may hunt as his guests subject to the following limits: social members who wish to hunt may be invited by a hunting member, call the Master of Foxhounds, or the secretary to express their interest to participate in any particular hunt and the usual guest capping fee of \$25.00 is to be paid. Social members will be limited to three hunts per season. (Blair Jones)

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The 2nd Annual RH Endurance Ride

Well, after last year with the weather 'too hot', I can safely say the 1999 version was NOT too hot. A bit damp perhaps, for those who managed to miss Labor day weekend in Rockbridge County.

We did not have the 1998's numbers of riders, but still registered approximately 70 horse & rider teams, and two teams for the 25 mile ride and tie. Unfortunately, almost 50% of those signed up did not start probably because of the dire weather predictions for Sunday (flash floods and the like). Kathy Eichelberger zipped around camp at 7:35 am (five minutes after the 25-milers were supposed to leave) to shame some of the 25 milers into going out and actually convinced about 5 more human/horse teams to go ahead and ride. The trails were reported as being slick. In spite of the mud, our ride farrier David Conner seemed pretty underemployed although it was reported he was not complaining.

Most of this years' riders came from VA-NC-WV unlike last year where we got a little wider participation. It was thought that a ride scheduled for the following weekend (also in Virginia) did not help participation this year, but the ride organizers were not disappointed with the pre-ride sign-up.

The food committee worked as hard as usual to produce timely, tasty meals for those who stuck it out through the rain. Jeanne Jeffer (head chef) would like to sincerely thank the following folks for their help with the four meals:

Fred & Barbara Burks
Karen Zollman
Judy Mundy
Diane Long
Nancy Conner
Holton Conner
Pete Whitlock
Frank Hartis
Michael Beda
Carol Atwood
Bailey Jeffer
Erin Dickinson
Susan Johnson
Jennifer Johnson
Kay Morton

MFH David Bolen headed up the trail committee and the trails were reported as being obsessively well marked. The trail consisted of two loops, with the 'white' loop being the 12 mile warm-up for the 'pink' loop. The 50-milers did both loops twice, showing up back at base camp for their three in-ride vet checks and mandatory holds. If you see any white or pink surveyors flagging while you are out cubbing this fall, please feel free to remove it from the trees. Carol Atwood rounded up landowners' cattle so that there were only three gates that needed to be personed.

Veterinarian help was volunteered by Stan and Kathy Eichelberger and Dana Reeder. We also hired Randy Darton and Todd Burdick. Horses got processed quite rapidly at the vet checks partly because of the scratches and partly because we had such good help. Amy Guthrie and Blair and Erica Jones scribed for the veterinarians, trying to put pencil to very soggy time cards. Joy (now DVM) Watkins' husband, Andy, was the head timer. Talk about someone who really got to stand out in the rain all day!

The nine 50 mile riders who stuck it out to the finish (out of 13 starters) did the course in times ranging from 9 hours 15 minutes to 10 hrs 30 minutes. There were 24 finishers in the 25; times ranged from 4 hrs 5 minutes to 5 hours 50 minutes.

RH riders again participated in both rides. Lu Dooley was doing her first 50-miler on the Farmer/Baird stallion Shasha and ended up with the 3rd highest vet score. Pam Moskal, Susan Bailey and Mary Lynn Camper slogged through the 25 miles and they all finished in the top ten.

My apologies if we have left any names out as I'm sure we have. Please let us know for future newsletters. (Erica Jones)



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Hunting Season Check List

- *Horse check:*
 - sound, no lameness
 - current (12 months) Coggins (EIA)
[required by state law]
 - immunizations
 - * rabies
 - * flu
 - * rhino
 - * tetanus
 - teeth floated for proper biting action
 - feet - proper shoes with reasonable traction
 - fitness to saddle
 - *muscles in back toned by exercise for carrying weight of saddle and rider
 - * saddle and girth area of skin free from crust and sores
 - *character suited to ride with a group at speed
 - * size not too tall so that you can mount from the ground and not so short that your feet drag.
- *Rider check*
 - muscles in bottom, legs, and between the ears exercised.
 - saddle area of skin free of crust and sores.
 - character suited to ride with a group.
 - size not too important.
- *Tack check*
 - stitching should look clean and not frayed.
 - cracking leather indicates weakness.
 - watch for excessive wear or rot:
 - * breastplate,
 - * reins,
 - * other bridle parts,
 - * lead ropes,
 - * halters,
 - * saddle,
 - * stirrup leathers,
 - * girth (elastic in girth should not be stretched out of shape,)
 - * billets.
 - fit:
 - * bridle:
 - bits without proper affect,
 - curb chains too loose or tight,
 - brow bands too loose or unsightly and too tight, interfering with proper fit.
 - * saddle:
 - room for three or four fingers between your seat and the cantle

[Saddle, cont'd]

- your knees resting on the knee roll edge for more forward and/or longer flap.
- tree too narrow or wide prohibits proper balance and may sore your
- saddle stuffing should not be lumpy or hard
- gullet too shallow or narrow may sore your horse's back
- stirrups too narrow may hold your foot in the event of a fall.
- * halter:
 - should not sit too low on nose,
 - nose piece should be relatively snug so that a hoof can't go through.
- *Equipment check*
 - horse sheets, coolers, blankets for trailer trips in cold weather
 - leg wraps, head bumper
 - grooming items
 - * brushes
 - * hoof pick
 - * braiding aids
 - water bucket and 5 gallons of water per horse.
- *Outfit check*
 - hunting license
 - stock pins
 - shirt
 - coat
 - * cleaned
 - * buttons secure
 - * check seams for soundness
 - breeches
 - belt
 - boots should be large enough for cold weather socks
 - socks for cold weather (wool, silk, polypropylene)
 - under garments with minimal seams
 - hunt cap or helmet with proper safety rating
 - hair net
 - gloves
 - handkerchief
 - eye protection with retaining cord
 - jewelry is best left home away from prying branches .
- *Optional Appointments*
 - flask filled for sharing
 - sandwich case
 - hunt whip
 - wire cutters

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[Hunting season check list cont'd]

- surveyor's tape to flag hazards,
 - first aid items,
 - cell phone,
 - camera – film,
 - string for emergencies.
- **Trailer check**
 - unwanted creatures:
 - * mice and other rodent types
 - * wasps and hornets
 - * spiders
 - * snakes
 - * mushrooms belong on pizza, not in your trailer.
 - structure:
 - * frame - look for cracked welds,
 - * floor - lift your mats and actually look at the wood,
 - * ramps - sufficient traction and no sharp edges,
 - * sharp and unpadded areas can be improved with auto body filler and foam sealer ,
 - * axles - remove the bearings to inspect brake pads,
 - * suspension joint wear indicated by clunks and groans while in motion over uneven terrain,
 - * renew bearing grease,
 - * tires
 - wear,
 - air pressure,
 - spare in working order,
 - with little use tires dry rot before they wear out.
 - * hitch
 - * electrical:
 - ground connection,
 - lights,
 - brakes,
 - some horses eat exposed wiring , so encased is better.
 - safety:
 - * mats,
 - * padding,
 - * escape door latches,
 - * tie points,
 - * hitch chains,
 - * reflectors.

- **Tow vehicle check**
 - hitch class III or heavier is the proper rating for the load .
 - wiring connectors clean and without corrosion.
 - brake controller:
 - * tires inflated for load of trailer,
 - * spare tire suitable for the load,
 - * lug wrench and heavy duty jack able to lift any wheel without unloading the horses.
 - horse and people first aid kits,
 - flashlight,
 - mechanics tools,
 - sharp knife,
 - flares or reflective triangles.

[end of hunting season check list] (Blair Jones)

We had several requests for Viola Wise's coffee cake at the Sunday breakfast, so recipe follows. A good number of cooks suggested RH try to compile a cookbook to help the reader in cooking for small to medium mobs of hungry people. Leaf through your files for contributions and stay tuned. (Erica Jones)

Viola Wise's coffee cake:

12 'Rhodes' brand frozen rolls
1 box butterscotch pudding (NOT the instant type)
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
3/4 T cinnamon
1 cup pecans

Place the 12 rolls (still frozen) in a greased bundt pan. Sprinkle butterscotch pudding over the top. Drizzle the melted butter over this.

Mix the sugar, spice and pecans and sprinkle over rolls. Let rise over night. Bake in preheated oven over 350 degrees for 35 minutes. (Viola Wise)



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Cub Hunting

Cub hunting is traditionally scheduled early in the morning for a good reason. The staff is not trying to torture you and exercise your alarm clock! Scenting is marginal during warmer weather so the earlier you can get going, the better chance the hounds will have of coming across an enticing trail. The first scheduled meet was canceled for rain. During the opening cubbing (is this a proper term?) on September 21st some of the 18 members of the field got to view a gray fox and engaged him/her in pursuit, and later on in the morning the riders in the back of the field got to see an exceptionally large bobcat. The bobcat managed to mostly sneak off and not leave much of a trail. Much of the morning was foggy and cool, making for nice conditions for horse, hound and rider alike. We were greeted back at the lodge with a delicious breakfast. Admittedly it may be a bit hard to get your body to act like it knows how to ride a horse at that hour, but you will get the hang of it quickly (or fall off and wake up).

(Dakota Jones)

Wednesday, September 22, 3 PM, Broadview

The weather was gorgeous, surprisingly cool with a high around sixty-five or possibly seventy degrees, clear and sunny. Hounds probably chased turkeys briefly in the woods between Whiskey Hill and the creek (the creek running to the Blue Hole, does this creek have a name?). There was a good, short chase from somewhere near Lick Run, looping below the Big Woods and then back toward Plank Road, just below the crest of the ridge. Hounds quit near the Tree Stand. Since the huntsman had several young hounds out considerable time was spent gathering them up. The young hounds included Noodle, Nuisance, Norman, Cody, Copy, Witch, Wizard, and Willa. (Cindy Morton)

The meet on the 22nd came with gorgeous weather to the delight of the 27 in the field. We had a nice sprint around the vicinity of "the barn hollow" with a gray fox suspected as our pilot. My rider hung on with eyes wide and grin silly as I was determined not to be left behind. A tailgate social was enjoyed afterward. (Delphi Jones)

Saturday, September 25, 8 AM, Morton farm:

The hunting was not particularly good. Fox have been seen this past summer near Roundy's property and a couple of hounds seemed like they got a whiff of something near there but it didn't seem to be fresh scent. Several hounds opened behind Joe and Katharine Conner's house but nothing more happened. I understand that the Jones' summer project, "the rabbitat," was featured on the morning's tour. Did anyone see any rabbits? I saw plenty of deer.

(Cindy Morton)

Notices and want ads:

There's a new litter of puppies in the kennels. RH Waffle has six puppies, sired by RH Voucher. Four are white with black spots and two are white with very faint beige spots. They're about two weeks old and they all look fat and sleek. Waffle has taken to motherhood just fine. (Cindy Morton)

The Newsletter Committee was formed specifically to reduce the club secretary's workload. As you may have noticed, the current (small) newsletter committee includes not only the club secretary but also the club treasurer. We both have jobs and horses to ride and fences to mend and weeds to pull and a little help with the newsletter would be appreciated. What exactly do we have in mind? Submit something. If you're putting on an event, make sure we get the information. The newsletter is the place for announcements ahead

of an event about dates and times and what kind of volunteer help will be needed. After the event the membership wants (and deserves) to know how the event ran, who participated or competed, who helped, and how much money was made or lost. If you're on a committee the newsletter is the place for occasional announcements on whatever it is that your particular committee is working on. If the members of your committee change, something should definitely be printed about that. If there's an issue you're particularly interested in or knowledgeable about, there's generally an open attitude about including something on that topic in the newsletter. There's always a chance that it may be deemed unsuitable for the newsletter but appropriate for some other venue. Contributions are far more likely to be cheerfully, gratefully received. . (Cindy Morton)

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Carol Atwood reports that some stainless steel (large) casserole pans are missing from the hunt lodge. She would appreciate it if you would go stare in your freezer to check to see if any of them are there.

These pans are very handy for the person doing breakfast and are missed.

Erin Dickinson is offering to clean tack to help finance her stay at Virginia Tech. She can be reached during the week at 553-3354; weekends

at 261-7287. Prices are saddle + girth = \$10. Western saddle - \$20. Martingale or breastplate - \$5. Bridle - \$7. Prices include labor and oiling. Erin can also be reached via e-mail at edickins@vt.edu.

Erica Jones is looking for used all purpose saddle with padding suitable for middle-aged rider. Medium tree. 17.5" seat or so. Would like Passier (!). 544-7359 home 231-4427 work.

The hard work of the Grounds Committee and the Kitchen Committee is evident and greatly appreciated. The grounds around the lodge just keep looking better and better.
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[The following appeared on the internet and is reprinted with permission of Joe Rackley, Surfside Beach, SC. September 21,1999:]

Horse Women...The Real Story!

Horse Women Ain't right.

Now that we have established that, we can continue. It was only to the dismay of certain parents to discover that their daughter or daughters were not what you would call the norm for the typical young girl. It was only after many a late night discussion when all the children were safely tucked in bed except for the young daughter..who felt it to be a life and death matter to go out late at night to check on her new horse, that it was not the failings of the parents giving their love and devotion...not that the mother and the grandmother and aging aunts didn't spend many hours exposing the young girl or girls to the art of afternoon tea or the Daughters of the Confederacy garden luncheons, that this wayward young girl would stray in to a world so strange to the everyday happenings of other young girls, or conforming to a mold described as the definition of the young female in our society.

No, it was not the countless hours in front of the black & white Zenith TV set on Saturdays watching Sky King and Roy Rogers and then running down main street in front of her grandparents clothing store swinging a Hickory switch, that was cut from the tree with the small two blade Old Henry pocket knife she purchased without her mother knowing, keeping it in the small plastic purse her mother made her wear, screaming at the top of her ability, "Giddy up ya damned ol' horse," then jumping the fire plug in front of the store, not a thought in the world given to her short lady-like dress a-flying in the breeze.

"Harold, how did she learn that word," her mother would say to her father?

No, it was none of these things. The parents had not fallen down on the job providing the correct upbringing for these young girls. They are a product of an ancient race of Amazon horse women aliens from the Alpha Centaur galaxy, who have made a conquest of laying waste to the inequalities between man and woman on this small planet called earth. Selectively chosen, each young girl was implanted with a small micro chip that sent a continuous message to their developing brains, "I love horses...I can tame them...I like all the fittings that go along with them...Miller's catalog and State Line Tack will be my guide...and I will always wear the symbol of the horse on my clothing, no matter the cost."

Horse product catalogs...

I've always wondered about those things. When I needed something for my horse, I always went to the tack shop. It was only when I hooked up with the horse woman I live with, that happens to be my wife, I noticed horse related catalogs tucked away neatly in the tack room, sliding out from under the seat of the truck, the bath room and etc.

You know that horse product catalogs are printed on that planet where the Amazon horse women aliens are from, and are delivered to Chicago and then mailed from there to all the horse women who were placed on the mailing list when they were born and the subscription was to activate at the same time as their

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first credit card. This is true stuff...I know ...I've been following this subject for years.

I remember the first time I actually looked at one...I was in the bathroom and saw all these catalogs for horse stuff. Well, I picked it up and looked at a few pages...wooo...I knew then that I was not supposed to be looking at it. There in front of God and everyone else were these good lookin' young women in tight fitting riding breeches...showing off their backsides and looking back at the camera. Man, I was hooked, you can keep Playboy.

Well, it was after that I decided to keep up with this catalog thing. I watched and observed over the years. It was to my joy when the full leather seat breeches started to appear. You know, I was trying to figure out where I had seen something like that before. For months it just bothered me...and then...I remembered...Doe season...white tail deer...It was a white tail deer jumping a bush out in the woods...Yes, that was it! And the leather on the riding breeches was...Doe Skin!

Well, like I've said, I kept a close look on all this catalog business. Ever notice in that Miller's catalog, that the backsides look a lot better with the more expensive breeches? It's true...just go look. Yes, and that's the facts. Not only that, but the Amazon horse women aliens who print these catalogs also print in invisible ink below the price, in the margin, things like this, Now for \$69.95, your backside can look like this and when you get up to the higher prices you get things like this, "For \$300.00, hounds will break into full cry and or blue ribbon for sure, baby. Now, as I have said, it's printed in invisible ink that the computer chip implants can only pick up. A safety feature. I actually know this for a fact. One day I was walking through this barn and overheard a few horse women talking about something in a Miller's catalog, and one of them said in response to another, "But did you read between the lines." See, it's true. I also think that the chromosome thing has something to do with it too. And if you pay attention you'll notice that a horse woman can always produce a horse catalog at the drop of a hat.

You think I'm just fooling about these catalogs being printed by Amazon horse women aliens from another planet. Okay, you'll see. Try and find riding breeches or anything else for a man in Stateline Tack or Miller's catalog. Yea, right, I know what you're thinking...I've seen men's stuff in those catalogs. Well, that's a ploy to keep their cover. Stateline has a photo of men's breeches in a postage stamp size photo buried in the back of the catalog, with only one color and a size that might have fit me in junior high.

These Amazon horse women aliens also have secret meetings for their followers disguised as things like baby showers and Dressage shows! I'm not fooled by this. They have secret pass words like, Carl's on a business trip this weekend...bring your favorite horse tape...and wine. I know better than that. They're holding a big ritual with the Amazon horse women alien warriors...and they burn scented stuff and sacrifice things.

Chariots of the Gods...

As these Amazon horse women alien warriors from another planet require chariots for their warriors...you find that you have been cast into a spell by these horse women and find yourself at the Ford dealership purchasing a Ford F-350 and of course, let's not forget, well, the matching horse trailer with dressing room. These chariots make it easy for horse women to travel, when summoned by the Amazon horse women alien warriors to the big gatherings, like Dressage shows and things like that.

What I want to know is, "What's wrong with a stock trailer?" They look good and horses like them better and they're cheaper. Why do you need a dressing room on a horse trailer...when all the regalia ends up in the back of the extended cab and under the seat with all those catalogs? I think it might have something to do with being able to put your hands on the horse woman regalia at a moments notice when the Amazon horse women alien warriors decide that it's time to team up with all the horse women they have trained over the years and take over the world.



The Rockbridge Hunt,
62 Hark-to-Loop,
Glasgow, VA 24555