

Rockbridge Hunt Newsletter – December 2000

New fixture card

New Rockbridge Hunt Line number: 540-462-1113.

Please note that your late fall- 2001 (new) fixture card is included in this newsletter. Please call Carol Atwood with your reservations (463-1000). You may reserve for the year if you like. Carol reports that folks have not been calling to reserve – please remember to do so. Cooking for some unknown quantity is no fun!!

Virginia Hunt Week 2000

The first Virginia Hunt Week is over. It was unforgettable and great fun. Rockbridge Hunt members were a substantial presence throughout the week. At every single meet I saw Rockbridge members handling gates and helping out in various ways. They rode well and were turned out well and knew what was happening. We can all be proud of the way Rockbridge was represented throughout the week.

The people who attended Virginia Hunt Week were knowledgeable foxhunters and they noticed these points (most of the visitors from outside the area are on the staff at their home hunt). I received several comments from out-of-state visitors about Rockbridge being the friendliest group of the week. That was helped along by the fact that ours was the first meet and we wore nametags at the breakfast. Every day after that visitors could look around and see someone they'd already met who they knew would get along in the hunt field. That's got to be a reassuring feeling when you've traveled all the way from Oklahoma or Illinois or New York.

Frankly, the weather was lousy for hunting although a fox was viewed at Farmington. It was warm and dry and clear with a full moon. On the other hand, the fall foliage was beautiful and the weather was perfect for standing around both before and after the meets, eating and drinking and talking, activities dear to the hearts of foxhunters. All the breakfasts were fabulous and most days featured a stirrup cup, too.

The hunting was a blast and riding over different territory was definitely a treat but the highlight of the week was meeting all the people. It really was a lot of fun. There will be meetings and discussions and changes but the future of Virginia Hunt Week seems secure.

As an added bonus, Rockbridge Hunt Pony Club sold close to five hundred dollars worth of merchandise! And I'd like to thank everyone who helped out that day and with preparations: Carol Atwood, Susan Bailey, David Bolen, Alice Buchanan, Fred Burks, Katharine Conner, Carter Drake, Lois Farmer, Laura Jarvis, Lauren Keating, Ann Layman, Joyce Layman, Judy and Popeye Mundy, and Janet Wynot. Diane Long and Jeanne Jeffer very kindly lent horses to visitors from Great Britain. Judy Mundy helped transport one of the horses. And Diane contributed a horse for one of the visitors several times during the week. That was most generous and we all thank you.

Executive Committee:

JT MFH

David Bolen
291-3336

JT MFH

Cindy Morton
463-6025

President

W. A. Whitlock
258-2411

Treasurer

Katharine Conner
463-7816

Honorary Secretary

Erica Jones
544-7359

Stewards

Carol Atwood
463-1000
Fred Burks
258-2828
Kathy Eichelberger
947-2966
Lauren Keating
291-3336

Newsletter Committee:

Blair Jones
(Abjones@vt.edu)
Erica Jones
(Emjones@vt.edu)
Cindy Morton
(cmorton@wlu.edu)

Hunt-mail listserve:

Contact cmorton@wlu.edu

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RH Pony Club News

One of our very own PC'ers Renata Huffman won her division of Preliminary Combined Training at the PC version of the summer Olympics (called a rally). Preliminary jumps can be up to 3'6" high, 5' wide and drops are high enough to seriously rattle one's teeth.

Sick/Other News List

RH members certainly have had their share of 'news' lately:

Jeannie Jeffer – various mashed internal organs and a trip to a Charlottesville hospital and back. Jeannie is back in the hunt field, though.

Louis Farmer – in and out of the hospital.

Betty Baird – in and out of the hospital but rumored to be riding at home.

Terry Poff – in and out of the hospital although she was spotted riding at opening hunt

Nancy Conner – slipped disks still not totally behaving but she's been riding again.

Pam Moskal – had a large healthy baby boy. William Cabell Moskal came to his first breakfast at opening hunt.

Kevin Baird - got quite the write up in the Chronical after having to pull up after 65 of a 100 mile ride.

Rockbridge Hunt Endurance Ride 2000

As usual, the endurance ride simply could not have happened without a regular army of volunteers. I hope we have not missed anyone, but here we go:

Trail: David Bolen (head), Lauren Keating, Lu Dooley, Frank Farmer, Lisa Kern, Sandra Worthy, Kevin and Brenda Baird

Gates: Nancy and Holton Conner, Blair Jones

Food: Blair and Erica Jones (Blair turned out 80 pounds of barbecued chicken off the Rockbridge Hunt grill in a record 4 hours), Cindy and Kay Morton (carrot peelers extraordinaire), Judy Mundy (spaghetti), Diane Long (mondo salad), Lois Farmer (lunches), Viola Wise (cookies), Ann Layman (more salad!), Lu Dooley (brownies), Jan Keener (more cookies!) (Jan's not even a member!), Karen Zollman and Nancy Conner. Karen got up at the crack of doom Sunday morning (4 am?) and made hard boiled eggs and coffee for the riders. There is still a small "Coleman" cooler in the hunt lodge (white body, red mane) which I think came from someone bringing food??

Facilities: Thanks to the Zollmans' for use of their tractor for fetching rigs off the grounds.

Sanctioning fees, recording fees, etc.	430
Insurance	70
Awards*	212
Staff (vets, timer, records, etc	790
Food	565
Facilities	701
(Zollman's Pavilion	400)
(Water pump rental	50)
(Porta-johns	251)
Total expenses	2,768
Total income (entries and meals)	5,808
Total profit	\$3,040

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*Awards: We give out plaques to the winners and a horse sheet for the winner of the best conditioned award with ROCKBRIDGE HUNT 50 BEST CONDITION printed on it. Also 'turtle' award and high vet score plaque.

The weather was perhaps a shade better with some light rain this year; at least it did not pour continuously or bake evenly.

We had five ride and tie teams this year (doing 25 miles); the most ever ride and tie teams, but no results were available.

The winner of the 25 was Michelle Stanton from Honey Brook PA with a time of 3:31 riding an Arab owned by Steve & Betty Baker. In second place was Candace Fitzgerald of Lexington with a time of 3:40. Twenty eight horses started with two being disqualified for 'overtime' and two retiring.

The winner of the 50 was Samatha Sandler from Gaithersburg MD with a time of 7:57 on her 6 year old Arab gelding. In second place was Dana Reeder of Ranson WV with a time of 8:10. Thirty horses started with 11 finishing.

Hunt Ball 2001

Buster Lewis, Hunt Ball chairperson reports that a contract is in the works with Evans Hall (W & L that is) and will probably have a meeting soon. The rest of the committee is comprised of: Pam Moskal, Carol Atwood, Frank Hartis, Nancy Conner, Bev Bowring, Brenda Baird and Cindy Morton. If you have any interest in helping, don't be shy about calling Buster. This is really two events at once with the amount of work it takes to do the silent auction concurrently.

The hunt ball will be the same place as last year (Evans Dining Hall at Washington and Lee University) and same band (Merle Ayers).

Nancy Conner will again be securing donations for the Silent Auction. Your donations can be dropped off anytime now. Let her know if you have something to bring (463-9547) so she can make appropriate arrangements. After Christmas Nancy and her helpers will start making phone calls to solicit donations. While you're doing your Christmas shopping keep your eyes open for bargains that are irresistible to foxhunters! *Please*, it would be extremely helpful if all donations were received by Saturday, February 17th (a week before the ball). At least let Nancy know what you are bringing. Thank you.

New Members!, 2000-2001:

Nina E. Marshall
PO Box 20672
Roanoke VA 24018-0068
(Nina is actually rejoining. She hunted with Rockbridge in the 1970s and has her colors.)
Joined as Riding member, single

Louise Golian
957 Red Hill Rd
Vesuvius VA 24483-2715
(husband is Bruce Golian)
Joined as Riding member, single
"sponsored" by Lucy Turner and Fred Burks

Laura Shull
486 Riverside Rd
Buena Vista VA 24416-4416
Joined as Riding member, single
"sponsored" by Anita Claytor

Tom and Barbara Debevoise
970 Hardbarger Rd
Buchanan VA 24066-5212
Joined as Riding member, family
"sponsored" by Diane Long

Please try to greet anyone of these folks when you see them in the hunt field. Remember – new members usually don't just happen by magic but need to be cultivated and educated. All of us were a new member at one point!

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Calendar of Events

December 3	Bedford County Hunt Hunter Pace (Dick Long 540-297-3419)
December 16	Rockbridge Hunt Christmas Breakfast/Party
January 1, 2001	Rockbridge Hunt New Year's Day Meet
January 21	Work session, check the huntline (462-1113) for time and location
January 27	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club Ball
February 18	Work session, check the huntline (462-1113) for time and location
February 24	Rockbridge Hunt Ball and Silent Auction
March 10	Glenmore Hunt Club Ball
March 18	Work session, check the huntline (462-1113) for time and location
March 31	Rockbridge Hunt Closing Meet
April 1	Glenmore Hunt Club Spring Hunter Pace (rain date April 8)
April 28	Foxfield Spring Race Meet
May 5	Rockbridge/Glenmore Hound Show and Derby Day Party
May 9	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Meeting
May 27	Virginia Hound Show

Web site

Don't forget our web site has moved. The new URL is : <http://home.wlu.edu/~mortonc/archive/index.html>
Cindy Morton is still looking for someone who would like to take this over.

Rockbridge Hunt Fall Hunter Pace

Our fall hunter pace was a success. Luckily, the weather was perfect. And it's been several years since our last hunter pace so people were looking forward to this.

I (Cindy Morton) made an error in presenting the ribbons involving the juniors. The correct results are presented here. My abject apologies! Next time I'll get someone else to score and present ribbons.

Trail Division (1:10)		
First	Tamla Nichols	1:04:30
Second	Katherine E. Sammons and Shawn White	1:04:18
Hilltopper Division (1 hour)		
First	Susan and Pete Whitlock	58:59
Second	Elizabeth Gathright and Carroll Robertson	58:43
Third	Amy Lowenthal and Deborah Sensabaugh	58:27
Fourth	Frank Bierman	1:02:09
Fifth	Richard C. Ford, Jr. and Cindy Mount	1:02:51
Sixth	Vijay Chocksi and Susan Streaker	1:02:54
Optimum Division (1:14)		
First	Sharon Merritt and Cindy Merritt	1:16:47
Second	Anna Alford	1:09:43
Third	Jeanne Jeffer and Paula Ursoy	1:19:53
Fourth	Terry Whitmore and Jacque Battle	1:21:54
Fifth	Joe Streaker tied with Bailey Jeffer and Jessica Buchanan	1:23:40

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Hunter Pace, Continued

All of the food was donated which definitely contributes to the bottom line. And all of the volunteers did a wonderful job. We couldn't put on these functions without volunteers, and the participants are pretty important, too! Whether you rode or helped out or both, THANK YOU; it all adds up to money for the club.

Kay Morton, Erica Jones, Laura Jarvis, Lu Dooley, Diane Long, and Cindy Jones all donated food. Lu also watched a gate and helped with trail cleanup. Laura also helped out in the kitchen and with trail cleanup. Katharine Conner marked and "unmarked" most of the trail and was invaluable as our starting-line timer. Erin Dickinson did a first rate job as finish-line timer. Alice and Bill Buchanan (Jessica's parents) worked at a gate and parking. David Bolen and Lauren Keating ran the checkpoint. Nancy Conner did a variety of things: gate watching and secretary and kitchen crew. Joe Conner helped with cleanup. David and Susan Conner pitched in with some driving help. Paula Ursoy did a fabulous job as secretary for the busiest part of the day.

THANK YOU. It's no exaggeration to say we couldn't have done it without you. Everyone enjoys this event so much that it would almost be worth doing if we only covered expenses. To make a nice amount of money with a fairly short day of work (9:30 AM to 3:00 PM for most volunteers) makes all the work worthwhile. Income from entry fees and meal purchases totaled \$1160. The (approximate) expenses were \$10 for surveyors tape (we used a lot of leftovers from the Endurance Ride) and \$45 for printing and postage (flyers and entry forms). Most of the soft drinks were leftover from the Endurance Rides. Profit for the day was around \$1100.

Hound Report

With every month that passes we discover that we don't yet know enough about Leishmaniasis. In the first round of testing all the hounds were tested and we had two hounds, one dog and one bitch, who tested positive with very low titers (1:16). All packs with any positive results were encouraged to repeat the tests. Dr. Lauren Keating and Huntsman David Conner took a second set of samples on the two hounds in question, submitted them, and the results from that testing have been returned. The bitch tested negative and the same dog hound tested positive, still showing a low titer (1:16 again). There is still a slim possibility that this result may be a false positive. It has been recommended that we continue to test periodically for this disease and we plan to comply with that recommendation.

The MFHA, through *Covertside*, has reported that over 7,000 hounds have been tested and 97.67% have completely negative results or titers less than or equal to 1:32. It's important to realize that this disease is very rare in the United States, that research has not been extensive, and that all of this testing has taken place since April. The MFHA has done an outstanding job of identifying and dealing with a potentially serious problem. Given the progress so far, the MFHA hopes to eradicate this disease in American foxhound packs within two years, and experts from the Centers for Disease Control agree with that assessment.

It has been a while since we listed all of the committee members, so here are the others:

Kitchen Committee

Lois Farmer, co-chair
Carol Atwood, co-chair
Betty Baird
Mary Lynn Camper
Mary Clapsaddle
Nancy Conner
Pam Moskal

Judy Mundy
Viola Wise

Grounds Committee

L. B. Jarvis
Laura Jarvis
Carol Atwood
Katharine Conner

Rockbridge Hunt
61 Harkto Loop
Glasgow, VA 24555