

Rockbridge Hunt Newsletter – Early Winter 2005

New Members

Rockbridge hunt would like to enthusiastically welcome these people who have become members in the last 6 months. It is nice to get members new to hunting join, and then really enjoy the sport and come out and hunt. Needless to say we also welcome the more experienced new members.

Ms Laura C. Arnold

Ms Ann Batley

Ms Shelby Bingham

Dr. Rita Mae Brown, MFH Oakridge Fox Hounds

Ms Rebecca B. Eley

Ms Karen Lanning

Ms Mary J. Mantello

Ms Katherine Quinn & Arwin Quinn

Hunt Ball

Nancy Conner suggests that while you are shopping for the holidays you might keep an eye peeled for items that would sell at the hunt ball silent auction. It is the rare item that does not get a bid on it. Horse-flavored items are the most favored, followed by fox and hound themes but food items, crafts, general clothes, you name it, have sold successfully. You might be surprised what is out there that you could bring. The silent auction really helps the club financially and adds a bit of spice to the hunt ball itself, too.

Nancy will accept donations anytime starting now and is very faithful about keeping track of where the donation came from. In fact she would rather have items appear on her doorstep sooner vs. later. Any donation can come with you along to any hunt meet. If it is unusually large or fragile or cold sensitive you might want to talk to Nancy first but David can easily stash most things in his truck and take them home. You can also try getting your donation to a hunt member who hunts fairly regularly; or even deliver them to Nancy herself.

Don't forget that we are making engraved Virginia cups available to our membership. Support the Rockbridge Hunt by purchasing your Virginia cup today! To order, call Pam Moskal at (540) 989-3182 or send her an e-mail message at swert22@cox.net

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[Http://home.wlu.edu/~mortonc/archive/index.html](http://home.wlu.edu/~mortonc/archive/index.html)

Hunt-mail listserve:

Contact mortonc@wlu.edu

Work Days

The mid November work day was NOT well attended and even the fact that our friends up the road Glenmore Hunt were having a hunter pace that morning, that was not a real good excuse not to show up in the afternoon with your clippers.

Hunt members who help out regularly do get discouraged at our poor showing at work days. Work days really are not that stressful and not that hard of work AND you get to actually talk as loud and long as you can manage (vs. a regular hunting day).

So do everyone a favor and make a better effort to show up if you have not been to a work day this calendar year.

Money

I always wondered where exactly our dues and activity money went so will attempt a very abbreviated rundown. We do have some regular monthly expenses. David Conner does not do all the amazing amount of work he does for nothing, although some of us consider him to be wildly underpaid. The upshot is, we DO pay our huntsman. Then, the hounds are our second biggest regular expense. They chomp down somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300 worth of hound chow a month. Hounds also get flea, heart worm and other parasite controls. Dr Lauren Keating generally donates her time for veterinary service on the hounds but we pay for medications which do add up. The lodge has some regular expenses of it's own - electric and phone bill, and mowing during the summer. Expenses of a more annual type are property taxes

The hunt has also received some nice donations this year which as been a help, given our fairly major negative cash flow for the last couple of years. We got donations to help pay for the catered breakfast and excellent music we held during hunt week from Avent Beck, T.E. Beck, Gene Clapsaddle, Frank and Lois Farmer, Jay Moore, Joe A Conner, Louise Golian, Tom Debevoise, Rockbridge Farmers Co-op and the Pink Cadillac. These donations totaled \$2260.

We have also gotten a donation from Diane Long to be used to purchase a gate to be installed along side a jump panel, and she also gave us a money to be used for tail gate refreshments. It is extremely nice to come back from hunting and at least be able to guzzle down a caffeinated, sugared beverage!

And we have gotten this fall some non-specified donations from David Bolen and Cindy and Kay Morton (proceeds from the stock tie sales). If we missed anyone, please let us know.

Hunt Week

Although I only got to ride in seven different hunts this year, I have to admit it was a blast as usual. Unfortunately the best hunt was also the first one Blair and I went to. This was the hunt with Rappahannock who joined hunt week for the first time this year. Some of my enjoyment may have been pure relief as I had been really worried about how well my horse was going to behave, but he was fairly impeccable. Blair and I saw one fox which was probably the first one we vigorously pursued. After that chase over moderately level open terrain then we started the up and down thing over wooded rocky trails. Rockbridge Hunt members were heard to make comments such as "just like home" in-between basically gasping for breath. And to top off about 3 hours of totally invigorating fun, on the way in the field spotted a pair of bald eagles sitting right above the spot where we had started with fox number one. One of them obligingly flew around and landed in a tall snag giving us a good view of the tail pattern. Generally eagles don't much like humans and some folks wondered if they were confused by us sitting on horse back.

Another hunt we attended I'll admit I voted for hunting with because of their scenery and last year's breakfast; and they did not fail us on either account. Then there were two hunts we tried out this year for the first time – Colonial and Reedy Creek. Luckily Reedy Creek was actually sort of on the way home for us (it was the last hunt of hunt week). Reedy Creek seemed to try hard to give the field a enjoyable day; the terrain is moderate and they have the cutest collection of highly jumpable panels

From the Master

The following points were written by Joe Kinchella, MFH Bull Run Hunt. Reprinted by permission (with a few extra comments from Cindy Morton) When you consider all the things a MFH might want to convey to the membership, these five points certainly are the essentials.

"I can't begin to emphasize the importance of studs on your horses 'shoes beginning in August when you start hunting. This means studs on all four shoes. Beginning in December borium should be added - in addition to studs - on the toes of the shoes. Eighty percent of all horses that fall do so because they slip. I personally put three tabs of borium on the toes of all four shoes along with studs at the beginning of cold weather. No one should have a horse that kicks, but sometimes it is the fault of the rider on the horse in the back that bumps into or steps on your horse's hind feet. I want people to ride up with me, but never to stepson my horse's heels. [The faster you're going, the farther back you should stay. CM]. When you go through a gate, stay at the gate until someone you know is responsible says he/she will close it. NEVER, NEVER depend on saying "gate, please." If you are leading the field, try to stay up with the Huntsman so as not to interfere with him. This is hard to do with the second and third fields, because sometimes you need to guess which way to lead your field. If you have a radio, try to stay off it as much as possible. It is usually not necessary to tell the Huntsman that you have one hound with you, since Billy (BRH huntsman) has 49 other hounds to worry about. If you need directions, ask the field master first, not Billy. [In general, less chatter is better. CM]. If everyone follows these simple suggestions, we will have a happy, safe, and successful season."

Hound News

David reports that we have a new litter of eight puppies who are approximately 6 weeks old. They were the product of a mating between Calvin and Tee. David says the puppies and Tee are doing just fine. He did not mention whether Calvin was assisting in parental duties.

This is our current hound list. Technically all our hounds have names that are prefaced by "Rockbridge" (i.e., Lollipop is really named in the stud book "Rockbridge Lollipop". You can see that we have some genetics from Southampton and Midland in our pack. We own a copy of the MFHA's stud book if you would like to see it – ask Cindy.

Lollipop (1997), by Louie , out of Copper
Miller (1997), by Lead, out of Mouse
Mister (1997), by Southampton Fiddler, out of Midland Mary
Waffle and Widget (1997), by Lazer, out of Midland Wade
Timber, Tucker, and Turtle (1998), by Turkey, out of Latter
Copy (1999), by Lead, out of Southampton Cinder
Willow and Witch (1999), by Lead, out of Midland Wade
Whisper (2000), by Voucher, out of Waffle
Tot, Tee, Tilly, and Turbo (2001), by Curtis, out of Thistle
Calvin, Clown, and Clever (2002), by Cowboy, out of Waffle
Wally, Webster, and Winter (2002), by Timber, out of Widget
Tabby, Taffy, and Turkish (2002), by Timber, out of Waffle
Texas, Toby, Tommy, Trouble, Tweed, and Twist (2003), by Timber, out of Waffle

If you want to have a little more fun out hunting, you are more than welcome to get David to "assign" you a hound although you might want to stick to ones with more distinctive color patterns (alas, the solid white hounds tend not to get "adopted"). For this season Taffy and Tweed are taken.

Minutes Executive Committee Meeting Aug, 2004

The Executive Committee met on Aug.18, 2004. Members present were: Cindy Morton (MFH), Carol Atwood (Pres) Judy Mundy (Sec), Kathy Eichelberger ('05), Sandra Worthy('05), Paula Ursoy ('07) and Fred Burks ('07). Treasurer Blair Jones was absent. Plans for Hunt Week were discussed for Sun. Oct. 17. Fred raised \$1250 so far and plans to raise \$2000 for a caterer, music by Gary Ruley and a tent. We need people to direct traffic, serve a stirrup cup and paint signs. Carol will collect old photos for the Hunt Membership Party for Sun. Oct. 3. Caps and pins are for sale, thanks to Paula Ursoy. We need someone to run the Fall Hunter Pace. If another organization would help, we could split the profit. Other plans discussed were for Opening Hunt, the P. Buckley Moss print raffle, Fox Hunting 201 on Sun. Sept 12 and the Hunt Ball.

Judy Mundy, Secretary

Pony Club News

Congratulations to Jessica Buchanan for being the first person from Virginia to ever win the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Horse Judging Competition, and congratulations to the team for placing 4th overall out of 28 teams and 112 competitors. The competition took place on Thursday in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Also, congratulations to John Brister and Jessica Buchanan (again!) from Rockbridge Pony Club for passing their B (Pony Club) Rating at Penmerryl Farm which lasted over two days in mid August. The “B” rating is generally considered to be the mark of a very well rounded horse person who should be able to comfortably take up any horse sport. Twelve pony clubbers from Rockbridge Pony Club and other Virginia pony clubs (mostly the “Old Dominion Region”) took the trip to try to pass the test, with three of those receiving a passing grade. Hannah Knopp from Glenmore Pony Club was the other person to pass. It was a tough test with over one-half of the fences set at the maximum (“B”) height of 3’7”. They were also required to jump this height without stirrups and to ride one other person’s horse for the 3 examiners

The PC next rating up that involves riding, the “A” test, is only awarded to a handful of pony clubbers yearly. There is also a “HA” rating which tests non-riding skills; and it is also national in scope (there was an HA rating this summer in Illinois).

Riding on private property.

Rockbridge Hunt members are asked to keep in mind the fact that all of the land we hunt on is privately owned. Rockbridge Hunt has an unusual arrangement with Hunt Inc. – Rockbridge Hunt owns land in Hunt, Inc. and is entitled to use the commonly-held property within Hunt, Inc. Rockbridge Hunt has limited rights to HUNT on the other property within Hunt, Inc. but that does not entitle members to ride on the private property within Hunt, Inc. If you are like me and a good number of other members, you might not have a clue what part is the Hunt Inc. “commons” and what parts are not (and there are lots within Hunt Inc. without any dwellings on them). Then there is the issue of adjoining privately owned property. The upshot of all this, is that you absolutely need to get permission to ride on private property which happens to be in hunt territory. If you don’t know where the boundary lines are, you need to either ride with someone who does, or find somewhere else to go. Please!

Bits and Pieces

This is a brief review of an article was written by one W. C. Broom, and published in a book in 1906 as part of the chapter titled “Horse”. I lost the name of the encyclopedia that it was part of but that might re-surface later. In the section titled [overall] *Description* he says “... the Hunter should not be high-headed... forehead light... withers higher than croup.” Head - should not contain ears too large [one of the editor’s former field hunters certainly flunked this criteria]. And, “Cheeks well but not too heavily clothed with hard, well-developed muscles”. Neck - “.... Not whipcordy...”. Body – “The under-line must be long.... perhaps a longer back will be required than would otherwise be desirable”. [I’ll second this one!]. Temperament – “Mild, energetic, not vicious nor too nervous”].

Height 15 hands one inch to 16 hands [apparently the trail clearing crews were a bit slack even back in 1906]. In *Feeding and Care* he says “... not more than three or four days of all-day foxhunting in a fortnight; with drags, some may go three times a week...”. And after hunting “The hunter should be jogged home... given warm gruel and thoroughly rubbed”. “A groom should exercise him gently on non-hunting days for about five miles early in the morning.” Apparently I need to have a word with my groom....

For breeding he seems to be mostly assuming that you are interested in mostly Thoroughbred breeding although he does talk about “carrying weight”. Bacon says that “The Hunter” can not be called a particular breed but in this country mostly consists of TB stallions crossed with native or grade mares. Even “first cross” horses can have the “saddle confirmation”, courage, intelligence and staying qualities of the TB.

For further reading he suggests Peer - “*Cross Country with Horse and Hound*”; Nimrod – “*The Chase*” and Walsh – “*The Horse in the Stable and in the Field*” (1871) among some other references.

For Sale

Two used dressage saddles very reasonably priced. Erica 544-7359 or emjones@vt.edu

Membership roster is available. Blair Jones (current treasurer, former secretary) has a few print copies of last year's membership roster available. He can also easily email it to anyone who needs a copy. Blair's home phone is 540-544-7359 and his email is abjones@vt.edu. You might have to remind him but keep trying.

Feed bag labels. We are still collecting the proofs of purchase from bags of Southern States feeds. Cindy Morton is collecting these and mailing them in. We get cash in return which we have generally used for paneling

2004-5 Calendar:

Please Faithfully check the huntline 540-462-1113

Sat	Feb 19, 2005	Rockbridge Hunt Ball
Sun	Mar 20, 2005	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Landowners Luncheon, contact Carol Atwood

Rockbridge Hunt News
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