



# Rockbridge Hunt News

## *Virginia Hunt Week...why you should participate!*

*By Fred Burks*

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Virginia Hunt Week began in 2000 in an effort to showcase the various hunt clubs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has been a tremendous success. Sixteen different clubs now take part in it and fox hunters come from across the US, Ireland and the UK.

The first reason to consider doing it is the price. It costs \$250 for members of participating hunts. That is an incredible deal, considering that most of the Northern Virginia hunts charge \$100 or more as a capping fee.

The second reason is you get to follow some of the best hounds in the country. They are all great packs and it is a privilege to hunt behind them and the huntsmen that handle them.

A third reason is you get to see some incredibly beautiful hunt country, especially in Northern Virginia. Fixtures such as Mont Elery (Rappahannock Hunt) and the fixtures near Charlottesville (Farmington Hunt and Keswick Hunt) are just breathtaking! Bull Run Hunt has many thousands of acres between Culpepper and Orange and it is a special treat to be able to hunt this territory. Bull Run also has a lodge to die for. It was formerly a school house. The Northern Virginia territory has an abundance of foxes and you are virtually guaranteed to view one or more foxes when hunting there. Sometimes it is not even the "hunted fox" that you are seeing.

A fourth reason to do hunt week is to be able to enjoy the wonderful meals after the hunts. Princess Anne Hunt gets my vote for the best breakfasts. They really "put on the dog" for hunt week.

For me, the most compelling reason to do hunt week is the people I get to meet at the various hunts. Most fox hunters are truly interesting people and some are very entertaining. For example, Joe Kincheloe, Jt-MFH at the Bull Run Hunt. He will "guarantee" you a good time and I have never been disappointed. Two years ago when hunting from "The Hill" during hunt week, he led the first flight from the parking area down a steep hill to a monster log jump (tree to be exact), then across a creek and up a hill into the woods at a gallop. At the top of the hill was a very large coop with an uphill approach. A couple hundred yards beyond the coop you entered an open field. Joe pulls up, turns around and asks "Who do we have left with us?" The answer was not nearly as many as started with the first flight. He will always ask the Rockbridge members to ride up with him.

As for the actual hunting, it just does not get any better than what you will experience during hunt week. Most hunts have three flights and the field masters do a great job of putting you in a position to view a fox. You will see horses of many breeds, sizes and colors and meet riders from all walks of life. The past three years I have seen a woman riding "side saddle" and she went first flight and did the jumps. That to me was amazing!

In closing, to not do hunt week is an opportunity missed!! If you can do it, you should go for it and do as many hunts as possible. You won't regret it and you will begin looking forward to Hunt Week 2008.

### Newsletter Information

- Laura Arnold put together the newsletter.
- All errors are my own.
- PLEASE feel free to offer suggestions for improvement to me.
- Please send anything you want to be included for future newsletters to [vinluke@cox.net](mailto:vinluke@cox.net)

## Hunt Ball 2008 by Ann Layman



Hunt Ball 2007

The 2008 Hunt Ball is on schedule for Saturday, February 23 at Evans Hall with the same band we had last year, Class Act. The theme will be "A Winter Wonderland". However, we do not want snow or ice on that weekend! Jefferson Florist has generously agreed to do our table decorations again. Please look for appropriate items while you are doing your Christmas shopping or be creating something that you can make to help raise money for Rockbridge Hunt during the Hunt Ball Silent Auction. We are looking forward to another fabulous evening.

## Collegiate Hunt

"It isn't mere convention. Everyone can see that the people who hunt are the right people and the people who don't are the wrong ones."  
**GB Shaw Heartbreak House (1920).**

On Oct 6, we'll host our first Collegiate Hunt. Any full-time college students are invited to hunt without fee on that day. It will also be a joint meet with Rappahannock Hunt. The Williamson family (Rappahannock members with a daughter at Virginia Tech) has offered to provide the stirrup cup. We expect a good turnout and a lot of fun!  
Please contact Cindy Morton for more information!

## August Seminar by Cindy Morton



Hunting 2006-2007

For the past several years we've held an educational program of some kind in August. Some years it's an introductory program. Other years it's aimed at people who have been foxhunting for awhile. This year it was the latter. Viviane Warren (Orange County Hunt) was gracious enough to visit and bring a vast array of items to illustrate her discussion of appointments. She knows quite a lot about the history of some of these traditions and how they got started. Fascinating stuff!  
We also had a panel discussion featuring the Huntsmen from Rappahannock Hunt, Michael Brown, and Warrenton Hunt, Matt Van der Woude, as well as the Rockbridge Huntsman, David Conner. Let's face it — Huntsmen are the rock stars of foxhunting! If our sport had baseball cards, no one would want the Masters or the Whippers-in. Those Huntsman cards would be the ones to get. And it's just riveting to get them together and hear what they have to say. It was so kind of them to take an entire day out of their schedules to join us. I must admit to being disappointed in the smallest attendance we've ever had at one of these programs but that contributed to a relaxed, casual atmosphere for both attendees and presenters.

## *Master's Report*

### **Work, Trails, Summer, HOT!**

**Fact:** We always clear trails in August.

**Fact:** It's always hot and humid in August.

**Fact:** The weather was worse than usual this year.

**Fact:** We had more people come out to clear trails.

#### **Why?**

It might be due to having a little incentive this year. Everyone who worked on the trails is invited to a "staff hunt" on Sunday, Sept 9. It's likely to be at 8 AM. It's not likely to be a day of "bugs in your teeth, hang onto your seats" kind of hunting but many people have been working hard to be ready for hunting and the sooner we start, the better! If you couldn't get to an organized work session, independent opportunities still exist. And there's another alternative. We'll accept a special capping fee of fifty dollars for this special day of hunting.

Although there are still rough spots the trails are in great shape. I hope everyone will join me in thanking Pete Holladay and his son, Jim, for all their hard work. They have mowed many, many trails at Hunt, Inc and it's wonderful.

Because it's been so hot and dry this summer, many of the trees are stressed and in less than peak condition. If we get big storms related to hurricanes this fall, trees are bound to come down. And there are trails that got missed and jumps that will need repair. So, keep those tools handy. If there are days that we can't hunt we may schedule another work session. Do check the hunt line.

### **End-of-Summer Trail Ride**

For the second year Rockbridge Hunt invited the members of several area hunt clubs to join us for a trail ride to mark the end of summer. We're really celebrating the arrival of hunting season! We had forty people out riding on a sweltering hot, humid morning. It gave our visitors a preview of our territory and those beautiful trails were impressive.

After the ride we shared a potluck lunch at the Tex Tilson Lodge. It's a great opportunity to take some time and visit with our neighbors. Getting to know these folks will make the upcoming joint meets even more fun. We invited the members of Bedford County Hunt, Glenmore Hunt, Middlebrook Hounds, Oak Ridge Fox Hunt, Reedy Creek Hounds, Smith Mountain Hounds, and Stonewall Hounds.

In the long run, it would be great to see this ride have an established, "reserved" date for our clubs. It would be a lot of fun to have the clubs take turns hosting it but whether that happens or not, it's a low-cost, fun event with many benefits. And we get to put faces with all those names!



"I have observed in women of her type a tendency to regard all athletics as inferior forms of fox-hunting"

Evelyn Waugh—*Decline and Fall*  
(1928)

# Rockbridge Hunt Officers

MFH Cindy Morton	463-6025, 458-8109	<a href="mailto:mortonc@wlu.edu">mortonc@wlu.edu</a>
President Carol Atwood	463-1000	<a href="mailto:carol@broadviewranch.com">carol@broadviewranch.com</a>
Treasurer Blair Jones	544-7359	<a href="mailto:abjones@vt.edu">abjones@vt.edu</a>
Hon. Sec Laura Jarvis	291-3186	<a href="mailto:leon_jarvis2000@yahoo.com">leon_jarvis2000@yahoo.com</a>
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Steward(*09) Sandra Worthy	254-3372	<a href="mailto:sworthy@millerlong.com">sworthy@millerlong.com</a>

Check the web page: [RockbridgeHunt.org](http://RockbridgeHunt.org)

*Please correct the mailing address found on the reverse side of this last page.  
Please write in "discontinue" if you o longer wish to receive the RH News.*

*Please note your membership category (Just strike through the membership list if  
You are not a member)*

*Thank you! Please mail this last page and dues to:*

***Rockbridge Hunt  
A.B. Jones, Treasurer  
1171 Happy hollow Road  
Newport, VA 24128***

## *Dates to Remember*

- Sun, Sept 9: Rockbridge Hunt Special Hunt for Paneling Volunteers  
Sun, Sept 16: Bull Run Hunt Fun Hunter Pace  
Sun, Sept 23: Bedford County Hunt Fall Hunter Pace  
Sun, Sept 23: Rockbridge Hunt Hunting Season Kickoff Party  
Sept 29-30: Ride With Pride Benefit Trail Ride
- Sat, Oct 6: Rockbridge Hunt Collegiate Hunt Meet (breakfast)  
Sun, Oct 7: Deep Run Hunt Club Hunter Trials  
Sun, Oct 7: Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace  
Sat, Oct 13: Sunrise Stables Hunter Pace  
Sat, Oct 13: Rockbridge Hunt joint meet at Stonewall Hounds  
Sat, Oct 13: Glenmore Hunt Open Invitation Hunt/Western Day  
Sat, Oct 27: Glenmore Hunt Opening Meet and joint meet with Rockbridge Hunt  
Sun, Oct 28: Rockbridge Hunt hosts Virginia Hunt Week (breakfast)  
Sat, Nov 3: Rockbridge Hunt Opening Meet and Blessing of the Hounds and joint meet with Glenmore Hunt (breakfast)  
Sun, Nov 4: Farmington Hunt Club Fall Hunter Pace  
Sun, Nov 4: Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Opening Meet  
Sun, Nov 11: Rockbridge Hunt hosts joint meet with Camargo Hunt (breakfast)  
Sat, Nov 17: Bedford County Hunt Fall Horse Show and Foxhunting Championships  
Sun, Nov 18: Glenmore Hunt Fall Hunter Pace  
Sat, Dec 8: Rockbridge Hunt hosts joint meet with Glenmore Hunt and Bedford County Hunt (breakfast)  
Tues, Jan 1: Rockbridge Hunt hosts New Years Day meet with Bedford County Hunt and Stonewall Hounds (breakfast)



*Hunting December 2006 Broadview*

*Photo by Tom Debevoise*

*Rockbridge Hunt Club  
1171 Happy Hollow Road  
Newport, VA 24218*

***We're on the web:  
Rockbridgehunt.org***

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## ***Dues and Change of Address Form***

I wish to continue membership with the Rockbridge Hunt

- No charge for Landowner members, or honorary members.
- \$575 Hunting, Individual
- \$675 Hunting, Family
- \$287.50 Hunting, Student
- \$287.50 Social (non-hunting)

New Member—For a new hunting membership in the Rockbridge Hunt you must hunt with us as a guest at least 2 times, have two current members submit letters of reference to the secretary, and have an affirmative vote from the executive committee. For a voting membership category of Individual or Family there is a one time initiation fee of \$300.00. Any capping fee paid within the current season will be applied to membership fees.