

February 2008



Hunt Ball 2008 by Ann Layman

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Our upcoming Rockbridge Hunt Ball will be a winter wonderland extravaganza that you will not want to miss. The date is Saturday, February 23, 2008, at Evans Hall on the Washington & Lee campus, and the price of the tickets has been kept the same. The price per person is \$65 for adults and \$45 for those under 21. Once again the price goes up to \$75 for those who procrastinate & wish to join us after the date of February 17. Getting the number of guests before February 17 really helps in planning the tables and ordering the food. Thank you for your help with this and please invite your friends.

We will have the same fabulous band that played last year, CLASS ACT. They are full of energy and play a variety of music. Cocktails and the silent auction start at 6 pm; the buffet dinner will be served at 8 pm and the band will start soon thereafter.

We are, also, collecting items for our ever popular silent auction. The money that Rockbridge Hunt makes on the silent auction really helps pay the expenses. Anything that is related to foxhunting, horses, food and services would be a very welcome item. Whatever you think would be popular would be greatly appreciated. Anyone who is clever or talented and can donate crafts, baked items, jewelry, gift baskets, etc. would be greatly appreciated. Also if you are lucky enough to own property you would share, it would be wonderful to auction a weekend or night's stay someone.

You can give items to someone when you come to hunt or call someone in your area to make arrangements for pick up. In the Roanoke area please contact Lois Farmer (473-2525) or Ann Layman (992-3333 home or 293-3333 cell). In the Blacksburg area you can give items to Beverly Purswell (552-5264 home or 449-4206 cell) or Erica Jones (544-7359). In Rockbridge please contact Laura Jarvis (291-3186) or Nancy Conner (463-9547). All numbers are 540 area code. If necessary you can bring items to the ball, just be sure to tell Laura Jarvis. It is so much easier to organ-

We look forward to getting together with each of you at this year's ROCKBRIDGE HUNT BALL!!

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 with the subject of "newsletter"

Collegiate Hunt

On Saturday, October 6, Rockbridge Hunt hosted its first Collegiate Hunt meet which was also a joint meet with Rappahannock Hunt. We had a great turn out in spite of terribly hot weather. The hunting was quite, quite slow. That's probably a good thing. It would have been easy to over-heat horses and hounds and people. There were quite a few green foxhunters and green fieldhunters and a slow day was good for them.

Carol Atwood and Susan Richardson handled the food and it was great. Rappahannock Hunt brought dessert. The Williamson family from Rappahannock Hunt (and Virginia Tech) brought the stirrup-cup. And I know that several Rockbridge Hunt members brought appetizers. I don't have a list but thank you!

Most of the students who attended were from Virginia Tech but we also had one from Sweet Briar and one from Hollins. In addition to Rappahannock Hunt, we had students with connections to Caroline Hunt. And a couple of students from VT have hunted with Red Mountain in NC. I wish more nearby colleges could have attended but it was a good group. Several people asked if we'd be doing this again next year so I think it was a success!

Again, a heart-felt thank-you to everyone. Collecting waivers, co-ordinating parking, lending horses, transporting horses, providing food, and the many "little" things really do make an impact. Many people pitched in and helped out and made the day a success. And we can be proud that the property around Hunt, Inc is looking its best.

Virginia Hunt Week by *Cindy Morton*

Virginia Hunt Week for 2007 began on Monday, Oct 15. Rockbridge Hunt hosted our day on Sunday, October 28. That's pretty close to the end of two weeks of hunting. The number of people registered for VHW was down somewhat this year. One contributing factor was the increased price of fuel but the main reason has to be the unbelievably bad footing. It continues to be extremely dry and the ground has been correspondingly hard. Many clubs that traditionally hunt three days per week were forced to cut back to twice a week this fall, simply due to the ground. It's difficult to keep horses and hounds sound in these conditions.

Ironically, we got a little rain and the forecast was such that we moved hunting from Windward Farm to our "home" territory at Hunt, Inc. Although Windward Farm is a lovely facility with beautiful country to hunt, it's nice to show off the Rockbridge Hunt property to visitors. The crowd was small enough to enable us all to park near the Tex Tilson Lodge and the catered meal was pure luxury.

Again, many people put in the work to make this event run smoothly. It takes a team effort to make it happen. Thank you!

Opening Meets

This fall has just been incredibly busy with one major event after another. Every club is trying to schedule things before the weather gets bad and it's impossible to fit it all in. As usual, Rockbridge Hunt members joined Glenmore Hunt for their Opening Meet on Saturday, October 27. Although that was during Virginia Hunt Week, and the day before our own VHW meet, a small group from Rockbridge attended. As usual when you have guests, nothing happened for a long time. Finally, patience and tenacity were rewarded when hounds found their fox! This was a fun day with great company.

Glenmore Hunt members returned the favor and joined us for Rockbridge Hunt's Opening Meet on Saturday, November 3. Joy Watkins's father, Rev. Philip Parker, offered the Blessing. This ceremony is always a highlight of a foxhunter's year. Having the ceremony officiated by someone with a personal connection to the sport and to our club gives the day a special meaning.

We are so, so lucky to be associated with such good people and such generous neighbors. When hunt clubs exist so close together, it's important to get along. Fortunately, the members of Rockbridge and Glenmore Hunts are friendly, gracious, and considerate, individuals. We foxhunters enjoy our sport so much and having friends to share it with increases our own pleasure tremendously.

Once again, there are many people to thank for making these events possible. It takes many people doing many different jobs. We certainly focus on the meals because they are pretty obviously a lot of work. I believe that most of the meal for our Opening Meet was prepared by Stan Eichelberger and his son, Eric. I'm sure their spouses helped! And Erica Jones made a considerable contribution. Several other people brought appetizers and desserts but I have no idea who was involved. Everything got rave reviews and certainly everything disappeared! That's the highest compliment. Thank you!

COLORS, COLORS, COLORS!!!

The following people have received colors this year: Ann Batley, Meredith Harry, Gary Ponder and Kathy Ponder. Also, Jay Moore was granted the privilege of wearing scarlet. Congratulations!

Rockbridge Hunt Hunter Trials 12-2-07

A Wet, Cold, Fun Hunter Trial

Directly following the Hunter Pace in the morning, twenty two hardy souls braved the cold drizzle to have a wonderful time at the Rockbridge Hunt Hunter Trials. Four foxhunts had riders that participated - Rockbridge Hunt, Bedford County Hunt, Middlebrook Hunt and Why Worry Hounds. Thank you. This was a very successful fund raiser for the the Rockbridge Hunt.

This was a traditional Virginia Hunter Trial designed to give opportunities for field hunters to show their expertise and prospective hunters to gain experience. Courses consisted of logs, coops and other natural and inviting fences commonly found in the hunting field set in gently rolling pastures. Horses were judged on performance, manners, suitability and way of going as a mount to hounds. There were two courses - 1st Flight with jumps 2'6" to 3' in height and 2nd Flight with jumps 18" to 2'3". Courses were designed to be very rider friendly.

Some of the more interesting classes to watch were Pairs, Hunt Teams and Handy Hunter. The Master's Class and Hilltopper's Class, held at the end of the day, were open to the 1st and 2nd place winners of the other classes. In these classes, riders followed a Field Master simulating foxhunting conditions.

Results

Hunt Challenge

Place	Hunt
1st	Rockbridge Hunt
2nd	Bedford County Hunt
3rd	Middlebrook Hunt
4th	Why Worry Hounds

Championships

First Flight

Place	Rider	Horse
Senior Champion	Liz Kiss	Yojimbo
Junior Champion	Rachael Lawson	Cowboy
Senior Reserve	Cheryl Haas	Nicole

Second Flight

Place	Rider	Horse
Senior Champion	Eliza Temeles	Charles
Junior Champion	Carly Williams	Anna Banana
Senior Reserve	Cathi Ecklund	Foxy Lady
Junior Reserve	Rebecca Truitt	Nick

Results of the 2007 Fall Hunter Pace

Sunday, December 2, 2007 at Broadview Ranch

Hunter Optimum Division (ideal time was 66 minutes)

Place	Number	Riders	Horses	Time
1st	107	David Conner Jay Moore	Andy Gabriel	68:31
2nd	114	Liz Harry Zeb Harry	Belle Maverick	60:19
3rd	108	Candi Hylton Kathy Munsey	Good Golly Miss Molly Spencer	77:16
4th	112	Anita Claytor Barkley Henning	Macaroon Cue	84:16
5th	143	Dick Long Sarah Long	Lucky I'm Invested Tommy	85:10
6th	106	Cathi Ecklund Rebecca Truitt	Foxy Lady Nick	90:10



Hilltopper Division (ideal time was 80 minutes)

Place	Number	Riders	Horses	Time
1st	110	Erin Kelly Tashia McAloon	We Glorious Dawn	79:57
2nd	176	Caroline Dowd Julie Georges	Easy Lakota Wrangler Charlie	85:28
3rd	222	Sherrri Stebbins	Baby Face	85:30
4th	124	Nick Alberti Anna Alford	Large Wesley	70:00
5th	179	Laura Jarvis Sally Mann	Frisco Bella Athena	69:50
6th	137	Lisa Lawson	Lakota	100:32

Trail Division (ideal time was 60 minutes)

Place	Number	Riders	Horses	Time
1st	136	Jessica Davis Rachael Lawson	Troope4r Cowboy	60:25
2nd	123	Marty Ramer Annie Vliegenthart	Afton's King Reel Marshall	65:20
3rd	178	Don Jeffer	Dusty	67:40
4th	177	Jeanne Jeffe3r Sandie Meyers Joy Watkins	Jasmine Davin Desi	95:50



Hunter Trials

December 2, 2007 afternoon



Hunter Pace

December 2, 2007 morning

Rockbridge Hunt Officers

MFH Cindy Morton	463-6025, 458-8109	mortonc@wlu.edu
President Carol Atwood	463-1000	carol@broadviewranch.com
Treasurer Blair Jones	544-7359	abjones@vt.edu
Hon. Sec Laura Jarvis	291-3186	leon_jarvis2000@yahoo.com
Steward(*07) Gary Ponder	258-9911	katgryponder@yahoo.com
Steward(*09) K Eichelberger	947-2966	bergrbnch@aol.com
Steward(*07) Terry Whitmore	291-1861	tavern@ntelos.net
Steward(*09) Sandra Worthy	254-3372	sworthy@millerlong.com

Check the web page: RockbridgeHunt.org

Dates to Remember

<i>Sat, Feb 16</i>	<i>Rappahannock Hunt Defrost Dinner & Dancing</i>
<i>Sat, Feb 23</i>	<i>Rockbridge Hunt Ball</i>
<i>Sat, Feb 23</i>	<i>Bull Run Hunt Ball</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 1</i>	<i>Rockbridge Hunt Junior Meet</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 8</i>	<i>Bedford County Hunt Ball</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 8</i>	<i>Glenmore Hunt Junior Meet</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 16</i>	<i>Oak Ridge Closing Meet</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 22</i>	<i>Glenmore Hunt Closing Meet</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 29</i>	<i>Rockbridge Hunt Closing Meet</i>
<i>Sat, Mar 29</i>	<i>Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club Ball</i>
<i>Sun, Apr 20</i>	<i>Glenmore Hunt Spring Hunter Pace</i>
<i>Sat, May 3</i>	<i>Rockbridge Hunt Spring Hunter Pace - Derby Day!</i>
<i>Sat, May 10</i>	<i>Bedford County Hunt Races and Hunter Pace</i>
<i>Sun, May 25</i>	<i>Virginia Hound Show</i>
<i>F-S, May 23-25</i>	<i>Montebello Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co. Spring Trail Ride</i>

For additional information about these events, please check the webcalendar at <http://rockbridgehunt.org/>

Hound Health Care

As we're all aware, the price of everything we buy is on the rise. This is also true in the realm of animal health. I think we get outstanding veterinary care for our hounds and we get the best value possible. We owe this to the enormous generosity of Dr. Lauren Keating and the patience and hard work of our Huntsman, David Conner.

In addition to the standard vaccinations, we'd like to start vaccinating for Lyme Disease. This is a devastating disease and it's starting to spread throughout our region. While this is an added expense, it's essential. Unfortunately, each hound needs two shots in the first year of the program.

We have also seen increasing problems with fleas and ticks. For several years the spot-on type products have done a great job but it's clear that insects are becoming resistant to these controls. New drugs are on the market and Dr. Keating has recommended that we try them. That actually won't increase our costs but we need to return to a spray program for the kennels and we haven't had that expense for a few years.

This kind of routine annual health care costs a little more than fifty dollars per year, per hound. That doesn't include feeding the hounds. That doesn't include special care when a hound is sick or injured. That doesn't include spraying the kennels. What does this mean for the club? First of all, be sure to thank Lauren when you have a chance. We'd have a serious problem without her donations!

We're working on a program where people can sponsor a hound. We hope to get snapshots and certificates together in time for the Ball. We'll probably repeat this offering at the Kickoff Party. That's the plan! So, pick out your favorite hound in the hunt field and think about making an extra contribution to the heal



Rockbridge Hunt News

Rockbridge Hunt Club
1171 Happy Hollow Road
Newport, VA 24218

We're on the web:
Rockbridgehunt.org

Other Events

We hosted several members of the Camargo Hunt, including three joint masters and the huntsman, at Montafon Farm on Saturday, November 10. About 20 members traveled from the Cincinnati area to hunt on Friday at Oak Ridge Fox Hunt and on Sunday at Stonewall Hounds and on Saturday with Rockbridge Hunt. The weather was a trifle warm and the hunting was extremely disappointing but we had a good time in spite of that.

As usual, food formed a major contribution to the good times! We had a generous stirrup cup as well as a fine breakfast provided by Fred Burks, Laura Hull, Anne Howard and Liz Harry. And it's always delightful to have Fred as our host at his lovely home. Many pictures from the day are on the website (<http://rockbridgehunt.org/>) and the scenery was spectacular.

We were originally scheduled to host the members of Camargo Hunt on Sunday, November 11 but had to switch the date because of a conflict with the Virginia Field Hunter Championships. Each recognized hunt in the state is invited to send two representatives to compete. Susan Conner competed for the first time on her father's horse, Bluff. Katharine Conner competed on Artie. This wasn't her first time at the competition but it's been awhile. The competition was hosted by Middleburg Hunt at Foxcroft School, outside of Middleburg, Virginia. The judges were Sheila Brown, MFH (Green Spring Valley Hounds), Christine Clagett, MFH (Marlborough Hunt), and Robert Taylor, MFH (Gosben Hunt). It's interesting that those three hunts are in Maryland.

To start the day, there was a competition for Best Turned Out which was won by Devon Zebrovious, riding sidesaddle, from Middleburg Hunt. There was a slight pause while some of these competitors changed tack and attire for the main competition. For example, Devon switched to riding astride.

The first segment of the main competition was an under saddle class. Although this took place in a field, the twenty-four entries made for quite a crowd. The second part of the contest was a mock hunt, led by last year's winner, Tracy Cover riding Clementine. The entire group rode over part of the surrounding hunt country just as though hunting with various stops and turns and jumps and ditches, etc. At the conclusion of that section, a small group of about 8 was called back for an individual handy hunter test. It was a pretty tough test. The Champion was Mark Thompson riding Gaelic from Farmington Hunt (which means that Farmington Hunt will host the competition next year). The Reserve Champion was Devon Zebrovious riding Quest from Middleburg Hunt.

Although they were not called back for the individual test, Katharine and Susan did very well. They and their horses were beautifully turned out, hunting fit, and they performed beautifully. We're all grateful to them for putting in the necessary time and work to get there. Certainly, we can all be proud of having them represent Rockbridge Hunt at this very prestigious event. Congratulations to both of them on a job well done!

Fixture Card

Rockbridge Hunt

2007-2008

Check the Hunt Line every time: 540-462-1113

T Jan 1 11:00 AM Hunt, Inc.*
 Joint meet with Bedford County Hunt &
 Glenmore Hunt & Stonewall Hounds

W Jan 2 2:30 PM Zollman
 S Jan 5 11:00 AM Windward Farm
 W Jan 9 2:30 PM Pollock
 S Jan 12 11:00 AM West Airlie
 W Jan 16 2:30 PM Hunt, Inc.

S Jan 19 TBA TBA
 Joint meet at Bedford County Hunt

W Jan 23 2:30 PM Bolen
 S Jan 26 11:00 AM Montafon Farm
 W Jan 30 2:30 PM Broadview Ranch

S Feb 2 TBA TBA*
 Joint meet hosting
 Oak Ridge Fox Hunt and Bedford County Hunt

S Feb 3 TBA
 Joint meet at Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club

W Feb 6 2:30 PM Pollock
 S Feb 9 10:00 AM West Airlie
 W Feb 13 2:30 PM Broadview Ranch

S Feb 16 TBA TBA
 Joint meet at Glenmore Hunt

*Breakfast follows hunting. Make reservations with Carol
 Atwood, 463-1000 or carol@broadviewranch.com.

Cost will be \$10 per person.

**Potluck follows hunting. No reservations needed; please
 bring a dish to share. Cost will be \$5.00 per person.

Rockbridge Hunt

2007-2008

Check the Hunt Line every time: 540-462-1113

W Feb 20 2:30 PM Hunt, Inc.
 S Feb 23 10:00 AM Montafon Farm

Saturday, February 23 -- Rockbridge Hunt Ball

W Feb 27 2:30 PM Bolen

S Mar 1 10:00 AM Hunt, Inc.**
Junior meet -- a day of hunting for juniors and their
 guests followed by a potluck breakfast

W Mar 5 2:30 PM Broadview Ranch
 S Mar 8 9:00 AM Windward Farm
 W Mar 12 2:30 PM Hunt, Inc.
 S Mar 15 9:00 AM West Airlie
 W Mar 19 2:30 PM Pollock

S Mar 22 TBA TBA
 Joint meet at Glenmore Hunt Closing Meet

W Mar 26 2:30 PM Broadview Ranch

S Mar 29 2:30 PM Hunt, Inc.*
 Rockbridge Hunt Closing Meet hosting Glenmore Hunt
 Bring something to cook on the grill!
 The rest of the breakfast will be provided.

*Breakfast follows hunting. Make reservations with Carol
 Atwood, 463-1000 or carol@broadviewranch.com.

Cost will be \$10 per person.

**Potluck follows hunting. No reservations needed; please
 bring a dish to share. Cost will be \$5.00 per person.

Rockbridge Hunt, 2007-2008

est. 1947

Master of Foxhounds: Cynthia J. Morton
 (H 463-6025, W 458-8109, M 570-0346)
 Huntsman (Professional): David Conner (463-9547)

Field Master: Joe Conner

Whippers-in (Honorary):

Katharine S. Conner

Nancy H. Conner

Susan L. Conner

Cynthia J. Morton

Gary P. Ruley

Honorary Masters of Foxhounds:

Dr. G. E. Clapsaddle

Dr. David Bolen

Secretary (Honorary): Laura Jarvis
 59 Homeaway Ln, Natural Bridge VA 24578
 291-3186

Hunt line:

540-462-1113

Tex Tilson Lodge:

540-463-3781

Capping fee is \$35

Limit of 3 caps per season