



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* December 9, 2015

**“If you’re not going to the hospital, you’re getting back on!”
-George Morris**

Merry Christmas!

1. Christmas Meet & Party, Saturday, December 12. We hope to see everyone at our Christmas meet Saturday at The Hunt, Inc. Our traditional Christmas party will follow the hunt. Carol Lueder has graciously volunteered to coordinate the breakfast so come on out for some sport and/or some Christmas cheer by the fire in the Tex Tilson Lodge.

2. New Year’s Meet, Friday, January 1, 2016 Another holiday tradition! Weather permitting, we plan to have our meet and hunt breakfast on New Year’s Day. Lynn Williams has once again graciously volunteered to coordinate our breakfast. The meet is scheduled for 11:00 AM with the breakfast to follow in the Tex Tilson Lodge. Please make reservations with Hugh Brown by Wednesday, December 30.

3. Joint Meet with Glenmore Hunt, Saturday, January 2, 2016. Our good friends to the north have invited us to join them for their New Year’s meet at their beautiful Bellevue Farm fixture in Swoope. The Glenmore folks will be having a tailgate following the hunt, so please bring along something to share if you attend the meet. Glenmore waivers will be available from Laura Jarvis or Hugh Brown at upcoming meets and there will be some at the Tex Tilson Lodge. They are also available online at: www.glenmorehunt.org/docs/waiver_2009_0827_1s.pdf

4. Rockbridge Hunt Ball, February 6, 2016. We are gearing up for the 2016 Rockbridge Hunt Ball at the Natural Bridge Hotel! Invitations will be mailed in early January. If you would like for someone to receive an invitation, please contact Hugh Brown with the name and address as soon as possible. *Please* start gathering items you could donate or solicit from local businesses for the silent auction. Carol Lueder and Laura Jarvis have started collecting items already. The silent auction is a critical fundraising event for the hounds and the Hunt, so please consider helping out by finding items for the auction. For questions about the silent auction, please contact Carol Lueder or Laura Jarvis. For general questions about the Ball or the hotel, please contact Rebecca Tilson and make sure your calendar is marked for **February 6, 2015!**

5. Wall Calendars. Louise Golian has put together our annual Rockbridge Hunt wall calendar for 2016. She hopes to have copies at upcoming events. Contact Louise to reserve yours. They will be \$20 each. Thank you Louise! Louisegolian@aol.com

6. Sedgefield Cup 2016. The dates have been set for the 2016 renewal of the Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 25-27, 2016. Detailed information about the schedule and registration will be available after Christmas. Mark your calendar now for an exciting weekend of foxhunting and fellowship in North Carolina.

7. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting Terminology: Boxing Day

Boxing Day is a holiday traditionally celebrated the day following Christmas Day, when servants and tradesmen would receive gifts, known as a "Christmas box", from their bosses or employers, in the United Kingdom, and many former British colonies. (Peter Parley, *Tales about Christmas*). In Britain, it was a custom for tradespeople to collect "Christmas boxes" of money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas as thanks for good service throughout the year. This custom is linked to an older English tradition: since they would have to wait on their masters on Christmas Day, the servants of the wealthy were allowed the next day to visit their families. The employers would give each servant a box to take home containing gifts, bonuses and sometimes leftover food. (Encyclopædia Britannica, "Boxing day")

Boxing Day is one of the main days in the hunting calendar for hunts in the UK and US, with most hunts (both mounted foxhound or harrier packs and foot packs of beagles or bassets) holding meets, often in town or village centers. "More than a quarter of a million people turned out to take part in and support Boxing Day hunts on Thursday, despite an animal charity's claims that 80 per cent of people oppose hunting with dogs for sport. An estimate 250 hunts rode out on Thursday on the biggest day of the hunting calendar." (*The Telegraph*, December 22, 2009).

The Rockbridge Hunt will meet on Boxing Day, 2016 at Zollman at 2:30 PM.

8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, December 12	Christmas Meet & Breakfast
Friday, January 1	New Year's Meet & Breakfast
Saturday, January 2	Joint meet at Glenmore Hunt's Bellevue Farm fixture in Swoope
Saturday, February 6, 2016	*Rockbridge Hunt Ball
Saturday, May 7, 2016	*Rockbridge Hunt <i>Derby-Day Hunter Pace</i>
Wednesday, May 12, 2016	Annual Meeting
	*Fundraising events

9. Other Hunt-related dates

Saturday, January 30, 2016	Bull Run Hunt <i>Game Dinner</i>
Saturday, February 13	Keswick Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, March 12	Bedford County Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, March 19	Glenmore Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Sunday, March 20	Bull Run Hunt <i>Races</i>
Mon, Mar 21-Sat. March 26	Bull Run Hunt <i>March Madness</i>
Fri, Mar 25-Sun Mar 27	Carolina <i>Foxhound Performance Trial</i> , "The Sedgefield Cup"
Saturday, March 26	Bull Run Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, March 26	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, April 9	Glenmore Hunt <i>Spring Hunter Pace</i>
Sunday, April 17	Mauzy River Hunter Trials, Penmerryl Farm, Greenville
Sunday, April 17	Loudoun Hunt Races with the Mrs. George C. Everhart Memorial Side Saddle Race, Oatlands
Thurs-Sun, April 28-May 1	Bull Run Hunt <i>Weekend Camping Trail Ride</i>
Fri-Sun, April 22-24	MFHA Staff <i>Seminar</i> , Westfields Marriott, Chantilly, VA
Sunday, May 29	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park

10. The Rockbridge Hunt NewsHound is archived on the RH website under Newsletters in the Archive section. You can also access copies by logging into Google or Google Groups and read stuff from the Friends list. If you don't have a Google account, it's easy to create one using the same email address that you use for the Friends list.

As always, if you have feedback or suggestions for the Executive Committee, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee
2015-2016**

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