



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* April 8, 2016

1. Derby Day Hunter Pace. Saturday, May 7. Louise Golian and Hugh Brown are heading up our annual spring hunter pace for Saturday, May 7 at Hunt, Inc. They report that everything is going well for the event. We would appreciate everyone's support of this important fundraiser. You can help clear trails, volunteer, ride in the pace, tell friends, bring friends, and/or bring food. Please contact Louise or Hugh if you would like to help out in some way. And don't worry - we'll have you home in time to watch the Derby! Thank you!

2. Book Club / Reading Group. We had 12 people at our first book club meetings. And there are several additional folks who have expressed interest but couldn't attend. That's great! I know that not all of us will attend every meeting but that's a big enough group to keep going. The first book will be **The Irish RM** by Somerville and Ross. You can read a little about it and find links to download the text. <http://foxhuntinglibrary.blogspot.com/2016/04/book-club-choosing-first-book.html> We'll discuss The Irish RM at the next meeting -- 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 4 at The Lodge. Everyone is welcome. We will try to meet somewhere else with air-conditioning in June. And in June we'll discuss our second book, A Long Way to Go by Marigold Armitage. It's only 200 pages and is fairly easy reading so we can probably share copies.

3. Annual Meeting. Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc. Please save Wednesday, May 11 on your calendar for our Annual Meeting. We will be electing new officers for the year ahead, voting on the proposed budget for the 2016-17 year, and attending to other matters important to our organization. Members whose dues have been paid in full by the time of the meeting are eligible to vote. Each single hunting membership, each family membership, and each landowner membership has one vote. In order for the Hunt to conduct business, there must be a quorum at the meeting of 20 members physically present. Family and landowner memberships may have more than one member, and the numbers matter. *Please come!*

BONUS! Last year's pre-meeting lasagna dinner before the Annual Meeting was a huge success, so we've planned to do it again this year. We'll have dinner at 6:00 PM at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Please plan to come early and have dinner with your friends from the Hunt. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and lasagna dinner!

4. Spring Reminders. As the spring events get under way, please take a few steps to make things easier for everyone. Event secretaries will love you. Be sure to check your Coggins. Is it out of date? Make a few extra copies of your Coggins -- make sure you can read everything, especially the accession number (usually in the upper right corner). Leaving a copy when you make your entries is the easy option for everyone. Consider printing out address labels to put on entry forms. If you're at all likely to be traveling with someone else, put together copies of all the paperwork for you and your horse. You might want to include a copy of your health insurance card and some emergency contact information. It shouldn't take up much room. Pack it with your helmet or some way that ensures you won't forget it. If you're filling out entry forms by hand, take your time and print clearly. Entry forms are long and tedious but we don't make it that way because we love paperwork! We really do need that information. Have patience! Be nice to the volunteers!

~Cindy Morton

4. Capital Campaign for Tracking Collars. Hunting is over for the season, but we have lots of great memories of our adventures following the hounds this year. We also have some painful memories of several lost hounds. On one especially fast hunt this winter, our hounds ran right out of our territory, following a coyote that took them on a chase where we could not keep up. Hounds ended up in territory they didn't know, and David spent several days retrieving them. One good hound, Whisper, was killed when she was hit by a car.

We are fortunate to have great hounds who hunt well together and consistently come back to the fixture at the end of the day. And we have wonderful territory with friendly landowners and few major highways. But development is everywhere and road traffic is increasing. The growing coyote population has changed hunting, too, as hounds run farther and faster these days.

One way we can protect our hounds is to equip them with tracking collars, and we need to do it.

Tracking collars are expensive, costing about \$300 per unit, and we should have 20 collars. We also must purchase the actual controller unit, an external antenna and batteries. The total cost will be around \$6,000 – which is not in our already tight budget.

We hope to raise funding for the collars through donations from people who care about our pack and the sport of foxhunting. Ideally, we'd like to have the collars by August 1, since it will take time for our staff to learn the system and how to best use it in our territory. It is important to start using this tool to protect our hounds as soon as possible.

If you would like to help with the collar campaign, please send your donations to our treasurer, Louise Golian, 105 Rock Ridge Lane, Vesuvius VA 24483.

We're one of the last hunts in Virginia to acquire hunting collars. But it is time to do this for our hounds and our huntsman.

4. Sedgefield Cup 2016. Once again, our hounds represented us well at the annual Carolina Foxhound Performance Trail in Hoffman, North Carolina. There were 63 hounds entered from 13 different hunts. After two exciting days of hunting and fellowship with foxhunters from all over the country, the results from the weekend's competition were announced.

Rockbridge Opal 2014 (sponsored by Carol Lueder) was our ribbon winner on the first day. She placed 3rd in "Trailing," 5th in "Endurance," and was the 5th highest point winner of the day!

While Opal was our top-scoring hound on Saturday, Rockbridge Teasel 2012 (sponsored by Cynthia Secker) was our star performer on Sunday. Teasel picked up several ribbons for her efforts on Easter Sunday including: 3rd place in "Trailing," 5th place in "Full Cry," 5th place in "Endurance," and 5th place "Overall" out of nearly 60 hounds entered for the day! Rockbridge Outlaw 2014 (sponsored by Rebecca Tilson) also picked up a ribbon Sunday - 5th place in the "Hunting" category. Overall, Teasel's and Outlaw's scores combined to put the Rockbridge Hunt in third place out of 13 competing hunts for the second day.

When the overall results for the weekend were announced, Teasel, Outlaw, and Opal were all honored for their efforts. Opal was 8th overall in the "Trailing" category. Outlaw placed 6th in "Full Cry." Teasel was again our star and placed 5th in "Endurance," 8th in "Full Cry," and scored the 7th highest total score out of the 63 foxhounds originally entered in the event. That's quite something for the fairly recent mother of our last litter of puppies!

We should all be so proud of our hounds! They were champs chasing multiple gray foxes and coyotes over the course of the weekend. We should also be so proud of our Huntsman, David Conner, who bred, raised, and trained these hounds to be the hard-hunting foxhounds they are. I can't tell you how many times we heard members of other hunts talk in reverent tones about David's ability to produce hard working, deer-broke hounds that love their jobs and never give up. It was an honor for the Rockbridge team to be with David and the Rockbridge hounds at the Sedgefield Cup again this year.

5. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Drive**

“**Drive** is a trait developed notably in modern foxhounds. It may be summed up as a predominating desire to reach the objective. The bloodhound, for instance, bred for centuries to very careful, slow work on a leash, is more interested in the line than in the quarry. The good foxhound is interested in the line primarily as a means of attaining the quarry. . . . the good foxhound, hearing the cry of his fellows ahead, will instantly leave the line to get forward to them. The best hound in his work is one whose qualities of nose and drive are well balanced.”

Excerpt from *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages* by Joseph B. Thomas, MFH

6. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

We've updated the calendar for this year to include a Summer Trail Ride fundraiser and a fall hunter pace. Details to come!

Saturday, May 7	*Rockbridge Hunt Derby-Day Hunter Pace
Wednesday, May 11	Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 11	*Poker Ride
Saturday, August 13	*Summer Trail Ride (New fundraising event)
Saturday, September 10	*Kick-Off Party
Sunday, September 11	Volunteers' Hunt
Saturday, September 17	Cubbing season begins
Saturday, September 24	Western Day at Broadview
Sunday, September 25	*Fall Poker Ride
Sunday, October 30	*Fall Hunter Pace
Saturday, November 5	Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds
	*Fundraising events

7. Other Hunt-related dates

Saturday, April 9	Glenmore Hunt <i>Spring Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, April 9	Farmington <i>Hunter Trials</i>
Sat. & Sun, April 16-17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Sunday, April 17	Loudoun Hunt <i>Races</i> with the Mrs. George C. Everhart Memorial <i>Side Saddle Race</i> , Oatlands
Saturday, April 23	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Sweet Briar College (rain date 4/24)
Sunday, April 24	Maury River <i>Hunter Trials</i> , Penmerryl Farm, Greenville
Thurs-Sun, April 28-May 1	Bull Run Hunt <i>Weekend Camping Trail Ride</i>
Fri-Sun, April 22-24	MFHA <i>Staff Seminar</i> , Westfields Marriott, Chantilly, VA
Tues-Sun, May 17-22	Keswick <i>Horse Show</i> , Keswick Hunt Club
Fri-Sun, May 20-22	Virginia <i>Horse Trials</i> , Virginia Horse Center
Sat. & Sun, May 21-22	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Sat-Sun, May 28-29	Hunt Country <i>Stable Tour</i>
Sunday, May 29	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park
Saturday, June 11	Farmington <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Mint Meadows
Sat. & Sun, June 18-19	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Saturday, June 25	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>
Sat. & Sun, July 16-17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Saturday, July 23	Glenmore Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
August 10-14	Lexington National <i>Horse Show</i> , Virginia Horse Center

Sat. & Sun, August 20-21	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Sat. & Sun, August 20-21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, August 20	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Long Meadows Farm
Saturday, August 27	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Sunday, August 28	Farmington <i>Hunter Pace</i> (south of town)
Saturday, September 3	Maury River <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Virginia Horse Center
Saturday, September 11	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Maceland, Chatham
Sat. & Sun, Sept 17-18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Sunday, November 6	Virginia <i>Field Hunter Championships</i>
Sunday November 6	Farmington Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Sunday, November 13	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>

8. 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**

Lauren Keating, President
H 540-463-5574, O 540-291-1444
keatadvn@gmail.com

Cindy Morton, MFH
W 540-458-8109, M 540-570-0770
mortonc@wlu.edu

Louise Golian, Treasurer
H 540-377-9409
Louisegolian@gmail.com

Hugh Brown, Hon. Secretary
H 540-886-6359, W 540-568-3501

Kathy Eichelberger, Steward '13
H 540-258-2065, W 540-343-0193, M 540-354-2348
bergrbnch@aol.com

Rebecca Tilson, Steward '13
540-460-3101
rebecca@broadviewranch.com

Laura Jarvis, Steward '15
540-319-8863
lwjarvis93@gmail.com

Valerie Mann, Steward '15
540-580-6614
mannsalem@aol.com

Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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1397 Zollman's Mill Rd., Lexington, VA 24450

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<http://www.broadviewranch.com>

store@broadviewranch.com

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540-462-3820

<http://www.doversaddlery.com>

lexington@doversaddlery.com

Ms Carol Lueder & Fair Chase, Inc.

925 Valley Pike, Lexington, VA 24450-3352

(H) 540-463-9189

(Cell) 540-460-5302

<http://fchase.net> shop@fchase.net

Pink Cadillac Diner

4743 South Lee Highway, Natural Bridge, VA 24578

(540) 291- 2378

email@pinkcadillacdineronline.com

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540-463-3612

info@southerninn.com

Virginia Born & Bred

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540-463-1832 or 800-437-2452

<Http://www.virginiabornandbred.com>