



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* August 31, 2016

“On horseback, every man is a king.”
~Ricardo Alluc

1. Fundraising Trail Ride. Saturday, August 13. Major thanks to Liz Hall for coordinating our summer trail ride at Broadview and for making so many different kinds of chili to fortify us after the ride. Thank you to everyone else who donated food – it was a wonderful spread. And special thanks to our field leaders for the afternoon: Cindy Morton and Rebecca Tilson! Both riding groups reported having a great time in spite of the heat.

2. Summer Work! Many grateful thanks to members and friends who have come out for our work days so far this month! Our work crews have been tiny, but mighty.

August 6, Work Day at the Broadview: David Bolen, Hugh Brown, David Conner, Joe Conner, Lauren Keating, Diane Long, Valerie Mann, Cindy Morton, Bob Richardson, Rebecca Tilson. Laura Jarvis provided lunch for the weary trail warriors.

August 6, Work Crew at The Hunt, Inc: Lu Dooley and Kathy Munsey.

August 20, Work Day at Broadview: David Conner, Joe Conner, Lauren Keating, Cindy Morton

August 20, Working at Hunt, Inc: Lu Dooley

August 21, Work Crew at Hunt, Inc: Kathy Eichelberger and Kathy Munsey

August 24, Work Crew at Hunt, Inc: Kathy Eichelberger, Blair & Erica Jones

August 27, Work Crew at Hunt, Inc: Hugh Brown, Caitlin Mann, Cindy Morton, Kathy Munsey, Bob Richardson, and Gary Ruley. Laura Jarvis again provided a wonderful lunch for the crew. Rebecca Tilson also did a lot of great work on the trails at Broadview.

Not able to help this summer? We accept cash!! We've had to pay to have some big chainsaw work done and we could use some donations to offset those unexpected expenses. The Volunteers' Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, September 11 for volunteers who help with trail clearing or who help with the maintenance of our lodge, barn, and kennels this summer.

3. More Thanks! The next time you visit the Tex Tilson Lodge, make it a point to check out the newly re-laid steps from the parking lot to the door. Cindy Morton put in many hours of hard work and got some help from David Conner and Bob Richardson. The steps were becoming a serious trip hazard and they are so much better now. Thank you Cindy, David, and Bob!

And special thanks to Laura Jarvis for dealing with a serious septic tank problem at the Huntsman's House!

4. Kick-off Party. Invitations are in the mail! The Executive Committee is busy making plans for our annual party to kick-off the hunting season on **Saturday, September 10**, at the Tex Tilson Lodge. At 4:00 PM there will be a guided tour of the kennels by our Huntsman, David Conner, with the new foxhound puppies on hand for viewing. At 5:00 PM there will be activities and a picnic at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Activities will include a select silent auction, hound sponsorship, plus yard games and more! You don't want to miss this great party!

5. Kennel News! More puppies!!! Congratulations to Rockbridge Legend 2010 (sponsored by Kathy Munsey) and Rockbridge Wade 2015 (sponsored by Lu Dooley) on their new litter of puppies! Come to the Kick-Off Party to get some puppy love!

6. Hound Sponsorship. We are hopeful that many of our Rockbridge Hunt members and friends will consider choosing and sponsoring a hunting hound this year. Throughout the year our hounds must be fed, vaccinated, given flea preventative treatments and receive medical attention. We can expect to spend over \$330 on each hound each year. The importance of hound sponsorship cannot be overstated. Your contributions are vital to the well-being of our pack. We will have a hound sponsorship table at our Kick-Off party on September 10. Sponsorship for an entire year is \$150, or \$75 for a half year. Many of us like to sponsor the same hound year after year and if that is your wish please contact Valerie Mann by September 1st to renew sponsorship of "your" hound. (mannsalem@aol.com or 540-580-6614). The list of hounds available for sponsorship can be found here:

<http://rockbridgehunt.org/?Title=Hounds&lastMenu=Home.Foxhunting&Menu=Home.Foxhunting.Hounds>

Very special thanks to Dr. Brent Hall for taking over the hounds' care this year.

7. Four Hunt Weekend! Back by popular demand! This every-other-year series of joint meets with our friends in nearby hunts has become a tradition. Save the weekend of October 7-10 for this year's renewal. The meets are all free to members of the four participating hunts. Capping fees for non-members will be \$50 for each of the meets. Everyone will need to sign waivers for the hunts they visit. Bring your friends! Here's the schedule:

Friday, October 7	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club
Saturday, October 8	Glenmore Hunt
Sunday, October 9	Rockbridge Hunt
Monday, October 10	Bedford County Hunt

8. Opening Meet. Mark your calendar now for our Opening Meet – **Saturday, November 5 at 2:30 PM** at The Hunt, Inc. Invitations will be mailed in October.

9. Getting Ready to Hunt. The start of hunting season is only about six weeks away now! The Executive Committee is working on plans for riding and social activities and our hunt staff is hard at work training the hounds for the upcoming season. Here are some things you can be doing now to get ready for the fall:

1. Buy a Hunting License. This is not optional, everyone must purchase and carry a current hunting license. See "Are you Licensed to Hunt" below for instructions.
2. Start legging up your horse – and yourself!
3. Make sure your Coggins is up to date, along with other vaccinations and worming.
4. Sign a waiver for the season.
5. Check your tack for wear and tear.
6. Check your trailer and towing vehicle - tire pressure and wear, electrical systems, etc.

10. Are you licensed to Hunt? Remember to get a new Virginia Hunting License before the start of hunting season. We recommend that you get a statewide license if you plan to attend joint meets away from home. You can purchase licenses several ways:

On-line at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/>

By telephone: 1-866-721-6911 (available Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM, except **holidays**)

In person at local license agents located around the Commonwealth. Licenses are also sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court.

11. Junior North American Field Hunter Championships. Young riders, mark your calendars: The 2016 Junior North American Field Hunter Championships (JNAFHC) are right around the corner! The first qualifying meets take place next month, and the finals will be held on Sunday, October 23. This promises to be a big year for the JNAFHC. The number of qualifying meets has grown to 27, including five new states, which will allow an increasing number of juniors to participate in the expanded program. The competition is designed for riders 18 years old (as of August 1, 2016) and younger, competing on foxhunting ponies or appropriate hunt horses. There are three divisions: First Field, ages 13 to 18; First Field, ages 12 and Under; and Hilltoppers, ages 18 and under. Proper turnout and the horse's athletic performance are considered, but suitability for the young rider is of utmost importance. Judges ride in the field at the qualifying meets and select rider/horse combinations to invite to the championships. Riders not selected at one meet may continue to hunt at subsequent qualifying meets, and may later be selected (or not) at the judges' discretion. Riders who have already qualified are invited to continue to ride at subsequent qualifying meets, but are identified by an armband, so that day's judges are aware and they are not judged again.

Once they are selected, juniors are invited to the finals, which will be held on Sunday, October 23 with the Iroquois Hunt in Lexington, Kentucky. Jack van Nagell, MFH of the Iroquois Hunt and president of the MFHA, and his committee are busy preparing to make this one of the best championships ever. Two new contests will be offered at this year's championships: Horn Blowing and Whip Cracking! Silver Revere bowls will be awarded to the winners. Beautiful coolers and leather halters will also be awarded to division champions and reserve champions.

Upon submitting an **entry form** (with a one-time \$75 fee), entrants may hunt in as many qualifiers as they choose. We hope to see them meet new friends, explore new country, encourage each other, hunt to their hearts' content, and gain an appreciation and love for the countryside and its preservation for future generations.

To help riders prepare, many hunts are offering clinics and paces ahead of the qualifiers. Mosts of these are listed on the [website](#) and the [public Facebook group](#).

Virginia

Sept. 17 – Old Dominion

Sept. 24 - Blue Ridge Hunt

Sept. 25 – Rappahannock

Oct. 8 – Farmington

Oct. 15 – Keswick

Contacts for more information and any questions are the following

Marion Chungo - mchungo@aol.com 540-220-7292

Michelle Arnold - jnafhc@yahoo.com

12. Southern States Proof of Purchase Program. For several years now, the Hunt has been collecting Southern States feed bag and supplements labels (we need the proof of purchase label). We get about 25 cents per label. Cindy Morton has graciously been coordinating this effort for us. Many members have been participating and it really does pay off. Since we started participating in the program, we have cashed in over \$3,000 in feed/supplement labels! Keep saving those Southern States proofs of purchase – any equine feed or supplement from Southern States – Triple Crown, Legends, etc. To make it even easier, there's a collection box at the Tex Tilson Lodge for labels. Every label makes a difference!

13. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: Blind

Blind

*Excerpt from **Fox-Hunting** by the Duke of Beaufort*

A fence is blind when the exact edge of the ditch facing it, or the outline of the bank, is hidden by grass etc. A country is said to be blind when there is still much leaf and old grass about the fences. A jump is taken blind when the hedges are still full of summer leaf and the ditches are overgrown.

14. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

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
October 7-10	Hunting Weekend with Oak Ridge, Glenmore, and Bedford County
Saturday, October 22	Glenmore Hunt Opening Meet, joint meet with Rockbridge Hunt
Sunday, October 30	*Fall Hunter Pace
Saturday, November 5	Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds
	*Fundraising events

15. Other Hunt-related dates

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>
Saturday, November 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i>
Sunday, November 13	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 19	Bedford County Hunt <i>Fall Show</i> at Randolph College

16. 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
2016-2017**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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Rockbridge Farmers Co-op

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Southern Inn Restaurant

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Virginia Gold Orchard

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