



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* March 18, 2016

1. Sedgefield Cup 2016. This year's renewal of the Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – is right around the corner - March 25-27, 2016. There are currently 12 hunts from across the country signed up to compete: Camden Hunt (SC); De La Brooke Foxounds W (MD); Goshen Hounds (MD); Green Creek Hounds (SC); Last Chance Hounds (MD); Lowcountry Hunt (SC); Mecklenburg Hounds (NC); Moore County Hounds (NC); Red Oak Foxhounds (VA); Rockbridge Hunt (VA); Sedgefield Hunt (NC); and reigning champion Stonewall Hounds (VA).

Each hunt can enter up to five hounds in the trial. The roster of Rockbridge Hounds set to compete includes: Rockbridge Legend 2010 (sponsored by Kathy Munsey); Rockbridge Opal 2014 (sponsored by Carol Lueder); Rockbridge Outlaw 2014 (sponsored by Rebecca Tilson); Rockbridge Tansy 2012 (sponsored by Bill & Barb Luton); and Rockbridge Teasel 2012 (sponsored by Cynthia Secker). Rockbridge Omelet 2011 (sponsored by Valerie Mann) is our alternate. This is a huge event and the Sedgefield Hunt members go out of their way to put on a fantastic weekend. It takes a small army of judges and others to pull off a mounted competition. Here's the slate of judges and coordinators for 2016:

Event Coordinator: Jan Sorrells (Sedgefield Hunt, Hon. Secretary and Whipper-In)

Huntsman: Tony Leahy

Head Judge: Ed Fry

Mounted Judges: Mitzi Cabeen, Larry Pitts, Greg Thompson, Anne McIntosh, Beth Opitz,

Road Judges: Gerald Movelle, Doug Davis.

Road Whip: Donald Minor

Detailed information about the schedule and registration can be found here:

<http://www.sedgefieldhunt.com/performancetrial.html>.

We all wish David Conner and the Rockbridge hounds good luck at this year's Sedgefield Cup! The NewsHound will keep everyone posted on our adventures in Hoffman, North Carolina.

2. Apology. The *NewsHound* neglected to thank at least two important contributors to the silent auction at the recent Rockbridge Hunt Ball. Former member and long-time Rockbridge Hunt friend Erin Foster Cordle donated quite a few items to the auction. Marcy Molinaro another long-time friend of the Hunt did a great deal of legwork and negotiation to secure several donations from The Robert E. Lee Hotel and the Lexington Golf & Country Club. Thank you Erin and Marcy for your wonderful contributions!

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 plan to have a spaghetti dinner at 6:00 PM before the 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.*

4. Capital Campaign for Tracking Collars. It's winter hunting season and wildlife is traveling, frequently covering long distances -- which means long, fast chases but also real problems for the hunt. Several weeks ago, 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.

5. Educational Bits -- courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Whip**

The following is from Foxhunting in North America by Alexander Mackay-Smith:

Whip: The assembly of crop, thong and lash is known as a hunting whip, incorrectly called a crop or hunting crop. The thong carried by a member of the field should be looped through the hand, the thong carried by a member of the staff should hang straight down. The thong should be used by members of the field under one set of circumstances -- held out in the direction of hounds, when they are being taken past the field in a narrow place such as a lane, so as to prevent them from getting so close to horses that they might be kicked.

The following is from Cindy Morton, MFH Rockbridge Hunt:

In a perfect world, every Member of The Field would carry a whip, complete with thong and cracker (or popper or lash, with or without an additional drop). No one would ever carry a standard riding crop or bat of any other kind in the hunt field. Generally, Members of the Field should never use their whips. It is permissible to drop the thong if a pup is getting too close. If your horse tolerates it, you can drop the thong and hold it toward your horse's hindquarters if a pup seems to be interested in getting close. (This sometimes backfires -- pups tend to be interested in anything that moves.) Usually, adult hounds who are near Members of The Field are on their way to the huntsman (and moving along) or they may be working a line. In either case it's better for the Members of The Field to move their horses out of the way (rather than drop the thongs of their whips) -- but sometimes that's not possible. If hounds are working a line and Members of The Field are on a narrow trail in the woods, it's best to just keep still.

The reality is that carrying a whip is cumbersome and awkward. It's only of real use to Members of The Field when pulling gates shut. If you're going to carry a whip, you need to practice. Unless you're well accustomed to carrying a whip, when unexpected events occur you'll either drop your whip or hurt yourself with it.

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, 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>
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 Weekend</i>
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**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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