



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* May 17, 2016

"Hunting is often described as a sport. But to those of us who have heard the music of the hounds and have loved it, it is far more than that. Hunting is our music, it is our poetry, it is our art, it is our pleasure. It is where many of our best friendships are made, it is our community.

It is our whole way of life. "

~Baroness Mallalieu

1. Derby Day Hunter Pace. Saturday, May 14. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our spring fundraising ride a success. It takes a village to pull off a successful event, so many thanks to all of our volunteers:

Organizers: Louise Golian & Hugh Brown

Course design: Cindy Morton & Katharine Conner

Course flagging & checking: Cindy Morton, Louise Golian, Kathy Eichelberger Hugh Brown

Trail clearing: Joe Conner, Katharine Conner, Cindy Morton, Laura Jarvis, Hugh Brown

Mowing: Pete Holladay

Registration: Carol Lueder, Laura Jarvis, Cindy Morton

Parking, Advertizing & Paperwork: Hugh Brown

Start, Finish & Timing: Lauren Keating & Kathy Munsey

Check-point: Diane Long

Time calculations: Louise Golian

Lunch: Hugh Brown and Carol Lueder

Food & Drink Donors: Hugh Brown, Liz Hall, Diane Long, Carol Lueder, Marcy Molinaro, Kathy Munsey, and Jean Taylor

Course de-flagging: Cindy Morton, Katharine Conner, Hugh Brown, and Lu Dooley

Hunter Pace Results

Open Division, Ideal time: 1:45

		Time
1 st	MJ Bowman, Liz Hall & Scottie Pavlik	1:47
2 nd	Lu Dooley	2:01
3 rd	Mariah Brant & Carrie McCrory	2:16
4 th	Claire Reeger & Jenny Rosner	2:19

Mixed Doubles Division, Ideal time: 1:45

1 st	Blair & Erica Jones	1:45
2 nd	Berk & Lee Pemberton	2:37

Vintage Division, Ideal time: 1:45

1 st	Chuck Orbell & Lynn Williams	1:32
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Junior Division, Ideal time: 1:45

1 st	Diana Hicks, Maddie Kidd & Emily Reno	2:21
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2. Annual Meeting. Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.

In case you missed the Annual Meeting last week, we met our quorum for the meeting and were able to conduct our important annual business. We approved the proposed budget for the upcoming year, had reports from the President, Master of Foxhounds, and Huntsman. We also elected new officers and stewards for 2016-2017:

President – Lauren Keating
Joint Masters of Foxhounds - Cindy Morton & Hugh Brown
Treasurer - Louise Golian
Hon. Secretary - Valerie Mann
Steward 2016-2019 – Liz Hall

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting! Your vote will keep the Rockbridge Hunt moving forward into the new year!

3. Poker Ride. Saturday, June 11 at West Airslie & Greenock Farms near Brownsburg. We're very excited to be having the next fundraising ride at our most northern hunting fixture! Coordinator Louise Golian will be looking for volunteers *very* soon. Please consider volunteering.

Note. The ride will go through West Airslie, but we'll be parking in a different location from where we park when hunting. Please use these directions for parking: *Take I-81 to exit #200 (Fairfield exit). Turn West onto Sterrett Road, and proceed 1.2 miles to VDOT yard at Swope Lane. Turn Left onto Swope Lane. Go approx 1.7 miles to 783 Swope Lane. Turn Left into Greenock Farm and follow signs to parking.*

4. Book Club / Reading Group. The book club is up and running. The first book read and discussed was *Some Experiences of an Irish R.M.* by Somerville & Ross. There is some background information and some commentary about the book here: <http://foxhuntinglibrary.blogspot.com/>. The group is now reading Marigold Armitage's *A Long Way to Go* and will meet on Wednesday, June 8 at 7:00 PM to discuss it. There are several copies of the book being passed around by group members. Let Cindy or Hugh know if you'd like to borrow a copy to read along. Please note: Anyone is welcome to attend our group meetings. They are not restricted to Rockbridge Hunt members or foxhunters. Join us!

Here's a little taste of *A Long Way to Go*:

"For those who have not actually been flayed alive by thorns, plastered with wet mud, banged painfully on the nose by their horse's up-flung head, rubbed raw by an ill-placed button, had their spinal cords twisted when their horse jumped crooked off a bank, continued to gallop, breathless, exhausted and, if they are honest, slightly frightened, unable to see for the rain they have smeared into their eyes with a dirty glove, unable to breathe for the clot of mud flung in eyes and nostrils from the hoofs of the horse in front--to those, I say, who have not actually taken part in this high glory, something of the resulting elation of spirit is bound to be missing."

4. Capital Campaign for GPS Hound Tracking Collars. We are well on our way toward our fundraising target for this important purchase! Many grateful thanks to the members and friends who have stepped forward with generous donations to the fund. If you've been waiting to send in a donation, now is the time. We're hoping that David Conner will be able to go shopping soon!

5. Important Reminders!

•**Summer Trail Riding at The Hunt, Inc.** Rockbridge Hunt members have permission from many generous landowners to *hunt* on their property. This does not entitle any individuals to *trail ride* on private property. Rockbridge Hunt members can ride on much of the property at The Hunt, Inc. but you must know where the boundaries are and respect them. Many of our landowners do allow trail riding but not all of them do. When individuals ride on private property without permission, landowners are (justifiably) displeased. These situations are one of the main causes of permission to hunt being withdrawn. If you don't absolutely know for certain where you can ride and where you can't, please make arrangements to ride with someone who knows the territory. Most of the Executive Committee and the Hunt Staff know the property and will be happy to meet you and ride with you.

Also, please be very certain that any dogs you have with you are under your control at all times and kept off private property.

•**Insurance, waivers, and helmets!** The new year has started for us – so that means new waivers are needed for everyone. For insurance purposes, it is *critical* that any member or guest riding at The Hunt, Inc. have a signed waiver on file. There is a box with waivers on the mounting block in The Hunt, Inc. parking lot and on the hunt barn. We will also have new waiver forms available at summer events and work days. If you are not sure if your guest has a current waiver, you may check with Hugh Brown or just sign a new one. We also *strongly encourage* everyone to wear approved helmets when riding. Thank you!

6. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: Earth

Earth – Any place a fox goes to ground for protection.

"Best get off now, sir, 'tis a dreadful place for a tired horse."

When I did so I went to my knees. My legs seemed to be made of cotton-wool, and my feet to have no connection with the rest of me. I was not quite sure where I was putting them and I staggered along drunkenly. Away in front, abruptly, the voices died. Then they clamoured again, but singly, brokenly, mournfully, informing us of frustration and a thirst unassauged. Old George's horn told us the same and round the spine of the ridge we came upon them, a little above us, milling and crying around the great **earth** in the rocks, the grey horse standing amongst them, his head drooping at last, and old George's face glowing like a lantern through the deepening dusk.

Excerpt from *A Long Way to Go* by Marigold Armitage

7. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, June 11	*Poker Ride at West Airslie & Greenock Farms near Brownsburg
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

8. Other Hunt-related dates

Tues-Sun, May 17-22	Keswick <i>Horse Show</i> , Keswick Hunt Club http://www.keswickhuntclub.com/shows/keswick-horse-show/
Fri-Sun, May 20-22	Virginia <i>Horse Trials</i> , Virginia Horse Center http://vahorsetrials.com/
Sat. & Sun, May 21-22	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Sat-Sun, May 28-29	Hunt Country <i>Stable Tour</i> , Middleburg and Upperville, VA http://www.trinityuppperille.org/hunt-country-stable-tour/
Sunday, May 29	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park http://virginiafoxhoundclub.org/hound-show
Saturday, June 4	Bedford County Hunt Hunter Pace at Harlor's farm, Moneta http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Saturday, June 11	Farmington <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Mint Meadows http://www.farmingtonhunt.org/home
Sat. & Sun, June 18-19	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Saturday, June 25	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i> http://www.glenmorehunt.org/
Sat. & Sun, July 16-17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Saturday, July 23	Glenmore Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> http://www.glenmorehunt.org/
August 10-14	Lexington National <i>Horse Show</i> , Virginia Horse Center http://www.horsecenter.org/Events/
Sat. & Sun, August 20-21	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> http://www.farmingtonhunt.org/home
Sat. & Sun, August 20-21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Saturday, August 20	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Long Meadows Farm http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Saturday, August 27	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i> http://www.glenmorehunt.org/
Sunday, August 28	Farmington <i>Hunter Pace</i> (south of town) http://www.farmingtonhunt.org/home
Saturday, September 3	Maury River <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Virginia Horse Center
Saturday, September 11	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Maceland, Chatham http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Sat. & Sun, Sept 17-18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Sunday, November 6	Virginia <i>Field Hunter Championships</i>
Sunday November 6	Farmington Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> http://www.farmingtonhunt.org/home
Sunday, November 13	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> http://www.glenmorehunt.org/

9. 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.

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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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