



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* October 18, 2016

“The cry of hounds to me is the most thrilling and inspiring sound I have ever heard. The effect is magic; one forgets everything and has an uncontrollable impulse to be close to the pack. Aches, pains, worries are gone and one passes into a pleasant state of elation and satisfying joy.”

-Redmond C. Stewart, MFH

1. Glenmore Hunt Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds. Saturday, October 22. Cottage Hill, Swoope. Hounds will meet at 9:00 AM, breakfast to follow the hunt at about Noon. This is our annual joint meet with our long-time friends in the Glenmore Hunt. Glenmore’s hunt country is absolutely stunning and the fall colors should give us a dramatic background for the day’s activities. The Glenmore folks always have a bountiful hunt breakfast and they’ll need as accurate a count of participants as possible. **So, please make reservations** with Hugh Brown **ASAP**, if you plan to attend – *on horseback or foot*. Hugh Brown, brownhh@jmu.edu, (W) 540-568-3501 or (H) 540-886-6359.

Directions to Cottage Hill

I-81: Exit 225 West Rt. 262, Go 8 mi. or Exit 220 West Rt. 262 N, Go 4.3 mi. to Rt. 254 West (Parkersburg Turnpike) Exit. Go west 4 mi. (through the village of Westview and across the Middle River), TL onto Rt. 876 (Swoope Rd.). Go 1.6 mi., TR onto Rt. 703 (Hewitt Rd.), Go .6 mi., TL onto Rt. 876 (Cattleman Rd.), Go .3 mi. to the 2nd driveway on R, 135 Cattleman Rd., follow long driveway past the pond to barn area.

2. Work Days. We did a tremendous amount of work on our trails in August, but the grooming, lopping, and sawing have continued into the fall. Special thanks to Duane Hylton, Abby Hylton, Laura Jarvis and Hugh Brown for their work on Sunday, October 16 near Hunt, Inc. Huge thanks also to Pete Holladay for cutting and clearing several fallen trees on Hunt, Inc. trails recently. He’s had to clear one of those trails more than once! And many grateful thanks to Joe Conner for single-handedly reopening a critical trail at the Bolen fixture. The NewsHound has heard that the Autumn Olive was so thick, Joe was on his knees to cut it back. Thank you all so much for your continued hard work!

Another work day has been scheduled for Sunday, October 23 at 10:00AM at The Hunt, Inc. Meet at the lodge. We have more work to get ready for our Autumn Hunter Pace and Opening Meet. Please consider coming out to help. We have a couple of chainsaws already promised (thank you Duane Hylton and Jake Wilson!) – we really need a few folks who can help get the brush off the trail once it’s cut. No special skills required – just gloves!

3. Hunter Pace! Our final fundraiser of the calendar year is scheduled for Sunday, October 30 at The Hunt, Inc. Coordinator Valerie Mann is busy recruiting volunteers. Please consider volunteering, riding, or donating something for the lunch. Please contact Valerie if you can help in some way. We really want to make this ride a big success. Hunter Pace details are on the website.

4. Opening Meet. Our Opening Meet will be held on **Saturday, November 5 at 2:30 PM** at The Hunt, Inc. This is a joint meet with Glenmore Hunt. Invitations have been mailed. If there is someone you'd like to receive an invitation, please let Hugh Brown know. The Eichelberger family has graciously agreed to prepare the main course for the hunt breakfast. They'll be looking for help with appetizers, sides, salads, and desserts. **Please make reservation with Hugh Brown by Thursday, November 3. Thank you!**

5. Committees. We have set up 5 new working committees to help with the running of the Hunt. We have chairs for each committee and we have starting signing up members and friends to help. The committee chairs are going to be recruiting members, so please consider saying "yes" when you are called. Better yet, contact a chair and volunteer! If you've already signed up for a committee (or two) – THANK YOU! We aren't asking you to take charge of a huge event, we just want to spread out some of the work. Here are the committees and chairs:

Mounted Fundraisers Co-chairs: Liz Hall and Kathy Eichelberger

Rockbridge Hunt conducts mounted fundraisers each year. This year we have had poker rides, trail rides and hunter paces for our mounted fundraisers. Volunteer duties include: registering entries, timing start and finish, handing out cards, coordinating donated food items, awarding ribbons.

Unmounted Fundraisers: Chair: Carol Lueder

This committee is responsible for silent auctions held at the hunt ball and kick-off party. Duties include soliciting donations, set up, creating bid sheets, accepting payment. Other fundraiser ideas are welcome!

Hunt Ball: Chair: Terry Whitmore

The hunt ball committee selects the venue, band and caterer for the ball. It is also responsible for decorating the venue. Historically, the ball is held in February and most of the work involved in this event occurs near the hunt ball date.

Property: Co-Chairs: Louise Golian and Laura Jarvis

The property committee's responsibilities vary as different needs arise. The lodge, huntsman's house (rental,) and kennels are all maintained by the committee. Duties vary but include mowing, painting, cleaning and landscaping. Trails are maintained by the membership and do not fall under the property committee.

Hospitality Chair: Valerie Mann

The hospitality committee will put on our hunt breakfasts and coordinate our kick-off party and closing hunt meals. Typically this will involve providing the main meal and side and coordinating donations of sides, salads and desserts. Outsiders are welcome, ie., non-riding spouses, friends or any kitchen talent! Our hunt breakfasts and parties have a reputation for being delicious and fun. They provide gracious opportunities for us to get to know one another and catch up with old friends.

6. Reading Group Update. We just finished reading *The Lady Blows a Horn* by Nancy L. Mohr which centers on a MFH from Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds (PA). The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14. For the November meeting, we'll be reading *The Millbeck Hounds* by Gordon Grand, a collection of his stories that are primarily about hunting. We'll also be reading another chapter from *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages* by Joseph B. Thomas. It's Chapter 6, *Comments on Hunting a Pack*.

If you have any questions about the reading group, please contact Cindy Morton or Hugh Brown. Anyone is welcome to join in the fun at any time!

7. 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!

8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Break**

Break: A fox breaks, or breaks covert, when he leaves a covert or woodland for the open.

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

9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

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
Saturday, December 10	Joint meet with Farmington Hunt and Christmas party at The Hunt, Inc. *Fundraising events

10. Other Hunt-related dates

Saturday, October 22	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Saturday, October 22	International Gold Cup <i>Races</i> , Great Meadow Racecourse, The Plains
Tues Oct 25-Sun Oct 30	Washington International <i>Horse Show</i> , Verizon Center, Washington DC
Saturday, October 29	Stonewall Hounds <i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Saturday, November 5	Montpelier Hunt <i>Races</i> , Montpelier Station
Sunday, November 6	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club <i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Sunday, November 6	Virginia <i>Field Hunter Championships</i>
Sunday November 6	Farmington Hunt <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i>
Sunday, November 13	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 19	Bedford County Hunt <i>Fall Show</i> at Randolph College
Thursday, November 24	Keswick Hunt <i>Blessing of the Hounds</i>

11. 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**

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

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

Hugh Brown, MFH
H 540-886-6359, W 540-568-3501
brownhh@jmu.edu

Louise Golian, Treasurer
C 540-460-2628 H 540-377-9409
Louisegolian@gmail.com

Valerie Mann, Hon. Secretary
540-580-6614
valeriemann1229@gmail.com

Kathy Eichelberger, Steward 2013-2017
H 540-258-2065, W 540-343-0193, M 540-354-2348
bergrbnch@aol.com

Rebecca Tilson, Steward 2013-2017
540-460-3101
rebecca@broadviewranch.com

Laura Jarvis, Steward 2015-2019
540-319-8863
lwjarvis93@gmail.com

Liz Hall, Steward 2016-2019
434-760-3784
ehhall1229@yahoo.com

Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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1397 Zollman's Mill Rd., Lexington, VA 24450
540-458-1001
<http://www.broadviewranch.com>
store@broadviewranch.com

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<http://www.doversaddlery.com>
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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
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<http://rockbridgefarmerscoop.com/>

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37 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450
540-463-3612
info@southerninn.com

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100 Equus Loop, Natural Bridge, VA 24578
540-291-24578
stonebridgeequestriancenter@gmail.com

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