



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* *Celebrating 70 Years of Foxhunting – 1947-2017*

August 10, 2017

*How well you remember that day in September,
The dew lying bright in the morn,
You first heard the sound of the voice of a hound,
And first heard the twang of the horn.*

From Cubbing by J. Stanley Reeve

1. Huntsman & Hunting. Our Huntsman, David Conner, continues to make steady progress after his surgery. It will obviously take David time to completely recover and we are cautiously making plans for the beginning of the new hunting season. David's health is our top concern and that probably means a delay in the start of hunting. We will reschedule some of our traditional early-season events like the Volunteers' Hunt and Western Day for later in the season.

In the meantime:

The Masters at **The Bull Run Hunt** have invited members from the Rockbridge Hunt to cap through the month of September free of charge due to David's medical situation. Beginning the first week of September, they will be going out three times per week. And, they look forward to having us join them. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie Campbell, MFH (540-672-5128) or Jay Moore, MFH (540-293-1087). Information about Fixtures including maps can be found on the Bull Run Hunt website: www.bullrunhuntclub.com. The Bull Run Hunt Liability Waiver is here: <http://www.bullrunhuntclub.com/waviers-info/>

The Bedford County Hunt has also invited Rockbridge members to hunt with them while David is recovering. Any full hunting member of Rockbridge Hunt may hunt with Bedford County Hunt without paying a capping fee until we are hunting again. If you take a non-member guest with you to Bedford, that person would be expected to pay the appropriate capping fee. Information about hunting with Bedford County can be obtained from Field Secretary, Mrs. R. Crofton Held, at 540-586-1051. Their liability waiver can be found here: <file:///Users/brownhh/Downloads/BCH-Equine-Activity-Release-Waiver.pdf>

Both the Bull Run and Bedford County Hunts usually have tailgates following their meets. If you hunt with them, please consider taking along something to contribute to the tailgate. Thank you!

2. Work Days! We had perfect weather for our first work day at The Hunt, Inc. on August 5. Thank you to Hugh Brown, Lu Dooley, Kathy Eichelberger, Abby Hylton, Duane Hylton, Valerie Mann, Cindy Morton, Kathy Munsey, Bob Richardson, and Susan Richardson for helping us tame the wild growth of spring and summer. And special thanks to Laura Jarvis (and Kathy Munsey) for providing a restorative lunch after the work session! We hope to see you this Saturday, August 12 at The Hunt, Inc. at 8:00AM.

3. Trail Ride! Our next fundraising activity will be a **Trail Ride at Broadview on Sunday, August 27** at 9:00 AM. This will be a guided trail ride of 1-1.5 hours with two groups: fast and slow; all jumps optional. Bring friends! *All Riding Disciplines welcome!* All riders must be mounted by 9:00 AM. Entry fees: \$25 (includes picnic/BBQ lunch). Lunch served after the ride, BYOB. Pre-entry NOT necessary. Entry forms and waivers will be available online at: <http://rockbridgehunt.org>

4. Leg-Up Rides at Broadview. The folks at Broadview are coordinating a series of “Legging Up your Field Hunter” rides at Broadview. They will open the grounds at a special rate of \$5 each for members of the Rockbridge and Glenmore Hunts. The rides are at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays – August 16, 23, and 30 and September 6 and 13. These are “plan your own activities” rides with trails, open fields, hunt panels, the cross-country course and a round pen. Questions? Contact Susan Richardson (804-212-6194) or Carol Atwood (404-460-5028).

5. Kick-off Party. The Executive Committee is busy making plans for our annual party to kick-off the hunting season on **Saturday, September 9**, at the Tex Tilson Lodge. The evening will start at 5:00 PM. Activities will include a select silent auction, hound sponsorship, committee sign-up, plus yard games and more! Reservations are not needed for this event. The main course and beverages will be provided, please bring an appetizer, side, or dessert to share. We hope to see you there!

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 9. 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. (mannsale@aol.com or 540-580-6614). The list of hounds available for sponsorship will be available soon.

Very special thanks to Dr. Brent Hall for continuing our hounds' veterinary care this year.

7. Getting Ready for the Hunt Season. The start of hunting season is only a few 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.

8. 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.

9. Foxhunting Reading Group. The reading group met on Wednesday, July 26 at Carol Lueder's house. We ate well! Then we discussed *Foxhunting in North America* by Alexander Mackay-Smith. We all agreed that the book is packed with valuable information. For someone who has never hunted, this is probably not the best book. Once someone has started hunting and wants to know more, this is exactly the book to give to that person. There is some biographical information on the blog: <http://foxhuntinglibrary.blogspot.com/2017/07/mackaysmith.html>
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 30 and we'll discuss *Gallops I*, a collection of short stories by David Gray. There is some biographical information on the blog and there are links where you can download the book (and others) to your Kindle or computer.
<http://foxhuntinglibrary.blogspot.com/2017/07/davidgray.html>

10. 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!

11. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee.

Autumn Hunting and Cubbing

Cubhunting – The time spent hunting prior to Opening Meet, usually from mid-September to late October, used primarily to teach the young entry to hunt with the pack. Now referred to as **Autumn Hunting**.

Excerpts from a letter from the Masters of Foxhounds Association:

*“The term "**cubbing**" comes from years back when it was the practice in England (it's never been a practice in the USA or Canada) where English hunts would first start hunting in the fall to concentrate on culling overpopulation of young foxes. Remember, fox are vermin in England. They are not considered as such here. The Countryside Alliance and British MFHA realized this term and practice had to be stopped for many good reasons.”*

*“To hunts in the USA and Canada, "**cubbing**" simply means the start of the season where we begin training young hounds, and conditioning hounds, horses, people and even the quarry as we get in shape. The animals also learn. Hunts go out very early to start. A little longer each day as the season progress until all the animals are in better condition and hunting turns into its formal season. It is important to understand the quarry also learns since early on it is not pressed very hard. They get stronger and wiser as they learn how to evade hounds.”*

“The term **"cubbing"** is used here and in England despite both MFHA's recommending not to use the term. The reason, simply because it isn't what is done any longer. It was never done in the USA and was stopped in England some time ago. The correct term is **"Autumn Hunting"** which is what it is this time of year as hunts begin their season.”

Excerpt from *Diary of a Fox-Hunting Man* by Terence Carroll:

*The term **cub-hunting** is slightly misleading, and may give some people the impression that hounds leap on defenseless puppy-like mites. In fact, by the time hunting starts, cubs are well on their way to being fully-grown.”*

12. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, August 12	Work Day at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, August 19	Work Day at Broadview
Saturday, August 26	Work Day at Broadview
Sunday, August 27	*Fundraising Trail Ride at Broadview, 9:00 AM
Saturday, September 9	*Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.
Sunday, September 10	*Leg Up Trail Ride
Wednesday, September 20	Autumn Trail Rides begin
Sunday, October 1	*Poker Ride at Broadview (Lauren Keating, organizer)
Saturday, November 4	Opening Meet at The Hunt, Inc.
Fri Mar 30-Sun April 1, '18	Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial, “The Sedgefield Cup”
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Meeting *Fundraising events

13. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, August 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Miller School of Albemarle
Sat.-Sun. Aug 19-20	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Sat.-Sun. Aug 19-20	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, August 26	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Tuesday, September 5	Bull Run Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Friday, September 15	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Sunday, September 17	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Maceland in Chatham
Sunday, September 17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, September 23	Glenmore Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Sunday, September 24	Bull Run Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Locust Hill
Thurs Oct 19-Sat Oct 21	Hark Forward Classic <i>Performance Trial</i> at Bull Run Hunt
Saturday, October 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Sunday, October 22	Bull Run Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i>
Saturday, October 28	Deep Run Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i>
Sunday, November 5	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Sunday, November 5	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at The Cedars in Cifax
Sunday, November 12	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, January 27, 2018	Bull Run Hunt <i>Wild Game Dinner</i>
Saturday, March 17	Glenmore Hunt <i>Closing Meet</i>
Fri Mar 30-Sun April 1	Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial, “The Sedgefield Cup”

14. 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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2017-2018**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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