



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

February 10, 2017

*“One does not quite know whether one ought to describe a Hunt Ball as the meeting-place of young widows in ash cloth and sashes, bold bad men and foxhunters, -- who the impossible one Wilde once described as the unspeakable pursuers of the uneatable, -- or whether as the best dance in the world, provided one has wined and dined sufficiently beforehand. It is the sort of thing one enjoys enormously, or you do not enjoy it at all.”*

-J. Stanley Reeve, *Radnor Reminiscences*

**1. Rockbridge Hunt Ball 2017.** Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Hampton Inn Col Alto. We hope everyone has sent in their subscriptions to the ball. We are looking forward to a terrific party and auction next week! Thank you to the many members and friends who have been working on preparations for the ball and to those who have donated items for the silent auction – we have many lovely items to offer. If you'd like to spend the night at the hotel after the ball you can make reservations at 540-463-2223. Ask for the Rockbridge Hunt discounted rate.

**2. Closing Meet.** No one really wants to think about the end of the hunting season, but mark your calendar for a special day – Saturday, March 18. We've invited our good friends from the Glenmore Hunt to join us for a joint meet at 2:30 PM at The Hunt, Inc. We'll have our traditional grill-your-own-meat cookout following the hunt in the Tex Tilson Lodge and everyone is invited to come.

**3. Reading Group Update.** The next meeting of the Reading Group will be Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 PM, location TBA. We're currently reading Siegfried Sassoon's 1928 classic *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*. 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. We have members from three different hunt clubs, so consider joining us if you are interested in reading about foxhunting.

Here's a little taste of Sassoon's *Memoirs*:

*“The mornings I remember most zestfully were those which took us up on to the chalk downs. To watch the day breaking from purple to dazzling gold while we trotted up a deep-rutted lane; to inhale the early freshness when we were on the sheep-cropped uplands; to stare back at the low country with its cock-crowing farms and mist-coiled waterways; thus to be riding out with a sense of spacious discovery – was it not something stolen from the lie-a-bed world and the luckless city workers?”*

-Siegfried Sassoon in *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*

**4. Virginia Horse Center Foundation Fundraiser.** There is going to be a free showing of the movie “Harry & Snowman” at the Virginia Horse Center on **Sunday, February 12 at 3:00PM**. Admission is free, but donations to the Virginia Horse Center are welcomed. Cash bar and snacks provided.

You can watch the movie trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=De2srJy24FU>

**5. Wall Calendars.** Louise Golian has put together our annual Rockbridge Hunt wall calendar for 2017 and it is gorgeous! They are also proving very popular – Louise has ordered a second printing and she will have copies at upcoming events. Contact Louise to reserve yours. They are \$20 each. Thank you Louise! (Louisegolian@aol.com )

**6. Sedgefield Cup 2017.** The 2017 renewal of the Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – will be held March 24-26, 2017. We’ve heard that stalls are filling up fast at the main facility. There are copies of the Registration Form at the Tex Tilson Lodge or contact Hugh Brown or Cindy Morton for an electronic copy. Mark your calendar now for an exciting weekend of foxhunting and fellowship in North Carolina!

**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: **Scent**

### **Scent**

*"One can only generalize on **scent**, because whatever one says will, at some time or another, be flatly contradicted or proved wrong; the day when, by all known signs and portents, scent should be good, it will probably be bad, and vice versa. The atmosphere, the ground temperature and the types of ground over which the game travels, affect scent considerably, but I think--and it's only my pet theory, so don't quote me--that the physical condition of the fox himself is the most important feature, and that, in a wild animal is impossible to assess. A vixen in whelp, for example, leaves none of the usual main **scent**, and is, thereby protected by nature. I think, however, it's a good thing that we can't accurately predict **scenting** conditions in advance."*

*Excerpt from "Let's Go Hunting" by B.L. Kearley*

### **9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar**

Saturday, February 18	*Rockbridge Hunt <i>Ball</i> , Hampton Inn Col Alto
Saturday, March 18	Closing Meet at The Hunt, Inc., Joint Meet with the Glenmore Hunt, cookout to follow the hunt
Saturday, May 6	*Derby-Day <i>Hunter Pace</i> (Kathy Eichelberger, organizer)
Wednesday, May 10	Annual Meeting of the Rockbridge Hunt
Saturday, June 10	*Poker Ride at West Airslie & Greenock Farm (Louise Golian, organizer)
July TBA	*Trail Ride with Tests at Broadview (Lynn Williams, organizer)

Saturday, September 9	*Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.
Sunday, September 10	Volunteers' Hunt
Wednesday, September 20	Autumn Hunting Begins (tentative)
Saturday, September 30	Western Day at Broadview
Sunday, October 1	*Poker Ride at Broadview (Lauren Keating, organizer)
Saturday, October 29	*Hunter Pace at The Hunt, Inc. (Liz Hall, organizer)
Saturday, November 4	Opening Meet at The Hunt, Inc. *Fundraising events

## 10. Other Hunt-related Dates

Sunday, February 12	Free screening of "Harry and Snowman" at the Virginia Horse Center
Saturday, March 11	Farmington Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Sun March 19-Sat March 25	Bull Run Hunt March Madness <i>Hunt Week</i>
Saturday, March 25	Bull Run Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Fri March 24-Sun March 26	Carolinas <i>Foxhound Performance Trial</i> , the "Sedgefield Cup"
Saturday, April 1	Glenmore Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, April 8	Glenmore Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, April 8	Bull Run Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Locust Hill Preserve
Saturday, April 22	Maury River <i>Hunter Trials</i> , Pennmerryl Farm, Greenville
Saturday, April 29	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Sweet Briar College
Fri April 28-Sun April 30	Bull Run Hunt Weekend <i>Camping Trailride</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.

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## Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee 2016-2017

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