



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* January 11, 2017

“It is one of the beauties of foxhunting that the sport is not at all dependent on the scale of the establishment by which it is carried on. Sport depends on the stoutness of foxes, on the skill and keenness of the huntsman, and on the steadiness of hounds.”

-J. Stanley Reeve in *Radnor Reminiscences*

Happy New Year!

1. Rockbridge Hunt Ball 2017. SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Hampton Inn Col Alto. Music by The Domino Band. We loved the new location and band last February, so we are going back to the Col Alto with the same band. You won't want to miss this great party. Terry Whitmore is coordinating the ball this year and she is looking for help. Please contact her if you are willing to help in any way (ststable@yahoo.com, 540-460-3052).

We are starting to collect items for the all-important silent auction. Please start thinking about things you would be willing to donate or things you would be willing to solicit for the auction. You can give items to Laura Jarvis, Carol Lueder or Hugh Brown. Thank you!

2. New Year's Day Meet at The Hunt, Inc. We had a terrific start to 2017 with a joint meet with the Glenmore Hunt at The Hunt, Inc. on Sunday, January 1. Very special thanks to Valerie Mann for coordinating the social side of the day. She provided a beautiful and bountiful stirrup cup, decorated the lodge with beautiful floral arrangements, coordinated the breakfast and made sure everyone had a grand time. Valerie had lots of help with the breakfast including a 26 pound home smoked ham provided by Sue and Roger Charlton. Many others helped with breakfast arrangements including Hugh Brown, Joe Williams, Liz and Brent Hall, Laura Jarvis, and Lauren Keating. And many members contributed side dishes, appetizers, desserts and drinks including: Liz Hall, Hugh Brown, Gene Clapsaddle, Cynthia Secker, Lu Dooley, Candi Hylton, Abby Hylton, Aaron Siebert, Lynn Williams, Kathy Eichelberger, Diane Long and Carol Lueder. Thank you all!

3. Fairly Hunted Award Winner! Congratulations to Abby Hylton for being recognized with the Masters of Foxhounds Association's Fairly Hunted Award. The award was designed to recognize foxhunters under 18 who hunt at least five times in a single season. The New Year's meet was Abby's sixth hunt with us this season. At the breakfast, she received a certificate, a lapel pin, a car decal, and a subscription to the *Covertside* magazine of mounted foxhunting. We're very proud of our newest Fairly Hunted Award winner!

4. Kennel News. The late summer puppies now have names! These pups were produced from Rockbridge Legend 2010 (sponsored by Kathy Munsey) and Rockbridge Wade 2015 (sponsored by Lu Dooley). Wally, Willie, Weasel, Whiskey, Whisper, Whistle and Wonder are training with the slightly older "R" puppies to hunt next fall. Wish them well!

5. MFHA Subscribing Membership. Looking for a New Year's resolution? How about becoming a subscribing member of the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA)? It's easy to subscribe on the MFHA website here: <http://mfha.com/shop-dues.html>.

In recognition of your subscription you will receive:

- Four (4) issues of MFHA's beautiful and informative *Covertside* foxhunting magazine per year and a monthly subscription to the *eCovertside* electronic newsletter.
- A bumper sticker to proudly display your support for country sports.
- Invitations to the Staff Seminar held every two years at various locations where you will have the opportunity to mix with and learn from some of the most knowledgeable foxhunters in the world.
- You may participate in all MFHA events to include: performance trials, field hunter championships, joint meets, and the MFHA Ball.
- Emails and updates on animal rights and conservation issues to save foxhunting for future generations.
- Member savings on Accu-Metrics Microchip Plus Program.
- Also, as an MFHA Subscribing Member, you are eligible to receive a variety of discounts from vendors.

What's the MFHA all about? The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America (MFHA) was formed in 1907 and is the governing body of organized fox, coyote, other acceptable legal quarry and drag hunting in the United States and Canada. The MFHA's main activities are:

- To promote, preserve and protect the sport of mounted hunting with hounds.
- Establish and maintain standards of conduct for foxhunting.
- Register eligible foxhounds in a "Foxhound Stud Book" and improve the breed of foxhounds.
- Registration of hunts as a preliminary step toward recognition.
- Record countries and boundaries for organized hunting establishments.
- Recognition of organized hunts which have met MFHA standards.

The organization also helps hunts resolve disputes over issues like territory, maintains an educational foundation to educate members of the public about our sport, coordinates professional development opportunities for hunt staff and members, and works to counter "Anti" hunting organizations.

6. Rockbridge Hunt Lending Library. If you've attended recent hunt breakfasts in the Tex Tilson Lodge, you may have noticed new bookcases in the hallway. These were generously donated by Laura Jarvis for our new foxhunting and equestrian lending library. Anyone is welcome to check out books from the library and there is a sign-out book located on the shelf. Included so far in the library are copies of many of the books read by the Reading Group, a whole collection of Dick Francis racing thrillers, and a number of other books about horses and riding. A number of members have generously donated books to the library including: Hugh Brown, Alice Bruno, Lu Dooley, Laura Jarvis, Cindy Morton, and Kathy Munsey. When the weather's bad, why not read a book?

7. Reading Group Update. The next meeting of the Reading Group will be Sunday, January 15 at 2:00 PM at the Pink Cadillac. Come at 1:00 or 1:15 if you'd like to grab lunch before the meeting. We are currently reading Gordon Grand's collection of stories *A Horse for Christmas Morning* and *Mr. Merston's Hounds* by John Welcome with Siegfried Sassoon's classic *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* on the agenda for February.

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.

8. 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)

9. Sedgefield Cup 2017. The dates have been set for the 2017 renewal of the Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 24-26, 2017. 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!

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. Hunting terminology: **Mark**

Mark – When a hound indicates that a fox has gone to ground.

*Excerpt from **Hunting by Ear** by D. W. E. Brock:*

The music of the pack has ceased suddenly and for a moment all is silent. Then the huntsman catches the muffled, angry, disappointed baying of hounds marking at a hole or drain. Again he jumps from his horse and makes his way to them. Again he blows the tremolo on his horn; again he screams, "Who-oo!" But to it all he adds, "Wind 'em", which tells his men and his field that the fox is not dead, but safely underground.

To the unthinking it may appear odd that victory and defeat are signaled by the huntsman in almost exactly the same way. But it is not odd, for it is not in reality a case of "victory and defeat", but rather of "complete victory" and "victory". In the one case the enemy has been vanquished and sunk, in the other he has been vanquished, but under the cover of his mine-fields or a friendly fog, has been able to break off the engagement and limp home to port.

And to the hounds there is probably almost as much satisfaction in the one victory as in the other. They have beaten the fox, and that is the great thing.

12. 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. – cookout to follow the hunt
Saturday, May 6	*Rockbridge Hunt <i>Derby-Day Hunter Pace</i>
Wednesday, May 10	Annual Meeting of the Rockbridge Hunt
	*Fundraising events

13. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, March 11, 2017	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> – <i>New date!</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>

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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