



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

July 17, 2017

"Foxhunting is almost one of the fine arts, and a good huntsman needs a rare dash of artistry for his task. He is pitting his wits against an opponent who, from time immemorial, has been recognized the world over as one of the cleverest and wiliest of animals. In this contest of wits lies the kernel of this manly sport that is as clean and as noble as our ageless hills."

From *Echoes of the Hunting Horn* by Stanislaus Lynch

**1. Huntsman & Hunting.** Our Huntsman, David Conner, continues to make steady progress after his surgery. He appreciates all the cards and well wishes he has received from members and friends. He is walking regularly and healing up. 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.

Right now, we are planning to schedule regular trail rides on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings starting September 20. We hope these "conditioning" rides will help get our horses and ourselves ready for hunting when David is ready. We plan to have faster and slower groups and use these rides as opportunities to familiarize ourselves with our hunt country. We appreciate everyone's patience as we wait for David to heal and regain strength so he can return to the saddle and hunt the hounds again. No one is in more of a hurry to start hunting than David Conner!

**2. Pleasure Ride! Saturday, July 15** at Broadview. Many thanks to Lynn Williams for coordinating this new fundraising ride for us! We had 36 entries in our event – a great turnout for a hot and humid summer day. There were western riders, trail riders, and foxhunters – including a number of members of the Bedford County Hunt, Glenmore Hunt, and Oak Ridge Fox Hunt. The event got rave reviews from the competitors – several said they wished they could ride the course a second time. This event was very volunteer-heavy, so a thousand thanks to all of our volunteers:

**Organizer:** Lynn Williams

**Course design & flagging:** Carol Atwood, Kathy Eichelberger, Lily Knicely, Susan Richardson, Rebecca Tilson, Lynn Williams

**Obstacle Design:** Carol Atwood, Laura Grantham, Johnnie Strader, Rebecca Tilson, Lynn Williams

**Judges Packets:** Laura Grantham & Johnnie Strader

**Trail clearing:** Bob Richardson

**Trail Mowing:** Susan Richardson

**Marketing:** Hugh Brown, Alice Bruno

**Tables, Canopies, Chairs:** Laura Jarvis

**Registration:** Hugh Brown & Cindy Morton

**Start/Finish:** Charlie Lyons

**Obstacle Judges and Assistants:** Sue Charlton, Lu Dooley, Kathy Eichelberger, Laura Grantham, Lauren Keating, Trish Lyons, Kathy Munsey, Susan Richardson, Arran Siebert

**Food & Drink:** Lynn Williams, Hugh Brown, Sarah Edwards, Laura Grantham, Laura Jarvis, Trish Lyons, Arran Siebert

**Drag Rider and Trail Companion:** Laura Jarvis

## Judged Pleasure Ride Results

### "Open" Division

1st place - #65	Derek Wise
2nd place - #77	Gale Struble
3rd place - #81	Jane Garland
4th place - #49	Aymarie Sutter
5th place - #66	CJ Wise
6th place - #69	Avery Schaefer

### "Take It Easy" Division

1st - #252	Anita Claytor
2nd - #83	Jane Eckes
3rd - #250	Kim Claytor
4th - #82	Robert Holmberg
5th - #254	April Fletcher
6th - #260	Mary Lee McDavid

### "Young Rider" Division

1st - #90	Dillon Schaefer
2nd - #91	Waverly McDavid

**3. Work Days!** It's that time of year again! Our first work day is scheduled for **Saturday, August 5**. We plan to have work days on all of the Saturdays in August. Please plan to help as much as you can. David Conner has always been a major workhorse on the trails and he obviously can't help this year. So, it's all hands on deck!

Advanced skills are not necessary! If you can't run a chainsaw, bring loppers. If you don't do loppers, wear gloves and you can help drag the cuttings off the trail. All levels of skill and ability welcome! Just come. We'll find something for everyone.

Want to work, but not on weekends? We would welcome teams of members doing trail clearing on alternate days – we just need to make arrangements with landowners to have you there. Please contact Cindy Morton if you want to schedule an alternate work party.

**Work day packing list:** gloves, bug spray, protective clothing, hat, loppers or chainsaw (if you have them).

Thank you everyone! Let's work together to get our hunt country in good shape for the fall!

**4. Foxhunting Reading Group.** The next meeting of the Foxhunting Reading Group is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26. We'll be discussing *Foxhunting in North America* by Alexander Mackay-Smith. We have a few copies circulating. If you are interested in borrowing a copy, contact Cindy, Hugh, or Carol. For those of you who want to shop ahead, here's the planned schedule.

In July:	<i>Foxhunting in North America</i> by Alexander Mackay-Smith
In August:	<i>Mr. Carteret</i> by David Gray

**5. Fees for 2017-18.** The Executive Committee set the following fees for the upcoming hunting season and we are happy to report that there have been no increases for 2017-18:

- **Capping Fees.** \$50 adult, \$25 junior

- **Seasonal Capping Fees.** \$300 adult for the season (\$200 for juniors). This will allow foxhunters who are full hunting members of other recognized hunt clubs unlimited hunting with us at home meets (joint meets away from home are excluded). The seasonal capping fee does not include any other membership privileges like trail riding at The Hunt, Inc. or voting.

- **Young Adult Seasonal Capping Fee.** \$470. We decided to continue our Young Adult Seasonal Capping Fee for this year. The cost is the same as the Student Membership fee (\$470). This is open to persons 18-23 years of age and offers unlimited capping for the current hunting season. Young Adult Seasonal Cappers do not have to be members of another hunt. They also are not extended membership privileges in the Rockbridge Hunt including voting and riding at The Hunt, Inc (except when accompanying a full member of the Hunt). The Young Adult Seasonal Capping Fee may be paid in a lump sum or by paying capping fees at each hunt until the total is reached.

- **Initiation Fees.** In order to continue to encourage new membership, we decided to again waive initiation fees for new members for the 2017-18 year. This would be a great time to bring new members into the Hunt!

- **Hound Sponsorship.** The amount will be \$150 for a full year sponsorship, \$75 for a half year (unchanged). Valerie Mann will be coordinating the Hound Sponsorship program for us again this year and she'll be starting that up very soon.

## **6. 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!

## **7. Educational Bits** – courtesy of the Education Committee.

**Entered Hound** – A hound which has been hunted for one season or more. During his first season of hunting a hound may be referred to as an unentered hound.

“To enter a hound is to start it on its hunting career.”

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

## 8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, August 5	Work Day!
Saturday, August 12	Work Day!
Friday, August 18	Social Event at Tex Tilson Lodge with presenters – more detail to come!
Saturday, August 19	Work Day!
Saturday, August 26	Work Day!
Sunday, August 27	*Fundraising Trail Ride
Saturday, September 9	*Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, September 16	*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. *Fundraising events

## 9. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, July 29	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Show</i>
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>
Saturday, September 9	Glenmore 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, October 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet &amp; Blessing of the Hounds</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>

**10. 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 2017-2018

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**Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt**

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**Rockbridge Farmers Co-op**

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37 South Main Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450

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**Stone Bridge Equestrian Center**

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