



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

June 15, 2017

“Let hounds push a fox out of covert in view of them all, and whether they get a gallop or not, most of them will go home feeling the day has been a huge success. Why? Simply because they have seen that wonderful, elusive and mysterious red animal called a fox; have had a great thrill; and felt cold chills and creepies all up and down their spines. I know they get the thrill, for I do so myself, and I don’t think I’m very different from a lot of other people who also spend more money than they really can afford on hunting.”

~J. Stanley Reeve, *Foxhunting Recollections*

1.Poker Ride! Saturday, June 10 at West Airslie & Greenock Farms near Brownsburg. Many grateful thanks to everyone who helped to make our late spring fundraising ride a success. It was a perfect day to ride in our beautiful northern hunt country. We had visitors from all over including members of the Stonewall Hounds and Deep Run Hunt!

Many, many thanks to all of our volunteers:

Organizer: Louise Golian

Course design & flagging: Kathy Eichelberger, Louise Golian, Erica Jones, Diane Long, Cindy Morton

Trail clearing & Jump Building: Hugh Brown, Louise Golian, Brent Hall, Diane Long, Arran Siebert.

Registration: Sandy Collier & Valerie Mann

Parking: Hugh Brown; Louise Golian, Kathy Munsey

Start: Kathy Munsey & Louise Golian

Gate Crew: Ray Collier, Lu Dooley Anne Howard, Lauren Keating

Finish & Casino Master: Louise Golian

Lunch coordinator: Laura Jarvis

Food & Drink Donors: Hugh Brown, Louise Golian, Anne Howard, Laura Jarvis, Carol Lueder, Trish Lyons, Valerie Mann, Kathy Munsey, Arran Siebert

Course de-flagging: Erica Jones & Diane Long

Jump take down: Hugh Brown & Valerie Mann

And a very special thank you to Sue Charlton who brought homegrown produce to sell at the Poker Ride and then donated the proceeds to the Hunt!

Poker Ride Results

1st place - Gretel Mangigian with 2 pair, kings and 2s

2nd place – Brenda Weintraub with 2 pair, 9s and 6s

3rd place - Sue Charlton with 2 aces

4th place - Mia Camp with 2 queens & ace

5th place - Wendy Orrison with 2 queens and jack

6th place - Lynn Williams with 2 10s & queen

2. David Conner Update. By now, you may have heard that our fearless huntsman, David Conner, is in need of a little medical attention if he is to continue hunting the hounds and shoeing horses. He will be having a heart valve replaced very soon. Surgery is scheduled for June 20. He'll be in the hospital for several days to a week. When he gets home, he'll be required to rest for a couple of months.

Please send your good thoughts to David as he undergoes the procedure and to he and his family as he recuperates!

David & Nancy Conner
240 Blue Cedar Lane
Natural Bridge, VA 24578

3. Mowing. Very special thanks to David Conner, Kathy Eichelberger, Laura Jarvis, Cindy Morton, Nick Niece who have all been helping with the huge task of mowing at the Tex Tilson Lodge, huntman's house, barn, and riding ring. We'd like to try to keep the grass tamed this summer as best we can. If you have time, energy, and/or equipment and would be willing to help, please let Laura Jarvis, Cindy or Hugh know. We would really appreciate the help!

4. Reading Group – On the Web! At this year's Virginia Foxhound Show, Hugh Brown had the chance to meet with two of the Reading Group's authors – Norman Fine and Mary Motley Kalergis. When he told Norman about the Reading Group, Norman got very excited about it and asked to write an article for his website: FoxhuntingLife.com. The text of his article is reprinted here:

Rockbridge Hunt's Reading Group: A Win for Foxhunting

By Norman Fine

“Tell me a story,” is one of my favorite sentences in the English language. So I responded enthusiastically when Hugh Brown, MFH told me about the reading group organized by the Rockbridge Hunt (VA). The Masters hit a responsive chord. Even members of nearby hunts have been attracted to join. By keeping the literature of foxhunting alive, the Rockbridge Masters have found another way to further engage their members into this sport we all love. What better way to absorb our history and traditions while reveling in the humor and entertainment of a good story?

“The reading group is the brainchild of longtime Master Cindy Morton,” says Brown who raided his extensive library to help kick-start the operation. “We specifically didn't want to limit it to Rockbridge Hunt members, and we definitely wanted to focus on foxhunting. We've had great discussions on related subjects like big game hunting in Africa and bear hunting, but we always return to the fox (and coyote).

“At our first organizing meeting, Cindy and I brought lots of possible books for members to look at. We had a lot of help from an antiquarian bookseller and member of the Hunt, Carol Lueder of Fair Chase, Inc. She brought some rare books. The three of us shared what we knew about the books, and we let the group decide where to start. Since the start, we've tried to have the next book or two picked out to allow us time to track down copies for members to purchase or borrow. We take a month to read each book and then gather to discuss it.

“We have about fifteen members in the reading group. They don't all come to every meeting (once per month), but we usually have more than half at each meeting. We've been meeting in all kinds of places: members' homes, our hunt lodge, local restaurants. We've had discussions over tea, after a potluck dinner, or while eating in a restaurant.

“On several occasions, I've done some background research and shared what I learned for context. For example, before we read Sassoon's *Memoirs of a Foxhunting Man,* I put together a little background piece with information I gathered from a couple of Sassoon biographies.

“When we meet, Cindy or I lead the discussion very informally. We usually start with ‘Did you like it?’ or ‘Which was your favorite story or part of the book?’ We usually talk about what they didn't like as well. Sometimes we go around the circle with our opinions, and sometimes we just ping pong ideas off of each other.

“The discussion often wanders off topic and that's been fine. There's usually a fair amount of story telling about our own experiences hunting or with hunt clubs. When we read Mary Kalergis's book, *Foxhunters Speak*, Cindy asked us all to share how we got started hunting and who influenced us, since those were the questions Mary had asked the people she interviewed.

“We've had some lively discussions. The most interesting are usually those about the real people versus the fictional characters. When we read about Nancy Hannum in *The Lady Blows a Horn*, two of our members who knew Nancy personally were able to give a fuller account of her personality and the many contributions she made to the sport.

“One positive side effect has been that sometimes members have liked a book so much that they wanted to read more by that author. Gordon Grand is one example.”

Brown credits Morton for her enthusiasm and drive, without which the reading group would never have happened. She coordinates communication about the group's activities, mostly through email, and keeps the group moving forward. Brown would be more than happy to talk to anyone interested in such a program for their hunt. Click to [email](#) him.

Its first year, the Rockbridge booklist included a wide variety of titles: histories, biographies, how tos, and pure entertainment. Old out-of-print books as well as contemporary. Books already read and discussed include *Some Experiences of an Irish RM* by Somerville & Ross; Chapter 5, "Attributes of a Good Hound" from *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages* by Joseph B. Thomas; *The Great Hound Match of 1905* by Martha Wolfe; *The Fox in the Cupboard* by Jane Shilling; *The Lady Blows a Horn* by Nancy L. Mohr; *The Millbeck Hounds: A Collection of Hunting Stories* by Gordon Grand; Chapter 6, "Comments on Hunting a Pack" from *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages* by Joseph B. Thomas; *A Horse for Christmas Morning* by Gordon Grand; *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* by Siegfried Sassoon; *Letters to a Young Huntsman* by Andrew Barclay; *Foxhunting in North America* by Alexander Mackay-Smith; *Foxhunters Speak* by Mary Kalergis, and *Foxhunting Adventures: Chasing the Story* by Norman Fine.

I'm honored to be on any booklist that includes such authors as Gordon Grand, Siegfried Sassoon, and Somerville and Ross! And there are so many more superb, enjoyable, informative, and entertaining books that I'm on pins and needle to recommend to this group. Book clubs for foxhunters. The idea is such a win for foxhunting.

Posted June 5, 2017 at www.foxhuntinglife.com

5. Reading Group Schedule. The next meeting of the Foxhunting Reading Group is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28. We'll be discussing *Foxhunting Adventures* by Norman Fine. We have a few copies circulating. If you're interested in purchasing a copy, Carol Lueder has several copies at a great discount. If you are interested in borrowing a copy, contact Cindy or Hugh. For those of you who want to shop ahead, here's the planned schedule.

In June: *Foxhunting Adventures* by Norman Fine

In July: *Foxhunting in North America* by Alexander Mackay-Smith

6. MFHA Professional Development Program. Our very own Rebecca Tilson was accepted into this year's class of the Professional Development Program (PDP) offered by the Masters of Foxhounds Association. She is one of six hunt staff members from North America who were chosen to participate in this prestigious program. She is the only honorary (unpaid) staff member to have been accepted – the others are all professional (paid) huntsmen or whippers-in. Rebecca started her year-long program at the Virginia Foxhound Show. After a crash course in foxhound conformation, she assisted the official judges in all four foxhound rings (English, American, Crossbred, and Penn-Marydel). In the week following the show, she visited the MFHA Office in Berryville, Virginia, received instruction in the use of the MFHA studbook, and visited the kennels of five other hunts including the Orange County Hounds and Piedmont Fox Hounds in Virginia and three more in Maryland. Over the next year, Rebecca will have a book to read each month for which she will have to write a report. She'll also be given the opportunity to hunt with other hunts somewhere in the country. Finally, her instructor, Andrew Barclay, former huntsman for twenty years with the Green Spring Valley Hounds (MD), will visit with the Rockbridge Hunt and ride with Rebecca to give her pointers on hunting hounds. Congratulations and best of luck to Rebecca as she continues her year of professional development!

7. 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!

8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. It’s all about Scent this month!

Scent - The smell of a fox and the physical and chemical phenomena by which the smell gets from the fox’s footprints to the hound’s nose.

Nose – The ability of a hound to detect and interpret the scent

Cold Nose – The ability to detect very low levels of scent

Low scenting – describes a hound that can detect very low levels of scent

Foil – any scent that masks the fox’s line, such as manure, cattle, sheep, fertilizer

Check – when hounds lose the line of the fox

*“Whether there was a **scent** or not it did not appear as if the West Bucks were going to have a very good day's sport. They drew two big woodlands blank and spent most of the morning doing it. The brilliant field stood about smoking, talking, criticizing the huntsman and the Master, nipping at flasks and becoming more and more on edge, as fields will all the world over.*

Excerpt from *Red Coats Galloping* by John Welcome

9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, July 15	*Judged Pleasure Ride at Broadview (Lynn Williams, organizer)
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.
Sunday, September 10	Volunteers’ Hunt
Saturday, September 16	*Leg Up Trail Ride
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, November 4	Opening Meet at The Hunt, Inc. *Fundraising events

10. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, June 17	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston
Sat.-Sun. June 17-18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
Saturday, June 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>
Saturday, July 1	Farmington Hunt Jumper Show, Schelford Farm
Tuesday, July 11	Farmington Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Sat.-Sun. July 15-16	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i> Weekend
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
Sunday, November 5
Sunday, November 5
Sunday, November 12

Glenmore Hunt *Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds*
Farmington Hunt *Hunter Pace*
Bedford County Hunt *Hunter Pace* at The Cedars in Cifax
Glenmore Hunt Fall *Hunter Pace*

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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2017-2018**

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