



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

March 9, 2017

“It’s not ethical to hold people to promises made at hunt balls.”
Marigold Armitage in *A Long Way to Go*

1. Rockbridge Hunt Ball, February 18, 2017. We had a ball at the ball! Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way with this major event! Whether you were on the organizing committee, bought a ticket, brought a friend, made a donation, or bought an item in the silent auction, every contribution made a difference!

Grateful thanks to our small, hard-working hunt ball committee that included:

Organizer: Terry Whitmore

Hotel, Catering, and Band Arrangements: Terry Whitmore, Trish Lyons & Rebecca Tilson

Invitations & Slideshow: Hugh Brown

Decorations: Ann Layman, Beth Pappas, and Charlotte Sandy

Silent Auction: Carol Lueder, Laura Jarvis, Cindy Morton, and Hugh Brown

While the price of the subscription covers the cost of the dinner, ballroom and band, the Silent Auction is what generates the profit to help feed the hounds and fund the hunt. Very special thanks to our many Silent Auction Donors: Judy Allen, Blue Ridge Equine Clinic, BRC Stables, Hugh Brown & Joe Manning, Claudia Campbell, Casanova Hunt, Center of Gravity, Del-Val Engraving, Fincastle Vineyard & Winery, Edgewater Animal Hospital, The Eichelberger Family, Glenmore Hunt, Liz & Brent Hall, Marsha Heatwole, Anne Howard, Kathy Hughes, Bernard & Candi Hylton, Laura Jarvis, Ann Layman, Layne’s Country Store, Diane Long, Carol Lueder & Fair Chase, Inc., Trish Lyons, Caitlin Mann, Valerie Mann, Teresa Morris, Cindy Morton, Kathy Munsey, Linda Oberlender, Omni Homestead, Kathleen Owsley, Kathy & Gary Ponder, Rappahannock Hunt, Rockbridge Farmer’s Co-op, Rockbridge Hunt, Cynthia & Terry Secker, Shenandoah Framing, The Southern Inn, Jean Taylor, Virginia Born & Bred, Virginia Horse Center, Linda Webb, Joy Watkins, Lynn Williams, Jake Wilson & Jessie Knadler.

Our silent auction was among the most successful in many years. This was due in great part to the tremendously generous donations from Carol Lueder as well as her hard work in soliciting donations from many local businesses. Our sincere thanks to Carol Lueder – Honorary Member *Extraordinaire!*

And very special thanks to the following for financial donations to the ball: Susan Brady & Eben Ostby, Denise Clark, Louise Golian, Carol Lueder, Bill & Barbra Luton, Doris Moses, Lynne Pollock, Mary Ellena Ward, and Janet Wynot.

2. Closing Meet. 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. Please let Lynn Williams know if you can help with the meal – food and/or cleanup. Please make reservations with Hugh Brown by Thursday, March 16 (brownhh@jmu.edu, 540-568-3501, 540-886-6359).

3. Important Announcement and Reminders. Charles Peebles has closed his private property adjacent to The Hunt, Inc. to the Rockbridge Hunt. It is more important than ever that if you are hunting, that you stay with the field masters, and if you are trail riding, that you stay on property that belongs to the Rockbridge Hunt or that is part of The Hunt, Inc. We have permission from many generous landowners to hunt on their property, but this does not entitle any of us to trail ride on private property. If you don't absolutely know for certain where you can ride and where you can't, please make arrangements with someone who knows the territory well. Most of the Executive Committee members and the Hunt staff know the property and will be happy to meet you and ride with you. We are also planning a "Learn a Loop" trail ride or two in the spring and summer to show interested members where they can ride without trespassing on private property. Also, be certain that any dogs you have with you are under your control at all times and kept off private property. Thank you!

4. We're invited! The Glenmore Hunt has extended an invitation to all members of the Rockbridge Hunt to attend the annual Glenmore Hunt Ball at the beautiful Hermitage Hill Farm near Waynesboro. Glenmore's big event will be on Saturday, April 8 with host bar & reception starting at 5:30 PM with a buffet dinner at 7:00 PM, and dancing from 8:00 – 10:00 PM. This black tie affair requires reservations by March 25. Please contact Hugh Brown if you would like additional information.

5. 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!

6. Annual Meeting. Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc. Please save Wednesday, May 10 on your calendar for our Annual Meeting. We plan to have dinner at 6:00 PM before the meeting. We will be electing new officers for the year ahead, voting on the proposed budget for the 2017-18 year, and attending to other matters important to our organization. Members whose dues have been paid in full by the time of the meeting are eligible to vote. Each single hunting membership, each family membership, and each landowner membership has one vote. In order for the Hunt to conduct business, there must be a quorum at the meeting of 20 members physically present. Family and landowner memberships may have more than one member, and the numbers matter. *Please come.*

7. Reading Group Update. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on **Monday, March 13**. We'll be discussing *The Old Man Hunts*. We have a few copies circulating. If you're interested in borrowing a copy, contact Cindy or Hugh. If you'd like to buy a copy, contact Carol Lueder, shop@fchase.net. For those of you who want to shop ahead, here's the planned schedule.

In March: *The Old Man Hunts* by A Northumbrian Gentleman

In April: *Letters to a Young Huntsman* by Andrew Barclay

In May: *Foxhunting Adventures* by Norman Fine

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

8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Have you ever been asked a question about foxhunting and not known how to answer? Have you ever wondered how to talk about our sport in positive ways to folks who don't understand it? The Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) has put together a "Public Relations & Media Guide." Over the next few months, we'll highlight some of the "talking points" and foxhunting "facts" the MFHA has put together to help us talk positively and clearly about our sport.

Talking points

"Foxhunting has existed in North America since colonial days. The earliest record of the importation of hounds to this country was in 1650."

"Foxhunting is mounted riders watching a group of hounds hunt the scent of a fox or coyote and following them as they trail the route the quarry has taken as it moves through its home territory. Hounds rarely make visual contact with the fox or coyote. The riders do not carry guns as the hounds are doing the hunting."

"The hounds work like detectives, using their sense of smell to trail the quarry. They bark—called "giving cry"—when they find the sent and their crescendo of voices allows the riders to know where they are and how to follow them. The hounds are trained to stay in a group and respond to the sound of the huntsman's horn."

Foxhunting Facts

"Foxhunters are avid conservationists and active in land preservation."

"Foxhunting appeals to people of all socio-economic backgrounds and to people of all ages and incomes."

"The fox or coyote, also a hunting animal, most often eludes the hounds by cleverly taking a path that is difficult for the hounds to follow, or in the case of the fox, going into a secure hole."

9. Hunter Pace Season! The hunt season is drawing to a close, but the hunter pace season will be starting up soon afterwards! There are lots of opportunities for fun rides in the area this spring. Here are a few that the NewsHound has heard about so far:

Saturday, April 1	Glenmore Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> www.glenmorehunt.org
Saturday, April 8	Bull Run Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Locust Hill Preserve www.bullrunhuntclub.com
Sunday, April 30	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Sweet Briar College www.bedfordcountyhunt.com
Saturday, May 6	Rockbridge Hunt Derby-Day <i>Hunter Pace</i> at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, May 27	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> (tentative) www.oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, June 3	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston
Saturday, June 10	Rockbridge Hunt <i>Poker Ride</i> at West Airslie & Greenock Farm
Saturday, June 10	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Mint Meadows www.farmingtonhunt.org
Saturday, June 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>

10. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

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)
Sunday, May 28	Glenmore Hunt & Rockbridge Hunt Joint <i>Reception</i> at the Virginia Foxhound Show, 9AM-4PM, Morven Park, Leesburg
Wednesday, May 10	Annual Meeting of the Rockbridge Hunt, 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge
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

11. Other Hunt-related Dates

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"
Sunday, March 26	Farmington Hunt <i>Horse Trials & Combined Test</i>
Saturday, April 1	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Trials</i>
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
Sunday, April 30	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>
Sunday, May 14	Bedford County Hunt <i>SWVHJA sanctioned horse show</i>
Sunday, May 14	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Derby</i>
Sat. May 27-Sun. May 28	Hunt Country <i>Stable Tour</i> , Middleburg & Upperville, VA
Saturday, May 27	National Horn Blowing Contest, Morven Park, Leesburg
Sunday, May 28	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park, Leesburg
Saturday, June 3	Farmington Hunt Spring <i>Horse Show</i> , Brookhill Farm
Saturday, June 3	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Long Meadows Farm, Huddleston
Saturday, June 10	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Mint Meadows
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>
Saturday, July 29	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Show</i>
Saturday, August 12	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Miller School of Albemarle
Sat. Aug 19-Sun. Aug 20	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Saturday, August 26	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fun Horse Show</i>
Saturday, September 9	Glenmore Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Saturday, September 17	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Maceland in Chatham
Saturday, October 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet & 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>

12. 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

13. 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.

**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee
2016-2017**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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