



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

November 15, 2017

"Hunting is often described as a sport. But to those of us who have heard the music of the hounds and have loved it, it is far more than that. Hunting is our music, it is our poetry, it is our art, it is our pleasure. It is where many of our best friendships are made, it is our community. It is our whole way of life. "

~Baroness Mallalieu

1. Hunting begins! We are excited to announce that Huntsman David Conner has healed up sufficiently to begin hunting again! We will have our first meet immediately following deer firearms season on Sunday, December 3. The fixture card says Broadview, but we will probably change that to Hunt, Inc. at 10:00 AM. Attire will be casual for hunts before Opening Meet on December 16.

2. Opening Meet! Our much-anticipated Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds will take place on **Saturday, December 16 at 2:30 PM at The Hunt, Inc.** This will be a joint meet with our good friends from the Glenmore Hunt. A Christmas hunt breakfast will follow the hunt at about 5:00 PM. The Eichelberger family has graciously offered to prepare the main course. Valerie Mann is coordinating the breakfast for us and will be looking for some help with the meal. We hope everyone will try to make it to our special day.

3. Rockbridge Hunt Ball 2018. SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Natural Bridge Hotel. Music by the ever-popular Sound Express/Legacy. 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). Besides a great dinner and music, we'll have the very important fundraising aspect of the ball – the silent auction. Carol Lueder has once again agreed to coordinate the auction, so please start thinking about things you would be willing to donate or items you would be willing to solicit for the auction. Carol is a workhorse, but she can't do it alone. (shop@fchase.net (H) 540-463-9189 (Cell) 540-460-5302). Thank you!

4. Foxhunting Reading Group. The next meeting of the Reading Group will be Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00pm. Location TBA. We are currently reading Alexander Mackay-Smith's collection of foxhunting stories called *American Foxhunting: An Anthology*. There is another book by the same author called *American Foxhunting Stories*. This book contains all of the stories in the *Anthology* with some additional stories added at the end. Copies of both books are circulating among the Reading Group members. Please contact Cindy Morton, Hugh Brown, or Carol Lueder if you would like to borrow or purchase a copy.

5. Are you licensed to Hunt? If you've put it off...it's time! It has come to our attention that the Game Warden has visited one of the hunts in Virginia recently and issued tickets to members who did not present current hunting licenses. This has happened to a number of hunts over the last few years. Please take the time to get a new license before you hunt with us or any other hunt in the state. The license can be saved to your phone and/or multiple copies made to carry in your coat pockets, hat, saddle or somewhere handy when you hunt. We recommend that you get a statewide license if you plan to attend meets away from home. You can purchase licenses several ways:

On-line at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/>

By telephone: 1-866-721-6911 (available Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM, except holidays)

In person at local license agents located around the Commonwealth. Licenses are also sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court.

6. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: All on.

All on – All hounds are present and accounted for.

"All on?" asked Jim Caudle (hunter).

"Two missing," said the amateur Whipper-in.

"All but Jupiter and Juggler," said Jim. As the distance was less than a mile they went home across country at a steady hound jog, touching the horn from time to time for Jupiter and Juggler, who found their own way home an hour or two later.

Excerpt from *There Goes Charlie, A Rural Murder* by Anne Fleming

7. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Sunday, December 3	First hunt of the season
Saturday, December 16	Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds at The Hunt, Inc, Joint Meet with Glenmore Hunt and Christmas Party
Saturday, February 17, 2018	Rockbridge Hunt Ball, Natural Bridge Hotel
Fri Mar 30-Sun April 1, '18	Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial, "The Sedgefield Cup"
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Meeting *Fundraising events

8. Other Hunt-related Dates

Sunday, November 19	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Arbor Hill
Sunday, November 19	Bedford County Hunt Fall <i>Horse Show</i> , Randolph College Riding Center
Saturday, January 27, 2018	Bull Run Hunt <i>Wild Game Dinner</i>
Saturday, March 17, 2018	Glenmore Hunt <i>Closing Meet</i>
Fri Mar 30-Sun April 1, '18	Carolina <i>Foxhound Performance Trial</i> , "The Sedgefield Cup"
Saturday, March 31, 2018	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Ball</i>

9. 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
2017-2018**

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