



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound*

April 23, 2018

"Tell me a man's a fox-hunter, and I loves him at once!"

~Surtees

1. Hunter Pace! Our annual Derby-Day Hunter Pace at The Hunt, Inc. will take place on **Saturday, May 5**. Kathy Eichelberger and Arran Siebert are coordinating our event and they still need some volunteer help. If you aren't volunteering, please come and ride.

Our spring and fall hunter paces are now part of a series being coordinated with the Glenmore Hunt and the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club. Riders who place in the top 6 at each event win points and all other riders get participation points. Volunteers who forego riding to help with their home events also receive points. The top point winner at the end of the series will win an embroidered horse cooler.

2. Trail Clearing Thanks. Special thanks to the hard-working trail clearing crew that bushwhacked their way through the hunter pace trails on Wednesday, April 11! Thank you to Joe Conner, Kathy Eichelberger, Duane Hylton, and Arran Siebert for a hard day's work on our hunt country!

3. Annual Meeting. Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc. Please save Wednesday, May 9 on your calendar for our Annual Meeting. We will be electing new officers for the year ahead, voting on the proposed budget for the 2018-19 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. Our president runs a very efficient meeting and we always have an enjoyable evening discussing the past year and laying the groundwork for the new year. ***Please come!***

BONUS! Last year's pre-meeting dinner before the Annual Meeting was a huge success, so we've planned to do it again this year! Carol Lueder has graciously agreed to make spaghetti for us! We'll have dinner at 6:00 PM at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Please plan to come early and have dinner with your friends from the Hunt. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and spaghetti dinner!

4. 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.

5. Virginia Foxhound Show with Special Art Exhibit. The Glenmore Hunt and Rockbridge Hunt are teaming up again for a joint reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show at Morven Park in Leesburg on Sunday, May 27. This is a very informal event. There will be a tent set up ring-side at the show from 9AM to 4 PM for members and friends to hang out and socialize during the show. A light lunch will be served at noon and the organizers welcome contributions of food – light tailgate items are the order of the day. The Virginia Foxhound Show is a great place to learn about foxhounds. There are separate rings for showing American, English, Crossbred, and Penn-Marydel hounds. This is the largest show of foxhounds in the world and it's right here in Virginia! Hunts from all over the country show their hounds singly and in groups. At noon, there are special junior handlers' classes which are always fun to watch. There are a number of vendors at the show selling hunt clothing, antiques, books and more.

In conjunction with the hound show, The Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America which is housed in the Morven Park mansion will be open and free on the day of the show. There is a large collection of foxhunting memorabilia and art in the museum. This year, there will be a special exhibition of foxhunting art called The Year of the Hound: Showcasing the Foxhunts of Virginia. Artists from the American Academy of Equine Art were commissioned to paint every recognized hunt in Virginia. One of the artists visited with us at our Opening Meet, so we should be represented in the art show!

It's a great day out, so please consider joining us in Leesburg on the 27th of May. Bring a chair and a hat for the sun and enjoy a day celebrating our beloved foxhounds. RSVP to Hugh by Thursday, May 24 if you can join us. (brownhh@jmu.edu H 540-886-6359, W 540-568-3501)

6. Foxhunting Reading Group. The reading group met on Wednesday, April 11 to discuss the book, *Foxhunting with Melvin Poe* by Peter Winants. There were mixed opinions about the book. Different sections were better than others. It was generally agreed that the photographs were a highlight. The meeting was preceded by an outstanding meal. The desserts were a particular highlight. Everyone who has attended our various meetings has helped with food at different times and it makes for a truly enjoyable evening. I'll just issue a blanket thank-you here but I will say that fudge and chocolate chip cookies are always welcome.

After the meeting Hugh Brown showed the documentary about Melvin Poe and foxhunting in general – *Thoughts on Fox Hunting* by Tom Davenport Films. This film dates from the 1970s and it's mentioned in the book. Alexander Mackay Smith (author or editor of several books this group has read) was the narrator, reading selected lines from *Thoughts on Hunting* by Peter Beckford. The film shows clips of foxhunting as well as commentary by Melvin and Peggy Poe. It runs about thirty minutes. After that, Hugh gave a brief presentation about Huntland -- Joseph B. Thomas's fantastic estate near Middleburg. We've read Thomas's book, *Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages*, a standard in the field. Thomas was inspired to build Huntland and its outstanding kennels by an important event in American foxhunting history – the 1905 match between the American Foxhounds of the Grafton Hounds and the English foxhounds of the Middlesex Hunt. The Reading Group had earlier read Martha Wolfe's account of this event - *The Great Hound Match of 1905*. Hugh's presentation was fascinating with great pictures (new and old) and interesting explanations. Hugh did a wonderful job putting together a entertaining and educational program. Thank you for all your work!

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 16**. We'll discuss *Dainty, A Story of a Foxhound* by Ralph Greaves. This was chosen to celebrate the Virginia Hound Show in May. There are a few copies of the book circulating. Let one of us know if you need to borrow a copy. If you want to look up what we've read in the past, there is a list: http://foxhuntinglibrary.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_31.html We have not set a location for the meeting in May. We will probably be able to use the Lodge and it's very likely that we'll arrange to have a meal – any volunteers?

Cindy, mortonc@wlu.edu Hugh, brownhh@jmu.edu Carol, shop@fchase.net

7. Sedgefield Cup 2018. The Rockbridge Hunt competed for the tenth year in a row in the Carolinas Foxhound Performance Trial - the Sedgefield Cup - March 30-April 1. There were 13 hunts competing in the trial and several more hunts were represented by riders. There were 65 hounds competing and over 200 riders following the hunt. The guest huntsman this year, John Harrison of Deep Run Hunt, showed us great sport all weekend. We had great weather throughout the weekend and good scenting conditions. Hounds had a good chase on a coyote on the first day of the trial and a gray fox on the second day.

At the end of the first day, three of our five hounds scored in the top 10 in various categories.

Rockbridge Widget '15 - 7th place in "Hunting"

Rockbridge Thursday '16 - 7th place in "Trailing"

Rockbridge Opal '14 - 2nd place in "Trailing"

Out of the 65 hounds competing, these same three hounds scored in the Top 20 in Total Performance on the day.

Rockbridge Opal '14 - 10th place in "Total Performance"

Rockbridge Thursday '16 - 16th place in "Total Performance"

Rockbridge Widget '15 - 20th place in "Total Performance"

After the second day's hunt, the scores were read and Widget won another ribbon for Day 2.

Rockbridge Widget '15 - 5th place in "Trailing"

Rockbridge Widget '15 - 14th place in "Total Performance" for day 2

After the second day scores were shared, the overall scores for the weekend were announced. Opal and Thursday both won overall ribbons for us.

Rockbridge Thursday '16 - 10th place in "Hunting"

Rockbridge Thursday '16 - 10th place in "Trailing"

Rockbridge Opal '14 - was judged the 13th best hound of the weekend! (13th place in "Total Performance")

The top hound of the trial was Sedgefield Hunt's Coley and the Sedgefield Hunt also won the best pack award for the trail.

Congratulations to David Conner and the Rockbridge Hunt staff for a good showing in spite of our abbreviated season. Thank you to all our members and friends for supporting our award-winning pack!

8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: Own

Own – Hounds are said to own the line when they pick up the scent. (Excerpt from “Biddable Babblers” in **The Keen Foxhunter’s Miscellany** by Peter Holt)

*“I get the greatest satisfaction from watching hounds puzzling out the line on a cold scenting day, or when the fox has gone some way ahead. Every hound is desperately trying to pick up the scent, usually working silently because the scent is not strong enough for them to "own" it with their voice. When one hound is sure of what he has found, he gives a whimper, his comrades rush to him and they surge on in chorus. They are doing a job for which they have been carefully bred. To my mind, this satisfaction is even greater than that of following hounds in full flight on a breast-high scent, when hounds do not have to put their noses to the ground to **own** the fox's scent because the climatic conditions are such that the scent is slowly rising.”*

Excerpt from **"My Privileged Life with the Scarteen Black and Tans"** by Thady Ryan, MFH

9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, May 5	*Derby-Day Hunter Pace (Kathy Eichelberger & Arran Siebert organizers)
Wednesday, May 9	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 12	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Wednesday, May 23	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Sunday, May 27	Glenmore Hunt & Rockbridge Hunt Joint Reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show, Morven Park, Leesburg
Saturday, June 2	*Judged Pleasure Ride (Lynn Williams organizer)
Wednesday, June 13	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, July 14	*Summer Poker Ride (Louise Golian organizer)
Wednesday, July 18	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, July 28	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, August 4	*Gymnastics Clinic with Diane Long
Wednesday, August 8	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, August 11	Work Day at The Hunt, Inc.
Wednesday, August 15	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, August 18	Work Day at Broadview
Saturday, August 25	Work Day at Broadview
Wednesday, September 5	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, September 8	*Fall Poker Ride
Wednesday, September 12	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, September 15	*Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge
Sunday, September 16	Volunteers' Hunt at The Hunt, Inc.
Wednesday, September 19	Autumn hunting begins
Sunday, October 7	*Fall Hunter Pace (Sue Charlton & Laura Jarvis organizers)
Saturday, November 3	Opening Meet
Saturday, December 15	Christmas Meet & Party
Tuesday, January 1	New Year's Day Meet *Fundraising events

10. Other Hunt-related Dates

Fri April 27-Sun April 29	Bull Run Hunt <i>Weekend Camping Trailride</i>
Saturday, April 28	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Sweet Briar College
Sunday, April 29	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Derby</i> – Durbin's
Sat.-Sun, May 19-20	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Sunday, May 20	Farmington Hunt <i>Puppy Show</i> – Kennels (tentative)
Saturday, June 9	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> – Mint Meadows
Sunday, June 10	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i>
Sunday, June 10	Central Virginia Young Entry <i>Junior Handlers Hound Show</i> , Foxfield
Friday, June 15	Farmington Hunt Evening Gymkhana & Social – Millington
Saturday, June 16	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Oldenacres, Goode
Sat.-Sun, June 16-17	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Fri. June 22-Sun. June 24	MFHA Biennial Seminar, Mount Vernon/Alexandria
Friday, July 13	Farmington Hunt <i>Fun Hunter Show and Evening Gymkhana</i> – Millington
Saturday, July 21	Farmington Hunt <i>Poker Run</i> – Location TBD
Saturday, July 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Judged Trail Ride</i>
Sat.-Sun, July 21-22	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Saturday, August 4	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper/Dressage Show</i> – Millington
Saturday, August 12	Farmington Hunt <i>De-Spooking Day</i> – Toad Hollow

Saturday, August 18	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> – Millington
Sat.-Sun, August 18-19	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Sunday, August 19	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> – Kennels
Sunday, September 2	Warrenton Horse Show <i>Hunt Night</i>
Monday, September 3	Farmington Hunt begins <i>Autumn Hunting</i>
Sat.-Sun, September 15-16	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Sunday, September 23	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Maceland, Chatham
October 8-13	Theodora A. Randolph <i>Field Hunter Championships</i>
Sunday, November 4	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> at The Cedars, Cifax
Sunday, November 4	Farmington Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> – Durbin's
Sunday, November 11	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>

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.

**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee
2017-2018**

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