



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* December 11, 2018

“The hold that fox hunting has over its disciples is as frightening as it is fascinating.”

~Marigold Armitage from *A Long Way to Go*

Merry Christmas!

1. Christmas Party! Saturday, December 15, Tex Tison Lodge. Following the hunt at around 1:00 PM. Our annual Christmas Party is this weekend! The lodge has been beautifully decorated and we hope everyone can come out to celebrate the season. Please remember to make reservations by Thursday with Hugh Brown (brownhh@jmu.edu, 540-886-6359) and let breakfast coordinator Valerie Mann (valeriemann1229@gmail.com, 540-580-6614) know if you can contribute something to the breakfast. Cost is \$10 per member – this helps reimburse coordinators for main dish contributions and offset the cost of keeping our wonderful kitchen stocked.

2. Soup-er Bowl Party & Christmas Take-down. Following the hunt on Saturday, January 5, we plan to have our second annual Soup-er Bowl Party. We’re hoping members will bring winter soups (or chili or stew!) to share and we’ll have some other treats to eat. We’ll also use that gathering to take down the Christmas tree and other holiday decorations. We hope you can join us for some winter fun whether you are riding or not.

3. Rockbridge Hunt Ball 2019. SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 23, 2019 at the Natural Bridge Hotel. Music by the ever-popular Sound Express/Legacy. You won’t want to miss this great party! Terry Whitmore and Trish Lyons are coordinating the ball this year and they are looking for help. Please contact Terry 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, so please start thinking about things you would be willing to donate or items you would be willing to solicit for the auction. Thank you!

4. Foxhunting Reading Group. The Foxhunting Reading Group met on Tuesday, November 13 to discuss Barclay Rives’s *See You at Second Horses*. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 18** and we will be discussing *Further Experiences of an Irish R.M.* by Edith Somerville & Martin Ross. Carol Lueder has graciously agreed to host us at her home. As usual, dinner around 6 and the discussion at 7. The meal is pretty casual so get there when you can. If you want to bring a dish to share, please do. For questions about the Reading Group, please contact Cindy Morton, mortonc@wlu.edu or Hugh Brown, brownhh@jmu.edu.

5. Rockbridge Hunt Lending Library. Looking for something to do when it’s freezing cold outside and we can’t hunt? How about reading about hunting? Our lending library at the Tex Tison Lodge has grown and there are some terrific books to be borrowed. Anyone is welcome to check out books from the library and there is a sign-out book located on the shelf. Included so far in the library are copies of many of the books read by the Reading Group, a whole collection of Dick Francis racing thrillers, and a number of other books about horses and riding. Happy reading!

6. Sedgefield Cup 2019. The dates have been set for the 2019 renewal of the Carolinas Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 29-31. A number of Rockbridge Hunt members are planning to participate again this year. If you'd like to join us, contact Hugh Brown or Cindy Morton for a copy of the registration form and schedule. Mark your calendar now for an exciting weekend of foxhunting and fellowship in North Carolina!

7. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting etiquette: Thank you!

Thank you

In these days of I-Phones, texting and e-mail, it can be easy to forget some time-honored hunting etiquette. It is traditional to thank the landowners where meets are held and to thank the staff following the hunt for providing the sport for the day.

“Hounds, please!” Everybody shifted their horses like the Biblical parting of the waters to make way for the departing Huntsman and his eager pack. Hats were raised in thanks to the hosts in the scrupulously courteous and courtly manner of fox-hunters. The field began moving off in the mood of brave and cheery optimism that always flavors the start of the hunt.

Excerpt from *Diary of a Fox-hunting Man* by Terence Carroll

8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, December 15	Christmas Meet & Party
Tuesday, January 1	New Year's Day Meet
Saturday, January 5	Soup-er Bowl Party and Christmas Tree Takedown (after the hunt)
Saturday, February 23	*Rockbridge Hunt Ball, Natural Bridge Hotel *Fundraising events

9. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, January 26	Bull Run Hunt <i>Game Dinner</i>
Saturday, March 2	Farmington Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, March 9	Glenmore Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Sun. March 24-Sat. Mar 30	Bull Run Hunt March Madness
Saturday, March 30	Bull Run Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Fri. Mar 29-Sun Mar 31	Carolinas <i>Foxhound Performance Trials</i> “The Sedgefield Cup”
Saturday, April 13	Glenmore Hunt Spring <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.

**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee
2018-2019**

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