



Rockbridge Hunt NewsHound

January 10, 2018

“Certainly, the foxhunting fraternity is made up of the most generous, warmest people in the world. It never ceases to amaze me how many doors to friendships, places, and other sports, my interest in foxhunting has opened for me. If I had gotten nothing out of foxhunting but the host of wonderful friends, it would have been more than worth the effort.”

~Benjamin H. Hardaway III, MFH from *Never Outfoxed*

Happy New Year!

1. Rockbridge Hunt Ball 2018. SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Natural Bridge Hotel. Music will be by the ever-popular Sound Express/Legacy and they'll be playing longer this year – until 11:30! 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). Invitations will be in the mail soon. If there is someone you'd like to receive an invitation, please contact Hugh Brown. The Natural Bridge Hotel is holding a block of rooms at the special rate of \$79 per night if you'd like to spend the night after the ball. Call 540-291-2121, press 1 for the Front Desk, and mention the Rockbridge Hunt Ball when you make your reservation.

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. Contact Carol by email at shop@fchase.net, or at her home phone 540-463-9189 or on her cell phone 540-460-5302. Thank you!

2. Opening Meet – Thank you! Very special thanks to Valerie Mann for coordinating our wonderful Opening Meet & Christmas Party on December 16. We had a terrific turnout including a large group from the Glenmore Hunt. Valerie says: *“I want to thank all the folks who made this possible and I can't begin to name everyone who has done something to make our hunt fabulous. For starters, thanks to our staff who helped keep the hounds sharp during David's convalescence. Thank you to our gracious land owners who support our club and our sport. Yesterday was a huge team effort to put together a fantastic breakfast. Thanks to Master Hugh for our stirrup cup and gorgeous luminous centerpieces and decorations. Eric Eichelberger and family, large and small, provided our delicious smoked pork loin, peas and stuffing. A true master at this event, Eric had everything staged, heated and served in a seamless fashion. Laura Arnold provided us with more beer than we could drink and stayed late with her son, Lucas, doing dishes and cleaning up. Lauren Keating is going back to the lodge to finish the dishes this morning! Our lovely fire was layed by Laura Jarvis early Saturday morning and Bernard Hylton lighted it and pestered it relentlessly to provide us with a roaring fire as folks came in from a chilly hunt. So many folks brought appetizers, salads, sides and desserts. I fear I will forget someone, but here's my first try at thanking and listing our donors: Lu Dooley, Margo Clegg, Lynn Williams, Cynthia Secker, Candi Hylton, Liz, Duane, and Abby Hylton, Sue Charlton, Liz Hall, Kathy Munsey, Aaron Siebert, Valerie Mann, Carol Lueder, Trish Wilson, Sherri Stebbins, and Hillery Lester. Thank you all! I am so proud to be a part of a fabulous hunt.”*

3. New Year's Day Hunt Breakfast. Thank you! More grateful thanks are due to Lynn Williams (with help from Joe Williams and Lynn's sister Lissa) for coordinating our fabulous New Year's Day breakfast. The cold weather may have kept us from hunting, but it couldn't stop a Rockbridge Hunt party! Lynn prepared a delicious chicken and rice dish, black-eyed peas and much more. Laura Jarvis again made a roaring fire to keep us warm. Lots of people contributed food and drink to the party including: Carol Lueder; Liz & Brent Hall; Lu & Ed Dooley; Duane, Liz & Abby Hylton; Sue & Roger Charlton; Kathy Eichelberger; Cynthia & Terry Secker, Trish Lyons; Candi & Bernard Hylton; Lauren Keating, and Hugh Brown. Lots of people helped Lynn and Lissa with cleanup including Duane, Liz & Abby Hylton, and Lauren Keating. Thank you all for starting 2018 in a fantastic way!

4. SOUP-er Bowl Tailgate! We are planning to make the potluck tailgate on Wednesday, January 24 a Soup-er tailgate. We'd like to encourage members to bring a favorite soup (chili and stew included) to share – preferably something in a crockpot so it will stay warm and be ready to eat without chaining someone to the stove. We can all share a fun meal and our favorite winter-warming recipes. (Be prepared! People WILL ask for your recipe!) If we have to cancel hunting on January 24, we'll move the tailgate to January 31. We hope to see you there!

5. Sedgefield Cup 2018. The dates have been set for the 2018 renewal of the Carolinas Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 30-April 1. 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!

6. Livestock Transportation Changes. We've heard about new legislation that will affect some transportation of livestock, including horses. Probably everyone should read about this but if you own your own truck and trailer and only transport your own horse, this probably will not affect you. The best source for information of this kind is the Virginia Horse Council -- a respected and knowledgeable organization. One of their main functions is to monitor legislation. The front page of their website currently features information about this new legislation -- <http://www.virginiahorsecouncil.org/> If you go to the "about" page you can read their mission statement, as follows:

The Virginia Horse Council is your voice for the expanding equine industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Council is a not-for-profit organization formed by horsemen for Virginia horsemen. The membership and Board of Directors represent all breeds. The purpose of the Virginia Horse Council is to promote and improve the horse industry in Virginia. *Our mission is to serve as the umbrella organization of the Virginia equine community and to monitor legislative issues affecting horsemen and horses in the Commonwealth. The vision of the Virginia Horse Council (VHC) is to be recognized as a leader in providing broad representation to all facets of the equine industry before the Virginia General Assembly and Congress. The VHC collaborates with other areas of the agricultural community and helps facilitate communications between members of the equine industry and state and federal agencies. The VHC aspires to keep Virginia horsemen informed of regulations and pending legislation they may impact them, and to provide educational opportunities that further enhance the industry.*

7. Foxhunting Reading Group. The next meeting of the Reading Group will be Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM at Carol Lueder's home in Lexington. We are currently reading *The Year Round* by Guy Wheeler. Copies of the book 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. We are probably going to be reading Mason Houghland's *Gone Away* next. Carol Lueder can get copies of this book if you want to purchase one.

8. 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!

9. Foxhunting Christmas Tree? We are planning to participate in the Natural Bridge State Park's Festival of Trees decorating contest next Christmas season. We have ideas for a foxhunting-themed tree, so if you have some ornaments you'd be willing loan, set aside ornaments somewhere for next November. If you shop at antique malls or junk stores, this is the time of year to find bargain ornaments.

10. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: Music

Music– The sound of the pack of foxhounds in full cry.

*It makes me sad to see a person who is not thrilled by the sound of a pack in full cry. There was a night hunter once who wanted to get his new foxhunting friend hooked on the sport, so he took him out one night to the weekly foxhunt. The hounds were loosed and struck a fox. Soon they came close by the hunters, making the forest ring with their cry. The hunter turned to his friends and said "Listen to that beautiful **music**." The friend replied, "**Music!** I can't hear anything for all those frigging dogs barking!" Some people are just not made out to be foxhunters.*

Excerpt from *Never Outfoxed* by Benjamin Hardaway III, MFH

11. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, February 17	*Rockbridge Hunt Ball, Natural Bridge Hotel
Saturday, March 24	Closing Meet, 2:30 PM, dinner to follow the hunt, bring something for the grill
Fri Mar 30-Sun April	Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial, "The Sedgefield Cup"
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Meeting *Fundraising events

12. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, January 27	Bull Run Hunt <i>Wild Game Dinner</i>
Saturday, March 17	Glenmore Hunt <i>Closing Meet</i>
Sun March 18-Sat March 24	Bull Run Hunt <i>March Madness</i>
Saturday, March 24	Bull Run Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, March 31	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Fri Mar 30-Sun April 1	Carolina <i>Foxhound Performance Trial</i> , "The Sedgefield Cup"
Saturday, April 7	Glenmore Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, April 14	Glenmore Hunt <i>Spring Hunter Pace</i>
Fri April 27-Sun April 29	Bull Run Hunt <i>Weekend Camping Trailride</i>

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
2017-2018**

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