



## Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound*

July 20, 2018

*“Few, if any, animals are more pleasing to the eye than the red fox. Beautifully balanced and symmetrical, lithe and active, he is the poetry of motion as he slips away from covert with the smooth, oily gate that gets him over the ground at a wonderful pace. With his large, black-tipped ears, amber eyes with their elliptical pupils, and this thick, well furred brush, he makes a perfect picture*

From *The Book of the Fox* by Richard Clapham

**1. Poker Ride! Saturday, July 28** at West Airlie & Greenock Farms near Brownsburg. We’re very excited to be having our next fundraising ride at our most northern hunting fixture! Coordinator Louise Golian is looking for volunteers to staff gates and donate lunch items. Please consider helping out. Worried about the heat? This is always a beautiful, shady ride and you can pick your own speed for this untimed ride! Spread the word! Bring friends!

**2. Gymnastics Clinic with Diane Long!** We have another special event coming up soon – **Saturday, August 4**. Diane Long has graciously agreed to conduct a gymnastics jumping clinic in the riding ring at The Hunt, Inc. Diane has been starting horses for 40 years. She galloped racehorses and earned her certificate to teach from 4 Seasons Farm where she coached and trained. She has been a Rockbridge Hunt member for 30 years and has introduced countless horses and riders to the joys of jumping and foxhunting.

All jumping disciplines are welcome. The clinic will be organized in groups of four by skill level – 18’’–2’, 2’–2’ 6”, 2’6” –3’, and 3’+. Entry fee is \$40 per horse/rider. For more details contact Liz Hall at [ehhall1229@yahoo.com](mailto:ehhall1229@yahoo.com), 434-760-3784. Rain date: Sunday, August 5.

**3. Work Days!** It’s that time of year again! Our first work day is scheduled for **Saturday, August 11**. We plan to have work days on most Saturdays in August. Please plan to help as much as you can. All that spring and early summer rain has created a jungle in our hunting country, so it’s all hands on deck!

Advanced skills are not necessary! If you can’t run a chainsaw, bring loppers. If you don’t do loppers, wear gloves and you can help drag the cuttings off the trail. All levels of skill and ability welcome! Just come. We’ll find something for everyone to do.

Want to work, but not on weekends? We would welcome teams of members doing trail clearing on alternate days – we just need to make arrangements with landowners to have you there. Please contact Cindy Morton if you want to schedule an alternate work party.

**Work day packing list:** gloves, bug spray, protective clothing, hat, loppers or chainsaw (if you have them).

Thank you everyone! Let’s work together to get our hunt country in good shape for the fall!

**4. Virginia Hunt Week.** After a two-year hiatus, Virginia Hunt week is back! The schedule of specific hunts and days is still very tentative, but mark your calendar for October 13-28! Updates will be posted here: <http://www.vahuntweek.org/>

**5. Important Reminders: Insurance, waivers, and helmets!** The new year has started for us – so that means **new waivers are needed for everyone.** For insurance purposes, it is *critical* that any member or guest riding at The Hunt, Inc. have a signed waiver on file. There is a box with waivers on the mounting block in The Hunt, Inc. parking lot and on the hunt barn. We will also have new waiver forms available at summer events, and work days. If you are not sure if your guest has a current waiver, you may check with Hugh Brown or just sign a new one. We also *strongly encourage* everyone to wear approved helmets when riding. Thank you!

**6. Foxhunting Reading Group.** The reading group will meet on Wednesday, July 25 to discuss *The Book of the Fox* by Richard Clapham. As usual, dinner around 6:15 and discussion beginning at 7:00. 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](http://foxhuntinglibrary.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_31.html)

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**7. Educational Bits** – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Straight Necked**

What we describe as a “straight-necked ‘un,” is the fox that goes away from covert with a point in his mind’s eye, and tries to get there as directly as possible. From a vulpine point of view, such procedure is not exactly calculated to save the life of the fox. It is the twisting, short-running fox that is most likely to outwit his pursuers.”

From *The Book of the Fox* by Richard Clapham

## **8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar**

Saturday, July 28	*Rockbridge Hunt Poker Ride at West Airslie & Greenock Farms (Louise Golian, organizer)
Saturday, August 4	*Gymnastics Clinic with Diane Long at The Hunt, Inc.
Wednesday, August 8	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Saturday, August 11	Work Day!
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)
Friday, October 19	Rockbridge Hunt hosts Virginia Hunt Week ( <i>tentative!</i> )
Saturday, November 3	Opening Meet
Saturday, December 15	Christmas Meet & Party
Tuesday, January 1	New Year’s Day Meet *Fundraising events

## 9. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, July 21	Farmington Hunt <i>Poker Run</i>
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>
October 13-28	Virginia Hunt Week
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 18	Glenmore Hunt Fall <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.

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**Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt**

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