



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound*

March 27, 2018

“To me the most charming features of all fox meets is the social mingling with members of the fraternity where deep fellowship prevails. We meet old friends joyfully, make new ones and carry home with us the inspiring moods of pleasant recollections. Companionship is the life spring of the sport”.

George J. Garrett, *50 Years with Fox and Hounds*

1. Closing Meet. We had a fantastic Closing Meet on Saturday, March 24. In spite of the muddy conditions and the threat of more winter weather, we had a good turnout on horseback and an even better turnout for the cookout afterwards. We had three riding guests from Glenmore Hunt and two more on foot. We also had a student guest from Bridgewater College who was foxhunting for the very first time!

As always, it takes a great team to put on a big day like this. Thank you to our Huntsman and staff for preparing and hunting the hounds and giving us a terrific chase through Hunt, Inc. Thank you to our organizers Sue Charlton and Valerie Mann for gracious hospitality. Thank you to Liz Hall for organizing a wonderful stirrup cup to start our day. And many thanks to everyone who brought food to share. As usual, there was more than plenty! Finally, thank you to the unsung heroes of the day – the cleanup crew - Sue Charlton, Trish Lyons, Lauren Keating, and Lynn Williams!

It's been an odd year, but we ended on a very high note and we are eagerly anticipating the 2018-19 season and the many fun events planned between now and then!

Closing Meet Organizers: Sue Charlton & Valerie Mann

Setup - Valerie Mann

Stirrup cup - Liz Hall, Sue Charlton

Food & Drink: Hugh Brown, Sue Charlton, Lu Dooley, Louise Golian, Sherri Stebbins Hill, Liz, Duane & Abby Hylton, Laura Jarvis, Lauren Keating, Carol Lueder, Trish Lyons, Valerie Mann, Kathy Munsey, Cynthia & Terry Secker, Arran Siebert, Lynn Williams

Cleanup - Sue Charlton, Trish Lyons, Lauren Keating, Lynn Williams

2. Sedgefield Cup 2018. The Rockbridge Hunt team is once again ready to compete in the Carolinas Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 30-April 1. Our foxhound team includes Rockbridge Opal 2014, Rockbridge Wade 2015, Rockbridge Waffle 2015, Rockbridge Widget 2015, and Rockbridge Thursday 2016. There are 13 hunts competing in the trial this year – Cedar Knob Hounds (TN), De La Brook Foxounds (MD), Goshen Hounds (MD), Greenville County Hounds (SC), Last Chance Hounds (MD), Longreen Foxhounds (TN), Mecklenburg Hounds (NC), Moore County Hounds (NC), Red Mountain Foxhounds (NC), Red Oak Foxhounds (VA), Rockbridge Hunt (VA), Sedgefield Hunt (NC), and Stonewall Hounds (VA). A number of members are attending the annual trial along with several friends from the Glenmore Hunt and we promise to report back on our progress!

3. 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 will need lots of help. When they call, please say “yes!”

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.

4. 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!

5. Foxhunting Reading Group. The next meeting of the Reading Group will be Wednesday, April 11, location TBA. The discussion will start at 7:00 PM. We are currently reading *Foxhunting with Melvin Poe* by Peter Winants. 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 going to be reading Ralph Greaves’s *Dainty: A Foxhound* in May.

6. Rockbridge Hunt Lending Library. Looking for something to do when it’s cold outside? 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!

7. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Whippers-in**

Whippers-in: The staff members who assist the Huntsman with discipline and behavior of hounds in the hunt field. They may also assist with kennel duties and hound exercising.

*“No **whipper-in** can be effective until he learns the country. This means learning the location not only of jumpable fences and gates, but also of every road, covert, ride, jump, swamp, stream crossing, hole and other obstacles. He also must help to establish and maintain cordial relations with the owners and renters of farms within the hunting country, and he must memorize their boundaries, fences, livestock, crop fields and permanent pastures, their individual attitudes toward the hunt in general and toward riding over their land by members of the staff and field. Such knowledge should be acquired as much as possible during the summer, before the commencement of hunting.*

Excerpt from Foxhunting in North America by Alexander Mackay-Smith

8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Fri Mar 30-Sun April Wednesday, April 4	Carolina Foxhound Performance Trial, “The Sedgefield Cup” Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
Wednesday, April 18	Rockbridge Hunt Trail Ride
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
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

9. Other Hunt-related Dates

Fri Mar 30-Sun April 1	Carolina <i>Foxhound Performance Trial</i> , “The Sedgefield Cup”
Saturday, April 7	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Trials</i> – Fox Ridge
Saturday, April 7	Glenmore Hunt <i>Ball</i>
Saturday, April 14	Glenmore Hunt <i>Spring Hunter Pace</i>
Sat.-Sun, April 21-22	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i>
Fri April 27-Sun April 29	Bull Run Hunt <i>Weekend Camping Trailride</i>
Sunday, April 29	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>
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
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

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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