



## Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* November 7, 2018

*“You get close to the witchery of nature when you try to read the story of a fox's journey. And upon a November dawn, when the world lies still and the fox wraiths slip out of the embraces of the streams to hurry for the shelter of quiet shadowed woodlands, there is no ordered sequence of reason. The country is then a misty illusion, and a fox is neither in the world nor out of it...”*

~Mason Houghland, MFH

**1. Opening Meet!** Our annual Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds was held on Saturday, November 3 at 2:30 PM at The Hunt, Inc. We had a fun group of friends from the Glenmore Hunt join us for the day's events. Many hands worked together to put on a great day of sport and fellowship for our members and guests. Valerie Mann started us all off on the right foot with a splendid stirrup cup. Rev. Phillip Parker gave us a wonderful blessing of the hounds and the hunt – an old and inspiring tradition. Then the hounds and our hard-working hunt staff gave us a rousing chase through The Hunt, Inc. There were many huge grins as we flew along the trails in hot pursuit of the quarry.

One of the Rockbridge Hunt Opening Meet traditions is the awarding of colors. This year, the Masters honored **Sarah Edwards, Trish Lyons, Arran Siebert, Abby Hylton, and Duane Hylton** with their hunt colors. Congratulations to all!

Special thanks to the Eichelberger family for hosting the hunt breakfast after the chase and preparing the main course and several sides. Many members brought food and drink to go along with the Eichelbergers' centerpiece – no one could have gone home hungry! It was a fantastic meal. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

When you get a chance, please thank our Opening Meet team:

**Hunt staff in the field:** David Conner, Katharine Conner, Nancy Conner, Bob Richardson, Rebecca Tilson, and Jake Wilson

**Field Leaders:** Joe Conner 1<sup>st</sup> Flight, Terry Whitmore 2<sup>nd</sup> Flight, Hugh Brown 3<sup>rd</sup> Flight

**Stirrup Cup:** Valerie Mann

**Hunt Breakfast Coordinator:** Kathy Eichelberger

**Chefs:** Eric, Becky, and Ethan Eichelberger

**Food Donations:** Rockbridge Hunt members and friends

**Invitations & Decorations:** Hugh Brown

**Extra Cleanup on Sunday:** Lauren Keating

**2. Virginia Hunt Week.** On Sunday, October 21 we hosted one of the 15 scheduled meets of Virginia Hunt 2018. We had a good turnout from our own members and we hosted 13 members of other hunts including Bedford County Hunt (VA), Chagrin Valley Hunt (OH), Deep Run Hunt (VA), Glenmore Hunt (VA), Goshen Hounds (MD), Keswick Hunt (VA), and New Market-Middletown Valley Hounds (MD). Valerie Mann and Hugh Brown coordinated the hunt breakfast that day. Thank you to everyone who brought food to help with the breakfast!

**3. Barn Roof Repairs.** If you've been past the hunt barn recently, you may have noticed that the roof has a shiny new paint job. Thanks to an extremely generous donation from Liz & Brent Hall, we were able to get the roof repaired and painted with special roof paint. It's no longer rusty and leaking! Thank you Liz and Brent!!

**4. Hunter Pace Series.** There is one more hunter pace coming up this fall in this year's Hunter Pace Series. We are participating in this series with the Glenmore Hunt and the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt. Points will be awarded to riders who place first through sixth in all divisions. All other riders will receive an attendance point at each event toward the Championship. Bonus points will be awarded to riders who participate in all six events. Series participants who forego riding in an individual hunter pace in order to volunteer at the pace will also be awarded points toward the Championship. The final event is being hosted by the Glenmore Hunt. Their fall pace is terrific fun and the scenery is always spectacular!

**Sunday, Nov. 18      Glenmore Hunt Fall Hunter Pace    [glenmorehunt.org](http://glenmorehunt.org)**

**5. Special Joint Meet!** We're invited! The Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club has invited us to participate in a special joint meet when they will host the Glenmore and Bedford County Hunts at their Penlan Station fixture in Buckingham County on **Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 AM.** The Penlan Station landowners are hosting an Oyster Roast and BBQ for this special occasion. The Oak Ridge folks have asked each person to bring a dish to share along with our favorite beverage. In honor of this special meet, we will cancel our scheduled meet at Broadview. The fixture card has been updated on our website.

Reservations will be required for this special event. **Please let Hugh know if you plan to attend by Saturday, December 1.** ([brownhh@jmu.edu](mailto:brownhh@jmu.edu), 540-886-6359, 540-568-3501)

**6. 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](mailto: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!

**7. Foxhunting Reading Group.** The Foxhunting Reading Group met on Tuesday, October 9 to discuss *The Derrydale Press Treasury of Foxhunting* edited by Norman Fine. It was one of the first books we have read that everyone in the group really liked. There was something for every kind of taste in the collection of stories and articles that were taken from Derrydale press foxhunting books from the past century.

Our next book is Barclay Rives's *See You at Second Horses*. We have at least two copies circulating. We plan to meet on **Tuesday, November 13** to discuss the book. Cindy Morton has 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. Cindy is planning on fixing ham and baked potatoes so let her know if you want a white potato or a sweet potato. If you want to bring a dish to go with that, great. If not, that's fine. We won't starve!

For questions about the Reading Group, please contact Cindy Morton, [mortonc@wlu.edu](mailto:mortonc@wlu.edu) or Hugh Brown, [brownhh@jmu.edu](mailto:brownhh@jmu.edu).

**8. New Logo Item!** Liz Hall has been coordinating our Rockbridge Hunt logo merchandise and she's come up with a great new item! It's a small, insulated cooler or lunch tote. Dark green with our logo. Very handy for lunch or to keep several beverages cold. You can find these and many other items like saddle pads, mugs, lapel pins, etc on display at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Pictures are also available on our website.



**NEW!**  
Insulated cooler bag \$10



**NEW!**  
Insulated cooler bag \$10



**NEW!**  
Ball caps, in Tan or Green \$25

Polo shirts \$30

**We also have:** BELT BUCKLES \$70, Flasks \$25, Mugs \$5, Pins \$10, Bumper stickers \$5, Stock ties \$15

Card cases \$15



Insulated jackets \$50

Bracelets \$35



Saddle pads \$40



## 9. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **Gates**

*Excerpt from **Lure of the Chase** by Michael Sinclair-Smith*

The hunt trotted further on up the road for half a mile, until they came to an old wooden gate, where the huntsman pulled up.

"I'll get it," said Liam as he trotted by the hunt servants and hounds. He jumped off and opened the **gate**. The whip and huntsman passed through and took off in the direction of the covert. Hennessy followed and held up the field while Liam closed the **gate** and got remounted.

"Becoming a gentleman in your old age?" asked Glenn, as Liam came alongside him once more.

"Ah lad, there's a method in my madness. Always look helpful and polite to the master before the hunt, then no one is liable to complain if you get carried away and don't get any **gates** when hounds are running."

"You're a sly old devil."

"You could say that, but maybe it's just experience." He winked with a half shake of his head.

## 10. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, December 8	Special Joint Meet at Penlan Station hosted by Oak Ridge Fox Hunt
Saturday, December 15	Christmas Meet & Party
Tuesday, January 1	New Year's Day Meet
Saturday, February 23	*Rockbridge Hunt Ball, Natural Bridge Hotel *Fundraising events

## 11. Other Hunt-related Dates

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
Saturday, November 10	Farmington Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i>
Sunday, November 11	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Opening Meet &amp; Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Sunday, November 18	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Thursday, November 27	Keswick Hunt <i>Blessing of the Hounds</i>

**12. 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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2018-2019**

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

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