



## Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* April 17, 2019

*“My line is the line of the foxes; my pace is the pace of the pack.”*  
-Harry Worcester Smith, MFH

**1. Derby-Day Hunter Pace!** Our annual Derby-Day Hunter Pace will take place on **Saturday, May 4 at Broadview**. Hugh Brown is coordinating our event and he still needs some volunteer help. If you aren't volunteering, please come and ride. Susan Richardson is planning the course and Liz Hall is coordinating the lunch. Watch for messages from the Rockbridge Hunt “Nag” about food donations to help with the lunch. Entry forms and more information about the pace are available on the website.

For the second year in a row, our spring and fall hunter paces are 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 horse cooler embroidered with the logo of the series.

**2. Closing Trail Ride and Cookout – March 23.** Thank you to everyone who helped make our end-of-season trail ride and cookout such a wonderful success! We had more than 20 riders show up for our trail ride – all of us knowing that the footing was likely to be pretty terrible! That number included 8 brave souls from Glenmore Hunt including joint Masters Joe Manning and T. Stewart. Special thanks to Liz Hall for starting our day off with a wonderful Stirrup Cup!! Great food and drink got us warmed up for the ride. Sue Charlton also helped by making her world-famous sausage rolls. It was the perfect start to the day. Thank you also to our fearless trail ride guides Kathy Eichelberger and Cindy Morton for leading our groups through The Hunt, Inc.

Our cookout afterwards was terrific. Great food and drink and plenty of it! Special thanks to Valerie Mann for decorating and setting up the Tex Tilson Lodge with beautiful spring Daffodils and laying the fire in the fireplace for us. Also huge thanks to Lauren Keating for pre-party cleanup, getting the grill fired up (ask Lauren about her adventures in pyrotechnics!), and helping with food setup and lodge cleanup after the party. Sue Charlton was our on-site kitchen wizard – keeping the food organized and fluffed and major kitchen cleanup. Thank you Sue! And thank you to everyone who brought food and drink to share and to everyone who helped with cleanup! Although it wasn't the way we planned to end the season we had a great day anyway!

**3. Annual Meeting!** Please mark your calendar for Annual Meeting to be held on **Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.** We will be electing new officers for the year ahead, voting on the proposed budget for the 2019-20 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 present. Family and landowner memberships may have more than one member, and the numbers matter. Our president, Lauren Keating, runs a very efficient meeting and we always have an enjoyable evening discussing the past year and laying the groundwork for the new year. We're planning a lasagna dinner at 6:00 PM before the meeting, so come eat with your Rockbridge Hunt friends before the meeting starts.

***Please plan to attend!***

**4. Foxhunting Reading Group.** The reading group met on Monday, April 22 and discussed Famous Foxhunters by Daphne Moore. In honor of the third anniversary of the reading group we also discussed our favorite books. I think we are united in our admiration for Somerville and Ross but after that it was a variety. We also decided that we should try to get organized and view some of the films available. At this point we have certainly read the cream of the foxhunting literature. There are plenty of books still out there but they're more difficult or more boring or not very well written. We'll continue to explore some of those but we'll also look at other formats – movies, documentaries, poetry, songs, etc. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 23. We'll be discussing *Yonder He Goes* by Ralph Greaves (author of *Dainty, A Story of a Foxhound*). If you'd like to borrow a copy, let one of us know. ~Cindy, [mortonc@wlu.edu](mailto:mortonc@wlu.edu) and Hugh, [brownhh@jmu.edu](mailto:brownhh@jmu.edu)

**5. Virginia Foxhound Show.** The Glenmore Hunt and Rockbridge Hunt are teaming up again for a joint reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show at Morven Park in Leesburg on Sunday, May 26. This is a very informal event. There will be a tent set up ring-side at the show from 9AM to 4 PM for members and friends to hang out and socialize during the show. A light lunch will be served at noon and the organizers welcome contributions of food – light tailgate items are the order of the day. The Virginia Foxhound Show is a great place to learn about foxhounds. There are separate rings for showing American, English, Crossbred, and Penn-Marydel hounds. This is the largest show of foxhounds in the world and it's right here in Virginia! Hunts from all over the country show their hounds singly and in groups. At noon, there are special junior handlers' classes which are always fun to watch. There are a number of vendors at the show selling hunt clothing, antiques, books and more.

In conjunction with the hound show, The Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America which is housed in the Morven Park mansion will be open and free on the day of the show. There is a large collection of foxhunting memorabilia and art in the museum.

It's a great day out, so please consider joining us in Leesburg on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Bring a chair and a hat for the sun and enjoy a day celebrating our beloved foxhounds. RSVP to Hugh Brown by Thursday, May 23 if you can join us. ([brownhh@jmu.edu](mailto:brownhh@jmu.edu) H 540-886-6359, W 540-568-3501)

**6. Rockbridge Hunt Lending Library.** Looking for something to do when it's cold and/or rainy outside and we can't hunt? How about reading about foxhunting? 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. MFHA Subscribing Membership.** If you are not already a subscribing member of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, please consider becoming one. The most tangible benefit as a subscribing member is that you would receive *Covertside*, a beautiful magazine devoted to mounted foxhunting. You would also have other benefits such as attending MFHA events and seminars and subscribing membership helps pay for the very important Foxhound Show here in Virginia. The MFHA also provides financial support to The Pony Club, the MFHA professional development program, US Sportsman's Alliance that does great work protecting our hunting interests in all states and our investment in cures for canine diseases to name just a few. You can also get significant savings on nationally known products through NTRA Advantage. John Deere, Sherwin Williams, and UPS are a few examples. Individual MFHA subscribing memberships are just \$35. You can apply online here: <https://mfha.com/> or download and print a membership form at that same address. If you'd like more information or help obtaining a membership form, please contact Hugh Brown.

## 8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee. Hunting terminology: **In Company**

### **In company**

*Excerpt from **Riding and Driving for Women** by Belle Beach*

When riding in company remember there is a "riding courtesy." You have your comrade and your comrade's horse to consider as well as yourself and your own horse. The two horses should be kept going together, and on the same gait as much as possible, so if your horse begins to urge ahead, keep him back a trifle. There is nothing more annoying than the "galloping friend" who will not take the trouble to control her mount, and so makes the other horse nervous and unmanageable.

Never "cluck" to your horse, even when you are riding alone. It is a very bad habit to acquire, and, when you are riding in company, the other horse or horses are sure to hear you and to increase their gait quite as much as you want your horse to increase his. You are supposed to ride a trained horse, who will obey the signals from the reins, heel, or whip, and if your horse does not know these signals he must be taught them before you ride in company. Do not, however, under any circumstances, flourish your whip or use it with such force that another horse can hear it, for the effect will be quite as bad as clucking.

## 9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, May 4	*Rockbridge Hunt <b>Derby-Day Hunter Pace</b> at Broadview
Wednesday, May 8	Rockbridge Hunt <b>Annual Meeting</b> , Tex Tilson Lodge, 7:00 PM
Sunday, May 26	Glenmore Hunt & Rockbridge Hunt <b>Reception</b> at the Virginia Foxhound Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday, June 22	* <b>Poker Ride</b> at Brownsburg
Saturday, July 27	* <b>Judged Pleasure Ride</b> at Broadview
Saturday, August 3	* <b>Jumping Clinic</b> with Diane Long at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, September 14	<b>Kick-Off Party</b> at the Tex Tilson Lodge
Sunday, September 15	<b>Volunteers' Hunt</b>
Wednesday, September 18	<b>Autumn Hunting</b> Begins!
Sunday, October 6	*Fall <b>Hunter Pace</b> at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, October 26	<b>Joint Meet</b> at Glenmore Hunt's Opening Meet
Saturday, November 2	Rockbridge Hunt <b>Opening Meet &amp; Joint Meet</b> with the Glenmore Hunt

## 10. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, April 20	Warrenton Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Clovercroft/Millpoint Farm <a href="http://www.warrentonhunt.com">www.warrentonhunt.com</a>
Saturday, April 20	Middleburg Spring <i>Races</i> , Glenwood Park, Middleburg <a href="http://www.middleburgspringraces.com">www.middleburgspringraces.com</a>
Sat April 21-Sun April 21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/">https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/</a>
Sunday, April 21	Blue Ridge Hunt <i>Point to Point</i> , Woodley Farm, Berryville <a href="http://www.blueridgehunt.org">www.blueridgehunt.org</a>
Saturday, April 27	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Sweet Briar College, no rain date <a href="http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/">www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/</a>
Saturday, April 27	Loudoun Fairfax Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> , Philomont <a href="http://www.loudounfairfaxhunt.com">www.loudounfairfaxhunt.com</a>
Saturday, April 27	Foxfield Spring <i>Races</i> , Charlottesville <a href="http://www.foxfieldraces.com">www.foxfieldraces.com</a>

Sunday, April 28	Middleburg Hunt <i>Point to Point</i> , Glenwood Park, Middleburg <a href="http://www.middleburghunt.com/">www.middleburghunt.com/</a>
Saturday, May 4	Virginia Gold Cup <i>Races</i> , Great Meadow, The Plains <a href="http://www.vagoldcup.com">www.vagoldcup.com</a>
Saturday, May 18	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> <a href="http://oakridgefoxhuntclub.com">oakridgefoxhuntclub.com</a>
Sat May 18-Sun May 19	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/">https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/</a>
Sunday, May 26	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park, Leesburg <a href="https://virginiafoxhoundclub.org/hound-show">https://virginiafoxhoundclub.org/hound-show</a>
Sunday, June 9	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i> <a href="http://www.glenmorehunt.org">www.glenmorehunt.org</a>
Saturday, June 15	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> Oldenacres, Goode, rain date June 22 <a href="http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/">www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/</a>
Saturday, June 15	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Poker Ride</i> <a href="http://oakridgefoxhuntclub.com">oakridgefoxhuntclub.com</a>
Sat June 15-Sun June 16	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/">https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/</a>
Sat July 20-Sun July 21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/">https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/</a>
Saturday, August 10	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunting Clinic</i> <a href="http://oakridgefoxhuntclub.com">oakridgefoxhuntclub.com</a>
Sat August 17-Sun Aug 18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/">https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/</a>
Saturday, September 7	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> <a href="http://oakridgefoxhuntclub.com">oakridgefoxhuntclub.com</a>
Saturday, September 7	Glenmore Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> <a href="http://www.glenmorehunt.org">www.glenmorehunt.org</a>
Sunday, September 22	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> Maceland, Chatham VA, rain date 9/29 <a href="http://www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/">www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/</a>

**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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2018-2019**

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