



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* January 18, 2019

*“Mud, mud, I'll dream of mud tonight, for I have eaten it, galloped through it,
and had both eyes filled with it all day long.”*

J. Stanley Reeve, *Radnor Reminiscences*

Happy New Year!

1. Mud! Recently, the local newspaper ran their year-end summary articles. We had 75 inches of rain in 2018! That's an all-time record and more than double the usual amount. While most months had above average rainfall, most of the excess fell in the fall (in case you hadn't noticed). We've started 2019 with more rain, snow, and mud! Here's hoping for a change soon!

2. Christmas Party. Despite the gloomy weather we, once again, managed to have a great time snuggled by the fire in our cozy lodge. It was wonderful to be surrounded by good friends, laughter and fabulous food. So many people made this gathering a success by providing food and I worry I will leave someone out, but here goes! Many thanks to Hugh Brown, Sue Charlton, Trish Lyons, Terry and Cynthia Secker, Brent and Liz Hall, LynnWilliams, Arran Siebert, Candi Hylton, Liz and Abby Hylton, Lu Dooley and Brenda and Joe Palermo. And special recognition and appreciation goes out to Carol Lueder who provided our main chicken dishes, roasted potatoes and multiple desserts. Truly, Carol did most of the heavy lifting on this one!! -Valerie Mann

3. New Year's Day Party. Very special thanks to Lynn & Joe Williams for hosting our traditional New Year's Day party. We weren't able to hunt that day, but we had a marvelous party with over 40 members and friends celebrating the start of a new year. Thank you to everyone who brought food and drink to share. And thank you to Santa's elves for taking down and putting away our wonderful new Christmas tree. The tree was donated to the hunt by Lynn & Joe Williams – so many more thanks to them for making our holidays so special!

4. 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, 540-460-3052). Invitations are printed and will hit the mail soon. If there is someone you'd like to receive an invitation, contact Hugh Brown (brownhh@jmu.edu). Thank you!

Natural Bridge Hotel. The hotel has 14 rooms reserved at \$69 each for the night of the ball. They will hold that block of rooms until February 9. They will still honor the \$69 room rate after that date if rooms are available. Call 540-291-2121 to reserve a room and mention the Rockbridge Hunt Ball.

Silent Auction. 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.

Not sure how to help? Here are some ideas for silent auction donations:

Making things – canning/cooking/baking, carpentry, sewing/crafting

Doing things – Build or paint, pet sitting, photograph, be a handyman. You'd be surprised how many people have things they want done or have planned to do, but life gets in the way.

Teaching things – Riding lessons, guitar/piano lessons, sports lessons (golf, tennis, etc.), exercise classes.

Bringing things – Compost (manure) for a garden, wood for fireplace/woodstove, maybe you have a wonderful garden of flowers and could provide a nice arrangement monthly for a year.

Lending/Sharing things – Have a vacation home? a trail ride on your land or someone you know with a picnic after, tickets to a sports or entertainment event.

Planning something – A private dinner at your home, or make it a cooking class with a meal after, this could be a fun package to plan with a few other members.

Ask for something – Is there a shop or restaurant you frequent and enjoy? Would they donate an item or a gift certificate? How about lessons from someone you've learned from? How about a B&B or inn?

If you have items to donate, please contact Carol Lueder, Hugh Brown, Terry Whitmore or Trish Lyons. The sooner we have your item, the easier it is to get them catalogued and bid sheets prepared.

Cindy Morton has been working on a web preview of the auction. You can see what we have so far here: <http://home.wlu.edu/~mortonc/archive/2019/19SilentAuction.html>. Check back for updates!

4. Wall Calendars. Louise Golian has produced yet another gorgeous Rockbridge Hunt wall calendar for 2019. They are \$20 each. She will have copies at upcoming events and there are copies at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Thank you Louise!

5. Foxhunting Reading Group. Cindy Morton has once again invited the Foxhunting Reading Group to meet at her home on **Monday, January 21** and we will be discussing *White Foxes of Gorfenletch* by Henry Tegner. We have several copies circulating if you'd like to borrow one. As usual, dinner around 6 and the discussion at 7. The meal is pretty casual so get there when you can. If you want to bring a dish to share, please do. For questions about the Reading Group, please contact Cindy Morton, mortonc@wlu.edu or Hugh Brown, brownhh@jmu.edu.

6. Rockbridge Hunt Lending Library. Looking for something to do when it's freezing cold 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. Sedgefield Cup 2019. The dates have been set for the 2019 renewal of the Carolinas Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 29-31. 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!

8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee.

Hunting terminology: Brush – A fox's tail.

“And then -- they found a fox. They had probably drawn over about half a dozen during their morning's work, but this time a big dog fox got up in front of them, whisked his brush under their noses -- and bolted for the open. In an instant "Charlie's Dogs" came together as a pack. . .”

Excerpt from *Mr. Merston's Money* by John Welcome

9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your calendar

Saturday, February 23 *Rockbridge Hunt Ball, Natural Bridge Hotel
*Fundraising events

10. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, January 26 Bull Run Hunt *Game Dinner*
www.bullrunhuntclub.com

Saturday, March 2 Farmington Hunt *Ball*, Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville
www.farmingtonhunt.org

Saturday, March 2 Middlebrook Hounds *Ball*, Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton
www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub

Saturday, March 9 Glenmore Hunt *Ball*
www.glenmorehunt.org

Sunday, March 10 Blue Ridge Hunt *Hunter Pace*, Trelawny Farm, Berryville
www.BlueRidgeHunt.org

Saturday, March 16 Warrenton Hunt *Point to Point*, Airlie Race Course
www.warrentonhunt.com

Saturday, March 23 Piedmont Fox Hounds *Hunter Pace*, Salem Course, Upperville

Saturday, March 23 Piedmont Fox Hounds *Point to Point*, Salem Course, Upperville

Sun. March 24-Sat. Mar 30 Bull Run Hunt *March Madness*
www.bullrunhuntclub.com

Fri. Mar 29-Sun Mar 31 Carolinas *Foxhound Performance Trials* "The Sedgefield Cup"
www.sedgefieldhunt.com

Saturday, March 30 Bull Run Hunt *Ball*
www.bullrunhuntclub.com

Saturday, March 30 Orange County Hounds *Hunter Pace*, Middleburg

Sunday, March 31 Orange County Hounds *Point to Point*, Middleburg

Saturday, April 6 Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club *Judged Pleasure Ride*
oakridgefoxhuntclub.com

Saturday, April 6 Bedford County Hunt *Ball*
www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/

Saturday, April 6 Old Dominion Hounds *Point to Point*, Ben Venue
olddominionhounds.weebly.com

Sunday, April 7 Old Dominion Hounds *Hunter Pace*, Ben Venue
olddominionhounds.weebly.com

Saturday, April 13 Glenmore Hunt Spring *Hunter Pace*
www.glenmorehunt.org

Saturday, April 13 Rappahannock Hunt *Hunter Pace*, Greenwood Farm, Washington
www.rappahannockhunt.com

Sunday, April 14 Loudoun Hunt *Point to Point*, Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg
www.loudounhunt.com/point-to-point-races.html

Saturday, April 20 Warrenton Hunt *Hunter Pace*, Clovercroft/Millpoint Farm
www.warrentonhunt.com

Saturday, April 20 Middleburg Spring *Races*, Glenwood Park, Middleburg
www.middleburgspringraces.com

Sunday, April 21 Blue Ridge Hunt *Point to Point*, Woodley Farm, Berryville
www.blueridgehunt.org

Saturday, April 27 Bedford County Hunt *Hunter Pace*, Sweet Briar College, no rain date
www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/

Saturday, April 27 Loudoun Fairfax Hunt *Hunter Pace*, Philomont
www.loudounfairfaxhunt.com

Saturday, April 27	Foxfield Spring <i>Races</i> , Charlottesville www.foxfieldraces.com
Sunday, April 28	Middleburg Hunt <i>Point to Point</i> , Glenwood Park, Middleburg www.middleburghunt.com/
Saturday, May 4	Virginia Gold Cup <i>Races</i> , Great Meadow, The Plains www.vagoldcup.com
Saturday, May 18	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, June 15	Bedford County Hunt Hunter Pace Oldenacres, Goode, rain date June 22 www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Saturday, June 15	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Poker Ride</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, August 10	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunting Clinic</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, September 7	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Sunday, September 22	Bedford County Hunt Hunter Pace Maceland, Chatham VA, rain date 9/29 www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/

11. 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
2018-2019**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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<http://rockbridgefarmerscoop.com/>

Southern Inn Restaurant

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