



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* July 12, 2019

“There are other quieter hours in the course of a day's hunting when a deep joy in so much that is lovely translates a moment to something as near complete happiness as one may go. A hack out or home, or an unenterprising day on a green young horse. Then there is beauty in the lovely hills as a wild and fitting counterpart to the savage beauty of hounds hunting a fox; or hounds jogging back to kennel, tired and quiet after a long day, as the hills are quiet in the evening.”

From *Red Letter Days*, by Molly Keane & Snaffles

1. Poker Ride! Saturday, June 22. Thank you to everyone who helped with our first fundraising ride of the new fiscal year. Our turnout wasn't great, but every little bit helps!

The hard-working crew included:

Coordinator and Course Design: Louise Golian

Course marking: Louise Golian, Lucy Turner, Pam Schnake

Jump building: Brent Hall & Louise Golian

Registration & Food Organization: Carol Lueder & Sandy Collier

Parking: Brent Hall & Liz Hylton

Start/Finish: Diane Long

Casino Master: Louise Golian

Gates Crew: Cindy Morton, Lauren Keating, Trish Lyons & Joe Palermo

Food: Louise Golian, Carol Lueder, Trish Lyons, Liz Hall, Lauren Keating, Kathy Eichelberger, Brenda Ratcliff, Liz Hylton, and Diane Long. There may have been more food donations – Thank you all!

Winning Hands:

2 pair — Liz Hall

1 pair — Faye Giles

Ace, King, Jack high — Duane Hyton

Ace, King, Ten high — Susan Richardson

Ace, Queen high — Bob Richardson

Ace, Jack high — Beth Kopp

2. Judged Pleasure Ride! Saturday July 27 at Broadview. Organizers Susan Richardson and Liz Hall are putting the finishing touches on our third annual Judged Pleasure Ride at Broadview. If you missed it in the past, this is a quiet, set-your-own-pace ride through lovely open fields and shaded trails, with 6-8 Judged tests (obstacles) to be negotiated by you and your horse. All tests will simulate natural situations you might encounter on a trail ride or hunt. There will be judged divisions and also non-judged divisions for those who just want a nice ride but would prefer not to attempt the obstacles. Either way, it's a great day out! If you'd like to volunteer to help on the day of the event, please contact Liz Hall as soon as possible at 434-760-3784 or ehhall1229@yahoo.com. Come on out to Broadview on July 27 and bring your friends for a great ride! More details are on our website <http://www.rockbridgehunt.org/>.

3. Judged Trail Ride Series. New this year! Our Judged Pleasure Ride has been linked with the Glenmore Hunt's July 20 Judged Trail Ride! There will be prizes for the best horse & rider combination that competes in both events. We are hoping to expand this series next year. Details about Glenmore's ride can be found here: www.glenmorehunt.org

4. Gymnastics Clinic with Diane Long! We have another special event coming up soon – **Saturday, August 17**. 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, 434-760-3784. Rain date: Sunday, August 18.

5. Work Days! It's that time of year again! Our first work day is scheduled for **Saturday, August 3**. We plan to have work days on most Saturdays in August. Please plan to help as much as you can. All that rain and snow from last year and this summer has created a jungle and a tangle of fallen trees 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. You really can make a major difference!

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 or Hugh 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!

6. Encouraging new members. In an effort to encourage new members to join the Hunt, each current member has one free "virtual" capping certificate to offer a non-member who is a true prospect for membership. Simply contact Cindy or Hugh before the meet you plan to bring your guest, and they will waive the capping fee for that day. Our Hunt is always looking for new members, so encourage your riding friends to come and check out foxhunting with the Rockbridge Hunt!

7. Save the Date! Rockbridge Hunt Ball – Saturday, February 8, 2020, Natural Bridge Hotel. The coordinators of the Rockbridge Hunt Ball are already hard at work. They have selected a date, location, and secured the band! They also have designs on a special new theme with a more relaxed dress code, and a reduced ticket price. Watch this space for more details! It's going to be a blast!

8. Foxhunting Reading Group. The next meeting of the Foxhunting Reading Group will be on Tuesday, July 23. We'll be discussing *Tally Ho* and *Three White Stockings* both by Moyra Charlton. If you'd like to borrow a copy, let one of us know. Everyone is welcome!

~Cindy, mortonc@wlu.edu and Hugh, brownhh@jmu.edu

9. 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 another 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!

10. Rockbridge Hunt Lending Library. Looking for something to read at the beach or inside when it's too hot to ride? 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!

11. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee

Drawing – 1) Looking for a fox in a covert. 2) Separating one hound from the rest of the pack.

This covert was blank, and they soon moved on across country to the next. Billy jumped several fences without mishap, and some of the nervousness which had possessed him began to disappear. The next covert was also blank, and it was a long hack to their third draw.

"Hope it's not going to be a blank day for your first shot, young feller-me-lad," Jig said as they jogged along. "It doesn't look too good."

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

12. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, July 27	*Judged Pleasure Ride at Broadview – <i>Judged Trail Ride Series</i>
Saturday, August 3	Work Day
Saturday, August 10	Work Day
Saturday, August 17	*Jumping Clinic with Diane Long at The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, August 24	Work Day
Saturday, August 31	Work Day
Saturday, September 14	Kick-Off Party at the Tex Tilson Lodge
Sunday, September 15	Volunteers' Hunt
Wednesday, September 18	Autumn Hunting Begins!
Sunday, October 6	*Fall Hunter Pace at The Hunt, Inc. - <i>Hunter Pace Series!</i>
Saturday, October 26	Joint Meet at Glenmore Hunt's Opening Meet
Saturday, November 2	Rockbridge Hunt Opening Meet & Joint Meet with the Glenmore Hunt
Saturday, February 8, 2020	*Rockbridge Hunt Ball at the Natural Bridge Hotel

13. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, July 20	Glenmore Hunt Judged Trail Ride - <i>Judged Trail Ride Series</i> glenmorehunt.org
Saturday, July 20	Farmington Hunt <i>Poker Race</i> at The Barracks www.farmingtonhunt.org
Sat July 20-Sun July 21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Friday, July 26	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Show & Gymkhana</i>
Saturday, August 10	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunting Clinic</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Sat Aug 10-Sun Aug 11	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> www.farmingtonhunt.org
Sat August 17-Sun Aug 18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Sunday, August 25	Farmington Hunt <i>Jumper Show</i> at Durbin's www.farmingtonhunt.org
Saturday, September 7	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace - Hunter Pace Series!</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, September 7	Glenmore Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> glenmorehunt.org
Sunday, September 22	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> Maceland, Chatham VA, rain date 9/29 www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Saturday, October 26	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Sunday, November 3	Farmington Hunt <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i> www.farmingtonhunt.org
Sunday, November 17	Glenmore Hunt Fall Hunter Pace - <i>Hunter Pace Series!</i> glenmorehunt.org

14. 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
2019-2020**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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