



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* June 10, 2019

“The elements that make the hunting hound such a wonderful creature are those of nose, speed, stamina, staunchness, tongue and courage; he must have also a trait of savagery. His adaptability must be great. He can be taught to hunt any animal, and during the chase to speak to one scent only, which he unravels from others and to which he is staunch.”

-Hold Hard! Hounds, Please! by Yoi-Over

1. Poker Ride! Saturday, June 22. Organizer Louise Golian has started work on our annual summer Poker Ride at Greenock Farm (near Fairfield/Brownsburg). Be on the lookout for requests for help with this very important fundraiser – our first of the new budget year. We’ll need help clearing trails and building jumps before the event, and volunteers to work the event and help with lunch. You know you want to help! A flyer with details about the ride and entry forms can be found on our website <http://www.rockbridgehunt.org/> under the Events Tab.

2. 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 !

3. 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!

4. Foxhunting Reading Group. The next meeting of the Foxhunting Reading Group will be on Thursday, June 20. We’ll be discussing *Red Letter Days* by Molly Keane & Snaffles. 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

5. 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!

6. More Reminders - Summer Trail Riding at The Hunt, Inc. Rockbridge Hunt members have permission from many generous landowners to *hunt* on their property. This does not entitle any individuals to *trail ride* on private property. Rockbridge Hunt members can ride on much of the property at The Hunt, Inc. but you must know where the boundaries are and respect them. Many of our landowners do allow trail riding but not all of them do. When individuals ride on private property without permission, landowners are (justifiably) displeased. These situations are one of the main causes of permission to hunt being withdrawn. If you don't absolutely know for certain where you can ride and where you can't, please make arrangements to ride with someone who knows the territory. Most of the Executive Committee and the Hunt Staff know the property and will be happy to meet you and ride with you.

Also, please be very certain that any dogs you have with you are under your control at *all times* and kept off private property.

7. 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!

8. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee

On spurs.

*Excerpt from **Riding and Hunting** by M. Horace Hayes*

“Spurs of the hunting pattern are always worn with top boots -- although many good horses go better without them -- and should be buckled, in a manner which will bring the neck of the spur at about right angles to the leg of the boot. The buckle should of course be on the outside of the boot. If a rider wishes to avoid pricking his horse with his spurs, which he may do involuntarily when landing over a fence, and especially if he gets shifted in his seat, he may have the rowels removed, or use spurs with the ends smooth and rounded. . . . Spurs with short necks, which are less liable to touch a horse than those with ordinary long ones, are not fashionable; although they are certainly more workmanlike, unless the rider has extremely long legs in comparison to the depth of the horse at the girths.”

*Excerpt from **Fox-Hunting** by Duke of Beaufort*

“On the question of spurs, a lot of people think that they are a necessary part of hunting wear, but it all depends on how they are to be used and also on the horse you are riding. So do not let yourself be influenced too much by others, do what you yourself think right.”

9. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Sunday, May 26	Glenmore Hunt & Rockbridge Hunt Reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show at Morven Park, Leesburg, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday, June 22	*Poker Ride at Brownsburg
Saturday, July 27	*Judged Pleasure Ride at Broadview
Saturday, August 3	*Jumping Clinic with Diane Long at The Hunt, Inc.
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

10. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, May 18	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> – <i>Hunter Pace Series!</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Sat May 18-Sun May 19	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Sunday, May 26	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park, Leesburg https://virginiafoxhoundclub.org/hound-show
Sunday, June 9	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i> www.glenmorehunt.org
Saturday, June 15	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> Oldenacres, Goode, rain date June 22 www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Saturday, June 15	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Poker Ride</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Sat June 15-Sun June 16	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Sat July 20-Sun July 21	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Saturday, August 10	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Hunting Clinic</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Sat August 17-Sun Aug 18	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace Weekend</i> https://www.facebook.com/MiddlebrookHoundsHuntClub/
Saturday, September 7	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> - <i>Hunter Pace Series!</i> oakridgefoxhuntclub.com
Saturday, September 7	Glenmore Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i> www.glenmorehunt.org
Sunday, September 22	Bedford County Hunt <i>Hunter Pace</i> Maceland, Chatham VA, rain date 9/29 www.bedfordcountyhunt.com/
Sunday, November 17	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> - <i>Hunter Pace Series!</i> www.glenmorehunt.org

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
2019-2020**

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