



Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* August 17, 2020

"If there is a more admirable and elevating sport than foxhunting, it has yet to be discovered."
~Winston Churchill

1. Work Days! Our second work day is scheduled for **Saturday, August 22**. We plan to have additional work days on August 29 and September 12. We have the usual summer jungle to tame in our hunting country, so it's all hands on deck! Please plan to help as much as you can.

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), mask.

Thank you everyone! Let's work together to get our hunt country in good shape for the fall! Remember, we have a special **Volunteers' Hunt scheduled for Sunday, September 13** for those who come out to help with the clearing this summer!

A thousand thanks to our August 8 trail trimmin' team of Bob & Susan Richardson, Duane Hylton, Kathy Munsey, Valerie Mann, Lu Dooley, David Conner, Cindy Morton, and Hugh Brown. We were able to divide into three work crews and make some great progress on important trails at The Hunt, Inc.

That you also to Diane Long and Kathy Munsey who have been working hard to tame the jungle that has been encroaching on the parking lot at the Tex Tilson Lodge. It looks great!! We also know there are other individuals doing work on our hunt country – Joe Conner and Pete Holladay have both been spotted. Thank you all!

2. Hound Sponsorship. We traditionally focus a lot of our Kick-Off Party energy on our hound sponsorship program. Our hounds still need sponsors even though we won't be gathering together to celebrate this year. We are hopeful that many of our Rockbridge Hunt members and friends will consider choosing and sponsoring a hunting hound this year. Throughout the year our hounds must be fed, vaccinated, given flea preventative treatments and receive medical attention. We can expect to spend over \$330 on each hound each year. The importance of hound sponsorship cannot be overstated. Your contributions are vital to the well-being of our pack. Sponsorship for an entire year is \$150, or \$75 for a half year. Many of us like to sponsor the same hound year after year and if that is your wish please contact Valerie Mann by September 1st to renew sponsorship of "your" hound.

valeriemann1229@gmail.com) or 540-580-6614. The list of hounds available for sponsorship will be available soon. Last year's list is here:

<http://rockbridgehunt.org/?Menu=Home.Foxhunting.Hounds+and%20sponsors>

Very special thanks to Dr. Brent Hall for continuing our hounds' veterinary care this year!

3. Important Reminders: Insurance, waivers, and helmets! The new year started for us this summer – 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 new 2020-21 waivers on the mounting block in The Hunt, Inc. parking lot and another on the hunt barn. You can leave your signed waiver in the box and I will pick them up. If you prefer, you can print it out from the website and mail it to me or scan it and email it to me. (Hugh)
<http://rockbridgehunt.org/archive/2020/2021Waiver.pdf>

Thank you to everyone who has already filled out a new waiver!

We also *strongly encourage* everyone to wear approved helmets when riding.

4. Autumn Hunting. Autumn hunting is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 16. Remember to check the hunt line - 540-462-1113.

5. Are you licensed to Hunt? Remember to get a new Virginia Hunting License before the start of hunting season. This is not optional, everyone must purchase and carry a current hunting license. We recommend that you get a statewide license if you plan to attend joint meets away from home. You can purchase licenses several ways:

On-line at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/> or <https://gooutdoorsvirginia.com/>
By telephone: 1-866-721-6911 (available Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM, except *holidays*)
In person at local license agents located around the Commonwealth. Licenses are also sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court.

6. Membership – new and returning. New members are vital to the future of the Rockbridge Hunt. If you know someone who would be a good member, they need to hunt with us twice before they can be proposed for membership. A candidate for admission must be proposed by two members in writing (email is fine) addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Valerie Mann. Members are elected by the Executive Committee.

Former members who have been inactive for five years or less can rejoin simply by paying this year's dues. If someone has been inactive for longer than five years, have them contact a member of the Executive Committee. We'll work it out!

7. Hunting decisions. We do our best to put a decision about hunting on the phone line the night before we're scheduled to hunt. It is possible that we will elect to hunt earlier than scheduled so please don't wait until the last minute to check. Occasionally we will make a decision in the morning regarding hunting in the afternoon. That's not particularly convenient for anyone but this sport is completely weather-dependent AND dependent on the goodwill of our landowners. Thank you for your understanding. It is traditional for Rockbridge Hunt to meet (hunt) in the afternoons on Wednesdays. There are exceptions but they are rare.

8. Getting Ready for the Hunt Season. The start of hunting season is only a few weeks away now! Our huntsman and staff are hard at work training the hounds for the upcoming season. Here are some things you can be doing now to get ready for the fall:

1. Buy a Hunting License. This is not optional, everyone must purchase and carry a current hunting license. (See "Are you Licensed to Hunt" above for instructions.)
2. Start legging up your horse – and yourself!
3. Make sure your Coggins is up to date, along with other vaccinations and worming.
4. Sign a waiver for the season.
5. Pay some or all of your dues.
6. Check your tack for wear and tear.
7. Check your trailer and towing vehicle - tire pressure and wear, electrical systems, etc.

9. Hunting Attire. On Saturdays during autumn hunting and on all Wednesdays the standard for attire for our Hunt is almost always "casual" to accommodate new and prospective members and to encourage riders to dress comfortably for sometimes extreme weather. Safe riding boots are required. An approved helmet is encouraged but a traditional hunt cap is acceptable. If you wish to wear a traditional derby, please talk to one of the Masters. A shirt with a collar is strongly preferred. Jodphurs or breeches are preferred with tall boots or with short boots and half-chaps. Chaps and jeans are fine. Many members choose to wear traditional ratcatcher attire but this is not usually required.

Formal attire is expected for opening meet (the first Saturday in November), all Saturdays following that, holiday meets (Boxing Day and New Year's Day), and any joint meets. Ratcatcher attire may be appropriate for occasional joint meets during autumn hunting but formal attire will also be acceptable on those days.

10. COVID-19 Changes. In the past we have had casual tailgates or more formal breakfasts following almost every day of hunting. None of that will be happening for the foreseeable future due to the current state of the pandemic. Please bring whatever provisions you require for yourself and your horse. Restroom facilities will not be available at any fixtures.

On occasions when we're expecting a crowd, we will choose fixtures with abundant parking. Parking will require some care and consideration, especially at The Hunt, Inc. If there is room to spread out, please do. If there isn't room to spread out, wear a mask.

This should go without saying but please spread out when on horseback. Riding too close to others is a chronic problem in every hunt field. Six feet is a reasonable minimum. You really shouldn't be closer to other horses in any case. As you're riding along please think about whether you could stop suddenly if needed. As the speed increases, so should the spacing between horses.

11. Hunter Paces! The popular Hunter Pace Series with Oak Ridge and Glenmore hunts is back! Several of the events have been rescheduled due to the coronavirus shutdown. These events are either encouraging or requiring advance online registration, so be sure to check their websites carefully for details. The current schedule is:

Saturday, September 12	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> https://oakridgefoxhuntclub.com/
Sunday, September 27	Rockbridge Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> http://rockbridgehunt.org
Sunday, November 15	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> https://www.glenmorehunt.org/

12. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee . Hunting Terminology – **Bucking, Canter, Hay**

These “educational” definitions are *just for fun* and taken from *Tickner’s Horse Encyclopedia* by John Tickner.

Bucking: A jolly jumping motion employed by young horses to show that they are happy and by older horses to show that they would be even happier if they could dispense with the saddle and the character sitting on it.

Canter: The pace of a horse which should follow the trot, unless you have one of those two-paced horses who only know about the walk and the gallop. The canter is regarded by the beginner as a great relief from the trot because it is supposed to be a pleasant rocking-horse motion and you don’t have to bump up and down with your spine going through your hat. The great danger about the canter is that it can easily be used as a diabolical horse-plot and can be switched to what the beginner thinks is a fast canter, but is really a gallop and can then be developed into a bolt. The canter is meant to be a collected pace. If it isn’t, both horse and rider are liable to have to be collected later.

Hay: Scratchy dry grass which is very heavy to heave about and gets in your hair. Horses not only love it so much that they eat stacks of it, but they also love watching you heave it about and getting it in your hair and inside your jersey and down your back. There are all sorts of hay but all of them are heavy and scratchy and very expensive.

13. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, August 22	Rockbridge Hunt <i>Jumping Clinic</i> with Diane Long, The Hunt, Inc.
Saturday, August 22	Work Day!
Saturday, August 29	Work Day!
Saturday, September 12	Work Day!
Sunday, September 13	Volunteers’ Hunt – for members and friends who helped clear trails
Wednesday, September 16	Hunting begins! First day of Autumn Hunting
Sunday, September 27	Rockbridge Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sunday, October 18	Rockbridge Hunt hosts Central Virginia 4 Hunt Weekend with the Glenmore Hunt, the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt, and the Stonewall Hounds
Saturday, November 7	Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds, Broadview (tentative)

14. Other Hunt-related Dates

Sat & Sun, August 29 & 30	Farmington Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Saturday, September 12	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sat & Sun Sept. 19 & 20	Middlebrook Hounds <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Sunday, September 20	Bedford County Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Sweet Briar
Saturday, September 26	Bull Run Hunt <i>Ball</i> at the Pavilion on Lakeland Farm
Sunday, September 27	Rockbridge Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sunday, September 27	Farmington Hunt <i>Hunter Trials</i>
Mon-Sat, October 5-10	Theodora A. Randolph <i>Field Hunter Championship</i> Middleburg
October 15-19	Central Virginia 4 Hunt Weekend (Glenmore Hunt, Oak Ridge Fox Hunt, Rockbridge Hunt, Stonewall Hounds)
Sunday, October 18	Virginia <i>Field Hunter Championship</i> , hosted by Bull Run Hunt
Saturday, October 24	Farmington Hunt <i>Fall Horse Show</i>

Saturday, October 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i>
Sunday, November 1	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Opening Meet</i> at Oak Ridge Estate
Sunday, November 8	Farmington Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 14	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Turkey Trot</i>
Sunday, November 15	Glenmore Hunt Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>

15. 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 2020-2021

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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Broadview Ranch

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