



Rockbridge Hunt NewsHound January 13, 2019

"It's not ethical to hold people to promises made at hunt balls."
Marigold Armitage in *A Long Way to Go*

1. Rockbridge Hunt Ball 2020! Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the Natural Bridge Hotel. Our theme is *Denim & Diamonds* with a relaxed dress code, a lower ticket price, and a wonderful evening of dining, dancing, and socializing. 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 again 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 have hit the mail. If there is someone you'd like to receive an invitation, contact Hugh Brown (brownhh@jmu.edu).

Natural Bridge Hotel. The hotel has rooms reserved at \$69 each for the night of the ball. 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:

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?

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.

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.

If you have items to donate, please contact Hugh Brown, Terry Whitmore or Trish Lyons. The sooner we have your items, the easier it is to get them catalogued and bid sheets prepared. We'd like to have everything by February 1. Thank you for being generous!

We hope to see you at the Denim & Diamonds Ball next month!!

2. Wall Calendars. Louise Golian has produced yet another gorgeous Rockbridge Hunt wall calendar for 2020. They are \$20 each. She will have copies at upcoming events and there are copies at the Tex Tilson Lodge. Thank you Louise!

3. New Year's Party! Special thanks to Erica & Blair Jones for hosting a wonderful New Year's Day hunt breakfast last week! We had 50 members and friends join us for the breakfast and great fun was had by all!

4. Foxhunting Reading Group. The next meeting of the Foxhunting Reading Group will be on Tuesday, January 14. We'll be continuing our discussion on a variety of books on foxhunting in Ireland. 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. Sedgefield Cup 2020. The dates have been set for the 2020 renewal of the Carolinas Foxhound Performance Trial – The Sedgefield Cup – March 27-29. A number of Rockbridge Hunt members are planning to participate again this year. Registration forms and the full schedule will be available soon. Mark your calendar now for an exciting weekend of foxhunting and fellowship in North Carolina!

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. Educational Bits – courtesy of the Education Committee . Hunting Terminology – **Hunt Ball**

Most hunt clubs put on at least one party each year. Generally, the ball is a formal dinner-dance but plenty of local variations exist. Certainly, such functions are mentioned in the Jorrocks stories of R. S. Surtees which were written in the 1850s and 60s. Some of these balls are quite formal but foxhunters are clearly a fun-loving group of people and you are virtually guaranteed to enjoy yourself at every hunt ball.

"I had often tried to analyze this fearful fascination; to work out for myself exactly what the black magic consists of, and I had come to the conclusion that it must be because fox hunting provides, mentally and physically, the perfect form of escapism, the perfect reaction from the dreary twentieth-century myth of Progress and the perfectability of man. To begin with, even before one has got on one's horse, there is the dressing-up in traditional clothes--and anybody that does not enjoy dressing up is fit only for treasons, stratagems and spoils--and not really even for those since he will not enjoy being in disguise."

Marigold Armitage, *A Long Way to Go*

8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, February 8	*Rockbridge Hunt Ball at the Natural Bridge Hotel
Saturday, March 21	Rockbridge Hunt <i>Closing Meet & Cookout</i> – Bring something for the grill!
Wednesday, May 13	Rockbridge Hunt Annual Meeting, 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge

9. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, March 14	Farmington Hunt <i>Closing Meet</i>
Saturday, March 21	Glenmore Hunt <i>Closing Meet</i>
Fri. March 27-Sun. Mar. 29	Carolinas <i>Foxhound Performance Trial</i> , "The Sedgefield Cup"
Saturday, April 11	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Poker Ride</i>

Saturday, April 18	Glenmore Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sat April 18 & Sun April 19	Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace Weekend
Saturday, May 9	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sat May 16 & Sun May 17	Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace Weekend
Saturday, June 20	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Judged Trail Ride</i>
Sat June 20 & Sun June 21	Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace Weekend
Sat July 18 & Sun July 19	Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace Weekend
Sat Aug 15 & Sun Aug 16	Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace Weekend
Saturday, August 29	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Foxhunting Clinic</i>
Saturday, September 12	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i> <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sat Sept 19 & Sun Sept 20	Middlebrook Hounds Hunter Pace Weekend
Saturday, November 21	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Turkey Trot</i>

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.

**Rockbridge Hunt Executive Committee
2019-2020**

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Please Support the Sponsors of the Rockbridge Hunt

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Dover Saddlery

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Southern Inn Restaurant

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