



## Rockbridge Hunt *NewsHound* October 19, 2020

*“A man’s politics are left at home when he enters the hunting field.”*  
~Michael Clayton

### **1. Glenmore Hunt Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds. Saturday, October 24. 10:00 AM.**

We have our annual joint meet at Glenmore Hunt’s Opening Meet on Saturday, October 24. This is always a special occasion. The fixture is the gorgeous Bellevue Farm in Swoope and the time is 10:00AM (slight change from an earlier announcement). Unfortunately, there will be no food or drink served due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19. Plan to bring along any food or drink you would want to have.

**Please let Hugh Brown know by Wednesday, October 21 if you plan to attend the meet on horseback or on foot.**

### **Directions to Bellevue Farm**

I-81: Exit 220 West - Rt. 262 N. Go 4.3 mi. to Rt. 254 West (Parkersburg Turnpike) Exit.  
Go west 4 mi. (through the village of Westview and across the Middle River)  
Turn Left onto Rt. 876 (Swoope Rd.). Go 1.6 mi.  
Turn Right onto Rt. 703 (Hewitt Rd.), Go 1.4 mi. (passing Rt. 876 - Cattleman Rd. and Rt. 706 -N. Mountain Rd.) to the historic red brick house at 1632 Hewitt Rd.  
Fixture on Left.  
There will be Glenmore Hunt signs.

**2. Central Virginia 4 Hunt Weekend.** On Sunday, October 18, the Rockbridge Hunt hosted the 4 Hunt Weekend at Bolen. We had a terrific day – beautiful fall weather, a great chase, and lots of fun and fellowship. There were 41 riders – 16 Rockbridge members and 25 guests. There were nine hunts represented in the field – Chagrin Valley Hunt (OH), Glenmore Hunt (VA), Long Run Woodford Hounds (KY), Oak Ridge Fox Hunt (VA), Red Mountain Hounds (NC), Rockbridge Hunt (VA), Sedgefield Hunt (NC), Sewickley Hunt (PA), and Stonewall Hounds (VA). Our hounds and staff gave us a great chase through our hunt country and our guests seemed delighted. Thank you to everyone who helped put this special meet together for us.

**3. New Members!** We are delighted to announce that we have two new members so far this season. Please welcome Brooks Cushman and Tracy Burton to the Rockbridge Hunt! They have both been out with us several times this season already and are keen foxhunters!

**4. Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds.** Our own Opening Meet will be held on Saturday, November 7 at 2:30 PM. COVID-19 has forced us to make some changes from our usual Opening Meet. First, we’ll be meeting at Broadview this year and we will not be having a stirrup cup before the hunt or breakfast afterwards. We will have our traditional blessing done by Rev. Phillip Parker, father of our own member Joy Watkins. We will still be inviting our good friends from the Glenmore Hunt for this special joint meet. We are looking forward to a fun day with some important adjustments for safety.

**5. Deer Season Blues?** We are working on an antidote for that! Mark your calendar now for Sunday, November 22. We are currently developing a short/slow hunter pace/trail ride at Lucy Turner's farm in the Fairfield area near our West Airlie fixture. The ideal time would be slow, as if on a slow or blank day. The course would be short, maybe 4 miles, with lots of optional jumps, including verticals and logs, plus all kinds of logs on the ground. Great for schooling. Great for getting you and your horse out while we aren't hunting much and before Thanksgiving. More details coming soon!

**6. Are you licensed to Hunt?** If you haven't done so already, please remember to get a new Virginia Hunting License. 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.

**7. New Membership.** 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.

**8. 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.

**9. Hunter Pace Series!** The popular Hunter Pace Series with Oak Ridge and Glenmore hunts is nearly over! There is one last event in this very popular series:

Sunday, November 15          Glenmore Hunt Fall *Hunter Pace* <https://www.glenmorehunt.org/>

**10. Educational Bits** – courtesy of the Education Committee .

Just for fun. A foxhunting joke from The Keen Foxhunter's Miscellany by Peter Holt

**Q:** *How many cubhunters does it take to change a lightbulb?*

**A:** *If you'd laid out your kit the night before, you wouldn't need to worry about the lightbulb.*

## 11. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, October 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet &amp; Blessing of the Hounds</i> , 10 AM
Saturday, November 7	<i>Opening Meet &amp; Blessing of the Hounds</i> , Broadview, 2:30 PM
Sunday, November 22	Hunter Pace/Trail Ride in the Fairfield area

## 12. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, October 24	Farmington Hunt <i>Fall Horse Show</i>
Saturday, October 24	Glenmore Hunt <i>Opening Meet &amp; 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 <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i>
Saturday, November 14	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt <i>Turkey Trot</i>
Sunday, November 15	Glenmore Hunt <i>Fall Hunter Pace</i> <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>
Sunday, November 15	Bedford County Hunt <i>Fall Horse Show</i> , Liberty Equestrian Center

**13. 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.

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