



Rockbridge Hunt NewsHound

April 3, 2023

“In all games or sports we have our ups and downs, our good days and our bad days, and foxhunting is no exception... That is the glorious uncertainty which makes fox-hunting, and particularly hunting a pack of foxhounds, perhaps the most fascinating, thrilling, at times disappointing and bewildering, but on the whole satisfying thing I have done in my life.”

The Earl of Halifax in *The Field* magazine ~1969

1. Hunter Pace! Our very important Derby-Day Hunter Pace is fast approaching – Saturday, May 6 at The Hunt, Inc. You can help in a number of different ways. We’ll be scheduling a couple of work days to get the trails cleared from the winter and spring ice and winds. We’ll need help flagging the course and we’ll need volunteers on the day for start/finish, gate watching, etc. Please consider saying “yes!” when the requests for help start coming out. Liz Hall is coordinating the event, so please contact her if you know you are available to help. Thank you!

2. Annual Meeting! Please mark your calendar for Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc. We will be electing new officers and stewards for the year ahead, voting on the proposed budget for the 2023-24 year, and attending to other matters important to our organization. The nominating committee – Hillery Lester, Mary Ann Jacobsen, and Bob Richardson – are busy putting together a slate of candidates for the officer and steward positions. Members whose dues have been paid in full by the time of the meeting are eligible to vote. Each single hunting membership, each family membership, and each landowner membership has one vote. In order for the Hunt to conduct business, there must be a quorum at the meeting of 20 members present. Family and landowner memberships may have more than one member, and the numbers matter. Our president, Lauren Keating, runs a very efficient meeting and we always have an enjoyable evening discussing the past year and laying the groundwork for the new year. *Please plan to attend!*

3. Save the Date! Rockbridge Hunt Cocktail Party Saturday June 10, at the Tex Tilson Lodge at The Hunt, Inc.

Last year’s 75th anniversary Cocktail Party was such a success that we we’re going to do it again! Terry Whitmore, Annie Lichtenstein and crew are hard at work to make this another memorable occasion. We’ll be watching the Belmont Stakes during the party and there will be a special Belmont Stakes contest. There will also be live & silent auctions. Bring your checkbook!

Silent Auction. If you have items that you would like to donate to the Hunt for the silent auction at the cocktail party, please contact Hugh Brown – brownhh@jmu.edu, 540-290-9868. Thank you!

4. Virginia Foxhound Show. The Glenmore Hunt and Rockbridge Hunt are teaming up again for a joint reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show at Morven Park in Leesburg on Sunday, May 28. This is a very informal event. There will be a tent set up ring-side at the show from 9AM to 4 PM for members and friends to hang out and socialize during the show. A light lunch will be served at noon and the organizers welcome contributions of food – light tailgate items are the order of the day. The Virginia Foxhound Show is a great place to learn about foxhounds. There are separate rings for showing American, English, Crossbred, and Penn-Marydel hounds. This is the largest show of foxhounds in the world and it's right here in Virginia! Hunts from all over the country show their hounds singly and in groups. At noon, there are special junior handlers' classes which are always fun to watch. There are a number of vendors at the show selling hunt clothing, antiques, books and more.

In conjunction with the hound show, The Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America which is housed in the Morven Park mansion will be open and free on the day of the show. There is a large collection of foxhunting memorabilia and art in the museum.

It's a great day out, so please consider joining us in Leesburg on the 28th of May. Bring a chair and a hat for the sun and enjoy a day celebrating our beloved foxhounds.

5. MFHA National Field Hunter Championship. The Masters of Foxhounds Association is currently hosting a series of Field Hunter competitions leading up to a Championship during the Virginia Foxhound Show weekend on Saturday, May 27. Watch for details about the finals here: <https://mfha.com/2022/07/20/the-mfha-field-hunter-championship/>

6. Carolinas Foxhound Performace Trial “The Sedgefield Cup” If you are interested in the final results of the Sedgefield Cup from last month, you can find them here: <http://ptm-new.mfha.com/?event=295> There are tabs for each day of the event and one for the Overall scores.

7. Trail Riding Reminder - 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. Thank you!!

8. Rockbridge Hunt Dates for your Calendar

Saturday, May 6	Derby-Day Hunter Pace & Trail Ride, The Hunt, Inc.
Wednesday, May 10	Rockbridge Hunt <i>Annual Meeting</i> , 7:00 PM, Tex Tilson Lodge
Sunday, May 28	Rockbridge Hunt & Glenmore Hunt <i>Joint Reception at the Virginia Foxhound Show</i>
Saturday, June 10	<i>Cocktail Party featuring the 155th Belmont Stakes</i> , Tex Tilson Lodge
Saturday, July 15	<i>Judged Trail Ride</i> at Broadview

Saturday, September 9	<i>Kick-Off Party</i> , Tex Tilson Lodge
Sunday, September 10	<i>Volunteers' Hunt</i>
Sunday, October 1	Fall <i>Hunter Pace</i> at Goose Creek Highlands Farm - <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>
Saturday, November 4	<i>Opening Meet & Blessing of the Hounds</i> – joint meet with Glenmore Hunt

9. Other Hunt-related Dates

Saturday, April 15	Glenmore Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> https://www.glenmorehunt.org/hunter-pace
Fri & Sat April 21 & 22	Bedford County Hunt Spring <i>Hunter Pace</i> & Trail Ride, Sweet Briar https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=581980483958484&set=pcb.581980580625141
Saturday, May 27, 2023	MFHA National <i>Field Hunter Championship</i> https://mfha.com/2022/07/20/the-mfha-field-hunter-championship/
Sunday, May 28, 2023	Virginia <i>Foxhound Show</i> , Morven Park, Leesburg https://virginiafoxhoundclub.org/hound-show
Saturday, June 10	Glenmore Hunt <i>Murder Mystery Ride</i> https://www.glenmorehunt.org/murder-mystery-ride
Sunday, June 18	Bedford County Hunt Summer <i>Hunter Pace</i> – <i>Hunter Pace Series</i>
Saturday, July 15	Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Summer <i>Hunter Pace</i> - <i>Hunter Pace Series</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
2022-2023

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