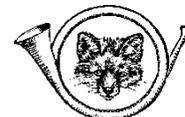


The Babbler

Commonwealth



Foxhounds

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOXHOUNDS

SEPTEMBER 2016

Fall 2016 — Our 34th Season Begins

On September 22nd, the Sun crosses the celestial equator – the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's Equator – from north to south, marking the arrival of fall. We feel it cannot come quickly enough. And it's not only because we're all counting down the days until that first morning hack following our trusty pack of hounds. (Who are we kidding? Of course it is!)

We're looking forward to our 34th season hunting the historic lands of the Northern Neck and Central Virginia. We hope you are, too. The sport, the camaraderie, it all beckons. And it is only possible through the gracious welcome from our landowners. We cannot overstate our appreciation for them. They graciously host us every year and allow us the privilege of riding across their land. As we do every year, we recommit to upholding the highest traditions of foxhunting by respecting them and their property and holding ourselves to the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Before the sport and the traditions can be observed and enjoyed, however, we do have quite a bit of work to

catch up on. We've set aside five Sundays in September and October to clear trails and mend broken jumps, etc., at Woodpecker, Atwilton, Ingleside, and Lawfield.

Please plan to pitch in. Work days can be a fun way to spend time outdoors with family and friends, but more importantly, they permit you to ride more safely when following the hounds on horseback. Work days also provide an opportunity to get to know the terrain and start to discover its nuances.

Need an excuse to shop the sales at the hardware store? Here it is: we need you to bring pole saws, chain-saws, loppers, weed whackers—whatever your favorite tools might be—and be prepared to spend a few hours. Don't forget the hats, gloves, and insect repellent as well. First work day is **September 25** at Woodpecker Farm. Please see the complete calendar on the third page.

It's already the first week of September, meaning that Cub Hunting is only three weeks away. Chores that may

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January 9, 2016 was everything a Winter morning should be—crisp, cold, and just wet enough for great scenting conditions. With Ingleside house as a backdrop, Huntsman Brian Hayes (c), whippers-in (l to r) Mrs. Julie Mitchell, Mrs. Lori Vella, and Mr. Ben Sanchez set out for the day's chase. The joint meet with Maryland's De La Brooke Hounds W did not disappoint.

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still loom include organizing blankets and turnouts to be cleaned and repaired. In the tack room, check the blades on your body clippers for sharpness.

Here are a few more tips to help you prepare for hunting season:

1. Is your horse fit to be ridden at a hunting pace for 2-3 hours?
2. Are YOU fit to ride at a hunting pace 2-3 hours?
3. Is all your tack in good, safe repair? Check your billets, stirrup leathers, reins, bridle and breastplates for signs of wear, age, and loss of strength.
4. Is your hunt clothing in good repair?
5. Is your trailer inspection up to date? You might

also want to inspect the floors, have the wheel bearings packed and greased, the brakes checked, and other general maintenance items of the trailer now, in case it needs repair.

6. Is your towing vehicle in "hauling shape"?
7. Does your horse have a current Coggins test?
8. Do you have a 2016-2017 hunting license? You can renew and pay for your Virginia Hunting License online at: www.dgif.state.va.us. Once you complete the form, you will receive your new license via e-mail as a .pdf document you can print and sign.
9. If you choose to wear an ASTM helmet, is it more than 5 years old? If so, it might need to be replaced!



Help Promote and Preserve Foxhunting

The easiest way is to join the Masters of Foxhounds Association.

Their mission is to promote, preserve and protect the sport of mounted hunting with hounds. They establish and maintain standards of conduct for foxhunting and register eligible foxhounds in a "Foxhound Stud Book" and improve the breed of foxhounds. They maintain the registration of hunts as a preliminary step toward recognition, and record countries and boundaries for organized hunting establishments. And they bestow recognition to organized hunts which have met MFHA standards.

The MFA maintains a website (www.mfha.com) and the MFHA Facebook page. Both have a large amount of information on all aspects of our sport and are devoted to keeping members

informed on current MFHA programs and events and to provide assistance to members, hunts and the general public.

With hunting just a few weeks away, now is a great time to share the MFHA Foundation's Introduction to Foxhunting Guidebook, written by our Executive Director, Lt. Col. Dennis Foster, with friends who are considering riding to hounds for the

first time. The Guidebook, which is online in an easy-to-read format and may also be purchased on the website is a straightforward, illustrated guide covering the basics of our sport without overwhelming a newcomer. In fewer than 50 pages, it covers history, quarry, Foxhunting 101 and 102, basic rules in the field, and insight into the role of the MFHA. Appendices include correct attire and a glossary of hunting terms. Take advantage of this member resource, provided by the MFHA Foundation, and share with potential foxhunters at summer trail rides, clinics, and hunter paces!



Tips for Bringing Guests

We LOVE to have guests come hunt with us! In order to facilitate sharing our sport, below are a few tips for bringing guests out to hunt:

- Contact the Honorary Secretary (Mr. Ben Sanchez) to let him know and to get our "Guide for Guests" booklet.
- Help your friend round up the appropriate attire.
- Be sure that your friend has a Virginia small game hunting license.
- Be sure that your friend has a current Coggins test for their horse.
- **If your guest is a junior, be sure that you get a liability waiver signed ahead of time by their parent or legal**

guardian. Find and print the waiver from the home page of our site: www.commonwealthfoxhounds.org in advance if the parents are not accompanying their child to the meet. Signature by a trainer or friend is not sufficient—our insurance provider emphatically requires that the signature for a minor be that of a parent or legal guardian.

- Introduce your guests to the Masters before mounting, and be sure to also introduce them to the other members in the field so they feel more at home.
- Last but not least, have a GREAT time hunting with your guest, and encourage them to come out hunting with us again!

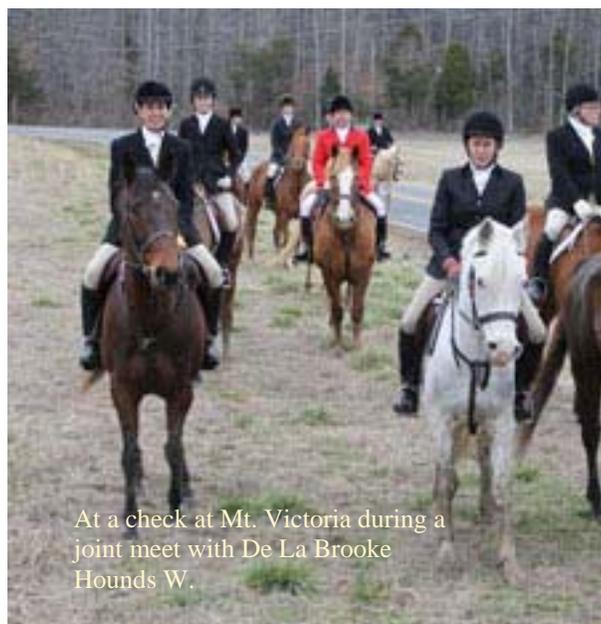


2016 Fall Calendar

Panelling	Sunday	September 25	9 a.m.	Woodpecker Farm
Cub Hunting	Saturday	October 1	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Panelling	Sunday	October 2	9 a.m.	Atwilton Farm
Cub Hunting	Saturday	October 8	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Panelling	Sunday	October 9	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Cub Hunting	Saturday	October 15	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Panelling	Sunday	October 16	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Cub Hunting	Saturday	October 22	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Panelling	Sunday	October 23	9 a.m.	Lawfield
Cub Hunting	Saturday	October 29	9 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation
Opening Hunt	Saturday	November 5	10 a.m.	Ingleside Plantation



The field comes in at the end of another great day for Closing Hunt at Woodpecker Farm.



At a check at Mt. Victoria during a joint meet with De La Brooke Hounds W.

Attire for Cub Hunting

Cub Hunting Season Attire	Boots	Breeches	Vest	Coat	Shirt	Collar	Gloves	Helmet/Hat
Ladies/girls	Brown or Black Field Boots, Dress Boots	Beige, canary, or rust breeches	Optional	Tweed Coat	Conservative White or Colored Riding Shirt	Colored stock tie with gold safety pin worn horizontally.	Chamois, Brown or String	ASTM Helmet, hunt cap, or derby
Gentlemen/boys	Brown or Black Field Boots, Dress Boots	Beige breeches	Optional	Tweed Coat	Conservative White or Colored Riding Shirt	Conservative Tie to match coat.	Chamois, Brown or String	ASTM Helmet, hunt cap, or derby



A tip of the hat to Mrs. Lori Vella for ably snapping the photos used here of our group in action.



Huntsman and whips strategize before the meet.

**Movie Trivia:
The List of Adrian Messenger**

If you love old movies and especially old movies with a foxhunt, you need to watch John Huston’s “The List of Adrian Messenger.” You can order the DVD fairly inexpensively on Amazon.com. It’s a mystery/thriller, so we won’t drop any spoilers.

We can tell you the setup—a writer named Adrian Messenger believes a series of “accidental” deaths are actually linked murders. He asks a friend, played by George C. Scott, recently retired from MI5, to help clear up the mystery. However, Messenger’s plane is bombed, and, with his dying breath, tries to tell a fellow passenger the key to the mystery.

The passenger survives the crash and turns out to be Scott’s counterpart in the French Resistance. They join forces to investigate Messenger’s list of names, and decode Messenger’s final cryptic words.

A good bit of the film takes place at the wealthy estate of the fictional Bruttonholm family, who avidly engages in fox hunting. Hunt and horse lovers alike are treated to several minutes of foxhunting action in two separate sequences (not as much as we’d like, of course). The sequences were filmed in Ireland with a real foxhunt.

Trivia aficionados will be delighted to know that John Huston was a foxhunter. According to news reports, it was 1953, when John went foxhunting in Ireland that he fell in love with the countryside and

moved his family to a 150-acre estate, St. Cleran’s, in County Galway. Huston cast his son, Anthony Huston, in the role of Derek, the murderer’s next intended victim. The boy was allowed to do his own horse riding scenes in the film and Huston later commented (in the Lawrence Grobel biography, *The Hustons*): “There was one thing I was quite proud of. He was to jump a horse over a gate. There was a stuntman who fell twice with his horse. Tony wasn’t at all spooked by that. I knew his pony was good and that Tony was good, or I wouldn’t have let him to do it. And he did it beautifully, without turning a hair.”



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