

Staff

Master of Foxhounds
and Huntsman:
Dr. Rita Mae Brown
540-456-8787

Joint Masters:
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Field Master:
Mrs. Sue Satterfield
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Hilltoppers Master:
Mr. Bob Satterfield

Third Flight Master:
Mrs. Gretchen Robb
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Hon. Whipper-In:
Mrs. Emily Schilling

Hunt Secretary:
Mrs. Lynn Stevenson
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MASTER'S REPORT

A dollar bill was seen on the pavement in Kansas City. Surely, this is a case of public deception proving that you can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time. This is why we have two political parties.

It's doubtful that any of you are fooled by reports that the economy is recovering. Fortunately, hounds neither know nor care and are coming along beautifully. We humans must do our best to protect and care for them in good times and bad.

We are ever looking for ways to save money without compromising the health of our foxes, hounds, horses. For instance, John Morris devised a way to keep hounds cool that did not involve the installation of a large cooling unit. Simple, inexpensive, using only electricity for box fans, his system is working wonderfully well.

"The boys" have also cleaned up all the debris from the storms which littered our huge play areas. Then they, without being told to do so, raked out all old leaves and pine needles.

Even in this brutal heat, our kennels emit little odor.

I am desperate to fence the run I had bulldozed over a year ago but hounds and I must wait until we begin to climb out of this very big hole the leaders of Wall Street and the government has dug for us, each side blaming the other in a display of gross irresponsibility. Hounds would never tolerate what humans do. Can you imagine what would happen if a few hounds stole the food of the rest of the pack?

I'm holding steady on numbers. Slashing pack numbers would undo much of what I have built to date with the hounds' help, of course.

On a sorrowful note, that adorable Oops died in her sleep July 9 after frolicking like a puppy and swimming in the creek the day before. What good years she gave us. Respected by the other hounds, she was a stabilizing force and very helpful to young entry. I know one must accept these losses but we can be grateful that she was a happy hound, able to perform the tasks for which she was bred.

Cubbing begins September 10th, 7:30 AM from the kennels per our club's tradition. This is our nineteenth season. Hot as it is, early fall will be here before you know it.

Hounds look forward to it, staff horses look forward to it, I can't wait and I hope you feel the same.

Up and Over,

Rita Mae

Thank you, Karen Osborne

The Masters wish to thank Karen Osborne for her service to the hounds and the club for the past two years. She started working with hounds in the kennels in the summer of 2008 and quickly stepped in as Professional Whip in March of 2009 when we needed her experience and knowledge.

We hope to see Karen in the hunt field this season when injury-healing, Doctor's orders, and her own good sense will allow.

PROTOCOL

As we are fortunate to have new members, some of whom have never hunted, it might be a good time for review and reminders. In some cases this knowledge has been assumed. Best to write it out.

Here is the order on the field:

First: the fox should s/he care to appear

Second: the hounds

Third: the huntsman

Fourth: the First Flight Field Master

Fifth: First Flight

Sixth: Second Flight Field Master

Seventh: Second Flight

Eighth: Third Flight Field Master, when there is a third flight

Ninth: Third Flight

Special occasions: see a Champagne Flight

The mounted members may be followed by members on foot. Those driving often must find another way around. John Morris, as our wheel whip, is a guide, but should not be intruded upon as he is working, listening, and if help is needed, he is the one called.

Think of foxhunting as a clock face....

the fox is above 12

the hounds are at 12

the huntsman is the center on which the hour and minute hands hinge

the whippers-in ride at 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock

if there are more than two whippers-in, they ride at 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock

the First Flight Field Master rides at 6 o'clock

The above picture represents a perfect hunt. There are times, filled with foul language never heard by the field, when the huntsman is not even on the clock face or the whippers-in are off.

Our territory is demanding. We do pretty well but there are times when the devil intrudes and quite often, in the form of another fox, a coyote, or you name it.

Some of you might note that other hunts use a tail whip. We do not. We haven't felt the need and often Sue Satterfield, our splendid First Flight Master, performs this service. The hounds know who she is, so if she's coming up, they know they'd better boogie on. Occasionally a young entry might need to hear, "Go to her", but usually they go forward without much chat.

WHY OAK RIDGE IS A SPECIAL HUNT

Any new member has one year to assemble their kit. If you see someone not 100% pulled together, you know not to criticize. As mentioned before, this will be our nineteenth season, I have never heard of a new person being subjected to the turnout police. Thank you all for your consideration toward new members.

Thank so many of you for extending yourself to help our new members find clothing at a reasonable price. And for tying people's stock ties in trailer tack rooms or outside, fingers cold. Sometimes you can avoid sticking yourself, sometimes you can't, but thanks to you, that person looks good.

Sooner or later, every new member finds themselves at Mecca, HORSE COUNTRY. Yes, your credit card melts in your hand but I have been in tack stores in England, Germany, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, the back stretch at the Hong Kong track, Japan and all over the U.S. No one even comes close.

GUESTS

We've gotten a little fuzzy about this.

If you are bringing a guest, arrive early, find the Field Secretary. Usually it's Priscilla Friedberg and I don't know how she does it since, in the past, she's had to chase people down.

It is your responsibility to get your guest to her, cap fee paid up and liability waiver signed.

If a guest comes in without an escort, it means they have called one of the masters and permission given. We love to have guests. Whoever has been called, then notifies the Field Secretary of same.

If a guest is the guest of a Master, no cap is required. This is hunting tradition.

An honorary staff member is to pay the cap. Some hunts demand this, some don't. Most honoraries will pay as a courtesy to the host hunt, as everyone knows how much everyone else needs the money in the treasury and cap fees do add up.

If a master waives your fee, do thank them. If once home, you wish to send a check for the hounds, no master will refuse if it is specifically for hounds.

When you go to another hunt, of course, you call the master even if you are sponsored by a member.

As you represent Oak Ridge, your masters will hear from somebody if something is amiss. To date, we have never received a complaint, although there was once an observation that one of our ladies, years ago, did not wear a hairnet. More on that later.

As a guest, you arrive early. Know the cap fee in advance. (One of the reasons you call.) On an envelope write the following:

the date

your name and hunt affiliation

your horse's name

This is a big help to the Field Secretary who each year must give the master, who reports to the MFHA (in Oak Ridge's case, RMB), the number of guests at the end of the season.

For your three masters, it is helpful because we can see what dates and what fixtures were most popular that year.

Writing the name of your horse reaches back to the old days when most foxhunters grew up with Thoroughbreds. Everyone made horses, for the most part, and most everyone had a horse for sale. If someone liked your horse, when you were visiting another hunt, calling the Field Secretary gave them your name and the name of your horse. It's one of those little tidbits which doesn't mean too much any longer, but it's nice to keep the old ways.

On the subject of the hairnet. Long hair, woman or man, wear it. Short hair for a woman is a problem. The hair net balls up on the top of your head about the middle of the first run. You can feel that little knot up there. I have no solution to this feminine problem. Your master always wears a hairnet when she hunts with another hunt and also wears the red dot on the top of her head the next day.

Some masters, such as our beloved Jane Winegardner of Woodford will whisper, "I won't say a word." if she sees short hair. I usually go out with the damn thing anyway because I am a Master and how will it look?

Along with the hairnet is the problem of the slender boot straps, garter straps, in the color of one's boots. They are completely correct but rarely worn because boots do not need to be held up in such fashion. Well, they didn't when I was young either, but as the years have rolled on (and on), so many people dispense with what they find not immediately useful.

I waive them but I am always happy to see them. I wear them on the High Holy Days, but I'll try to build up calluses on my legs and wear them generally. They can cut into you sometimes.

See if you can spot the gentlemen in our field who wear them during formal hunting. Occasionally we have one lady, who always looks like she stepped out of a Nineteenth Century hunting print, wearing them. Hint: she does not hunt with us often.

One other little squiggle about guests. Again, you are responsible for your guest. As you know, our hunt field is unusually quiet which, if you've hunted around, is remarkable on those in-between days when you find a line, lose it, find another a half hour later. How difficult those days are for hounds and they so want to please you. That is when quiet is most essential and that's when other fields begin babbling. Ours does not and all hunt staff are so grateful for this hewing to the line.

When you're on a good run, no one has time to talk.

Most of your guests may feel compelled to visit on those in-between days. What are you to do? You and our members have no wish to be rude. It's a real pickle. I have no answer except to gently tell them before pushing off that we do like a quiet field.

If anyone has any ideas, tell us.

Recycling

OIL SPILL

If you have burnt diesel oil or burlap bags, we can use it. We spill/pour the burnt diesel oil on burlap bags, tie them near the base of a tree. The fox rubs all over it and it helps kill external parasites. As most of you know, once the cubs are big enough, we go back to putting a little wormer in their food boxes to clear out the internal parasites. Hope you have noticed how good our foxes look. I saw one with mange, way up on 151, near 250 at twilight in a pasture. If we can trap a mangy fox, and it's not far gone, we can cure it. Sure hope we don't see him in our territory. If you do have burnt diesel oil (must be diesel oil) or burlap bags, call the hunt line: 540-456-8787.



GIVE US YOUR POOR, YOUR TIRED, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES

As most of you know, this is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. She remains an impressive lady, I never tire of seeing her. Usually she's below me as I look down from the air, but other times I've seen her from the ferry. Moving as that inscription is, I always thought it would be great copy for a Maidenform ad. Speaking of giving, if anyone has an old horse trailer, no longer roadworthy, consider donating it to the club. I can make a kennel out of it and I can use more than one, should they be available. Those of you who have seen Herb's Run have seen the useful adaptation. Since it appears that the kennel addition is in the mists of the future, these will help us tremendously. Thanks for thinking of hounds. If your poor and tired trailer has a name, we'll name the run after it or you. Okay, so it's not a new building at UVA but our hounds are showing good sport whereas the UVA football team, well, best left unsaid.

BED RAILS



Yes, that's right, bed rails. If you have old bed frames or any bits of long steel anything, we can use it to make gates for the kennels. Bo Truslow, a welder before a whipper-in, can take the pieces of chain link fence RMB has saved and make sturdy, long-lasting gates, but we need good metal to create the frame. Laugh, I rarely toss anything that might be useful and the pieces of chain link fall in that category. Sooner or later, a use becomes apparent or someone appears who can make it work. Call 540-456-8787. Call if you have anything else: fencepost, good fence boards, lumber (for condos). We are endlessly creative, but we need Good Fairies. That doesn't sound right, does it?

Saturday, August 28
 "Denims and Diamonds"
 The Carriage House at Oak Ridge Estate

It's an enjoyable venue of cocktails, dinner, casino gaming, and dancing. Won't you please join us for a fun filled evening that will also benefit The American Cancer Society. If you cannot join us, but would like to make a contribution, there will be a Memory/Honorarium Wall, where for \$25, you can have someone's name posted. Please join in the fun while supporting a very worthwhile organization.

Tickets are \$60/person and can be purchased through Lynn Stevenson.

THOUGHTFULNESS

Neither David nor Bob nor I care if you carry a cell phone. Turn it off. Don't carry it like tack. Put it inside your coat. It's one more thing to break your ribs.

On the subject of David, Bob and myself. One master speaks for all masters most especially in the field. Our foremost concern is a good hunt and a safe hunt.

Another thought about field protocol: A member who is senior usually rides in the front, if they so desire, as do members with colors. Senior means just what you think it does: they've been in the hunt a long time and are no longer a spring chicken. Think of them and myself as a winter chicken.

If a master is riding, but not in a staff position, you wouldn't want to pass him or anyone with colors unless you've been out some time and your horse can keep up and theirs cannot. Obviously, you'd be on a Thoroughbred.

Juniors ride at the rear, but again as the hunt progresses and people fall back, the junior is within his or her rights to pass them. If someone still has plenty of horse, the junior needs to stay behind that person.

If anyone passes the Field Master it's a Cardinal Sin. If you pass the Huntsman, we will call the Maryland State Police and pray for your welfare.



FEEDING PROGRAM



For years staff at Oak Ridge and other hunts has observed renal failure in older hounds. We were told it is common to foxhounds.

Our former whipper-in, now retired, Mrs. Mary Tattersall O'Brien, M.D., worked in a dog lab during med school. She alerted me to the fact that she believed this was due to dog foods using additives, etc.

John Morris took it upon himself to find a better food, one made locally. If we have any questions about ingredients, we can drive to the company.

He found one. For the last 1 ½ years, we have been using this Virginia food and have not had one case of renal failure. We all find this remarkable and heartening.

Enough time has passed that I can recommend this food to anyone with confidence. It comes with various protein percentages. The work your canine must perform (or not) will determine what you feed.

The company is:

Chestnut Mountain
557 Vineyard Road
Concord, Va. 24538
434-993-2556

It is available at Ashley's. We buy in bulk from:

David Campbell, proprietor
434-361-2261

Whether you try this brand or not, allow me to preach. When you read the ingredients of your dog food, if the very first ingredient listed is not some kind of meat, or just meat, do not feed your best friend that food.

If you think of it, thank John for his efforts on behalf of our wonderful hounds.

A Few notes from our Third Flight Master:

One of the most important is to be on time...do not be late. In Germany, if a train is scheduled to depart at 9:00 am, if you arrive at 9:01 am, the train is gone. Being late is disruptive to the entire hunt.

Be sure your stirrups are adjusted to the proper length, your girth and pad are on securely, and all your leathers are in good condition. This is no longer a trail ride, this is the real McCoy...a fox hunt. You must be able to walk AND trot downhill on a controllable horse. These rules are for your safety and enjoyment, as well as your fellow hunters. And speaking of a controllable horse, please keep at least one horse's length between you and the rider in front of you. This will hopefully prevent a usually non-kicking horse from learning to kick out, as well as keeping you and your horse from being kicked.

Lastly, talking in the hunt field is disruptive to the huntsman and the hounds. Please save your conversations for the enjoyable tailgate afterwards.

OAK RIDGE HUNT CLUB ~ FALL HUNTER PACE 2010

~ Saturday, September 4th, 2010 ~
rain date ~ Sunday, Sept. 5

Join us at The beautiful and historic Cherry Hill Farm
Nelson County, Virginia



Fun for everyone ~ english - western - young - and old!
Each year, Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club, offers the opportunity to ride over some of Virginia's most beautiful hunt country during our annual Hunter Pace! A Hunter Pace is a competitive trail ride designed to closely match the excitement of the Foxhunt. The competitors complete a set course trying to match an unknown time. The closest team to the optimum time is the winner for that division. This year our members are planning a wonderful course that will allow you to enjoy our beautiful countryside at Cherry Hill Farm. The course is approximately 8 miles with the opportunity for fast and slow teams with 10-12 jumping efforts (and go-arounds for those who wish not to jump).

The Hunter Pace will benefit the Hounds of the OAK RIDGE FOX HUNT CLUB

Registration begins at 9:00 – and will end at noon. Have your Entry, release and Coggins ready.

\$35 entry fee (\$25 for Juniors) includes lunch. Non-riders can purchase lunch for \$5.

Three divisions: Hill Topper, Second Flight, First Flight/Full Cry

“Building Confidence for Fox Hunters and Trail Riders”

Bryan Neubert Horsemanship Clinic

Friday, September 17 • Saturday, September 18 • Sunday, September 19

Presented by Rockfish Farms in Waynesboro, Virginia

Keep yourself safe in the hunt field and learn valuable techniques for horse and rider!

- Stop a horse when you need him to stop
- Open and close gates more efficiently
- Calm your horse before the hunt
- Prepare for unanticipated trail obstacles
- Slow down a big motor and “no whoa”
- Stand quietly during checks
- Stand still while you mount
- Trailer Load, Tie Up without pulling back

Bryan Neubert has started and prepared horses for trail, show and performance using skills learned from noted horsemen Ray Hunt, Bill Dorrance and Tom Dorrance. Bryan has been featured in many equestrian publications and travels the United States/Canada sharing lessons learned from the horse. Space is limited so register early. Auditors welcome.

Register, Information, Questions: Kevin Freed (540-241-1301, rockfishfarms@yahoo.com)

(Referrals, questions: contact Pattie Boden (phboden@hotmail.com))