

Staff

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

Joint Masters:
Mr. David Wheeler
434-977-1563

Mr. Rpbert Satterfield
434-361-1696

Field Master:
Mrs. Robert Satterfield
434-361-1696

Hilltoppers Master:
Mr. Robert Satterfield

Third Flight Master:
Mrs. Ed Robb
540-456-8347

Hon. Whippers-In:
Mr. Stuart Jones
Mrs. Judy L. Pastore
Mrs. Harriet (Dee) Phillips, PhD
Mrs. Ryan Schilling
Mr. Bo Truslow

Hunt Secretary:
Mrs. W.H.G. Stevenson, III
434-361-2331

Master's Report

You've seen paintings of St. Francis preaching to the animals. I've preached to the foxes. They don't listen. Perhaps they recognize I'm not a saint.

I also note that with St. Francis poverty was a success. Not with me, nor with Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club.

Foxes dash over the home fixture. We hope they are strong and healthy at our other fixtures. As you know, on two of our faraway fixtures, beautiful places, our foxes are slowly making a return after being either killed by coyote or trapped out. We are not the only club to have suffered from trappers two years ago, a bit less last year. When the price of fox pelts goes up, out come the fellows with their dreadful traps.

Thanks to the management at Tea Time, Oak Ridge, Foxden, and Cherry Hill we have been able to protect our friends. Some of our other fixtures are at such a distance, we just can't monitor them as we wish. But no matter how far, we do put out kibble at the end of the summer with wormer to clean out the parasite loads from our older foxes and from the youngsters, now old enough for the meds. If you noticed when you viewed: healthy, good coats.

Today the heat index is 110°F. Like those deep cold spells, this won't last but so long. Sure wears you out though, doesn't it? John takes the hose, runs water on the floor of the two kennels so there's some standing. With the fans blowing over the water, it cools down the sleeping areas. Mostly, the hounds dig holes in the dirt and spread out to sleep during the day, coming in at night. A few just stay in the pond, heads resting on the banks.

When it is this hot, we don't work the hounds nor the horses. And we take off about noon. Keeps everyone from heat stroke or peevish growling.

The first day of cubbing is Friday, September 9, as always, at the kennels and most likely 7:30 AM. At seven weeks away, give or take a day, cubbing will be here before you know it. Staff is legging up horses, the hounds are in school except when terribly hot as noted, and we humans are airing out coats, repairing boots, waiting for a few more weeks to pass before haunting the second-hand shops or just throwing caution to the wind and going to Horse Country. I'm always intrigued by what fabrics Marion will choose for bye day coats.

A reminder which old hands know: you can cub in a polo or shirt so long as it isn't red. However, given the nature of our territory, you will endure scratches, thorns and other irritants. I usually wear a slat sack for those first warm early mornings. For on thing, if I don't, the blood always drips on my good breeches. However, some of you may like the Dalmatian look. Ok, by me.

**IMPORTANT
DATES**

Cubbing Begins
Friday September 9

Opening Hunt
Sunday November 6

The youngsters impress and the middle of our pack is now very strong. About three couple of fabulous stalwarts will be retired after the first week or two of cubbing. John, Toot, and Melvin pick them up when they fall behind usually after the first hour. They love this so, I don't have the heart to deny them their last hunts, but I also don't want the youngsters coming back to them when they lag, hence the pick up. Some of you over the years may notice those faces in the hound truck before the hunt is over. It's my gift to the old ones, as well as myself, for I have loved them, in some cases for twelve years, and I believe they have returned the emotion. Then comes the task of finding retirement homes since they've earned the right to flop on the sofa and eat bonbons.

You may raise your eyebrows, twelve years? Yes. If you look on your hound list you'll see those entry years, which is always after one year of puppy hood, so add a year for the correct age. Our feeding and exercise program keeps them keen, fit, and bright eyed. Oak Ridge prides itself on our kennel practices. It's one of the reasons we get so many useful years and it works for people, too.

As we continue on, I expect the cutoff will be closer to nine or ten years of age depending on the hound. The reason for this is we go a bit faster each year, weather permitting. If the scent's not there, not much you can do. If it is, fasten your seat belt.

As always, I encourage you to hunt with other hunts. We are surrounded by good hunts, good staffs, and very different territories. And this year we again have Virginia Hunt Week, 15 October to 30 October, 2011 (odd years) which is a most inexpensive way to appreciate the variety and high quality of central Virginia foxhunting.

Here's hoping you are well, your horses are sound and you're looking forward to September 9 as much as I am.

Up and Over,

Rita Mae

Your Mounted Survival Kit

- 1 – cotton or linen handkerchief
- 2 – band aids (1 regular size, 1 large size)
- 1 – pocketknife
- 1 – rawhide strip (12" +/-, a bit thicker than a shoe lace)
- 1 – pocket flask or flask attached to your saddle. For ladies this is a square leather box with a small flask inside and a small sandwich box.

Staff should all carry wire cutters. Field masters may wish to assign some field members to carry wire cutters.

If you are allergic to say bee stings, obviously carry your kit. Tell the person riding next to you, just in case.

Hunt Ball 2012

Karen Maskew would like to request feedback on Hunt Ball auction items. If anyone would care to provide a summary of their adventures resulting from an activity they won at the Hunt Ball silent auction in 2010 (i.e., the foxhunting trip to Ireland; the balloon ride; the kayak trip at VA Beach; B&B in Madison VA near Montpelier; the carriage ride through Lexington, VA; the Ghost Walk tours in Charlottesville), and if there is any desire to see certain merchandise repeated at our upcoming Hunt Ball in March 2012.

Please send feedback to karen_maskew@yahoo.com

**OAK RIDGE FOX HUNT CLUB
FALL HUNTER PACE 2011**

Saturday, September 3rd, 2011

Rain Date – Sunday September 4th

~ The beautiful and historic Cherry Hill Farm ~
Nelson County, Virginia

Fun for everyone ~ english - western - young - and old!

Divisions:

First Flight / Full Cry: For those seeking a very fast pace and the thrill of what fox hunting is really like. Jumps not exceeding 3', winner will be based on the average time.

Second Flight: For riders who enjoy a challenging ride. Jumps are optional. Winner will be based on the average time.

Hill Topper: A relaxed and leisurely stroll through our hunt country. No jumps. Winner will be based on the average time.

Times: Ride start times are between 9:00AM to 12 Noon.

Fees: \$35.00 per adult rider & \$25.00 per junior (under 18) rider. Make checks payable to Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club

Full Details available at

<http://www.oakridgefoxhuntclub.com/events/2011ORFHCFallHunterPace.doc>

Other Upcoming Events

Labor Day Hunter Show
BrookHill Farm

SWVHJA & VHSA
Monday, September 5
<http://www.brookhillfarminc.com>
434-906-5049
Lynne.brookhillfarm@gmail.com

Paul Dietz Clinic
Toad Hollow Farm

2 Sessions
October 21-23; October 22-24
To register or for more information call 434-825-7082 or email phboden@hotmail.com

MASTER'S DUTIES – Oak Ridge Hunt

The general duties of a Master are outlined in Wadsworth's invaluable pamphlet. A thumbnail sketch is that a Master is responsible for all aspects of the hunt, including landowner relations, keeping the country open and paneled, seeing that county and state laws concerning kennels are in order, and most importantly and often most trying, keeping the hunt financially afloat. Oak Ridge Masters share these responsibilities, but each Master has specific areas of focus as well, as described below.

Rita Mae Brown

Everything to do with hounds, including hunting them, feeding and caring for them, training them, breeding new ones, and drafting them in and out as needs dictate.

Providing a home for the kennels and all associated storage buildings. Also, providing for the various deliveries of food and other supplies needed for the hounds.

Providing transportation for hounds and staff horses to and from meets.

Construction and maintenance of main kennels, including hound runs and fencing.

Hiring and firing of all hunt staff, professional and amateur, including the training of same.

Work closely with the Hunt Secretary on club business.

Rita Mae as Huntsman is always busy before and after meets with the hounds. Please wait until the tail gate to chat with her.

Bob Satterfield

Make sure that there are appropriate flight leaders for each hunt and have the fields ready to move off when hounds arrive.

Recruit and develop new Field Masters for each of the flights.

Help Masters and members recruit new members – this is everybody's job.

Work with David to coordinate trail clearing, jump building, and fixture development.

Work with David and club members to coordinate social activities, including the Hunt Ball, Opening Hunt Breakfast, and other special hunt breakfasts, as appropriate.

Organize and lead Summer Rides to keep members involved and horses and riders fit.

Coordinate fund-raising activities to help support the annual operating budget.

Serve as a contact person for members and guests with questions or issues with an attempt to reduce RMB's load in this area.

David Wheeler

Manage all of the club's financial matters.

Develop with the other Masters an annual budget.

Pay the bills for hounds and staff and other club needs.

Prepare and track the bills for club member dues.

Collect and account for all club-related revenues.

All dues payments should be sent to David at 211 4th Street, Charlottesville, Va., 22902.

Coordinate and disseminate information to club members about hunt safety and hunt etiquette and attire.

Work with Bob to coordinate trail clearing, jump building, and fixture development.

Work with Bob and club members to coordinate social activities, including the Hunt Ball, Opening Hunt Breakfast, and other special hunt breakfasts, as appropriate.