

Good Luck Hunt Night Riders

Wishing our Warrenton Hunt Night participants the best of luck this Sunday!

Show info here: WarrentonHorseShow.com

GOOD LUCK!

Proper Hunting Attire

With our Autumn hunting season about to begin, it seemed like a good time to go over proper turn out. Below is a quick summary to answer most questions. Further details can be found in the BRH Handbook.

Turn out can be complicated for those that are dedicated. The more you learn, the more questions you have. Remember that you can always ask the Field Secretary or a Master if you're unsure.

Proper Hunting Attire:

- **Formal Hunting Attire for Men Awarded BRH Colors:** Scarlet frock with BRH hunt buttons and BRH colors on the collar, white breeches, white stock, canary vest, black dress boots with brown tops, brown gloves, and black helmet.
- **Formal Hunting Attire for Women Awarded BRH Colors:** Black or navy hunt coat with BRH hunt buttons and BRH colors on the collar, tan breeches, white stock, canary vest, black dress boots with black patent leather tops, brown gloves, black or navy helmet based on coat color.
- **Formal Hunting Attire for Men Not Awarded BRH Colors:** Black hunt coat, tan breeches, white stock, canary, black dress boots (without tops), brown gloves, black helmet.
- **Formal Hunting Attire for Women Not Awarded BRH Colors:** Black or navy hunt coat, tan breeches, white stock, canary, black dress boots (without tops), brown gloves, black or navy helmet based on coat color.
- **Ratcatcher (Informal Hunting Attire) for Men:** Tweed coat, colored stock with ratcatcher or dress shirt with tie, tan, canary, or rust breeches, tattersall vest, brown field boots, brown gloves, brown helmet.
- **Ratcatcher (Informal Hunting Attire) for Women:** Tweed coat, colored stock with ratcatcher or dress shirt with tie, breeches in tan, canary, or rust, tattersall vest, brown field boots, brown gloves, brown helmet.

Other Things to Note:

- In early September, a polo or button down shirt and half chaps are acceptable. No t-shirts! And please remember that red polos are for staff only.
- Prior to Opening Meet, ratcatcher attire is appropriate on all hunting days.
- After Opening Meet, formal hunting attire is expected on Saturdays and holidays. Ratcatcher is appropriate on weekday and non-holiday hunts.



BULL RUN BABBLINGS

September 2023



Above: Elegant's puppies relaxing on a Sunday. PC: Jessa McCartney

From The Archives

Originally printed in the September 2002 BRH Newsletter

The Skillful Field Master

By Joe Kincheloe, MFH

A skillful field master must have a thorough knowledge of his hunt territory and a good working relationship with his huntsman. It is important for him/her to keep a proper distance from the huntsman, but near enough not to lose him and the hounds when they are in hot pursuit of a fox. Never try to outguess the huntsman. Nine times out of ten, he will be right, you will be wrong, and the fox will be turned off in a different direction than was intended. The field master should not use his radio excessively, yet enough to keep in touch with the huntsman. Ultimately, it is the fields master's responsibility to look after his members, show them good sport, but most of all, not get lost from the huntsman and hounds.

To lead the first field, the field master should always have a fit horse that does not refuse fences. You are the leader and set the example. You should keep your field together at all times. If a member of the field needs to leave, he/she should ask permission from the field master. The field master will know which direction the hounds are headed and will let you know when it is ok for you to go so you do not get in their way or disrupt scent.


The late Erskine Bedford of the Piedmont Foxhounds was the best field master that I have had the privilege to follow. If he, for whatever reason, could not keep up with the hounds, he would tell the field to go ahead. If he approached a hill, he would always ride to the top with the field so they could enjoy watching the hounds work.

If you are interested in leading the field as a field master, please let me know. I especially need someone to lead second field. This group is just as important as first field. You will need a thorough knowledge of the hunt country and the location of the gates, which are usually fewer than jumps. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Hunter Paces

Congratulations to BRH members  Alexa Adams and Meri Wade for their Full Cry win at Keswick's Summer Hunter Pace. Congratulations also due to Kelly Gannon and Amy Grieves for winning the Hill Topper division. Bull Run's Fall Hunter Pace will be held Sunday, September 24th at Highlands. [Online registration is open](#). Sign up early to reserve your preferred time. Please contact Andy Stahling with any questions. (804)784-2222

Dues Reminder


Reminder that the first half of membership dues are due the first day of cubbing, September 5th this year. They are due in full by October 15th. This in accordance with Bull Run Hunt Rules & Regulations. In the past, Opening meet was used, but we are switching back to October 15th for clarity and to align with the club policies. Of course, if you've made prior arrangements with the membership committee, please disregard the above information.

Fox FAQs



September 17th is "National Fox Day!" So take a little extra time to look around and you may just get a "TALLY HO"! It might also be Lindsay Robbin's birthday *wink wink*

Bottle Report

The bottle report will be on summer hiatus. Unless we have some unusually exciting trail rides or horse shows, in which case, please feel free to submit your entertaining tales. bullrunhuntva@gmail.com 

Puppies Have Been Named!

Thank you to the Bauers for hosting a lovely evening at their farm for members and land owners. It was a great night to socialize and catch up with everyone before the season starts. The highlight of the evening was the annual puppy naming auction. We had two litters, four each, of NI and PE names.

Thank you to everyone who helped name the puppies. All of the funds raised that evening have gone directly to new GPS collars to keep those cute, little buggers safe out hunting.



September 2023

Mark Your Calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Warrenton Hunt Night		Autumn Hunt Begins!	First Responder's Dinner			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
National Fox Day						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fall Hunter Paces						

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
		Hosting TRFHC				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Membership Dues Due		Hosting VA Hunt Week				JR Meet
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						Opening Meet
29	30	31				
		Halloween				

Tips for Proper Hunting

Borrowed with permission from Rachel's Riding Closet

Here are 12 easy rules to follow to help you become a "Proper" hunter that don't include having "perfect" turnout

1. Arrive to the meet EARLY. Not on time, not late, EARLY. Tacking up at home will ensure that you have not forgotten your tack and you will have plenty of time to warm up and get your horse mentally prepared for the day ahead. When you're late, there is a chance you can ruin the day of hunting when trying to play catch up with the field.
2. Say good morning to staff, masters, field masters, and especially landowners that may be at the meet to see the hunt off.
3. Make way for staff and hounds quickly. Make sure the riders ahead of you are aware that they need through. The hounds and staff need to be able to quickly and safely make their way through the field of riders if need be. Turn your horse's hind end away from passing hounds and staff. I guarantee you, there is no worse hunting sin than to kick a hound.
4. Allow the horse in front of you enough space to safely do their job and not have to reprimand your horse for getting too close. Horses have legs, they can kick. Do not expect someone to tolerate you running into their mount. If you cannot hold your horse, work on that at home with your trainer and evaluate your bit choice. Don't be afraid to speak up if the rider behind you is not respecting your horse's space!
5. Call out potential dangers to riders in front and behind you loudly enough to be heard, but not so loudly you interfere with the hounds. Holes, low branches, loose horses, bees, etc should be made known to fellow riders.

6. Keep the conversations to a minimum. Wait until you are back at the hunt tea to discuss vacation plans, your awful coworker, etc. Unnecessary talking is distracting to the hounds and staff and is just plain irritating to field members that want to hear the hounds work.
7. Stop to fix any rails or jumps you may have broken. Close any gates you go through. Alert someone immediately if something needs fixed that cannot be done by hand so that it can be fixed after the hunting day has concluded. This is incredibly important when riding through/around fields that hold livestock.
8. Make sure you say thank you, smile, and wave to any car followers who stop to help the hounds and field cross roads safely. When you are crossing said road, do so quickly and wave, smile, and say thank you to cars that are being held up on the road as you cross. Wave, smile, and say thank you/good morning to landowners who are outside while you cross their property.
9. DO NOT ride on crops. Stay to the headlands.
10. If you notice your horse is tired, take them in before they are exhausted or drop back to a non-jumping/slower field. Use your best horsemanship and save your horse for the rest of the season. Always ask your field master before hacking in or dropping back a field. Someone else may be ready to hack in with you if you're vocal about needing to head back to the meet.
11. If you arrive back at the meet before the rest of the hunt, make sure that you leave enough coffee and snacks for those who have stayed out the entire day. Do not take things you did not bring to the tea back home with you if nobody else has returned!
12. TAKE YOUR MANURE HOME WITH YOU! Do not clean out your trailer at the meet. Bring a muck tub or wait until you are home to clean out your trailer. If you do not want your manure and shavings, the landowner certainly does not!



If you have ever had a question about anything hunt related, please send it in to Miss. Appropriate.

Dear Ms. Appropriate: With the Autumn season fast approaching, I was hoping you could explain what a "ratcatcher" actually is and where the name comes from.



-Cubbing Queen

Dear Queen: "Ratcatcher" is a collared, button down shirt with a secondary, detachable collar. The term comes from the uniform worn by those in the vermin control profession during the 18th/19th century. Their uniform included a tweed cap and coat, a collarless shirt with a neckerchief, and breeches with gaiters to prevent rodents from running up their legs inside their trousers. Grooms and agricultural workers, whose duties included the control of vermin in their grain bins wore, also wore this type of outfit, bringing the "Ratcatcher" to the hunt field.

-Ms. A.

Submissions?

If you have an article, bottle report, advertisement, photo, or question for Miss A that you'd like included in next month's newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!

Submissions are due by Sept 20th and can be submitted to Jessa at 603-479-6006 (text preferred) or bullrunhuntva@gmail.com.

The next newsletter will be released on October 1st.