



**Summer Trail Rides
Turned
Mounted Hound Walks**



BULL RUN BABBLINGS

July 2023

Hopefully everyone has been enjoying this summer's trail ride series so far.

We will be switching to mounted hound walks (MHW) Wednesdays and Saturdays starting on July 12th and running through August 5th, weather permitting. All MHWs will begin at 8:30 and go from the kennels. MHWs are a great way to introduce green horses to the hounds and ensure that they can ride in a group. It's also a good way to start getting horses and riders back into shape before Autumn hunt begins. This is the time when staff begins training puppies to be familiar with horses, work on hound and staff horse fitness.

The new schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, July 1st Trail Ride at The Preserve
- Wednesday, July 12th, MHW
- Saturday, July 15th, MHW
- Wednesday, July 19th, MHW
- Saturday, July 22nd, MHW
- Wednesday, July 26th, MHW
- Saturday, August 5th, MHW
- Wednesday, August 30th Moon Light Trail Ride

Trail Rides: \$20 adults, \$10 under 18 y/o
MHW: 22/23 Members in good standing free.
Guests \$20/horse.

Waiver, helmet, and current coggins required for both events.

Guests welcome at both events.

Please check the monitor or calendar before handing out in case of changes.



From The Archives

Many members think of summer as the off season, but for staff, it's probably more busy than hunt season. Hound walking, puppies, exercising horses, trail clearing, and all of those little projects you thought of during hunting and put off until the "off season".



Six-A.M. daily exercise, Mon-Sat, all hot, sticky summer long. Grosvenor, Carol Nettles, Eileen Barney, John Moore, Gordon Smith, Frank McClendon, and Doug Morris prepared our hounds and new entry for the upcoming season. Here, they're coming back from a peacock tour at the Home Farm. The hounds' names, left to right, are...



Puppy tug-o-war and keep-away.



Above: Kits at play. PC: Clay Chase

Dirty Kitten Gravel Race

The **5th annual** gravel grinder, co-hosted by Dirty Kitten Productions and Bull Run Hunt, will run on July 29th-30th.

The DKGR course is 100% unpaved with the majority of the terrain being secluded gravel farm roads, as well as some dirt/grass double-track sections. The roads vary from smooth, groomed sections to rough, choppy, bumpy areas with the possibility of some mud if there is rain. DKGR 4.0 is a two-day event. The 80 and 60 mile races will take place on Saturday. The 20 and 40 mile races will take place on Sunday. Each distance will have a separate starting field.

This is an enormous event and takes an army of volunteers to make it successful. We are looking for volunteers both on course and at check in. These are four hour shifts AM/PM on Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rosie Campbell at (540)272-5237.

And remember your sun block and bug spray!



For more info: DirtyKittenGravel.com

Board Updates

We are very excited to welcome Rosie Campbell, ex-MFH back to the Bull Run Hunt Board of Directors! Rosie will be joining the board as the Vice President. Mark Mitchell will continue as President, and Kristi Clore has accepted the role as Honorary Secretary. Davera Ackenbom has agreed to serve as Field Secretary again this season, and Laurel Moore will continue in her role as Treasurer.

Bottle Report

We made it through three horse shows without a single unplanned dismount, but a few the small ponies (closer to hell as I always say) gave their little riders some stops, spooks, and bucks, resulting in a few sand angels in the arena at the last show. Due to their age, they will remain anonymous. And please expect juice boxes instead instead of the traditional bottle.

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Tech Talk @BullRunHunt

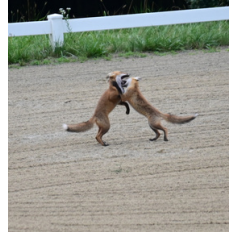
MFHA has recently added a "Policies & Guidelines" section to their website filled with all kinds of helpful handouts. All foxhunters are encouraged to be familiar with "Introduction to Foxhunting" and "Rider Down" at a minimum. But there are quite a few insightful reads you may find helpful. These are available to everyone on their public facing page. Friendly reminder that all members of active hunts are strong encouraged to join MFHA. They added quite a few membership levels last year, so there is one to fit everyone's needs! Membership includes access to Covertside, another great read!



MFHA
MFHA.com

Fox FAQs

Have you seen any kits venturing and playing? Kits will start to venture out of the den after about a month. However, they will stay with the vixen for about seven months. Usually around late summer or early fall, they will officially leave the den and



venture off on their own. Females will often stay close to where they were born. Male foxes have been known to go up to 150 miles from their birth place.



July 2023

Mark Your Calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Trail Ride Location at The Preserve
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Mounted Hound Walk	13	14	15 Mounted Hound Walk
16 Hunt Night Practice	17	18	19 Mounted Hound Walk	20	21	22 Mounted Hound Walk
23	24	25	26 Mounted Hound Walk	27	28	29 Bike Race Mounted Hound Walk
30 Bike Race	31					

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Mounted Hound Walk	3	4	5 Mounted Hound Walk Summer Party
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Moon Light Trail Ride	31		

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

Dear Ms. Appropriate: Now that hunt season is over, I want to start getting my horse out to local horse shows. I work very hard to make sure I am turned out correctly in the hunt field. I know hunter shows are based on foxhunting and traditional attire but how do I know what is proper tack in the show ring? Where can I find the rules to make sure my horse is turned out correctly?
-Worried I'm Improperly Turned Out

Dear Worried: Good question! While the hunter divisions are based in traditional foxhunting and much of the turnout is similar to foxhunting as we know it, showing hunters has taken on a life of its own. Hunters and jumpers often show together, but rules do differ. Below pertains to hunters.

While flat tack is preferred out hunting, you likely won't see much of it in the show ring. Most horses in the ring wear raised bridles and martingales with fancy stitching. While showing in flat tack isn't against the rules, there are some types of tack that are not allowed. Breastplates and standing martingales are acceptable. However, running martingales are strictly forbidden in hunters divisions. Bits such as pelhams, snaffles and full cheek bridles are as old as foxhunting and are the most common bits seen in the hunter ring. Bits known as three ring gags or "elevators" are illegal for showing. Only traditional nosebands are allowed on bridles; drop nose, figure-eight or flash nosebands are illegal. At least saddle pads remain the same; it is best to go with a fitted fleece or sheepskin pad and leaving the square pads in the schooling ring.

It is hard to keep track of rules, and they do sometimes change. The best way to make sure you are following the rules is to ask an experienced friend. You always ask with the show steward once you arrive to the show. Most schooling shows are friendly and are happy to have someone new who is interested in showing! The rules that govern hunters can be found in the USEF Hunter Division Rulebook. The VA Horse Shows Association also has a rule book online. Our local horse show organization, Battlefield Horse Show Association also has a rulebook published online here.

Last but not least, clean horses and well-fitting tack is important. Just like in the hunt field, your horse should be shiny and well-groomed with a neatly pulled. Remember, you are being judged from the second you step into the ring, so make sure you look like a million bucks – even if your horse doesn't exactly go around like you spent a million bucks (yet)! Turn out is often used to decided the winner when all other things are equal.

-Ms. A.

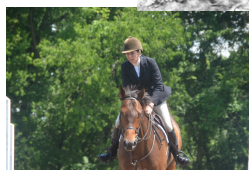
Horse Show Updates

June was a busy month for the horse show committee. The second jumper show was hosted on June 3rd, and the second hunter show on June 25th. Both shows were a success with good weather, great competitors and delicious food from Messy Bun Bites and Try Fabulous Food food trucks.



Congratulations to all of our competitors! And thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors. It was a tremendous show series.

June 3rd Photos by E. Berkery Photos
June 25th Photos by Shamrock Studios



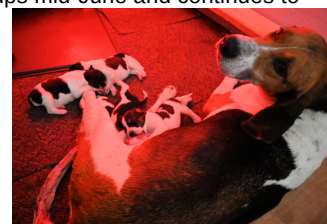
Non-Kennel Update

Since last month's was scheduled to be the final kennel update, here's a quick update on the happenings *inside* the kennel. The whelping room has been busy as of late! Wicket welcomed pups in early June. They have are doing great and have since moved into one of the half runs. They're taking full advantage of the side grass yard.



Their move into the run made room for Elegant. She welcomed pups mid-June and continues to nurse them in the whelping room.

Be thinking of NI and PE names for a future naming party.



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 July 20th and can be submitted to Jessa at 603-479-6006 (text preferred) or bullrunhuntva@gmail.com.

The next newsletter will be released on August 1st.