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April Hunter Trials in Central Virginia Provide Fun for Foxhunters of All Ages!

Written by Elizabeth H. Sutton
 Published on 01 May 2012

On Saturday, April 7, 2012, a perfect spring day before Easter, a dedicated and enthusiastic group of riders and spectators from the Farmington Hunt went over the mountain to attend the third annual Maury River Hunter Trials, co sponsored by the Farmington, Glenmore and Rockbridge Hunt Clubs.

Forty seven riders of all ages representing hunt clubs, colleges and farms from near and far competed in 11 field hunter divisions, with championships awarded for 8 categories. This hunter trial is designed to encourage foxhunting through friendly competition over an inviting cross-country course well planned by committee members Donald Clark, Brooks Cushman, Henley Gabeau, Brent and Liz Hall, Brian and Penny Ross. Riders from as far away as Bedford County near Lynchburg came to compete in this annual event.



Claire Huddleston riding Jade & Diane Hawkins riding Zip's Classy Pride

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SandyRives from the Keswick Hunt judged the event organized by professional organizers Penny and Brian Ross at the Virginia Horse Center. The course was laid out in the outside area used for Virginia Horse Trials events with both permanent and temporary obstacles created to simulate jumps and obstacles typically found in the hunt field: logs, rails, coops, a bank, a gate plus an interesting water element at the end of the course that resembled a small pond. Foxhunters were put to the test over the gently rolling field with a stunning backdrop of mountains, sloping toward the Maury River that borders the property-hence the name "Maury River Hunter Trials." This annual event is a favorite for Farmington riders who were rewarded with fun riding over a great course. Dr.Kelly Giunta, Carolyn Chapman, Grace McGowan and Mary Buford Hitz contributed towards winning results for the Farmington team. Erin Bartle, an American Eventing Champion in 2011, represented the Rockbridge Hunt riding three horses to contribute to the over-all championship for the hunt accumulating the most points for the day.



Joy Crompton, MFH and Watson Cofield

Special Trophies and Championships were awarded as follows:

Glenmore Hunt First Flight Championship, qualified Foxhunter

CH: Erin Bartle, on Firestorm (Rockbridge)

Res CH Joy Crompton, Pocket (Charlottesville)

The Melvin Poe Cup sponsored by New Meadow Farm: (Most points accumulated by first flight horse/rider combination, Open.)

1st Erin Bartle, Firestorm, Rockbridge

2nd Anna Smith, Ruh-Roh

The Helen Groves Appointments Championship sponsored by Wendy Higginson: Best appointed rider and horse dressed in hunting attire (formal or ratcatcher). Judged on traditional hunt appointments

1st Cathi Eklund, Cazador

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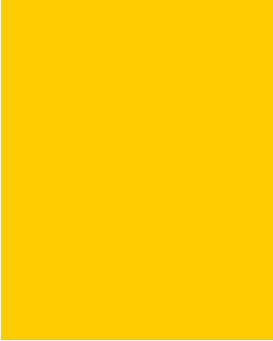
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2nd Crystal Carter, Cowboy

The Draft Feed Best Turned Out Horse Championship

1st Cathi Eklund, Cazador

2nd Janette Brunk, Django Guitar

The Lexington Carriage Company Second Flight Championship, Qualified fox hunter. and The Farmington Hunt Second Flight Championship, Open

CH: Lily Warington, Killian- Middlebrook Hunt Club

Res CH: Erin Bartle, BLC Hot Damn, Rockbridge Hunt

Rockbridge Hunt Open Adult (most points accumulated by adult 19-49)

CH: Erin Bartle, Res CH: Molly Duncan, Syrah

The MRHT Junior Championship, sponsored by Performance Equine, Dr. Julie Bullock

CH: Lily Warmington, Killian, Middlebrook Hunt

Res CH: Crystal Carter, Cowboy

The Glenn Land Company Jack Benny Champion:

Most points by an Adult, 50 years and over

CH: Deborah Wray, Satchmo, Farmington Hunt

Res CH: Joy Crompton, Pocket, Farmington Hunt

The Clifford Hunt Championship sponsored by Blue Ridge Equine Clinic: Most points accumulated by a Hunt Club

CH: Rockbridge

Res CH: Farmington



Karen Bull aboard Zeus

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