

Not Your Father's Point-to-Point

Blue Ridge Hunt Offers Unique Activities and Demonstrations Between Races

By Kathie Hamlin



Like horses, kids love to run! Let them loose in the Stick Horse Race at the Blue Ridge Hunt's Point-to-Point.

On this Easter Sunday at 1 o'clock, the Blue Ridge Hunt will host their Seventieth Annual Point-to-Point race at Woodley Farm in Berryville, Va. But wait, there's more! If you like watching Point-to-Point races, then you'll love the added excitement that awaits you when you, your family, and friends venture out to this "not to be missed" array of pure entertainment and fun!

For many many years, sixty eight to be exact, Blue Ridge Hunt has held their Point-to-Point races on the second Saturday in March. For the most part, this worked just fine, but for the last several years the challenges of rescheduling became tiresome. So, the hunt regrouped and decided to take the third Sunday in April as their new permanent date, even though some of these dates would fall on Easter. It seemed the better choice: freezing rain/snow or Easter...hmmm?

So, the hunt decided to capitalize on the holiday, after all - who doesn't love Easter? Well, it seems as though the group as a whole got a little carried away and boy howdy, did it grow!

This event is a perfect opportunity to get your non-horsey family and friends to

eagerly attend an equine event. Here's a run-down on what to expect for the day's activities:

Children's Stick Horse Races- This was a huge hit last year! The children ages 5-8 compete in races and win ribbons. They can bring their own stick horse or build one with our materials for \$10 at the event.

Vendors' Village- Last year there were a dozen vendor tents selling everything from "must have" hats for the races to Polo lessons. Tents (10' x 10') are provided by Blue Ridge and proceeds from the fees go to pay BRH staff and, of course, feed the hounds.

Car Club Show- Rolls Royce, Ferrari, and Corvette were some of the car clubs that set up for your viewing pleasure in 2018. This is sure to be a good way to entice a "non-horsey" husband to attend. Even better, if you arrive in a classic automobile, you get in free along with everyone else in your car.

Exclusive Landowners' Tent- This is set up explicitly to show appreciation for the people kind enough to allow BRH activities on their properties. So buy a farm in Clarke County and reap the

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BRH Pt to Pt.....from p. 25 benefits...lol.

Parade of the Blue Ridge Hunt Fox Hounds- Of course this will include the whole entourage, Masters: Anne McIntosh and Jeffrey LeHew, Huntsman: Graham Buston, Whippers-in: Sherry Buston and Ashton Sfarnas, along with 30 couple hounds. Last year, Graham demonstrated his "hound-whispering" techniques for all to see. He quietly escorted the hounds to the starting point of the races and he left them and walked away to the finish line. The hounds waited for their cue for take-off and joined him as a group at the finish line

Parade of the Nantucket-Treweryn Beagles- This is a "Foot Pack" which is similar in structure to the Foxhunts consisting of 18 couple Beagles that hunt rabbits. They will be paraded by their Huntmasters: Russ Wagner, Maryanne Casey, and Peter Cook, Huntsman: Russ Wagner, Whipper-in: Bill Getchell, and the Beagles.

There is also a rumor that the Easter Bunny may be making

an appearance at the event, so hopefully this will be well-coordinated with the Beagles, so as not to create an unintended scene. Please come and enjoy the Blue Ridge Point-to-Point on a warm day in April.



PHOTOS COURTESY: JOANNE MAISINO

The Nantucket-Treweryn Beagles enjoyed the event just as much as the spectators.

This classic Corvette was one of the many automobiles on display at the BRH Point-to-Point last year.



The Nantucket-Treweryn Beagles demonstration.

