

# Loudoun Fairfax Hunt Prepares For Fall Championships

*Prestigious Competitions  
For Foxhunters Coming Up*

**By Karyn Wilson**

Loudoun Fairfax Hunt will be hosting a leg of the Virginia Field Hunter Championship at Johnson Field in Hamilton, Virginia on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Larry Campbell and his Thoroughbred/Connemara gelding Sundance will be leading the field as the 2018 winner. Previous winners of Loudoun Fairfax Hunt were Holly Muldoon in 1998 and Karyn Wilson in 2011. Letters inviting entries are sent to all Virginia Masters the first week of cubbing season, with the entry form.

The Virginia Field Hunter Championship competition evolved over the years. Shortly after World War II, a small group of Virginia foxhunters wanted to hold a hunter trial. Horses competing had to be affiliated with a Virginia hunt as well as regularly hunted during the past season. The Masters from each hunt would nominate two horses to compete on their behalf. It is generally believed that Truman Dodson, MFH Farmington Hunt Club and James "Jimps" Blackwell were the first organizers of the event.

The first VFHC was held at the Farmington Hunt Club Hunter Trial Course across from what is now Foxfield Race Course. Jimps agreed to serve as field master for the first year, with the agreement that the winning

Loudoun Fairfax Hunt will also be hosting a leg of the Theodora A. Randolph Field Hunter Championship, formerly called the North American Field Hunter Championship. This event is four days of hunting October 7 – October 10 and the Championship will be held on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at Glenwood Park as part of the Virginia Fall Races. In addition to Loudoun Fairfax Hunt, Middleburg Hunt, Bull Run Hunt, and Piedmont Foxhounds will be hosting a meet.



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**Larry Campbell and his Thoroughbred/Connemara gelding Sundance will be leading the field at this year's Virginia Field Hunter Championship. As the 2018 winner, Campbell is given this honor at the 2019 event.**

horse and rider, in the future, would be the field master and the winning hunt would host the event. Horses are judged at the hack, jumping a handy hunter course and a mock hunt over the hunting territory of the winning hunt.

The event was a huge success and immediately became a fiercely competitive annual affair, which is believed to have been held every year since 1950. The event attracted the best hunting horses in Virginia. Billy Greenhalgh, Paul Mellon, Cappy Smith, Alexander Rivers and Alexander Mackay-Smith regularly rode in this event from the 1950's to the 1970's.