

PREFACE

The Smithtown Hunt was organized in 1900 and recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association in 1906. Smithtown Hunt is now the only hunt surviving on Long Island. For many years, we hunted both live and drag, but in recent years have become exclusively a drag hunt. This means that a scent is laid on the ground, and it is that scent of the fox that the hounds follow.

The hunt maintains and breeds a pack of foxhounds that are registered with the masters of Foxhounds Association. The hunt staff assists in the care, feeding and exercising of the pack which is supervised by the huntsman who is under the master's direction.

The Master of Foxhounds – MFH is the person or persons responsible for the kennels and showing good sport in the field. They run the day to day operations of the hunt. They work with landowners to preserve the land hunted on, and are responsible for carrying out the mission of the hunt, membership and both riding and tea events.

The Huntsman is the person who controls the hounds in the field to give a good day's sport. They give directions to the whippers-in in the field, and know each hound by name, color, markings and ability in the field.

The Whippers-In are staff members who assist the huntsman in the control of the hounds in the field and the kennels. They are also responsible to walk hounds during and after the hunt season. They assist the huntsman in exhibitions, parades and hound shows.

The Field Master is the person who leads the field in the pursuit of the fox (scent) to keep up with hounds, but keeping a safe distance from the staff and hounds at work.

The Field consists of members and cappers who are riding with the hunt that day.

Cappers are invited guests riding with the hunt that day.

Smithtown Hunt is now a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization, whose mission is Conservation, Preservation and Education.

The following pages are your guidelines when foxhunting with the Smithtown Hunt. They will prepare you for a safe and knowledgeable day of foxhunting. You will learn the traditions, the thrill of watching the hounds work and make new friends. TALLY-HO!

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CORRECT HUNTING ATTIRE

Proper hunting attire is part of the tradition of fox hunting; it is rigidly conventional but the most practical under the conditions of weather and terrain. Some of the pleasures of hunting come from the traditional dress code. Each hunt has its own hunting attire; the following is that which is worn in Smithtown Hunt. The official color for Smithtown Hunt is Purple.

FORMAL ATTIRE

Gentlemen with Smithtown Hunt Colors

White hunting shirt

White breeches

Black dress boots with tan tops

Single breasted scarlet frock coat "Pink" with brass Smithtown Hunt buttons and purple collar or:

Black frock coat (same cut as scarlet) with black and white hunt buttons

Canary vest with brass Smithtown Hunt buttons

White hunting stock tie with plain gold horizontal safety pin – point going away from the heart. Tails of tie should be pinned to shirt

Spurs - optional – short neck no rowels

Riding bats – optional - are to be carried in hand not boots

Proper hunting flask attached to front of saddle - optional

White string or brown leather gloves

Black velvet cap or top hat with cord – optional*

Ladies with Smithtown Hunt colors

White hunting shirt

Beige or canary breeches

Black dress boots with patent leather tops

Black melton riding jacket with purple collar and black and white Smithtown Hunt buttons

Black shad-belly with purple collar and black and white Smithtown Hunt buttons with a black silk top hat with cord

Frock coat with black and white buttons and black dress boots with patent leather tops

Canary vest with brass Smithtown Hunt buttons

White hunting stock tie with plain gold horizontal safety pin – point going away from heart. Tails of tie should be pinned to shirt

Spurs – optional - blunt no rowels

Riding bats – optional - are to be carried in hand not boots

Proper hunting flask to be carried on back side of saddle in leather sandwich case – optional

White string or brown leather gloves

Black velvet hunt cap (with chin strap encouraged) or black bowler with cord – optional*

Hairnets required

Gentlemen without colors

White hunting shirt
Beige or canary breeches
Black dress boots – black field boots are not acceptable for seniors
Black melton riding jacket with plain black buttons
Canary vest with plain gold brass buttons
White stock tie with plain horizontal gold safety pin – point going away from heart. Tails of tie should be pinned to shirt
Spurs - optional – blunt no rowels
Riding bats – optional - are to be held in hand not boots
Proper hunting flask attached to front of saddle - optional
White string or brown leather gloves
Black velvet hunt cap (with chin strap encouraged) or black bowler – optional*

Ladies without colors

White hunting shirt
Beige or canary breeches
Black leather dress boots
Black melton riding jacket with black buttons
Canary vest with plain gold buttons
White stock tie with plain horizontal gold safety pin – point away from heart. Tails of tie pinned to shirt
Spurs - optional – blunt no rowels
Riding bats – optional – are to be held in hand not boots
Proper hunting flask to be carried on back side of saddle in leather sandwich case - optional
White string or brown leather gloves
Black hunt cap*
Hairnet required

Juniors with buttons

White hunting shirt
Beige or canary breeches
Black dress boots
Black melton riding jacket with Smithtown Hunt black and white buttons
Canary vest with Smithtown Hunt brass buttons
White hunting stock tie with plain gold horizontal safety pin – point going away from heart. Tails of tie should be pinned to shirt
Spurs - optional – blunt no rowels
Riding bats – optional – are to be held in hand not boot
White string or brown leather gloves
Black velvet hunt cap (ASTM approved safety helmet) must be worn with secured chin strap –
No Exceptions
Hairnet for girls is required
Boys may not wear tan tops on boots or scarlet coats
Girls may not wear a purple collar

Juniors without colors

Same as corresponding juniors except girls and boys wear plain black buttons on their melton jackets

Cappers – Adults and Juniors

Horse show clothes or same as juniors without colors (subdued jacket; beige, canary, or rust breeches).

*NOTE: DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS AND OUR INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS ALL RIDERS MUST WEAR A BLACK ASTM APPROVED HELMET.

AT THE MEET

Please be on time for all meets. At least 30 minutes prior to scheduled time on fixture card. The time on your fixture card designates the time hounds will be cast.

Always inform your field master if you wish to leave the field. They must keep track of everyone behind them in case of an accident.

Professionals and barns are required to prepare a list of riders and their horses to be given to the secretary before the hunt begins. They are to present their capping fee, sign releases and introduce their riders to the secretary.

Do not block driveways, roads etc. with your trailer. – Be considerate of others.

Do not sweep trailers out on parking lots or private property. Be considerate of our landowners.

Always give a “Greeting,” to masters and staff. They have worked hard to make your day safe and fun.

If you are riding another horse other than your usual, inform the secretary.

At the end of the day, follow the hounds back to the hound truck and remain there until the hounds have finished their reward and are safely back in the truck. Thank your master’s and staff for the days sport.

RIDER

Listed below are some basic guidelines to be followed when hunting with the Smithtown Hunt. These are both for tradition and safety.

Attire to be neat and workmanlike.

Wednesday’s attire is ratcatcher (informal)

Sunday's attire after opening hunt is formal.

Chaps are not permitted in the hunt field. However, they may be worn for hound walking with the master's permission.

Rain gear and ski jackets are to be dark in color. Only worn by permission of the field -master or the master in charge. Always bring your riding jacket.

Do not chew gum while riding.

Cell phones are to be turned off and used for emergencies only. Leave business at home or stay home.

Black field boots are not accepted as senior formal attire.

Jackets should be buttoned at all times.

HUNTING ETIQUETTE

Don't exaggerate or overplay falls or accidents to create any impression that this is a regular occurrence. This can lead to bad public relations for Smithtown Hunt and for fox hunting in general.

Speak of fox hunting in a positive manner to give a good impression of it.

Stress its pageantry, healthful exercise, its traditions of hundreds of years and its national and international brotherhood.

If you or your horse tires, wave riders by quickly so they do not lose the hunt.

If your horse quits at a fence, pull to the side and wait until everyone has jumped and then you jump. The hunt field is not a schooling area.

Green horses should always start in second flight. Then gradually move to the end of first flight at the appropriate time.

If your horse kicks, it should be flagged with a red ribbon and ridden at the rear of the field. The hunt field is no place for a kicker.

Keep good distance between yourself and the horse in front of you. This is for your safety and theirs.

Don't approach the huntsman in the field. If he needs help, the field master will send someone. Stay away from the hounds at a check. Permission from the field master must be granted before you can approach the huntsman or a staff member.

Never interfere with a hound using your voice or whip.

It is imperative that each of us respects every acre we ride on. Without the landowners, we would not have our sport. Respect newly seeded fields and seedlings. Always track!

No one is permitted to ride on hunt country on none hunting days. The hunt has permission to ride as a group on specific days, many times by permit only.

If anyone damages a jump, please report it to the field master at the next check.

At the end of the day, always thank your master's and staff and wait for all the hounds to be put back in the hound truck before you return to your trailer.

POSITION IN THE FIELD

Seniors with colors: Those with seniority ride first in line. Sharing this position is encouraged.

Senior members without colors.

Juniors with buttons follow seniors.

Junior members without buttons.

Senior cappers.

Junior cappers.

Members who bring out guests are responsible to ride with their guests in the rear of the flight that their guest is qualified to ride.

Visiting masters are always invited to ride forward behind the field master. Visiting staff is invited to ride with the whippers – in or huntsman upon their request.

CALLS YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH

Hold Hard Means Stop Where You Are! It is signaled by a vertically raised forearm. Raise your own arm to alert riders behind you.

Track means to ride single file.

·Ware hounds, huntsman, whip etc. means they have the right of way. Make room for them to pass. If reversing, turn your horses head to passers – by.

Quiet means exactly that. Quiet!!

When riding first or second flight, you are expected to keep up. Guests who are unsure of their mounts should start in second flight. Inform your field master if you wish to move up.

HORSE AND TACK

HORSE

Properly Groomed and Fit!

Horses Braided for Opening and Closing hunts, Parades, Exhibitions, Hunter Trials and the Smithtown Hunt Horse Show. Yarn should be the color of the horse's mane with the exception of St. Patrick's Day parade which may be green.

Red ribbon or tape should be tied on the tail of a horse that kicks. A green ribbon on the tail of a green horse. However; a red and green ribbon on the tail of a green horse that kicks. Kickers should always be at the end of the field.

Horses should be clipped for winter hunting.

TACK

Tack should be clean and in good repair.

Dark rubber reins are permitted.

White contoured saddle pads. No square pads.

Plain flat hunting bridle – no raised or fancy stitching. Caverson required.

Hunting breastplates and martingale's are optional.

English leather saddles.

Leather girths preferable but string and web permissible

CAPPING WITH SMITHTOWN HUNT

Cappers must telephone or write the secretary asking for permission to hunt, where the meet will be, the correct attire, and the capping fee for that day.

The capping fee is to be placed in an envelope with your name, address, telephone number, date and the name of the horse you will be riding. Present this to the secretary before the hunt begins. All juniors must note their date of birth.

Cappers wishing to subscribe must make their intentions known to a master or secretary before their 6th hunt.

Cappers are to ride to the rear of their appropriate flight

GENERAL INFORMATION

Riding membership by invitation of the Master of Fox Hounds only

Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent only. A senior in the Smithtown Hunt is 18 years old or older

Horses and riders must qualify to ride in the hunter trials and special classes in the horse show by hunting a defined number of times during that hunt season.

Never pass the field master.

Stallions are permitted in the field with special permission only.

No smoking, No drinking on roads, and all cell phones are to be used only in the event of an emergency.

Subscribers may not contact landowners, public officials etc. without prior permission from a master.

All expenditures must be reviewed by a master first.

When you prematurely leave the hunt, do not interfere with the working of the hounds, staff or huntsman. Get directions from the field master.

Any horse found to refuse fences will be asked to ride to the rear.

Kickers may be asked to leave the field

RIDING PRIVILEGES ARE SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF MASTER OF FOX HOUNDS. ANY RIDER, REGARDLESS OF SENIORITY OR COLORS, MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE FIELD FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SAFETY OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER, IMPROPER ETIQUETTE, INTERFERENCE OF HUNTSMAN, HOUNDS OR FIELD, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

TEAS

If you are interested in giving a tea, speak to the tea chairperson for open dates.

No one is to be served until a master opens the tea. The correct order of service is: Master's, Secretary, Staff, followed by Seniors, Juniors, Cappers and then non – riders.

Remember to thank your host/ hostess and offer to help with clean up if possible.
Teas are given at the personal expense of your host / hostess, not Smithtown Hunt