

Metamora Hunt Introduction to Foxhunting Clothing & Tack

Proper hunting attire is rigidly conventional for two reasons. First, over the years a form of clothing has developed that comes closest to the most practical under the conditions of weather and terrain encountered. Secondly, some of the pleasure of those watching, including the landowners and families, comes from the feeling of tradition. We also understand that gathering all the appropriate items may be difficult. Some allowances will be made for new and guest riders, however, so feel free to contact any member and we can put you in touch with someone to borrow clothing from. Also, some used clothing can be purchased locally, from sites such as Fox Hunters on Facebook and in Virginia.

Tack:

- Hunt saddle, with clean white or cream colored fitted saddle pad. Tack should be cleaned and cared for like a Marine's rifle. Be sure it fits your horse as you will be on it for much longer than in a show ring. Leathers of excellent quality with the safety catches holding the leathers open. Your stirrup irons should be clean and well fitted for safety. Breast plate, if used, should be plain. Inspect and clean your tack after each ride for safety. A simple crop is acceptable. An ear bonnet in a subtle color is ok.
- Hunt bridle should be plain (without "bling") and should have a nose band. Most horses require more bit while out hunting.
- Other than these conventions, use as little tack as necessary but whatever is required to control your horse. Wire cutters, for emergency use only, should be available by at least one rider in your field.

Attire:

- **A safety helmet is mandatory.** Ideally, this should be black velvet for formal, but it can be brown for informal season. Women: Hair must be up, secured and imprisoned in a hairnet.
- Optional, sandwich cases for women or a flask for men can be attached to saddle.

Informal season "Ratcatcher" Attire: (mid-August to beginning of Formal in mid-September) Men & Women

- Hunt coat should be subtle plaid, brown or gray tweed with no bling or obvious zippers, cut in the center rear. A colored or plain stock tie with stock pin. A shirt and tie or choker collar w/pin are acceptable.
- Tan, buff or light brown breeches
- Black or brown plain or field boots, polished
- Hunting whip may be carried but not used on hounds by members. It is to be loaned to staff in an emergency. Note: Avoid dark green hunt coats, as Hunt staff wear them during informal season.

Formal Season (Starts on Opening Day, until end of season or Jan.2)

Men & Women without right to wear colors

- Black or navy hunt coat of suitable weight for current weather, frock or traditional hunt coat.
- White stock tie with 2½ inch (women) to 3½ inch (men) plain gold safety pin.
- Canary or tattersall waistcoat (optional)
- Plain black boots--no laces and no tan or patent tops
- Beige breeches
- Gloves should be crochet, black or brown leather

Those with right to wear colors:

Women:

- Black hunt coat with hunt buttons and hunt colors on collar and beige breeches
- Canary or tattersall waistcoat
- White stock tie and plain gold 2-1/2" stock pin
- Black boots with patent tops

Men & Staff (women included)

- Scarlet hunt coat with brass hunt buttons hunt colors on collar and white breeches
- Canary or tattersall waistcoat
- White stock tie and plain gold 3-1/2" stock pin
- Black boots with brown top

After January 2, winter boots, breeches, parkas, ear muffs, balaclavas, neck gaiters are ok.

How to Guest Hunt With the Metamora Hunt

Is Fox Hunting on your "bucket list" or something you have done, but not lately?

Following are the steps to take to guest hunt with us:

Non-members may guest hunt a maximum of three times per season.

Phone one of our MFHs for permission at least a day before you wish to hunt.

Joe Maday: 586 381-8834. Ken Matheis: 248 431-4093. Deborah Bates Pace: 586 713-1640. Permission must be granted to you for each date you hunt.

Make out a check made to Metamora Hunt for your guest hunting fee ("capping" fee): \$55 for Adults on regular hunts, \$100 for Opening Day and Thanksgiving Day hunts. Junior capping fees are \$25 for all hunts. Print out and sign our release, put release and check in an envelope with your name on the outside. Put it in your hunt coat pocket.

Get your horse, tack, attire and boots scrupulously clean. Questions? Contact the Honorary Secretary Michelle Mortier 586 914-5802.

Call the hotline at the Kennels the morning of the hunt, for any updates: 810 678-2711.

DO NOT HACK cross country to the meet. Use the roads only to get to the meet site. All hunts start exactly on time, so please plan on arriving at the meet site early. If you are trailering, confirm where to park. Be sure to turn your phone off before you arrive at the meet site.

Give your envelope with check and release to the Secretary or an MFH as soon as you arrive.

Introduce yourself to everyone. Then, determine who is leading the "field" you wish to ride in, and hang out near them. We often break into three groups: The First Flight trots, canters, gallops and jumps. The Second Flight trots and canters. The Third Flight is a walk-trot group that does not jump and is a good place for most beginning fox hunters and their mounts.

When an MFH calls out "Good Morning!" immediately give your full attention.

Follow the instructions of your Field Master as they are responsible for your safety. Follow the lead of the Members for etiquette and manners. If you or your horse needs to finish your hunt day before the end of the hunt, be sure to tell your Field Master; don't simply leave.

Hounds and staff riders always have the right of way. Clear off trails and turn your horse's nose toward them as they pass.

Be a courteous ambassador of the Hunt to anyone you see while hunting. Thank everyone at the end of the hunt.

Come to breakfast. Kiss your horse on the nose. Take a nap. Repeat two more times this year. Consider joining the Metamora Hunt!

9/2018