

Moore County Hounds, Inc.

Southern Pines, North Carolina
Established 1914

Richard D. Webb, MFH 1961

Cameron C. Sadler, MFH 2003

Michael B. Russell, MFH 2009

David W. Carter, MFH 2013

Lloyd "Jock" P. Tate, VMD & MFH 2015

Virginia C. Thomasson, Secretary

Customs, Etiquette and Dress in the
Hunting Field

Masters of Moore County Hounds

Jim Boyd, MFH (1914-1942)

Jack Boyd, MFH (1914-1942)

W.O. (Pappy) Moss, MFH (1942-1976)

William Brewster, MFH (1950-1956)

Earl "Happy" Hoy, MFH (1956-1961)

Richard D. Webb, MFH (1961- present Master)

Virginia Walthour Moss, MFH (1969-2006)

Raymond C. Firestone, MFH (1980-1992)

David P. Dillard, MFH (1998-2009)

Cameron C. Sadler, MFH (2003- present Master)

Josephine T. Ellis (2009-2014)

Michael B. Russell, MFH (2009- present Master)

David W. Carter, MFH (2013- present Master)

Lloyd "Jock" P.Tate, Jr., VMD & MFH (2015- present Master)

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Moore County Hounds History

Why do we hunt? To enjoy outdoor sporting life, friendships, watching the hounds do what they are bred to do, and sometimes the thrill of riding fast on a great horse.

One of the Oldest Hunts in America

Moore County Hounds is the oldest recognized pack of foxhounds in North Carolina and one of only a few remaining private packs. It was founded by Jim and Jack Boyd in Southern Pines, NC in 1914. The original kennels were located at Weymouth House. The Moore County Hounds was registered with the MFHA in 1921. We still hunt from some of the same meets that were used back when the Boyd's started the hunt: Reynard's Ridge & The Pastures (originally called Paddock Junior).

Except for a short period of time during World War I, the Boyd brothers hunted their hounds until 1942. At the onset of World War II, the Boyd's gave the Moore County Hounds to Mr. & Mrs. W.O. Moss. In the mid 1940's, the Pappy Moss purchased his land a mile from town, and built Mile Away Farm and the MCH Kennels. As a team, Ginnie and Pappy Moss hunted and bred their pack of Crossbred hounds. They were mostly tri-color and were descended from English hounds, then crossed with other hound breeds to enhance voice, nose, biddability, color and size.

After each hunting season, Ginnie Moss completed with the Moore County Hounds at hound shows up and down the East coast. Over the years, the Moore County Hounds won or retired every Crossbred hound championship trophy at the different hound shows, to include the Virginia and Bryn Mawr Hound Shows.

In 1976, after Pappy's death, Ginnie Moss hunted the hounds for several years. Don Fulmer hunted the hounds for a short period of time. In December 1984, Clive Rose became the professional huntsman and remained until his retirement. He was followed by Duncan Stewart who was huntsman until 2006. In 2006, Jody Murtagh became the professional huntsman, and brought 15 couple of Penn-Marydel hounds to Moore County. This is the origin of the pack which hunts so successfully in the Sandhills today. Today's pack is known for having great scenting ability, and booming voices. From 2010 - 2016, David Raley was the professional huntsman and continued the focus on Penn-Marydel breeding & training. In 2016, Lincoln Sadler assumed the professional huntsman's position. The kennels are located at 946 Sheldon Road in Southern Pines.

Moore County Hounds Country

The topography of the Walthour Moss Foundation & Sandhills Game Lands are typical of much of the Sandhills region, consisting of large drainage systems, surrounded by broad, gently sloping sandy ridge tops, with steeper slopes into the drains. These soils support a canopy of longleaf pine with understory and an herb layer variable depending on the recent disturbance regime. The heads and lower slopes are kept moist by small feeder drains. These properties are divided by well-maintained graded roads that serve as fire breaks and access roads.

In order within the Walthour Moss Foundation, as you follow the Branch, the major Heads with a little of their history are:

Cow Head: Go through the water and jump out.

Sawdust Head: Begins just North of Firebreak 1 and Hobby Field and intersects with Carroll's Branch at Fell-in-Bridge

"Fell-in-Bridge": is the first water crossing on Carroll's Branch and located on Fire Lane #2 (the bridge did fall in the 1930's)

Keating's Head: Is the section bordered by North May Street, Lyell's Meadow and Firelane #2

Carter Crossing: is the first major crossing before the Swamp. Mr. Carter sunk his tractor while building it and had to be pulled out.

Old Rice Field or Beaver Swamp: This is the large pond or swamp on the branch.

Rocky Head: Rocky Head on its way to Carroll's Branch is the second water crossing on Fire Lane #2.

Old Mail Road: Main trail running the length of the country from Fire Lane #3 at Hilltop Cemetery, through Three Bridges to Yadkin Road.

Three Bridges: Crossing is at the north end of the Beaver Swamp on Old Mail Road. (It is the crossing that connects Old Mail Road to Fire Lane #1 extension. Old Mail Road then angles to the west toward Hilltop Cemetery)

Long Branch: Is the longest head, beginning at the pond at Reynard's Ridge.

Possum Head: Crosses Fire Lane #1 extension

Bamboo Head: Crosses Fire Lane #1 extension

Octabony: Where Ginnie Moss' horse was pulled out of the swamp

Beaver Dam: Crosses Fire Lane #3

Edmisten Crossing and Edmisten's Sawmill: Edmisten provided lumber and cut the pine boards for Mile-Away's barn and Mile-Away Cottage (Formerly the huntsman's cottage). The sawmill was on the Saw Mill Road, which is located on the hill above the crossing.

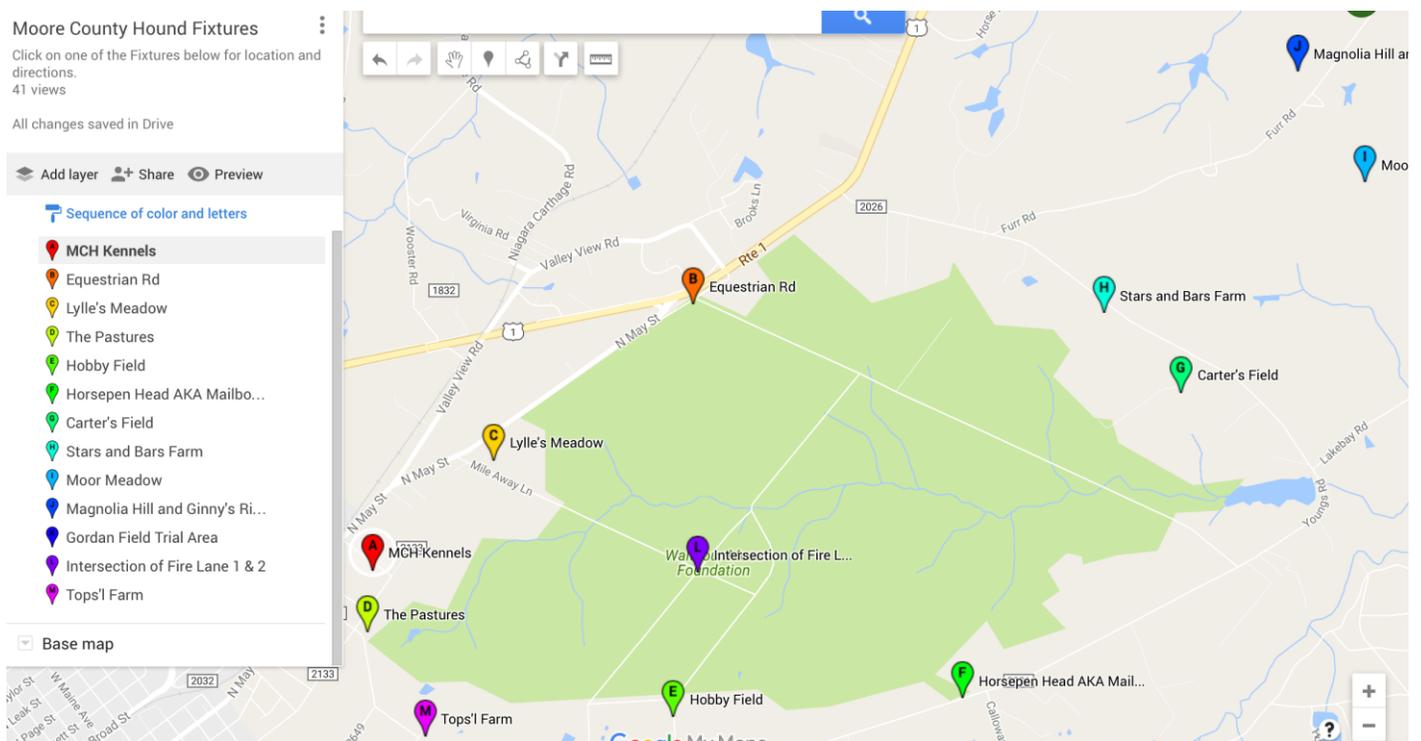
Yearling Head: This Head has five fingers that are called in order; Vixen, Thumb, Third, Second and First.

Horsepen Head: The men used wire corrals here to hold horses and mules while building Young's Road in the 1920's. The road was paved much later.

Snug's Crossing: Mr. Snugs owned a large amount of land in the area.

Lake Bay: is at the end of Carroll's Branch at Young's Road. It is no longer a "lake".

MCH Fixture Map



Directions to Sandhills Game Lands Fixtures

Directions to Officer's Club

Proceed South on US Hwy 1 out of Aberdeen.

3.9 miles after crossing Drowning Creek turn left on School Road and over RR crossing. (FYI - If you miss turn, .5 mile later turn around at BP Station)

Stay straight .6 miles and turn left at stop sign onto Butler Road.

0.8 miles later park on right side of road (FYI - you will pass Broadacres Lake on right)

Directions to Hunter Campground:

Leave Southern Pines headed South on US 1,

3.9 miles after crossing Drowning Creek turn left on School Road and over RR crossing. (FYI - If you miss turn, .5 mile later turn around at BP Station)

Stay straight and in .6 miles turn left at stop sign onto Butler Road. (FYI – road turns to dirt in .9 miles and is locally known as Watson Road)

1.5 miles later (after long hill) arrive at intersection. Parking is available on left. (FYI – for additional parking turn left and .1 mile later pull in and park on right)

To reach 5 Points Meet

Leave Southern Pines headed South on US 1,

3.9 miles after crossing Drowning Creek turn left on School Road and over RR Crossing. (FYI - If you miss turn, .5 mile later turn around at BP Station)

Stay straight .6 miles and turn left at stop sign onto Butler Road

Drive 3.8 miles (FYI - road turns to dirt in .9 miles and is locally known as Butler Road) and turn left onto dirt road (FYI – locally known as Gardner Farm Road)

Arrive at 5 Points in .5 mile

J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Clubhouse:

Go South on US 1 and go through Aberdeen. Continue South on US 1 into Hoffman. There are two gas stations on your right, at the BP Station turn RIGHT onto Caddell Rd. Immediately TURN RIGHT onto York Ave. York Ave turns into Derby Road. About 3-4 miles down York/Derby Rd. look on the LEFT for the big wooden sign for J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds of Sandhills Wildlife Area. TURN LEFT onto this sand road and go about 2 miles to a six-way intersection. Take the 2nd left (you will be bearing left, not taking a hard left, follow the power lines). Go one more mile to the clubhouse and stables. There is no other structure on the sand roads until the clubhouse.)

Invitation To Hunt Moore County Hounds

The Moore County Hounds is a Private Pack. Those who are invited to hunt should feel an obligation to financially support the hounds.

Prior to riding with the Moore County Hounds, each person must have completed the following:

1. Acknowledge your intention to hunt by acceptance of the invitation to hunt in writing for the current season.
2. Complete and send to the Secretary, the current season's Release of Liability Waiver including parental waiver for all juniors.
3. Purchase a current North Carolina Hunting License and a North Carolina Game-lands stamp if you plan to hunt in Hoffman. The Lifetime NC Hunting License is a great option and saves you time and money if you plan to hunt long term.
4. A current negative Coggins for each horse is required.

New Invitations

Moore County Hounds is a private pack. No one may hunt with Moore County Hounds without a written invitation, which is sent each year by the Masters.

Guests (of Regular Members)

The size of the Fields has become so large that regular riders/members will always be given preference. Family and friends are welcome. However, you must get permission from the Masters prior to the Meet.

You are responsible for securing a liability release. A suggested contribution to the hounds, "capping fee", is \$85 for each guest during formal season and \$50 during fall hunting.

Guests are limited to three (3) meets per season.

Guests must always be accompanied by the Host/Hostess.

At the Meet, introduce your guest to the Masters.

Juniors are always welcome; there is no capping fee or restrictions on the number of times they may hunt. They must be under adult supervision and must have a release of liability signed by their parents.

Those who are in current active duty Military service are always welcome; there is no capping fee or restrictions on the number of times they may hunt

Roading (Hound Exercise)

No one without an invitation from the previous season may ride with the hounds during Roding. Guests are permitted as long as they are accompanied by a member.

Hunting Season

The Moore County Hounds Hunting Season begins in informal dress, "Ratcatcher", in October with Fall Hunting. Opening Meet is held on Thanksgiving Day at Lyell's Meadow.

Meets are on the Fixture card, which is mailed out with invitations and a second Fixture Card is mailed out mid-season.

Bye day information is on the Hunt recorder and dress is Ratcatcher attire.

Fixture Card

The Moore County Hounds generally meet in the Walthour Moss Foundation on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The attire is always formal after Opening Hunt.

Hounds meet on Mondays at Hoffman and on bye days. The dress is Ratcatcher.

Dress for meets at Domaine de la Coharie are always Ratcatcher attire.

Check your fixture card and hunt recorder for final locations. Junior Hunts are scheduled during the Christmas holiday time in the Walthour Moss Foundation.

At the time of the Meet, in case of severe heat (over 60 degrees) or cold (under 25 degrees) call the recorder for dress and possible start time delays.

Moore County Hounds recorder: 910.639.7121

Dress Code

A HARD HAT must be worn at all times. It is strongly recommended that all riders wear an ASTM approved helmet with a chin strap.

Hound Exercise

Hounds are exercised on foot during the Summer months.

For the month of September, we have mounted hound exercise.

Informal riding attire is permitted.

Shirts with collars and sleeves (i.e. polo shirts) in muted colors are permitted (red is only worn by staff or Masters).

Informal Hunt Meets

Known as "Ratcatcher". Should be worn during Fall Hunting until Opening Meet.

Bye Days when noted.

Ladies or Gentlemen:

Coats: Tweed or lighter weight riding coat

Shirt: Shirt with tie or stock, or ladies riding shirt with a choker.

Vest: Optional

Breeches: Tan, brick or buff breeches only

Gloves: Optional

No perfume or visible jewelry (other than stock tie pin)

Please use Hairnets for all hair styles that fall below the ear.

Colors

The Masters of the Moore County Hounds may invite some of their guests/members to wear the specific colors of the Moore County Hounds. This is at their discretion and follows several seasons as a regular rider and MCH volunteer.

Along with other criteria, is the Masters' observance of the rider's attitude, interest and support of the Moore County Hounds.

In addition, the Masters must feel that the individual is a competent rider on a well-behaved horse. An individual must be in complete control of his or her mount at all times so as to ensure the safety and enjoyment of other riders in the field.

Colors specific for the Moore County Hounds

Gentleman: Scarlet coat - Navy collar and MCH Buttons

Gentleman (Hunt Ball): Evening Scarlet coat - Navy collar and MCH Buttons

Ladies: Black or Navy coat - Navy collar with red piping and MCH Buttons

Juniors: Black or Navy coat - Red collar with navy piping and MCH Buttons

Formal Hunt Meets

Ladies with MCH Colors:

Coats: Black or Dark Navy - Navy collar with red piping and MCH Buttons

Shirts: White with white stock, stock pin

Vest: Optional or canary yellow vest

Breeches: Tan or buff color

Boots: Black dress, patent tops are optional

Gloves: Black leather or string gloves for inclement weather

No perfume or visible jewelry

Please use Hairnets for all hair styles that fall below the ear

Ladies without MCH colors:

Coats: Black or Dark Navy

Shirts: White with white stock, plain stock pin

Vest: Optional or canary yellow vest

Breeches: Tan or buff color

Boots: Black dress

Gloves: Black leather or string gloves for inclement weather

No perfume or visible jewelry

Please use Hairnets for all styles below the ear

Gentlemen with MCH Colors:

Coats: Scarlet or Black

Shirts: White with white stock tie, plain stock pin

Vest: Optional or canary yellow vest

Breeches: White

Boots: Black dress with brown tops

Gloves: Black leather or string gloves for inclement weather (optional)

No cologne or visible jewelry

Hair must be confined neatly.

Gentlemen without MCH Colors:

Coats: Black

Shirts: White with white stock tie, plain stock pin

Vest: Optional or canary yellow vest

Breeches: Buff or tan

Boots: Black dress boots

Gloves: Black leather or string gloves for inclement weather (optional)

No cologne or visible jewelry

Hair must be confined neatly.

Tack Appointments

Horses and all tack should be impeccably groomed, clean, polished and shining. It is a disservice to the Masters and landowners to do anything less.

Bridle: Brown (preferred) or black leather. Novice or young riders may use converters. A cavesson (noseband) should be used. Colored or ornamental brow bands are not acceptable. A raised browband and noseband are acceptable.

Breastplate: Optional, plain or raised brow in brown (preferred) or black leather. Martingale attachment is optional. If used, it should be plain or raised leather. A running martingale must have “stops” on the reins.

Saddle: Brown preferred, black acceptable. Saddle pads should be saddle-shaped (white, buff, yellow or brown). Stirrup irons with optional pads should be silver, large, plain and clean (shined). Safety equipment such as cruppers, grazing over-checks and safety stirrups may be used as needed for Juniors. Square pads are acceptable when riders are in Ratcatcher attire.

Girth: Preferably brown leather, but clean neoprene, string and cloth girths are permissible, as are fleece girth covers.

Accessories: Horse: ear or nose covers, black only. Figure eight and flash nosebands, bell and shin boots, saddle shaped gel and cushion saddle pads may be used. Seat savers for riders are not appropriate in the hunting field.

Clipped Horses: Clipping provides horses the ability to more effectively thermo-regulate their bodies. Therefore, full body clips with hair on the legs left unclipped look tidy and are recommended. Extra hair on fetlocks should be trimmed as should ears, muzzles and bridle paths. Trace clipping does not provide efficient thermo-regulation and ornamental clipping is inappropriate. If tails are banded, the bottom should be level with the bottom of the hock when held natural. Manes should be pulled, not cut, and lie all on one side. Horses should be of proper “fit” weight, as opposed to thin, and horses’ coats should be in good condition.

Hunting Customs and Etiquette

Moore County Hounds

Field Riding Etiquette

Absolutely no Smoking or Drinking is Permitted

Riding etiquette is determined in large part due to the type of terrain over which the Moore county Hounds ride.

1. Riders with MCH Colors, who are jumping, ride in the first or second flight behind the Field Master. Do not go around the jumps in the first flight and only jump when the Field Master chooses to do so. **If your horse refuses or misbehaves, wait until the entire jumping field has passed before attempting to jump again.** Rejoin the field at the rear. Please do not ride past everyone to get back to the front.
2. Riders without MCH Colors, who are jumping, ride behind riders with colors, unless invited to do otherwise.
3. Riders who are not jumping ride at the rear of the Second Flight or with the Hill Toppers
4. NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO TAKE HIS/HER LINE AT ANY TIME.

Riding and Horses

1. Keep a safe distance from the horse in front. If the field stops after a fence, wait until there is a safe distance before jumping.
2. Do not allow your horse to “nose” or touch another horse in the field, at the Meet or at a Check.
3. If you fall, or in some other way cannot continue, go to the rear of your field when you have corrected the problem. Do not return to your former place by passing riders who are now in front. This applies to the Hill Toppers field as well as the First Field. If you are late to the Meet, stay at the rear of the Field.
4. Show respect to all our landowners. Report any damage done to the land or to the fences immediately to the Masters.
5. If your horse has ever kicked another horse in the Field or, if you think that your horse might kick, it is mandatory that a red ribbon be placed prominently in the tail.
6. Do not gallop or move past the horse in front of you without their knowledge and permission before passing.
7. Notify the Masters of any and all problems.
8. Cell phones should be turned off and only used in an emergency.
9. Please keep conversation at a minimum when hounds are drawing or being called in.
10. HOUNDS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY.

Hounds and Staff

1. When arriving at the Meet, say "Good Morning" to the Masters. At the end of the day say "Good Night" to the Masters and Staff.
2. Do not "coffeehouse" with the Staff at the meet. Never ride between the Huntsman, Staff and Hounds.
3. When the Masters, Huntsman or Staff must pass through the field, you will be directed to:
 1. Step off the trail and turn your horse's head to the Staff.
 2. When it is not possible to get off trail, walk forward steadily. Do Not Stop as you pass those going the other way. Turn and follow, only when you have plenty of room.
4. Do not allow your horse to step on or kick a hound. Any horse that kicks at hounds will be asked to leave the field. Please advise the Masters when the hound is hurt or kicked.

Hunter Trials

1. The Moore County Hounds Hunter Trials is generally held on the 3rd Saturday in March.
2. Guest of the Masters who ride with Moore County Hounds are invited to participate as well as members of guests or members of other Hunts.
3. Eligibility:
 1. Horses or ponies whose primary use is that of a field hunter (as opposed to a show horse, event horse or dressage horse) and have hunted regularly during the season with the Moore County Hounds or another recognized pack during the past current season may participate.
 2. Regular riders with the Moore County Hounds in good standing or members of other recognized packs in good standing may participate.
 3. All juniors who have ridden with Moore County Hounds or another recognized pack and are riding a qualified horse or pony.
 4. Juniors who have hunted regularly on a guest's horse may participate with that horse in the Hunter Trials.
4. Requirements:
 1. Completed entry form in advance
 2. Current negative Coggins
 3. Release of Liability on file with the Masters
5. Braiding is not required
6. Any questions concerning eligibility of horse or rider are to be referred to the Masters.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with bushwhacking in the early fall or any time of year when the trails need work.

Please consider volunteering to help with our numerous fundraising and maintenance activities. If you are interested, please contact one of the Masters.

Moore County Hounds hold multiple events during the year and volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

1. Fall Hunt Clinic (September)
2. Fall Party and Puppy Calcutta (October)
3. Hunter Pace (November)
4. Hunt Ball (January or February)
5. Hunter Trials (March)
6. MCH Puppy Show (TBD)

Master's of Fox Hounds Association (MFHA) Handbook

<http://www.mfha.com/docs/guidebooks/introtofoxhunting2013.pdf>