



Moving Up

My mom and I pulled into the field where the trailers are parked and jump out of the car. We unload the horses. It's just another Saturday hunt for me and my 13.2, 11 year old paint pony, Nifty. Nifty isn't just any old pony; he is special because he is blind in his right eye, but it doesn't bother him one bit. I tack him up. He's very jumpy foxhunting, so I replace his regular full cheek snaffle with a pelham. I get on and Nifty feels like a coiled up spring. I walk over to join my mom. She is riding my four year old Quarter Pony that anybody could take foxhunting. He goes hunting in a D ring snaffle. My friends, Allie Farley and Casey Lowe, trot up to join me.

The hunt starts off. I can feel Nifty's tense muscles under me, but I know he'll settle a little once we start working. He prances around and arches his neck. I pet him and take a firm hold on the reins and he responds by walking quietly. The first scent is picked up fast. The hounds lead us through a wide, open field. Nifty and I love every second of it. My friends' ponies gallop neck and neck with Nifty. We stop and stand still watching the hounds search a covert. The fox has gotten away without being seen.

We trot through the woods and the first jump comes along. My friends and I are only in second flight, so we can either jump or go around. Allie and her very athletic Connemara take the coop, and then join Casey and me again. I really would like to jump, but I don't know if Nifty can do it. We keep going and find another scent that takes us on another chase. We canter through a wide path in the woods and down to a low-lying field. The hounds lead us up a narrow path in the woods about five times and then we see the fox streaking across a small field. The hunt has been out for awhile, so we head back because we have a very long way to go.

We trot through the wooded paths and canter lazily through fields. First and second flights are together now because there is no jumping yet. We get to a spot and a staff member says whoever wants to jump, follow her. I swallow hard and follow as the little group heads up the hill to the jumping path. It's too late to turn back now. I push Nifty forward and give him his head. He finds his own spot and pulls his knees up to his chin. He clears it easily and has a new burst of energy as we gallop down a hill and then up another to the second coop.

It is much bigger and my heart pounds hard in my chest. I am scared, but I have a ton of faith in this little pony. I needn't worry. Nifty soars over it with inches to spare. As we head down the hill to the last coop, I relax a little. This coop will be a breeze; it was only about 2'6. Nifty jumps it cleanly and trots down the hill to join the other flights. My heart is racing and my adrenalin is pumping. This is so awesome! We moved up to first flight! I never thought I could take those massive coops on little, half blind Nifty, but it was easy for both of us once we started. Allie pulls up beside me, saying how cute Nifty's form was over the coops. I put Nifty behind her pony while jumping, because I thought it would give him extra confidence to go behind a great jumper like her pony. We meet up with Casey and talk all the way back to the trailers. It was the best hunt ever because I got to move up!

By Lucy Gordon

Age 12, D3, Glenmore Hunt Pony Club

We wish Lucy the best of luck with her entry to the USPC foxhunting essaycontest. If she wins, her essay will be published in *The Chronicle of the Horse!* (eds.)

Secretary's Corner

The next meeting of the Glenmore Hunt, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd, 2007

At the Glenmore Offices
Annual Meeting and Elections
The Board of Directors will meet at 7:00 P.M.
General Membership at 8:00 P.M.

Member Roster Changes Add

Ms. Mary Dealy
136 Alone Mill Road
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540/463-7991

Delete

Mr. & Mrs. Arnet Wood
(resigned)

Dwight Phelps, Hon. Secretary

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<http://www.glenmorehunt.org>

Events of Special Note

The Annual Meeting and election of Master(s) of Foxhounds, Officers, and Directors of the Glenmore Hunt, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd 2007 at the Glenmore Office, 101 Frederick Street, Staunton, Virginia.

March

31th—Hunt Ball at the Holiday Inn

April

3rd—Annual Meeting and Elections
22nd— Spring Hunter Pace
29th Spring Pace rain date

May

6th—Jr. Hound Show
26th—Virginia Hound Show, Leesburg
26th-28 Oak Ridge TASR weekend

The 2007 Hunt Ball Date is Here!

The Hunt Ball committee will need help the day of the ball, Saturday, March 31st, to set up the silent auction tables and put items out for display. Please contact Jean Viel (886-0225) to let her know you can help; or just show up ready to work between noon and 2 PM.

Brenda

Spring Hunter Pace: April 22nd

We kick off the 2007 series of Hunter Pace events with the Spring Hunter Pace on April 22nd (rain date April 29th). The site of the first in the series is close-to-Saunton Gaie-Lea Farm with parking behind VOT. (See flyer for directions and details.)

This important fund raiser is made possible by our wonderful volunteers who help flag the course prior to the event, watch gates during the event, help with food, entries, etc. Please let me know what you can do to help. As always, without you there is no event.

To sign up call me at 504-337-6659 or email <
"mailto:phelpsj@ntelos.net" phelpsj@ntelos.net>

Thanks,
Jewell

Update on EHV-1 as of March 12, 2007 from MFHA

To All Hunts:

Today I had a conference with the Virginia State Veterinarian (VDACS) and other experts on the EHV-1 situation. The state vet has indicated he feels horse activities can return to normal, this includes hunts and Point to Points, are safe to start back up as of March 13 or 14th. The one caveat is anyone resuming Point to Points or hunts should be knowledgeable of who the horses are that are attending and where they come from in case it is necessary to track anything later.

There are still 5 quarantines in effect on farms and a portion of the Marion DuPont Medical Center in Loudoun and Culpepper Counties but there have been no new cases and these facilities have been tested regularly. If continued to test negative, their quarantines will be lifted shortly.

The state complimented foxhunters on their voluntary support and believes we played a valuable roll in containing the problem.

Dennis Foster

News from Other Hunts

TASR (Thoroughbred and Anglo Sport Registry) is holding a multi-disciplined event at our own Oak Ridge Estate on Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-28, 2007).

There should be something for everyone from a 10k run, camping at Oak Ridge with your horse, 2 day endurance ride, dressage, trail trials and a Hunter Pace. Their website is: "[http: www.tasregistry.com](http://www.tasregistry.com)" www.tasregistry.com and all the info, details, and forms can be found there.

President's Note

Our thoughts and prayers are with T & Dickie Stewart as Dickie has been seriously ill and hospitalized in the I. C. U. at Augusta Medical Center. Dickie is out of I. C. U. as of Sunday, March 18, and plans are to release from AMC to a Rehab Center in Harrisonburg, for recuperation and physical therapy.

Brenda

Tootsie and the Good Life



Retired Glenmore hound Tootsie at her home in Georgia with Julie and Mark Ratliff. Julie says that other than running twice a day with either Mark or herself, this is Tootsie's favorite activity.

"Closing Hunt"

When the equine herpes ban on horse movement was finally lifted, Glenmore members had high hopes for one final hunt of the season. Then, as she has done numerous times this season, Mother Nature intervened and our Closing Hunt was cancelled.

A small, hard core group was not to be denied a chance to eat and socialize, so we gathered at Ryan's restaurant in Staunton on St. Patrick's Day to feast on their breakfast buffet and discuss the season's highs and lows. It's been a tough season – kennel cough, rain, snow, ice, and equine herpes all seemed to conspire against us. Over eggs and pancakes and coffee, we vowed not to give in and to have a great season of hunting in 07-08!

The first meeting of the Glenmore Breakfast Bunch included: **Dan and Jan Jones, Jewell Phelps, Sandy and John Cryder, Gerry and Mo Blyth, Nikee Randolph, Angelika O'Donnel, Joe Manning** and Me.

Hugh Brown

Fan Mail!!!

Thanks for all the timely EHV-1 info that was in the last GHC newsletter (and what a knowledgeable expert you interviewed) I must say, I heard first and have been kept most up to date from Lucy's GHC connection than from our other sources. I appreciate the club keeping everyone so well informed.

Anne Gordon

(Thanks, we appreciate all comments, but like the nice ones better!)

How to Amuse a Grandchild



Oh My! A Hunting Ban Here and a Vacation There—and Look What Happens to Foxhunters! (Even spouses and friends get their heads messed with)



Hon MFH Graham Pitsenberger, Frank Hall, and Jeanne Pitsenberger trying out local customs in North Africa.

Masters' Corner

While the restriction of hunting as a result of the EHV-1 outbreak ate into the waning number of potential meets before the close of the season, I waited for word of the O.K. to resume hunting. As the days passed through March, the warming winds of the coming spring promised good footing as our March 17th closing hunt was approaching. With the lifting of restrictions, I contacted landowners to set the venue for the closing hunt, in spite of the weather forecast. (The carding of a TBA when the fixture card was developed in Dec. was so that we could meet at a location likely to give the best opportunity for a fox.) Not until Friday afternoon did I finally give over to the weatherman as the inches of rain turned into sleet and then snow.

With our hunting season over, it is time to look back on the past season, look at what has happened, and look to the start of the new season. And while September may seem to be quite a ways off, preparation for continued success needs to be ongoing. Looking back can help us look to the future:

- ? Several new hounds were added into the pack last fall and have been steadily progressing throughout the year and are adding to the sport. The age of the pack is getting older, but this has been helped with the added hounds this fall. The recent draft of unentered hounds from Essex Hunt will also be a great addition. The goal is a balance of veterans and young entry that will eventually become the veterans.
- ? The pack is cheerful, enjoying their job, is biddable (a must for close country), steady to riot, and honors each other well. A solid core means that other hounds can be entered more easily. For the field members this means bring able to see more quality hound work. For huntsman and staff, it means that they can be a little more relaxed and enjoy the day's hunting.
- ? We have added a number of enthusiastic members, with the fields significantly larger than last year. In spite of the curtailed season, capping has significantly increased over previous years. This means we need to be cognizant of where, when, and how we hunt.
- ? We have been fortunate that most days have produced good hunting and many times several foxes have been viewed.
- ? The landowners have been great to work with this year and we appreciate their generosity. Whether moving a piece of farm machinery or a pack of hounds on the road, and in many other aspects, the pressures of development adversely affect us both. As Masters and Members we need to support our landowners and agricultural producers in all possible ways to keep agriculture viable and maintain the great countryside that we have.
- ? As Jewell noted last month, there was been an increased interest among riders. Unfortunately our junior hunt this spring had to be canceled. However, Dwight has already had requests concerning setting up meets for pony club and junior meets for next year.

Any good season is actually the result of many members helping with all kinds of things from setting up tailgates to revealing that especially good pumpkin muffin recipe for landowners. We as Masters appreciate all that you do to help extend our thanks to you. As Huntsman, I want to thank all the staff for their assistance in hunting hounds and providing for their safety while out hunting, and to Eddie for taking care of so many of those day to day necessities that make happy hounds.

Dan

MFHA Horse Slaughter Issues

We know all of you are concerned about the horse slaughter issue. The MFHA is doing its best, along with others to find alternatives to slaughter, we are a member and contribute to the “Unwanted Horse Coalition”, we deeply care about our horses, but banning slaughter isn’t the answer. That is unless you don’t care about the welfare of horses and just want to feel good because you’re against it. Slaughter, if done within government inspection, is better for horses, than horses suffering and left to die. Their meat is used to feed people and pets. The animal rights groups like Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have no real solution on what to do with 100,000 horses’ a year. Their solution is that there will be suffering for a while but it will eventually work it self out. Pretty callous if you think about the horrific numbers and the suffering that horses will endure. There is already a movement in California and Texas to remove horses as live stock since by banning slaughter they in sense become pets. Some counties are denying horse operations certain Agriculture grants because they no longer consider horse’s livestock.

Dennis Foster,
MFHA Executive Director

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*In
This
Issue*

Coming events, photos, EHV-1 update, Jr. Member essay, a new group forms? read about it!
