



Foxhunters Compete

Several weeks ago I received an invitation to judge the Bedford County Hunt's horseshow. I was honored to be asked, and gladly accepted. The show was sanctioned by the Blue Ridge Horse Force and held at Fancy Hill Farm in Natural Bridge on November 17th. When I reviewed the prize list, however, one division caught my eye. There were five classes on the prize list open only to foxhunters!

Only true foxhunters could compete, as one had to be a member of a recognized hunt and have hunted their mount at least six times during the last year, as certified by the hunt's master or huntsman. A championship class was offered; first and second place winners of each class were eligible to participate. In addition, a glorious trophy was awarded and the hunt whose members accumulated the most points won a cash prize of \$500.

Show organizers created a wonderful "mock up" of natural elements in the large outdoor arena. The obstacle course class consisted of inviting jumps, a bridge, and branches in the woods which were simulated by an option element of trot cavalletti or a canter bounce, and landscaping trees to simulate a forest trail. Each jumping class consisted of a set course that incorporated several of these elements. Competitors truly enjoyed the competition and cheered one another on outside the ring.

The final class was a hunt team class that required a change of leader within the course and the three man team to jump a fence abreast. This class garnered the most ringside cheering, and several teams did a very good job of timing the take off for the fence jumped together.

From a judge's perspective, I enjoyed watching so many different types of horses compete successfully, with the obstacles leveling the field. There were draft crosses, quarter horses, Arabian crosses, thoroughbreds, and warmbloods represented. I tried to pin the horses that I would want to hunt. Those that were obedient yet had solid gates and jumped well. The horse that won the Grand Champion Foxhunter was extremely pleasant to watch. He was not the fanciest horse at the show. However, he stood perfectly when his rider cracked the whip, jumped in good form, looked to have comfortable gaits, and never showed hesitation towards any task his rider requested. This horse represented what I want in my foxhunting mounts.

This was a wonderfully well-run event, and fostered friendly competition among foxhunters. Hats off to Bedford for starting a new, fun tradition.

Jakki Avery

Pictured: Grand Champion Foxhunter Lucky I'm Invested, shown by Richard Long of Bedford Hunt. Photo courtesy of photosbyalice.com.



Events of Special Note

November

30th—Glenmore Foundation Meeting

December

15th—Glenmore Hunt Christmas Party, D. Avery's
22nd --Junior Hunt at Cobble Hill

February

9th—"Beat the Winter Blues" Social

Jingle Bells and Ho-Ho-Ho

The Glenmore 2007 Christmas celebration will be held at the home of Dennis and Anne Avery.

Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert for the table. Good cooks, good wine and good friends—a perfect recipe for a great party.

Call Stacy Thompson (337-7879) email <src2h@virginia.ed> to reserve a spot for your favorite dish. Call Anne (337-6320) if you need directions.

Time: 6:30 pm; Address: 226 Last Raid Lane, Swoope

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Glenmore Hunt WebSite:
<http://www.glenmorehunt.org>

Secretary's Corner

The December meeting of the Glenmore Hunt Club, Inc. Will be held Tuesday, December 4th at the home of Graham and Jeanne Pitsenberber.
BOD meets at 7 PM Membership 8 PM

New Members

Ms L. Cynthia "Cindy" Kiser
Riverspring Farm, 950 Leaport Road
Verona, VA 24482
540-248-3868

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn and Gale Struble
118 Wyndham Hill Dr., Fisherville, Va 22939
540-470-0260

Ms. Jannette "Jenner" Brunk
158 Wayside, Weyers Cave, 24486
540-234-7614

Arnet & Sara Wood
414 Flat Rock Rd, Waynesboro, VA 22980
(540) 949-7297

Glenmore Foundation Annual Meeting

The Glenmore Foundation will hold its annual meeting on Friday, November 30, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Glenmore Hunt Club office. All shareholders are invited and encouraged to attend. In order to conduct business, fifty-one percent of the outstanding shares must be represented at the meeting either by shareholder or proxy. Proxies were mailed on November 13th. Should you have questions about the meeting or your stock, feel free to contact Secretary **Jakki Avery** at 540-885-5667 or President **Jeanne Pitsenberger** at 540-885-6589.

In preparation for the shareholder meeting, the Foundation books will be closed on November 1st, meaning that no stock transactions will be allowed until after the annual meeting on November 30th. Stock sales will resume in December, and the Foundation invites members to remember that stock certificates fit nicely into Christmas stockings.

Social Committee Meeting—all invited to attend

There will be a Social Committee meeting on Thursday, November 29th, 6:30 PM at the home of Joanne VanSiclen. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, call Joanne at (540) 885-2696 or email <joannecv@comcast>

Virginia Hunt Week 2007—Share the Adventure

I have participated each year since the beginning in 2000, making it a point to go out with hunts with whom I have not previously hunted. This year, I went to Rappahannock Hunt and to Old Dominion Hounds. Both provided great sport and beautiful country. Both days are worth remembering.

The Rappahannock Hunt meet was at *Mont Elery Farm* south of Ben Venue in the foothills of the Blue Ridge. Mont Elery boasts a huge magnificent house, miles off white board fence and the Thornton River, which flows down from Thornton Gap on the Blue Ridge.

A field of forty or more turned out with twenty five in first flight. We circled the farm and in the process jumped four huge coops. Several falls occurred, but no one was hurt. Then we went down near the river and huntsman Michael Brown cast hounds into the woods along the river bank.

At this point the fox hunt began. We hunted both sides of the river and several fields and coverts beyond the river. After about an hour hounds got on a line and we were treated to good music and a good gallop up and down several hills and a couple of jumps. The fox went to ground on a wooded hillside and the field passed around flasks while Michael blew “gone to ground” and praised his hounds. We hunted for a while longer and stopped on a hill from which Mont Elery could be seen on the far horizon. At this point, we had been out about three hours. Michael asked the Master if we should hunt some more or start back toward the meet. At least half a dozen people piped up “Hunt some more!”

We crossed a stream and proceeded to draw a rugged hilly area very reminiscent of Rockbridge Hunt country except that the trails were hardly trails. As Michael led us through this country, I thought “this is a rugged ride at a walk.” All of a sudden the hounds opened in a crescendo of music; we tore down the hill, over a rocky trail, across a creek in a deep ditch, and then up and down hills on the trail that was hardly a trail. I have never gone that fast, that far, over terrain that rugged!!

The entire pack was at full cry and we were flying. Finally, the music stopped and we stopped. Horses were winded and soaking wet; riders were breathless and the hounds were pooped. Michael surmised that it was a coyote and that the hounds finally lost him. After that, the Master sent the field in, while Michael and staff remained out to collect the pack. We were out four and a half hours and more than ready for the delicious hunt breakfast that followed.

Michael Brown, son of Oliver Brown the senior joint master, may be the best huntsman I’ve ever hunted behind. His horn and voice and incredible; he is an excellent horseman; he is an aggressive follower of hounds; and he takes out 15 or more couple of well-trained, bidable, fit hounds.

Hugh Sproul, H-MFH

(Next month, Hugh covers his day with The Old Dominion Hounds in Fauquier County)

Pictured: Michael Brown, huntsman for Rappahannock Hunt



Fall Hunter Pace

A glorious autumn day brought out 91 riders to our fall hunter pace at Gaie-Lea Farm in Staunton. **Jt-MFH Jewell Phelps** organized a terrific day for riders of all kinds. We had quite a few western riders and trail riders, plus hunter-jumpers and foxhunters from the Rockbridge Hunt, Middlebrook Hounds, and the Oak Ridge Fox Hunt Club.

Lots of Glenmore members rode in the pace as well. **Stacy Thompson** and **Angelika O'Donnell** should get special mention for winning the Hunter Optimum Division despite getting lost at the beginning and then stopping to help an injured deer along the way!

I personally had one of the loveliest and most enjoyable rides I can remember. The course was inviting and the autumn reds and golds made a gorgeous backdrop. Putting on a hunter pace takes a huge team effort - a huge thank you to Jewell and everyone who helped make our last major fundraising event of the year such a success. I've already marked my calendar for the spring hunter pace—Sunday, April 20!

Hugh Brown

Summary of Glenmore Member Successes at Pace:

Trail Riders: 1st Marlee Putman, Phelps' granddaughter. 3rd **Ginny Bauman** and **Bebe Wills**

Hunter Optimum: 1st **Stacy Thompson**, 3rd **Emily Guyer**, 6th **Julie Bullock** and Carol Ann O'Connor.

Junior Optimum: 1st **Casey Lowe**, 2nd **Lucy Gordon**

Fall Hunter Pace an example of Glenmore Cooperation

We had the perfect day for our Fall Hunter Pace, Sunday, November 18th, at *Gaie Lea Farm*. It took a "whole Village" to make it happen. I want to thank:

- ? The landowners: the **Moore** Family owners of *Gaie Lea*; and their farm manager, Doug Wright. Thanks also go to **Park Thompson** of *Fort Lewis Farm* and **Lewis Moore** of *Prospect Hill*.
- ? I had many willing helpers. **Terri Smith** and **Sandy Cryder** did a terrific job with the food and there were food "goodie" donations from other members. Still other members took on various jobs such as gate watching, trail flagging and clearing, publicity, etc:
- ? **Dan and Jan Jones** took care of the greeting and parking. **T Stewart** did the timing. Sara Wood was "girl Friday." **Hugh Brown** and **Joe Manning** cleared, flagged, and helped with lunches. **Hugh Sproul** provided the barn and helped in many other ways. New comers **Jenner Brunk**, **Marianne Allen Smith**, and **Cindy Kiser and children**, joined the others in getting the necessary tasks taken care **Joanne VanSiclen** and **Gerald Blyth** watched gates. Kennelman **Eddie Satter** also did gate duty. **Dwight Phelps'** daughter Kim Smith did gate duty also. **Stacy Thompson** was our EMT volunteer. **Angelika O'Donnell** did a bang-up job with publicity. **Marge Hays** and **Diane Gibbs** took care of entries and event standings.
- ? We can't forget **Bob Heitler** who chose to hike out to his gate, and hike back. Or **Chris Thompson** who did whatever needed to be done. He made sure the proper gates were open and closed and worked with the farm manager to make sure we knew where the cows would be.

That's quite a Village.

All of Glenmore thanks the many who helped make this a successful pace, if I have overlooked anyone, believe me, your efforts were appreciated.

Jewell

Masters Corner

By the time you read this we will soon be going into what I think of as the second half of the hunting season. During the first months of the 2006–2007 season, the weather has been dry and balmy. While it allowed for a full card of hunts held and pleasant riding, the unseasonably warm weather and dry conditions forced hounds to work for any faint traces of scent. Several times it even allowed foxes to appear to have evaporated into thin air as they crested a hill on the short parched grass behind the **Croft** machine shed or crossed the forest floor scented by a covering of dry pine needles at the base of *Nancy's Folly* at **Carr's**.

It seemed that hardly a hunting day went by without, sometime during that day, a deer rising up within the pack or cutting across in front of it without hardly a glance from the hounds. Maybe from the above you might think that the pack has lost their drive or desire to hunt a fox. November 6th at *Cedarfield* helped to settle that question. Viewed away by the entire field, the fox was about a field ahead of the hounds as they ran to the south. After having looped almost the entire fixture in mere minutes, Whipper-in **Jan Jones** found herself alone with the pack as they passed through the oak woods, strongly pressing the fox on to the cutover where the fox took refuge. When I got into the cutover from Knightly Lane all hounds were on, leaving no doubt in my mind that with half decent conditions the pack will provide sport.

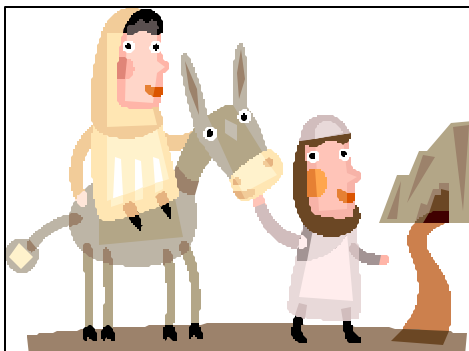
So, what will the second half of the season bring? We will only know for sure come March 22nd. That is why it is the *sport* of fox chasing. As we start back after deer season, I expect it to be somewhat different in the field and that hounds and staff will adjust. We hope for good weather and ground conditions. With the crops harvested, some fixtures will have reduced cover, while with some fixtures it may be easier to get around. Wildlife habits may be somewhat altered. The fox that was always in the cornfield may no longer be there.

As you are about the countryside on hunting days take heed of what is the same, what is changed, and how the hounds are responding. The powers of observation and comparison will give an increased understanding of the sport of hunting.

Dan Jones, JMFH

Glenmore Gets Cover Billing

Reporter Lauren Jefferson from *The Shenandoah Journal* attended Glenmore Hunt's opening meet on October 27th at *Meadowspring Farm*. She interviewed members **Jakki Avery** and **Graham Pitsenberger**, Hon-MFH about foxhunting and the history of the Glenmore Hunt. A lovely article subsequently appeared in the journal's October 30th issue with a picture of Glenmore on the front cover. The full article appears on the second page, complete with text from our blessing service and more pictures. This was a positive piece on foxhunting, and if you subscribe or know folks at *The Shenandoah Journal*, please thank them for their excellent coverage.



Dear Horse Owners,

Are you experiencing too many second and third finishes behind inferior horses at horse shows? While you are schooling, does your horse forget everything he was bred and trained to do?

Well, this simple chain letter is meant to bring relief and happiness to you.

Unlike most chain letters, it doesn't cost any money. Simply send a copy to six other horse owners who are dissatisfied with the way that their horse is behaving. Also, bundle up your horse and send him/her to the horse owner at the top of list, and add your name to the bottom of the list. Do not use a return address or the post office may try to contact you.

In one week you should receive 16,436 horses, and at least one of them should be a keeper. Have faith in this. Do not break the chain. One owner broke the chain and got his own horse back.

President's Message

Welcome to our new members! As our club grows in numbers, it also increases our opportunities for friendships, social interaction, and great hunting days.

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving Day. It's hard to believe it is almost the end of another year. With Christmas fast approaching and people busy getting their shopping done before the big day, let's try to take time to be thankful for the things we have in our lives. I am thankful to be able to spend time with family and friends, and to have the health to enjoy my favorite sport of mounted fox chasing and the camaraderie that comes from fellow Glenmore members.

The Glenmore tail gates and socials have been wonderful this year. Yet to come is the Christmas social, which will be great fun if past parties are any indication. This year's party will be held on December 15th at the home of **Dennis and Anne Avery**. Glenmore members always seem to have a good time together. I hope each one of you is able to join us for this celebration.

The Fall Hunter Pace is just over and **Jewell Phelps** and her crew put on yet another successful event. "Thank you" to everyone who helped make the Pace a success.

Brenda

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*In
This
Issue*

VHW remembered + Hunter Pace results + Christmas Party Update
