



A Day with the Octorora Beagles

On January 11, 2009 Glenmore Hunt and Rockbridge Hunt members were invited for an afternoon of beagling with the Octorora Beagles. We met at 3 p.m. at Dawn and Tom Kirlin's "Hounds Cry" farm in Eagle Rock, Va. The Octorora Beagles are a recognized pack of beagles from Floyd, Va. Master of Beagles Larry Bright and his Whipper-in, wife Debby, brought 7 couples of well conditioned beagles to the meet. The afternoon was bright but cold as the pack moved off from the stable area. "Hounds Cry" is laid out along the south side of a nice trout stream in the upper James River watershed. It lies largely in the flood plain with steep, wooded slopes along the outside edges of the farm.

Larry sent the pack into a covert at the back of one of the paddocks and was soon re-

warded by the sound of beagles on their quarry. They ran screaming along a steep bank at the edge of the farm. Unfortunately, as they were headed out of territory, Larry stopped them, packed them up and headed for another covert closer to the river. Once cast into that covert the pack again opened and headed back toward the stable area. At this point we had walked about one-half mile on nice flat footing. The beagles were running through the woods, into and out of small streams, under briars and over logs and covered that distance in just minutes. The very obliging rabbit made a turn near the barn and headed back downstream with the whole pack in full cry. Several members of the field viewed at this point. The bunny continued to run and made another turn near where he started and headed for the barn again. This time he ran through an open paddock which foiled the

hounds for a few moments. Once in the woods they again picked up the scent. At that point the entire field saw the rabbit racing toward them. We all stood still as he tore by. **MFH Dan Jones** and Tom Kirlin were standing at the back of the field when the bunny bounded between them. He was leaping about 20 feet at a stride and was knee high as he went past. Everyone stayed still as the beagles came right on the line, although one did run between Tom's legs. The rabbit followed his original route back toward the river. The beagles lost at a farm road and as it was 5 p.m. and the sun was setting through the overcast, Larry picked them up and we went in. The beagles had run for most of the time we were out and probably went a total distance of 3 miles on the second rabbit.

Back at the barn we were treated to a sumptuous tailgate to warm us. Everyone agreed that it had been an exciting afternoon and we're all looking forward to the next time.

~Jan Jones

Invitation for Juniors to Hunt with Bull Run

The Bull Run Hunt is having a Junior Foxhunt on Monday, February 16, 2009. All juniors (18 or under) in the area are invited to participate. There are three flights. First flight goes quickly and jumps, Second flight goes quickly and might have to jump 2' but only in rare occasions, Third flight is mostly walk/trot; and, rarely, a canter over short distances (depends on riders in field). I really feel we are a great hunt for juniors to "try out" foxhunting. Juniors are encouraged to dress comfortably and warm.

We are asking that all Juniors be mounted and ready at 9:30am (hunt starts at 10am). All horses will need a negative Coggins and all Juniors **MUST** have a signed liability waiver (from a parent). The cost is \$25 per junior and any adult that brings a junior may also cap for \$25. Please contact me if you have any questions!

Hope to see many of you out there again in February!

~Sallie Hill Outten

mailto:shoutten@gmail.com

Information: www.brhjuniormeeet.googlepages.com

Secretary's Corner

The February 3rd, 2009 meeting of the Glenmore Hunt Club will be held at the home of Jeff and Sheila Jennings. The Board meets at 7:00 and the membership meets at 8:00. For directions call the Secretary, Dwight Phelps, at 337-6659.

Membership Add

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Dwight Phelps, Hon. Secretary

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Glenmore Hunt WebSite:
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Events of Special Note

Looking Ahead—The Calendar

January

31st— Beat the Winter Blues gathering, *Mill Street Grill*, 6pm

February

16th— Junior Hunt with Bull Run

March

21st—Closing Hunt, with breakfast social. Joint meet with Rockbridge.

April

18th—Spring Hunter Pace

Sara Lisa (1978-2009)

Sara Lisa was laid to rest at Echo Hill Farm on January 19, 2009 after suffering a stroke. This wonderful pony taught numerous youngsters to ride and introduced brave beginners to foxhunting. Although only 12.2 hands, she could keep up with second flight, and was known to throw her more advanced riders a playful buck when they tried to hold her back. She was always aware of her charge, however, and was happy to hilltop quietly for her more timid passengers.

Sara was a well-rounded pony, (and longed to have an even more rounded figure than her stable servants would allow) and experienced a full life. She was born on an Indian reservation in Wyoming where she spent the first few years of her life and was initially broke western. She was purchased by a riding instructor from Virginia for her children. A few years later, Luanne Leonard purchased her for her children. Sara Lisa readily learned to jump and became a short stirrup wonder in the hunter ring.

Pony clubbers loved to borrow her for “games” rally. After many years of participation, she had the “Rising Star” division relay races memorized and trotted the patterns with (and occasionally without) her little charges.

Her most recent riders included Glenmore members **Ethan Avery** and **Sarah Emily Lyman**. Sara Lisa was owned by Katie Leonard, who was a Junior member of Glenmore before going off to college. Please keep Katie, Ethan, and Sarah Emily in your prayers.

~Jakki Avery



Sara Lisa (hunted by Sarah Emily Lyman) at Glenmore's December 2007 Junior Meet.

New Years Hunt

New Year's Day 2009 dawned bright and clear with temperatures in the upper Shenandoah Valley hovering between 0 and 10 degrees. A good turn out of hearty Glenmore members met at "Bellevue" Farm adjacent to the village of Swoope.

To appreciate the hunt one must understand the lay of the land. The topography is characterized by narrow valleys separated by steep high ridges. "Bellevue" Farm, owned previously by Wm R. Drumheller, a Joint Master of Foxhounds of the Glenmore from 1959 to 1961, comprised approximately 1000 acres configured in an elongated rectangle running east/west. A large ridge runs east/west separating the farm into two valleys each with its own complex of streams. The west end of the farm runs to the base of Little North Mountain. The north side is bounded by a road and a railroad. After Wm. Drumheller's death, the farm was divided between his son, Charles, and his daughter, Edith, and a line fence was erected along the ridge. Charlie retained the name "Bellevue" and Edie named her half "Mountain Side." On "Bellevue", through the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the stream bottoms are fenced, trees planted, and cross fences within the CREP have been removed. Coops and railroad tie jumps provide access through the CREP and cross fenced pastures. On "Mountainside", establishment of wildlife food plots, woodland fencing, and the retention of several thickets enhance the wildlife habitat. Thus, these two farms provide a great place to hunt.

Dan Jones, Joint Master and Huntsman, as is his custom, hacked to the east end of "Bellevue" and started his draw along the stream at the east end of the farm. At the fork he took the left branch. Dan continued to draw up the left fork to where it crosses the line fence separating "Mountain Side." At that point he crossed the ridge and began to draw up the right fork. Barely more than 100 yards from the west end of the farm hounds opened. They worked the scent hard for a few minutes and finally worked it out into the large mown hay field going southeast toward Mountain Side. We flew!

Across the hayfield and the jump at the end, across the next two pasture fields, and into the area where the left fork stream goes under the fence at the base of Picnic Hill, hounds pressed the line with tremendous cry. At the line fence, hounds checked briefly and then worked under the wire, giving us time to get through the gate into "Mountain Side." Then down the hill and through the double gate into Edie's woods, through the woods and up over the hill to the gate back into "Bellevue", from there east to the next field holding a herd of cattle.

As the hounds worked the scent through the herd, the patriarch of the herd, i.e. large bull, took the opportunity to check out the pack and express his displeasure at their presence. The cows seemed undisturbed as the hounds trying to work out the line passed through them. Unknown at the time to the huntsman and field, from different vantage points, the fox was viewed by Whippers-in **Jan Jones** and **Chris Thompson** as it worked its way through the herd, only to stop and sit at its edge, before and doubling back through the herd.

Another check, but the hounds quickly recovered the line and were away again, down to the creek at the fork. Over the ridge between the forks, across the right fork and jumping into the pasture, we pushed horses to the railroad culvert. From there we flew across four pastures and found ourselves back where the run had started. A very short check and we were off again in the same direction across the big hay field, but when we got to the far corner the fox crossed into "Mountain Side" and turned west toward the mountain. We flew back to the West end of the hay field jumped into the road and galloped like a bunch of crazies up the road to the back entrance to "Mountain Side." Dan caught up to the pack as they were negotiating the road fence. Hounds, horses, and riders, after nearly an hour and a half chase, were ready to stop. The big red fox had taken us all the way around the original farm, was viewed by the huntsmen, whippers in, many of the field and some of the car followers. This was the second time we had run this fox. The first time he went straight to the mountain. This time he took us around the farm before he went to the mountain. We look forward to seeing what he has in store for us the next time.

Hugh Sproul, Hon. MFH

Masters Corner

It is hard to believe that this hunting season will be coming to a close in less than two months. To date, we have been fortunate that few days have been missed due to weather and we have enjoyed some good sport.

In general, the drafts from Red Mountain and Marlboro hunts have not missed a beat working in the new territories, with their varied abilities complementing the pack. Their noise, voice and drive made some of the Glenmore hounds reach to hone their hunting capabilities. If you have the opportunity, watch individual hounds hunting, Voodoo has great ability to move a check forward, Virginia is running close to the actual line with great voice, while Tulip shines in getting things started on what one may think is a bad scenting day. I could go on about the characteristics of others, but it is important that in the end each adds their special talent to the pack. That has made for some fine hunting. Observe the hounds in the pack and you will soon be able to tell how each is contributing to or possibly even distracting from the pack's job as a whole.

While we in the field are enjoying our sport, we need to keep in mind the efforts of the Va. Foxhound Club and others to preserve foxhunting in Va. While the "Hunting with Hounds Study . . ." is concluded, there are a number of well organized and financed groups that are diligently working to develop misinformation, create negative public opinion, and join forces with unknowing groups with the goal of if not ending hound hunting, at least making it so difficult to conduct that it will not exist as we know it today. There are several persons that have volunteered to serve as contact persons to the Legislature. I would like to have another 4-6 that would like to assist in that capacity as needed. If you would be interested please contact me, and I can provide background information so you can be better prepared. ~Dan

The Newsletter Photos (in fact everything) look so much better on the Internet!

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*In
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Not Much This Month + Article Submissions Needed
