



Amazing Half Pint—He's Still THE MAN

Writes **Sandy Cryder**. I have an amazing Half Pint Story that happened on our New Years Day Hunt 2009.

We were hunting at Bellevue in the Swoope area. We got on a pair of red foxes and suddenly a slow day became a barn burner! As we were galloping full bore across the field, I noticed my right stirrup kept getting longer and longer. What the heck! Luckily we stopped at a check at that moment. I realized my stirrup leather stitching had broken. The only thing I had to use was my belt. So, Vonda Reel jumped off and helped me make the exchange. This was just a woven leather belt but luckily due to my "girth," was long enough.

Suddenly the chase started again and we blasted out of the field onto the paved road. Galloping madly down the tarmac, **Chris Thompson**, one of our whippers-in, continued down the road while **MFH Dan Jones** turned left through an open gate into Mountainside toward the woods where the fox had run (affectionately known as Coyote corner).

Half Pint decided he wanted to follow Chris down the road instead of turning left. I was kicking and pulling and demanding he turn all the way to the gate. Suddenly I realized we weren't going to make it and Half Pint and I were headed directly for the 4 foot (maybe 4' 3") cattle fence w/ barbed wire above it to the right of the gate.

My mind blanked at that moment and all I could see was my life flashing before me. I expected he would stop suddenly and I'd hit the fence. NO—he jumped the fence!

Unfortunately, my stirrup leather (aka belt) couldn't stand the pressure! It broke and I hit the ground! Luckily there were two nurses riding that day who could check me out—**Stacy Thompson** and Vonda Reel. Half Pint and I were both OK, although I was shaken up, as you might expect. While equestrians who do jumper courses wouldn't have thought a moment about it, Half Pint's rider didn't start riding until she was in her 40's and she ain't getting any younger!

Half Pint learned to hunt in Ireland as a youngster so I guess he still remembers the huge fences he had to jump over there. While, after the fact, I was amazed at Half Pint's athleticism, for days afterwards I had nightmares of the moment we approached that fence.



Ed Moran aboard Half-Pint, Glenmore's famous Irish Gypsy cart horse, whom he imported from Ireland in October 1993 when Half-Pint was three. Half-Pint is now proudly owned by former MFH Sandy Cryder.

Secretary's Corner

The March 3rd meeting of the Glenmore Hunt Club will be held at the home of Dr. Julie Bullock, Mt Sidney. The Board meets at 7:00 and the membership meets at 8:00. For directions call the Secretary, Dwight Phelps, at 337-6659.

Roster changes

Rita Mae Brown, MFH (Oak Ridge) - resigned
Harriet Hanger-resigned

Dwight Phelps, Hon. Secretary

Events of Special Note

Looking Ahead—The Calendar

March

3rd—Glenmore Hunt Meeting

7th— Junior Meet Walnut Grove (Corner of Glebe School and Livick Roads)10 AM - Tailgate

14th— Junior Meet, Rockbridge

21st—Closing Hunt, with breakfast social. Joint meet with Rockbridge. Walnut Grove, 10 AM. Reservations Requested. check the web or hunt line as weather affects fixture and parking

April

7th—Glenmore Hunt Annual Meeting, Staunton office

18th—Spring Hunter Pace. Location to be announced. Rain date April

19th.Volunteers will be needed

May

3rd —Hound Day at the Kennels

24th—Virginia Foxhound Show, Morven Park, Leesburg

2009 Annual Meeting: April 7th

The Annual Meeting and election of Master(s) of Foxhounds, Officers, and Directors of Glenmore Hunt, Inc. will be held Tuesday, April 7th, at the Glenmore Office in Staunton, Virginia.

The Nominating Committee was announced during the February membership meeting. President ChrisThompson appointed Linnette Coaker, Jan Jones, Joe Manning, and Hugh Sproul to facilitate the election of the Glenmore Hunt Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee will publicize the slate of candidates via e-mail prior to the March membership meeting. As our By-Laws stipulate, elections will take place during the April Annual Meeting. You are encouraged to participate in the election of Officers and Directors by attending the April Annual Meeting. Glenmore Hunt Club is an organization of volunteers; if you're interested in getting more involved in your club, please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

~~~Glenmore Hunt Nominating Committee

## Last Junior Hunt of this Season-Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>

The last scheduled Junior Hunt will be Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at Walnut Grove. All riding members are asked to bring a food or drink item to share. As this will be a Junior meet, the drinks should be soft drinks, water, hot chocolate, etc. Please contact Brenda Simmons to coordinate what you would like to bring. Cell phone 292-8948, home phone 248-0824; or email to: [Brenda@mossociety.org](mailto:Brenda@mossociety.org)>

Thank you in advance for your help.

~~Brenda

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### Glenmore Hunt Board of Directors 2007-2008

Christopher Thompson, *President*

Col Hugh B. Sproul, III, *Vice*

*President*

Dwight F. Phelps, *Honorary Secretary*

Graham A. Pitsenberger, *Treasurer*

G. Daniel Jones, *Master of Foxhounds*

Jewell S. T. Phelps, *Master of Foxhounds*

Janet Jones, *Member at large (Hunt Status)*

Brenda Simmons *Member at large (Hunt Status)*

Daryl Hurst *Member at large (Non-hunt Status)*

Robert C. Heitler, *Member of large (Non-hunt Status)*

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**Glenmore Hunt WebSite:**

<http://www.glenmorehunt.org>

## News From Other Hunts

### News from Rockbridge

The Junior Meet will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Montafon Farm (weather permitting). Be sure to check the hunt line! Capping fees for juniors will be waived for this meet. The breakfast will be potluck. We had a great turnout last year and a beautiful day. We will have three fields and will likely have car-following.

If you have any questions about bringing juniors, please let me know. We want to encourage juniors to come out hunting! We'd like the members to wear formal attire, as usual on a Saturday, but juniors are welcome to wear any safe attire—riding boots and helmets are required. If there's anything else we can do to help, be sure to let me know.

Directions to Montafon Farm:

From Interstate 81, take Exit 180 (one of two Natural Bridge exits) and go north on Route 11 (Lee Highway) for about 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Falling Springs Road (Route 680). After about 1.3 miles turn left on Montafon Lane. Drive to the end of the lane and turn left, through the gate, into the pasture.

Cindy Morton; mortonc@wlu.edu 540-463-6025

### Joint Meet at Montafon Farm

On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, the Rockbridge Hunt hosted a joint meet with the Glenmore Hunt at Fred and Barbara Burks's beautiful Montafon Farm. The folks at Rockbridge welcomed us with a warming stirrup cup in the morning and sent us home contented after a terrific breakfast provided by Rockbridge members Stan & Kathy Eichelberger. Glenmore members **Joanne VanSiclen, Stacy Thompson, Carol Ann O'Connor, Joe Manning, Diane Gibbs, Sandy Cryder, Jenner Brunk, and Hugh Brown** all followed the hounds on horseback while Joint Masters **Dan Jones** and **Jewell Phelps** followed the hunt by car and on foot. We enjoyed several chases during the day and Dan and Jewell viewed the hunted fox. It is always such a privilege to be able to ride with other hunt clubs in their countries. We look forward to several more joint meets with the Rockbridge folks this season—both at Rockbridge and at home



Hugh Brown

Pictured at left:  
Joint Hunt with Rockbridge,  
Feb 7th. **Carol Ann  
O'Connor** with Rockbridge  
Huntsman David Conner.

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## Glenmore Beats the Winter Blues!

It has been an exceptionally cold winter, so on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, a cheerful group of Glenmore members and guests met at the Mill Street Grill in Staunton to eat, drink, and beat back those winter blues. About 25 of us enjoyed great food and had a terrific evening.

The staff at the Mill Street Grill found tables for us in the center of the restaurant so we had party space and much diversity: some people had appetizers, some went for the full dinner menu, others just had a little soda or a cocktail to warm them up. Both hunting and social members were among the gathering and the talk wasn't all about foxhunting! I personally heard many stories about families, worries about the economy, and lots of opinions about the new President and his administration.

The fox chasers in the group did share lots of stories about what a wonderful season we've been having. We've chased reds, grays and coyotes and many folks, riding or following on foot, have been able to view the hunted quarry. It's been a season of many thrills—and spills—yes, we talked about the spills too!

Special thanks to **Joanne VanSiclen** and the Social Committee for organizing a fun night out on the town to help us beat the winter blues!

~Hugh Brown

## Letter to the Editors: **Learning the Hard Way**

Many of you got my e-mail at Christmas about the poor little horse left on Sangers Lane. The good news is that she has gained about 250lbs and has a thick warm winter coat. Her face has healed and she does not appear to miss her baby. We can put a head collar on her, touch her, and she has just started to come up to people who visit her in the pasture. Dr. CJ and Dr. Wise provided medical care; she is no longer riddled with worms; no longer anemic; and, thank god, not pregnant.

I had found a rescue home for her. But my own ignorance has cost this horse a chance of a new life and she will most likely be returned to the owner who abandoned her. We did not call animal control on day-one. We felt the woman who dropped the horse off was in such bad shape that we did not want to cause her more hardship. We felt she would not return to reclaim the animal before the end of January when the horse becomes our property. Sadly, the owner reappeared and plans to remove the mare.

The case was opened with animal control as of yesterday and of course the horse looks much improved and is close to a healthy weight. The photos I took of her over the past 6 weeks can not be used in court or by animal control as they did not take them. Therefore, animal control can not prevent the women from taking back this now healthy horse. They *can* attempt to find out where she is being taken.

The lesson? Call animal control on day-one if any of you are unfortunate enough to become involved in such a situation.

Please call me for more details if you are approached to provide free housing for this mare.

Thank you,

Jacquie Farley

## **For sale - Used Horse Trailer**

1995 Traillet New Yorker II, aluminum, two horse straight load, TB size, rubber mats, dressing room. Good mechanical condition, passes inspection annually, some rust but recently painted, floor in good condition, ramp.

Asking \$4,800 b.o. or will trade toward a good condition gooseneck w/ dressing room. I want to be able to horse camp and have a sleeping area.

Sandy Cryder

540 421-2511

email for more pix: VArussellrescue@gmail.com

## Hunt Etiquette—A Refresher Course

This season we have had numerous first time foxhunters using capping certificates won at our horse shows, clinics, and hunter paces. Glenmore members have been wonderful at making these visitors feel welcome and the hunting they have experienced has been fantastic. Some of the first timers have been unsure as to what is expected of them on a foxhunt so I have summarized the “*Hunt Etiquette*” sheet from the membership notebook as a review. If we can help our visitors feel comfortable, they may come back and hunt regularly with us.

1. Upon arriving at a meet, it is traditional to greet the Masters and the staff.
2. If you have guests, introduce them to the Masters and the Honorary Secretary. Ensure that their capping fee is paid and the waiver signed before the hunt.
3. Decide in advance in which field you wish to ride (jumping, non-jumping, hilltopping). During the meet, if you wish to change fields or must leave the field for any reason, request permission from the Field Master.
4. Do not pass or over-ride the field master. At a check, keep quiet so the Master and staff can listen for hounds.
5. Never speak to or interfere with the hounds except in emergency situations, such as to protect them from road traffic, or to prevent attack on a landowner’s yard pet, etc.
6. No smoking or cell phones in the hunt field.
7. Keep to the edges of fields so as not to destroy crops. Always be courteous and considerate to landowners and tenants.
8. If you do not understand why the Field Master, Huntsman, or staff do something, ask them questions after the day is over. They will be more than happy to help you and to explain.
9. At the end of the day, thank your Master, Field Master, Huntsman, and staff. They work hard to ensure an enjoyable day and appreciate your consideration. Above all, enjoy yourself!

~~Dwight Phelps  
Hon. Secretary

### ***Quote of the Month***

“For those who have not actually been flayed alive by thorns, plastered with wet mud, banged painfully on the nose by their horse’s up-flung head, rubbed raw by an ill-placed button, had their spinal cords twisted when their horse jumped crooked off a bank, continued to gallop, breathless, exhausted and, if they are honest, slightly frightened, unable to see for the rain they have smeared into their eyes with a dirty glove, unable to breathe for the clot of mud flung in eyes and nostrils from the hoofs of the horse in front—to those, I say, who have not actually taken part in this high glory, something of the resulting elation of spirit is bound to be missing.”

~~~M arigoldA m itage, from *A Long Way to Go*

The Next Time

(A Sequel to the New Year's Hunt)

On Saturday, January 24th we met at Mountainside. The weather was clear and breezy with temperatures in the 30's. As Field Master my goal is to position my riders in the best possible place to see the Huntsmen and hounds work and hopefully see a fox. On this day I was leading second flight.

Dan drew Mountainside's wooded thickets in the big pasture before moving around to Bellevue's big hay field. After drawing the swampy CREP area in the middle of that field, he continued on to the stream looking for our big red fox. Casting forward, he took the hounds into the very upper end of the right fork CREP area. **Sandy** led first flight across the culvert and into the field along the railroad. I kept second flight on the high ground on the near side. This gave us a few moments to pass the flask. Suddenly as I was fumbling my flask back into its case just as the hounds opened in a crescendo of music.

We took off at a gallop along the ridge and soon were abreast of the pack with a perfect view. It doesn't get much better than galloping on high ground beside a pack in full cry! Soon I realized we were getting too far ahead and pulled up. At that moment **Dwight Phelps**, beside me, yelled "Tally Ho". I looked up to see our big red fox bounding down through the CREP area at about a 45 degree angle. We moved down off the ridge into ~~the CREP leaving Dan and 1st flight behind us.~~ Which way to go? Follow the fox down the CREP? Cross the ~~fence out of the CREP into the adjacent pasture?~~ I asked **Joe Manning** to open the gate to the pasture. At that point I realized we had a rider down (Horse had fallen making the turn into the CREP). Better take care of things and get out of the way of Dan and first flight (both ways were open for them). Besides we had just galloped in full view of huntsmen, hounds and fox. There is no way it's going to get better than that! Previously the fox had run the CREP toward the barn before crossing Picnic Hill, but today would not be the same as it doubled back to avoid men working in the CREP, necessitating huntsman and first flight to double back to where we were.

We got our downed rider remounted on her possibly injured horse, closed the gate and saw her on her way back to the meet. After all this we still had a nice gallop down the ridge to the left fork creek at the base of Picnic Hill. At the gate into Mountainside we caught up to 1st Whipper-in **Jan Jones**. At this time, the hounds were working the woods on the Mountainside slope of Picnic Hill. After a long pause to be sure we were not going to interfere with hounds, I led my group over Picnic Hill on the Bellevue side. Paralleling the pack as they worked the line we were treated to considerable music and hound work just across the fence. When hounds finally worked their way out of the woods the line was cold.

Meanwhile Whipper-in **Chris Thompson** viewed a fox slipping along the fence line at the south end of the Bellevue farm. Dan gathered the pack and cast them on this line. With a strong breeze blowing perpendicular to the line the pack ran this line about 20 yards downwind until reaching the crest of the hill where the scent gave out. This fox was viewed across a more distant hill by Whipper-in **'T' Stewart**. Try as they might, the hounds could not gain this line in the now dry and windy conditions. It was decided to hunt toward the meet and call it a day.

Customarily the tailgate provides a time for riders to tell the "real" truth of the day. Also, it is a time for staff to discuss the hunting. After much discussion and note comparison between the Whipper-ins, it was felt that it was most likely two different foxes were viewed, the first a large dark red, with the second being somewhat smaller and more burnt orange in color. Hopefully, in a few months there will be some little kits in the shadow of Little North Mountain.

~HMFH Hugh Sproul and MFH Dan Jones

New from MFHA

The MFHA has a new and exciting website! Go to www.mfha.org or www.mfha.com to see. Don't skip the intro slideshow!!

Subscribing members are now able to log in and access many new features:

- ? Current Events
- ? Sections for Master members, Hunt Staff and Member hunts Calendars
- ? Discussion Boards, Café Press store, Sections for Master members, Hunt Staff and Member hunts Picture Library Document Library

...and many more to come in the near future!

~~~Angelika

## Photos From February Hunts

Meadowspring-February 21

A study in Black and White



It was great fun, now let's have lunch!!  
The Thompson's horses enjoy a snack



Derre Run, February 17  
Jenner Brunk, Cindy Kiser and T Stewart  
wait for the hunt to begin



Photos by John Meyer

## Masters' Corner

Glenmore's 2008-09 foxhunting season is rapidly coming to an end. I suggest you might like to come out and catch some of the action. You could watch the hounds work. If you are a hound sponsor, your hound might show you what they can do. The pack is doing well.

If you are lucky you might even view Mr. Fox "training" our hounds! I've been able to observe some of these "foxy" maneuvers. At Piney Ridge (the late Anne Harden's farm). I watched a big gray run the hounds in a big circle, at a very leisurely pace, lie down in the CREP and sun himself, then disappear when the hounds began to catch up.

I watched a big red fox come out of the briar patch, sit and watch the wheel whips, then turn and hop over a brush pile before the hounds could catch up. There was also the rumor that Mr. Reynard found a herd of cattle to disguise his scent that day. You just never know about that fox!

Jewell

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*In  
This  
Issue*

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*Hunting Stories + Pictures + Upcoming Junior Hunts + Annual Meeting Notice*

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