

Glenmore News



July 2023

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Monthly Meeting

The Tuesday, July 11, 2023 meetings will be held at the home of Lindsay Johnson at 2390 Battlefield Road, Grottoes, VA 24441.

The Board will meet at 7:00 PM followed at 7:30 PM by the Membership.

To access the Glenmore members-only calendar go to the website: www.Glenmorehunt.org then log in with your email and password. Contact Carol Demeo for more information.

Calendar of Events

Be sure to join us for the following events!

- July 1—Fixture Work Day
- July 8—Hound and Horn Social
- July 19—Weekly Hound Walkout
- July 29—Trail Ride Social
- August 5—Fixture Work Day

Fixture work days are a great way to see our hunt country from ground level and help prepare for the season.

Preparing for the New Season

Glenmore closed our 2023 season with one of our most exciting runs in many months with the hounds completing two huge circuits of one of our most beautiful fixtures. Four of our hounds followed this performance by competing successfully against top hounds at the Sedgfield Performance Trials. Preparations have begun to meet the high standards set in the past season.



Over the past few weeks, staff have been exercising the hounds to begin to prepare them for our 2023—2024 season. On Saturday, July 8, Glenmore will hold a Hound and Horn Social at the Kennels. This is an opportunity for the sponsors of our hounds to meet their charges face to face. For those who haven't yet been paired with a hound, this will be a chance to select a hound to follow in the field for the next year.

Beginning on Wednesday, July 19, the Masters invite all members of Glenmore and their families to come to the kennels at 6:30 to join in the weekly exercise of the hounds. The Masters are also working on other training opportunities for our hounds to keep them fit.

In addition to preparing our hounds, we also must begin the process of preparing our hunt country. The first Saturday of each of the remaining summer months have been set aside to prepare our hunt country for the hunting to come. Attending these work days helps in the effort to clear paths of the thick summer vegetation and repair gates and jumps. Those that attend are also afforded an opportunity to see our hunt country from ground level. Walking the hills and valleys of our beautiful valley will also provide the member with a new appreciation of how hard our hounds and horses work on a hunting day!

With hounds and hunt country covered, it is important that members consider preparing their horses and themselves for the hunting season ahead. One of the most enjoyable ways to exercise horse and rider is to attend the trail ride socials held on about a monthly basis. Our next trail ride will be held on Saturday, July 29 near Craigsville. These trail rides are also an opportunity for members to introduce interested in joining Glenmore to our hunt. Please consider introducing your riding friends to Glenmore at a future trail ride.

Please plan to join us as we prepare for our next season, our 94th year of hunting in the beautiful Valley of Virginia. Check the Glenmore Calendar online for more information on all these events. I'm looking forward to seeing all of our members and guests out soon! ~ John Meyer, MFH

Land Rover Five Star Report

On April 25th, Katie Bennett, Anne Morrison, and our rather agreeable husbands Ryan and Jeff embarked on a seven day vacation to Lexington, Kentucky. The Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event was held at the Kentucky Horse Park April 27th-May 30th (actually four days long, if you're paying attention), and was the, ahem, five-star destination of the trip. Jeff and I have vacationed to Kentucky every year since 2013, with 2020 being the only exception. This was our third time attending the Kentucky Three Day; other years we spent spectating the USHJA Hunter Derby Finals. If you love watching great-jumping horses, the Hunter Derby is another fun pilgrimage to make. This was Katie and Ryan's first trip to Kentucky, so Jeff and I were excited to share some of our favorite spots with them and find some new favorites along the way.

On paper, Lexington, Kentucky is just under seven hours away. In reality, it takes about eight hours if you're lucky, with the last two hours feeling more like six hours. Jeff and I hauled the 1989 Land Rover Defender on a car trailer behind us for the cross country tail gate on Saturday, and Katie and Ryan followed behind in their truck. Ryan made the astute foxhunter observation that the trip would have been made better with radios. We may make a foxhunter out of him yet! After 482 hours in the car, we finally arrived to our cute Airbnb: a two bedroom bungalow with modern upgrades and a hot tub. Jeff immediately put his trailer backing skills to work to shoehorn the car trailer into the driveway, but he got it done with inches to spare and we settled in.

On Wednesday, we took a drive through the breathtaking bluegrass to Quillin Leather in Paris. Quillin's is a tack shop, but they are famous for their quality leather halters. Their leather goods are custom made by hand on site, right in the basement of the two-story shop. We wandered around admiring the craftsmanship and taking in the smells. Katie's mare Ellie already sports a Quillin halter, so Kiowa had to keep up with the Joneses, and we all ordered collars for our pups back home. We stopped for lunch at another favorite casual spot: Wallace Station. I have attempted to recreate their "Hot Ham and Brie" at home, but maybe it's the rustic rural setting outside of the charming town of Midway that really makes the sandwich.

After lunch, we enjoyed the afternoon at the Keeneland races. Keeneland is a magical place, and worth going even if it is not during the race season. Mature trees shade the manicured lawns, and the white limestone buildings provide contrast to the "Keeneland green". We found our grandstand seats after first purchasing libations and joined thousands of race fans cheering for the gleaming Thoroughbreds. With few exceptions, the horses loaded into the green starting gate with calm efficiency and sprinted towards the finish located directly in front of the grandstand. Katie picked the winner of the first race from watching the warmup, and I picked the horse I thought would best excel in a "second career," a nice moving bay gelding who finished last. Maybe he should explore that second career sooner than later!



Thursday was Bourbon Day, or at least, Thursday saw a slightly higher BAC level than the other days. We started the day at 11AM at Bourbon 30, a bourbon barrel warehouse in Georgetown. Here visitors can taste and combine barrels with different profiles to create their own custom blend. Before you pass judgement for our decision to start the day there at 11AM, need I ask how many sips from your flask you've taken by the time hounds cast at 10? With fairly loose guidance, you can taste approximately 40+ barrels of whiskey, bourbon, and rye, and pick which barrels make the cut to form your own blend. You then name and choose a bottle style and wax color, and ta-da! You're officially a whiskey maker. Ryan went through the bourbons methodically to craft his blend, which he and Katie called, "Golden Hour," a nod to their two Golden Retrievers Oliver and Sophie. Jeff and I tasted and blended a bit more haphazardly, and mysteriously the barrels tended to get better the more we tasted. Last year Jeff and I named our blend "Three Socks Tilted Barrel," referencing the nearly spent barrels that were tilted to retrieve the last charred bit of goodness. This year, Jeff came up with the name "Hair of the Fox," appropriate for foxhunting and a premonition of what I would require the next day.

On Friday we arrived at the main event at the Horse Park. Our tickets to the Lakeside hospitality tent included access to two unlimited bars in the tent, lunch daily, and modest snacks, as well as ringside seating adjacent to the Rolex Stadium. It was the second day of dressage, so after grabbing some Blade and Bow bourbon cocktails and watching a few key people including Boyd and Phillip, we took off to check out the shopping. I finally convinced Katie that she NEEDED Dubarrys to muck around the cross country course on Saturday, so that was our first stop. The vendors really pull out all the stops for this event, and many of them serve Champagne while you shop, so I can only imagine how much revenue they exchange over the weekend. I particularly enjoy the trade fair and scoping out new products coming into the horse industry scene.

Friday night we had a light dinner in the hospitality tent while we watched the 1.45m speed cup. This was an add on ticket but worth it, as a preview for the horses competing in the Invitational Grand Prix the next night. I was especially excited to see Gemma W, a grey mare competing with David Bloom. You can understand why I had to root for the great jumping grey Gemma girl! I loudly cheered for her after her clear rounds both nights. She was one of the most experienced horses in the field, and she was careful and smart about her efforts. Bloom rode her to victory in the Grand Prix the following night! (Continued next page)

Land Rover Five Star (Continued)

Saturday was the real star of the show—cross country day! Jeff and Ryan headed out early to get the Defender situated in our tailgate spot. Jeff's work to get the vehicle running reliably proved worth the effort, and the guys set up the tent and other tailgating supplies. We sipped mimosas as the Four Star got underway, and then snacked on a fabulous charcuterie board for the duration. The guys mostly camped up at the tailgate while Katie and I traversed the course, with our goal being to watch at least 2-3 horses go through each jumping effort. From the tail gate spot we enjoyed a great view of a table jump, a huge log, a drop bank, and a log-coffin-corner combination. One of the things I really appreciate about the new four star/five star designations is that the four star is still incredible to watch, and it really gives the spectator great value to be able to watch both upper levels compete.



Even though Katie and I both hail from the hunter/equitation world, we were in awe and full appreciation of the guts and complete trust demonstrated between the pairs tackling these massive fences. Some competitors could have been mistaken as equitation trips, as they sailed through seamlessly with every hair in place. Others had a gruffer, seat of the pants, "get-r-done" approach. But every combination was brave and inspiring. Many riders retired on course, including Boyd Martin on his experienced partner Tsetserleg, which left Katie and I wondering if the footing was perhaps worse than it appeared due to the persistent misty rain. Regardless, a rider's tough decision to put their mount's safety first is always admirable.

Cross country day is the busiest day for spectator foot traffic. Many people come in just for that leg of the competition, and it is without a doubt the most exciting to watch. There is no other equine event in the United States that compares to the spectator atmosphere, and it is really a unique experience to be surrounded by so many eager horse enthusiasts there to cheer on their favorite rider. The horse world is small, and while there may be six degrees of separation to Hollywood celebrities, it might be more like one or two degrees of separation to the horse world's heavy weights, giving them an ethereal accessibility to the average rider. It is not uncommon to rub elbows at Kentucky with someone who rides with Buck Davidson, or bought a horse from Will Coleman, or grooms for Liz Halliday-Sharp. The horse community is a tight knit family, and the competitors themselves make a real effort to meet the fans, sign autographs, and encourage the next generation of horse lovers. While we often think of riding as an individual sport, it undeniably takes—and makes—a strong team.

Sunday was Show Jumping Day. Saturday's cross country separated the wheat from the chaff, and U.S. rider Tamie Smith came into Sunday's competition in the lead for the five star. It was 2008 when a home team rider last took the top spot for this event, so it was extremely exciting to watch from our tent as Tamie Smith held her position for the win. You can of course read the more technical, more in depth analysis of the top rides in one of the Chronicle's accounts of the events, but to witness in person the joy on Tamie's face as she victoriously galloped around the Rolex arena, was a feeling of patriotism and excitement I will not soon forget.



Monday we headed out early to begin our long journey home after a fabulous week. It was great to get away, but we all looked forward to seeing our ponies and puppies again. If you ever can fit in a trip to Kentucky, really any time of year, it is well worth the drive to be surrounded by horses in stunning horse country. But there's a reason the Kentucky Three Day is called the "best weekend all year!" ~ Anne Morrison [Editors Note: Apologies to Anne for not getting this wonderful account to our members sooner. Anne's wonderful account has been edited to fit in the newsletter. The full account can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13R6ftzP0_ggGbzCmQzjLZ2a-RfndicTg/view?usp=sharing]

Murder Mystery Ride—Another Mystery Solved



Joe Manning, MFH and 2023 Winners

The Glenmore Hunt hosted another successful Murder Mystery Ride with over fifty sleuths registered on-line in advance or on-site. In addition to the many members and friends of the Glenmore Hunt who served as Foxhunters at Fixtures, I'd like to give a special shout out to my Lead Investigators who helped pull off this event: Jake Arbaugh, Carol Demeo, Mary Lee McDavid, John Meyer, Angelika & Rod O'Donnell, and Ida Rademacher! Our members promoted, cleared, flagged, competed, and hauled horses for other participants. Thank You Glenmore!

A huge shout out to our most gracious hosts Angelika & Rod O'Donnell who opened their Bonnie Doon Farm to our equestrian guests from near and far! Our Murder Mystery Ride consisted of eighteen teams working together to solve the mystery in the Shenandoah Valley. Through a process of elimination five teams managed to successfully identify the Suspect, Weapon, and Location within the two hour ride. The Thruster used his Poisoned Flask to kill at Arbor Hill! Congratulations to members of Charlie's Angeles (Jasmine Crook, Tasha Kessler, and Shannon Levines) who won the ring toss for the Grand Prize Muck Bucket chocked full of equine goodness.

I heard from multiple participants that they plan to return to the Bonnie Doon Farm for the Glenmore Hunt Moonrise & Fireflies Ride on Saturday, August 26th. Ida has put out a Call for Volunteers for this fun summertime equestrian event; please contact Ida to let her know how you can support this fundraiser. ~Joe Manning, MFH

Trail Ride

Glenmore members and guests enjoyed a wonderful trail ride beginning and ending at Sun Resorts in Stuarts Draft. Following a two hour trail ride for a fast and slow flight, members supplemented hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by Jacob Arbaugh's father with delicious pot luck salads on deserts. Thank you to Holly and Jake for organizing a lovely ride!



Holly and Zephyr



Jake at the reservoir



Enjoying a post trail ride pot luck

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**Join us for the
Moon Rise and Fireflies Ride
August 26, 2023**



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