



November, 1999

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Hunt Reviews - joint hunt at Glenmore.

Approximately 75 riders showed up for the joint meet at Grey Gables. Also invited was Oak Ridge and some riders from Middlebrook came too. It was the biggest meet I'd seen since I was at a multi-hunt joint opening with Bedford, many moons ago.

The weather forecast had been for rain but rain was about the only thing we did not see. Brisk winds, hail, snow pellets and bright sun all made their appearances that day.

According to field master (and honorary MFH) Graham Pitsenberger we accounted for two foxes that day; our own whipper-in Nancy Conner spotting one of these. The field got several excellent chances to view Glenmore's hounds at work when we were not huddled out of the wind. This was definitely a day for wool for the human types.

This particular fixture is always a real treat for us woodsy types from RH as it consists of rolling agricultural fields, dairy and cattle farms, with some coverts of older woods, scattered around.

Glenmore is also well known (at least in the Jones' household) for their prompt, excellent breakfasts. We appreciate their warm hospitality.

Bath County Hounds:

It is pretty hard to complain about bright sunny days in October, but it was almost too warm at Bath Co. this year.

Friday saw a bit more action than Saturday, which was officially declared to be a blank day. Peter Wiants ably led the field both days while Melvin Poe enthusiastically worked his 'red ring necked' hounds of Orange Count hunt origins. Although these American foxhounds are called red, they look almost orange to us not well versed in hound terms. He has an amazingly uniformly matched pack of hounds although there was one black and white one mixed in.

The territory at Bath is a mix of rolling pastures and hay fields, river bottoms, and gorges and older woods. Down in one of those gorges we got to ride by what appeared to be a private trout 'pond' formed by a dam in the river. Swimming along with the regular brown colored trout were some golden trout. Several members of the field were almost drooling. It was lucky there was not any fishing gear in evidence (although the owner thoughtfully provided two chairs).

A good-sized contingent joined us on Saturday from Glenmore and they also did the breakfast that day. Friday breakfast was supplied by Nancy Conner, Viola Wise, Joe Allen and Katharine Conner, Cindy Morton, David Bolen, and Erica Jones.

Kitchen Committee report:

2.

The kitchen committee would like to thank the following cooks for pitching in for the opening hunt breakfast held at Tex Tilson Lodge: Viola Wise, Nancy Conner, Mary Lynn Camper, Carol Atwood, Jeannie Jeffer, Judy Mundy, Lois Farmer, Pam & Joe Moskal.

For some early season tailgates the kitchen committee would like to thank Kay and Cindy Morton, Carol Atwood, Rebecca Tilson, Lois Farmer, and Mary Lynn Camper. For the October 16th breakfast the cooks were Jeanne Jeffer, Judy Mundy, Diane Long and Lu Dooley. After the New Years hunt the breakfast format will go back to potluck like we did last year. This was popular with folks that managed to come out hunting during the depths of winters. The hunt will continue to supply drinks and paper items. Just bring yourself and your dish and three dollars (to cover cost of paper goods, drinks, etc.).

The kitchen committee has expanded its membership a shade to try to spread the work around a bit thinner. The current members are: Carol Atwood, Mary Lynn Camper, Mary Clapsaddle, Pam Moskal, Betty Baird, Judy Mundy, Jeanne Jeffer, Viola Wise, and Nancy Conner. You might notice that a lot of these names repeat several times. If you have any inspiration to do some cooking or even decorating, give one of the members a call.

Dates of Interest:

<p>*Hunter pace at Glenmore Nov 21st 10:00 AM to noon. (Diane Gibbs 337-6078; weather 885-5118). Rain date November 28th.</p> <p>*Landowners luncheon - Tex Tilson Lodge 12:30PM - Nov 21st - The executive committee hosts this every year to thank our landowners for their generous cooperation</p> <p>*Joint hunt at Oak Ridge - Sunday, Dec 12th, 10:00AM</p> <p>*Christmas hunt (December 18th)- I've been told by a certain elf that Santa will make an appearance during breakfast. Come and bring your little ones and partake in the meal even if you don't hunt (but please don't forget to make a reservation for breakfast!).</p> <p>*New Years Day hunt - Jan 1st 11:00 AM. And in honor of the new millenium, bring your hunting photos - any vintage (this year's or from 1950!). An extra table will be set up to let folks reminisce.</p> <p>*RH Hunt Ball- Feb 19th</p> <p>*Glenmore Hunt Ball - March 5th.</p>

New Members!

The RH newsletter would like to welcome our two new members. Please be sure to add them to your mailing list (you should have received one this fall). We have also had one other social member and one other hunting member nominated and voted on, but I'd like to hear for sure that they are accepted before I spread their names around.

<i>Hunting:</i>	<i>Social:</i>
Mrs. Paula Ursoy	Mrs. Dorothy Webb
116 Gravel Hill Rd	Rock'N Horse Ridge, 788 Padgetts Hill Rd
Troutville, VA 24175-5879	Natural Bridge, VA 24578-4156

Electronic stuff

A computer-based (e)mailing list has been set up for Rockbridge Hunt members. If you have email, you can subscribe to the list. It's strictly informal; no essential, "official" news will be transmitted by email although last minute fixture changes and other late breaking news items circulate. Read about it on the Webpage (<http://home.wlu.edu/~mortonc/archive/maillist.html>) or send email to Cindy Morton (mortonc@wlu.edu or cmorton@wlu.edu) to find out more.

Glenmore hunt has a very nice web site up and going. The address is: <http://personal.cfw.com/~glenmor>.

Junior riders:

3.

Carol Atwood reports that her efforts towards introducing junior riders to the sport of fox hunting is paying off. She has had for first time riders: four from the Rockbridge 4-H Horse and Mule Club, seven from the Roanoke 4-H club, and one from RHPC. We have also had two other juniors come and ride with other guests, and there were several first time adults in the fray too. These are pretty impressive results! She also said that they all seemed to really enjoy it and were well mounted. Trying to hunt on an unsuitable horse is miserable enough for adults, let alone juniors.

Executive Committee minutes:

The executive committee is in an extended fall recess; there are no minutes.

Hound report:

Waffle's puppies are weaned and are very cute. Two of them look to be white-cream colored, and the other four brown & black and white. Waffle is back at her regular duties as pack member; there was no report on how relieved she might have been to get off the motherhood shift.

Bits and Pieces:

RH members are requested to keep up on any address/phone changes. We are still missing a good number of phone numbers. If you haven't returned your 1999-2000 membership form, please do so. Notify Secretary Erica Jones, Treasurer Cindy Morton, or Pam Moskal who is working on the hunt ball mailing list.

Jump etiquette for field members:

Riders on horses who are still learning to navigate the panels are requested to ride towards the rear of the jumping field. If you come up on a jump you know you don't want to take, be sure to get totally out of the way of persons behind you who will want to jump it. Some of our jumps are situated so that there is barely enough room for such maneuvers so don't get caught standing in front of the jump, please! Also, if you refuse be sure to circle back to the end of the pack. As a rule, most horses don't like to stand around drooling over a jump while others school (that is, they can get quite fractious).

Etiquette when riding your horse to the ground:

If your horses' feet slip out from under him/her and you are left groping in the bushes, be sure to inform the rider in front of you that you have parted from your mount. Some horses will get back to their feet and merely continue in line versus passing the whole pack; some members have been known to not look behind them for quite a distance. If you come across a riderless horse, don't assume the rider has met with a fatal error but if at all possible try to reunite the loose horse with the now on-foot rider.

Traction and the field hunter:

I was desperate for a mount for a joint hunt one year, so I borrowed a former member's horse, which was being used as a lesson horse. Things were going well until I bent over to clean out her feet, and lo & behold, shoes with absolutely no traction. She was wearing handmade egg bars with absolutely smooth surface other than nail heads. Not a touch of fullering to be seen. Being the ungrateful sort I whined a bit to the owner who predictably got a bit huffy. Point of story - be sure to look a borrowed mount 'under the foot' so to speak. At least then you have some idea how fast you can take the corners and live to tell about it.

This year I've been trying screw in studs on the back shoes of my horse while Blair's mare Delphi is sticking to regular globs of borium. Borium works quite well on pavement and rocky going, and even

seems to improve traction in mud although it is not really designed for mud unless it is installed in lumps. Borium also can be put on nail heads if you want traction without the lumps.

The advantage to studs is that you can vary the amount of traction you have for any particular day. Studs come in styles deigned for roads, grass and mud although truthfully I can't tell any difference between the smallest 'grass' and 'road'. Some of the mud studs get really large although I'm not sure even those would help much on the Fat Lady's trail in any weather. Not only is the traction helpful on pavement, but they are nice in front of muddy coops and useful for stopping in a hurry, as the back feet don't slip out so much on takeoff and. When you take the studs out you really need to replace them with blanks (installed with either an Allen wrench or screwdriver) in order to keep the threads on the holes on shoe in good order.

One disadvantage to studs is that they can come out if your threads get tired and/or if you don't tighten them well. The other disadvantage is that they take time to put in and take out. This process goes much better if your horse stands like rock while you mess with his/her feet. The price we paid for shoes with holes drilled & threaded was the same as for borium so there is not any real price difference other than buying studs and blanks. These shoes re-set and re-heat just fine.

An alternative we used for several years, when the farrier we used to have refused to use borium, were small drive-in studs. These are much smaller than the screw in types and are shaped like small cones and are permanently pounded into the heels of the shoes. These worked quite well for us, but if your horse is not carefully shod the back hoof walls can end up with vertical gouges. Leaving the studs off the front feet might fix this problem, as did finding a new farrier! These studs will wear out eventually.

I've also hunted in a fullered (creased according to one manufacturers web site) shoe called "Eventer" by my farrier. These are a boatload better than those smooth egg bars mentioned above. Anything that adds relief to the surface will help with traction. There are two other 'built in' options - shoes with heels, and shoes with toe bars; and probably other devices I don't know about.

Erica Jones



Classified Ads:

*Seasoned hunt horse for sale. Lyric is a 14-yr. old, 16.3 seal-brown registered TB gelding. He has hunted 8 seasons with Rocky Fork Headly Hunt (Ohio). \$5500. For sale by Marie Suthers-McCabe 540-231-7133 or e-mail msuthers@vt.edu. Marie recently moved to Virginia and finds two hunt horses just too many. She rode in our 25 endurance ride in the rain, and has capped this fall.

*Crosby "Bruce Davidson" "Event" saddle for sale. 19" (?). Excellent condition; approximately two years old. Make offer.... Blair Jones 544-7359.

Unclassified Ad:

*Several people are looking for hunting clothing. If you've got a coat (black or ratcatcher), boots, or vest that you'd like to sell or be willing to lend, please tell Erica Jones or Cindy Morton.

FOXHUNTERS TRIVIA CONTEST!

Since there is no television reception in the Streaker household, we go to incredible lengths to keep ourselves entertained. One long Saturday evening, the youngest Streaker pulled out a mountain of foxhunting books and started quizzing the elder Streaker. When HE couldn't get all the answers, we decided to write them up and see who could! The first individual to mail or e-mail us (mdbarns@firstva.com) the correct answers wins a bottle of reasonably good bourbon (unless underage or nondrinking, in which case 2 liters of Dr. Pepper and a good supply of chocolate will be substituted).

All answers are taken from the following four books:

"Riding To Hounds In America" by William P. Wadsworth

"Foxhunting In North America" by Alexander Mackay-Smith

"Foxhunting" by The Duke Of Beaufort

"The Pony Club Quiz Book No. 1" A Pony Club Publication

While the answers may not be the way things are done in all hunts (or even in our hunting field) it isn't bad to know what the generally accepted practices are in case one goes out visiting! Good luck, and the fax number is **540-348-1687**. E-mail is ***mdbarns@firstva.com*** !

1. The most important gait in a hunter is the _____.
2. The most important quality in a hunting horse is _____.
3. Which of the following is considered optional (in the U.S.)?
 - a) boots
 - b) spurs
 - c) gloves
 - d) hunting whip
4. What is a "thruster"?
5. The most important person of the hunting day is _____.
6. What does "hold hard" mean?
7. What does "hark" mean?
8. All horses may kick--even the ones without red ribbons. How can you judge if you are a sufficient distance from the horse in front?
9. 'Coffee-housing' is:
 - a) Idle chatter at the covert-side.
 - b) A tailgate picnic following a foxhunt.
 - c) A meeting of the Hunt Committee.
 - d) A fall into mud or dirty water.
10. What additional piece of saddlery should a novice rider use when jumping? What piece of standard hunting tack can serve this purpose?

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