

Eyes

Wide

Shut



At the Virginia Foxhound Show, I was one of the amateur photographers taking advantage of the good weather, Morven Park backdrop and abundance of appealing subjects. In this part of the world, Virginia horse country, photo opportunities happen quickly.

I'm a bit thick when it comes to comprehending

things mechanical. I have an older Nikon D100 with auto focus. *In & Around Horse Country* cover photographer, Janet Hitchen, has given me photography pointers from time to time and she always mentions I need auto focus on a camera since I close my eyes when I shoot. It's just something I do.

As the Young Handlers Class was about to start, I noticed 8 year old Grace Gardill standing ringside with Crossbred Foxhound, Ranson. I was taken by Grace's sweet face, pink shirt and bright blue bowtie. As I steadied to take her picture, another photographer comes up and starts shooting. The other photographer asks Grace to toss a biscuit to Ranson and I heard her camera clicking away-zing, zing, zing, zing, zing, zing, zing, zing, zing. I don't know what that staccato function is called but it was taking pictures like a machine gun. So, I wanted that picture, too. As I held the camera to my eye, I realized I had a problem. Since I was using a telephoto lens, I had to keep moving back, back and further back from Grace. When she and Ranson were both in the viewer, I held my breathe, closed my eyes and hit the button. The sound coming from my camera was a bit different-bzoom, bzoom, bzoom, bzoom. Only, that's not the picture being taken, it's the auto focus. The auto focus lens is going out, then in, then out and then in again. *When will it snap the picture?* At last, I heard click. I exhaled and open my eyes. Wishing Grace and Ranson good luck, I moved on.

A few days later, in Horse Country, Kim is cleaning the photos off my camera disc. I hear her say "Way cool, Marion."

It's not a great picture but *I got the biscuit!*

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