

Western Carolina Hunter Pace & Trail Ride
Hosted by the Foothills Riding Club
Sunday, February 10th, 2019

Reported by Lynn Fitch

Despite an overcast sky and chilly temperatures, the Foothills Riding Club's second annual Hunter Pace, held on the Circle Z Farm of Gerry and Sara Zordan, had a good turn-out and was enjoyed by all. The trails offered several scenic vistas, bridge crossings and stream crossings. The trails were well manicured and, in several areas, offered a challenge to navigate. Trail maintenance was accomplished by KC Betzel, Hatsie Goodrich, Holly Mitchell, Sue Mullen, Jillian Woolridge, and Gerry & Sara Zordan. Spaced throughout the area were inviting, sturdily built and solid natural low jumps. The ride length was six and one-quarter miles through woodlands, fields, and around a beautiful lake. The Mini Pace, which was about three miles, got the extra challenge of passing by a field with very large cows!

Drivers entering the property were directed by Dawn Gutowski to park trailers in one of two fields adjacent to the check-in tent. There was ample room in either field for rigs to park allowing room for mounts to be tied and prepared for the ride.

There are many important jobs to be done when conducting a hunter pace, from the trailer parking, ride starter, timer, entry check-in, Coggins test verification and these were capably accomplished by Diane Ayers, Joey Cabannis, Barbara Clarke, Pete, Dawn and Molly Gutowski, Brice Krydyski, Jane Lynch, Virginia McClure, Cathy McGonigal, Sue Mullen, Carol Parker, Perry Weinberg, and Dana Zygamont. Hunter Pace coordinators were Cathy Schwartz and Carole Foster. Lunch was catered by Foothills Catering.

There were a total of 37 teams with 71 riders. In the Field Hunter Division there were 18 teams with 34 riders. The trail was six and one-quarter mile and the ride time was set by Holly Mitchell and Jillian Woolridge. The optimum time was one hour, eleven minutes, thirty seconds.

Results for the Field Hunter division were:

First Place to Rebecca Tolson from Pendleton, with a time of one hour, nine minutes, 50 seconds. Second Place to Marcia Headrick and Richard Neel from Townville, with a time of one hour, 13 minutes, 16 seconds. Third Place to Amanda Aiello from Ellenboro, Nicola Deines and Claire Moore from Landrum, and Linda Plummer from Clover, with a time of one hour, nine minutes, six seconds. Fourth Place to Jessica Ames from Asheville, Karolin Eichler and Gabriella Grubic from Rock Hill and Sara Jackson from Gastonia, with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 41 seconds. Fifth Place to Elise Rogers from Columbus, and Stephanie Wanicker from Mill Spring with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 38 seconds. Sixth Place to Jacquelin Wasniewski from Landrum with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 33 seconds. Honorable Mentions go to Debbie Croft from Anderson with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 32 seconds, Diane Hicks from Pendleton with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 30 seconds and Beth

Fiszler from Roebuck with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 25 seconds. To earn the extra point given to Honorable Mention, the team(s) must be within 30 seconds of the Sixth-Place team.

Other riders out to enjoy the Field Hunter Division were Stacy Calvert, Candice Carr, Caprice Fullam, Christina Goen, Abby Kluge, Anna LaVigne, Emily Mitchell, Paula Moore, Carrie Nicholson, Maria Oglesby, Jennifer Perkins, Jules Porter, Maddie Rogers, Paulette Stevens, Patt Tarr, Faith Wanicker, and Beau Willard.

In the Trail Rider Division there were also 18 teams, but with 35 riders. The Calculated Optimum Time was one hour, 44 minutes, 35 seconds.

First Place went to Laura Hendley from Greer and Rich Putnam from Tryon with a time of one hour, 43 minutes, 53 seconds. Second Place to Janet Burzlaff from Tryon with a time of one hour, 43 minutes, 31 seconds. Third Place to David & Jeanine Ahrenholz from Columbus, with a time of one hour, 48 minutes, two seconds. Fifth Place to Carol Callahan from Union Mills, and Jennifer & Olivia Wilson from Mill Spring with a time of one hour, 49 minutes, nine seconds. Sixth Place was awarded to Calisa Hughes from Hazelwood and Janet Leatherwood from Canton with a time of one hour, 50 minutes, 35 seconds. Honorable Mention went to Gail Ford from Winder, GA with a time of one hour, 38 minutes, ten seconds.

Other riders out to enjoy the beautiful trails in the Trail Division were: Carrie Britt, Kathy Bucks, Kelly Cannon, April Crawford, Lynn Fitch, Carla Fullam, Carolyn Groves, Cindy Hansuit, Dawn Harrison, Debbie Knebel, Zoe Marshall, Connie Moore, Jessica Porsnia, Heather Sarver, Leslie Shealy, Sheila Smith, Claire Summers, Emily Thomas, Carrie & Olive Wilsey, Emily Wilson, Tori Wofford, and Emily Wojcik.

The Mini Pace riders at this event were Paula Baran and Dana Kind who completed their marked trail in 44 minutes, 42 seconds.

Scheduled next on the 2018-19 Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series is the Cannon Equine Annual Hunter Pace set for Sunday, February 24th at Croft state Park (450 Croft State Park Road, Spartanburg, SC 29302). The rain date will be Sunday, March 3rd, 2019. A Mini Pace will also be available which does not receive ribbons but does receive attendance points. This is an excellent opportunity for those who have been out of riding for a while, older rider and/or horses and young/new riders and green or less conditioned horses.

One deck is the Windridge Farm Spring Hunter Pace on Sunday, March 10th, 2019.

To save some time at the registration tables, download the entry form from the Western Carolina Hunter Pace website (www.wchpace.org) for the specific event, then apply a return address sticker for easy info. While you're on the WCHPace Series website, check for upcoming events, changes to the schedule and to review photos taken by photographer, Lou Smith.

This time of year the weather can be rather unpredictable, so be certain to verify the Hunter Pace is a "go" on the posted date. Rain dates are in place for those occasionally necessary postponements or cancellations.

See you on the trails next time!