

Windridge Farms Spring Hunter Pace

Sunday March 17th, 2019

Reported by Missy Bright

After numerous postponements and cancellations, the Western Carolina Hunter Pace was finally running again at the Windridge Farms Spring Hunter Pace! Mother Nature dished out one of the most beautiful days, giving riders and mounts clear and sunny skies. Despite the monsoons in the area over the past few months, the trails were in great condition with only a few boggy spots. Though there were fewer riders than usual, riders' comments were very positive. There were a few of the favorite creek crossings and areas that were closed due to the wind and rain damage but the trail markers did a wonderful job of rerouting riders to spend time in other areas, especially the Cross-Country Field! The Water Obstacle is always a favorite! Many of the riders spent lots of time and had fun on the beautiful course.

Back at camp, hamburgers with all the fixings were awaiting riders. Along with the burgers, the sides were baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and the usual condiments as well as lemonade and cookies to top it all off. The grill master was hard at work to ensure riders had a nice hot meal!

Windridge always holds a wonderful Hunter Pace and Alicia, the landowners, and crew did not disappoint. For those who attended give a shout out to the volunteers: Avery Carlton, Jeff Davis, Amber Henderson, Kristina Henderson, Lili Henderson, Chris Sigman, Cynthia Thomas, Ricky Thomas, and Caleb Thomas. These volunteers prepared the meal, guided rigs in, monitored road crossings, timed the rides from start to finish, and were even on hand to help fix a vehicle!

Another huge shout out of thanks goes to The Farm House in Landrum for supporting this Series and once again providing placement coupons!

On this gorgeous day there were 51 riders in 26 teams. The trail length was 6.8 miles and took riders through the woods, onto the Cross-Country Course, across and a re-cross on Goodes

Creek Church Rd and back into camp. There was no Check Point since the ride was on the shorter side and the timing for the Field Hunters was set at a slower pace due to the dampness on certain areas of the trail and the assumption that many horses, and riders, might be out of shape from not being able to get in much trail time. Series photographer, Lou Smith, was seen driving around the property to get the perfect pictures for riders and their mounts.

Let's get to those results:

In the Field Hunter Division there were 28 riders in 15 teams. The Optimum Time was 57 minutes, 36 seconds.

The First Place Blue was awarded to the quintet of Ryla Hall from Waxhaw, Carol Land from Marion, Jane Larson from Fort Mill, Shelby Rosbrugh from Waxhaw, and Carolyn Seaton from Indian Land, SC. This group was just 16 seconds off of the Optimum Time! Second Place was awarded to Rebecca Tolson from Pendleton with the time of 58 minutes, five seconds. Third Place Honor was awarded to Samantha Vaughn from Greer and Jacqueline Wasniewski from Landrum with a time of one hour, two minutes. Fourth Place brought in a tie from two teams. Debbie Croft from Anderson and Diane Hicks from Pendleton both finished with the time of one hour, three minutes. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division, Sixth Place was awarded to Marcia Headrick and Richard Neel from Townville with a time of one hour, three minutes, 24 seconds.

Other Field Hunters on the course taking in the beautiful day were Amanda Aiello, Nicola Deines, Stephanie Easler, Karolin Eichler, Tim Giles, Christina Goen, Gabriella Grubic, Megan Jornigan, Abbye Kluge, Emily Mitchell, Kay Mott, Jenn Pagano, Linda Plummer, Taylor Reed, Emma Skelton, and Beau Willard.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 23 riders in 11 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was one hour, 39 minutes, one second.

First Place Honors were awarded to the duo from Dana, Emily Holden and Kailey Wortman. Their time was one hour, 37 minutes, 55 seconds. Jennifer Smith from Simpsonville nabbed Second Place with the time of one hour, four minutes, 55 seconds. The Third Place Yellow was awarded to the duo of Missy Bright from Campobello and Raina Rushing from Limestone, TN, with a time of one hour, 35 minutes, 48 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to a

duo as well. Lili Henderson and Boots Plyler from Greenville finished with the time of one hour, 33 minutes. Kathy Bucks from Belton and Emily Wilson from Williamston brought home the Pink Fifth Place ribbon with a time of one hour, 47 minutes, 26 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division was Janet Burzlaff, placing Sixth with the time of one hour, 30 minutes, ten seconds.

Other Trail Riders out enjoying the fine weather were Jaxx Bonner, Kelly Cannon, Sam Dawkins, Dawn Harrison, Susan Haslam, Joy Hudson, Carllyn Hughes, Izzy Rini, Susannah Sitton, Maegan Watson, Carrie and Olive Wesley, and Jennifer Wilson.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Place is the Green Creek Hounds Spring Hunter Pace & Trail Ride on Sunday, March 24th, 2019. The weather is again slated to be warm and wonderful. Following will be the Tryon Hounds Spring Hunter Pace & Trail Ride on Sunday, April 7th, 2019.

To save some time in the crowds at the Registration Tables, download the Registration Forms from the Western Carolina Hunter Pace website for the specific event and slap a return address label on it including your emergency contact and email to insure you can be contacted. Some forms don't have a spot for an address but go ahead and write it somewhere on the form or use the aforementioned label!

Check the website at www.wchpace.org for upcoming events, changes, and to view your photos taken by Photographer Lou Smith. With the weather being so unpredictable here of late, rain dates are in place in case of a postponement.

See you on the trails!