

Western Carolina Hunter Pace & Trail Ride
Green Creek Hounds Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Held March 24th, 2019

Reported by Missy Bright and Jan Smith

Once again Mother Nature granted the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series a lovely Sunday. The Green Creek Hounds Spring Hunter Pace went off without a hitch from their John Watson Road location. The trails were beautifully groomed and well-marked with arrows and polka dot ribbons on the eight-mile course for the Field Hunters and Trail Riders. The Mini Pace was marked with pink ribbons for the four and a half miles that carried them on many of the same trails as the other groups. The Green Creek Gang did not disappoint this weekend!

At camp, Jim Sumrell, grill master extrordinair, kept the hot dogs in good supply. The tube steaks were complemented with everything under the sun, and so many great homemade goodies! Ann Fratcher kept a steady supply of her wonderful Chili, Pasta Salad, and Black Bean Salad along with the usual condiments, shredded cheese, peppers, onions, and a generous supply of jalapeno peppers! The dessert menu was off the chart! One would have to see a picture but there were homemade cakes, pies and cookies along with cupcakes and all sorts of delicacies to die for! These ladies and gentlemen put on quite the spread!

The Green Creek Hounds members put on a great event with so many of them supplying baked goods, as well as working in a variety of capacities. DJ Jefferis kept everyone organized while parking was handled by Cray Dalton, Mark James, Luanne Johnson, Debbie Jundt and Deb Kornacki. The registration desk was well covered by Holly Mitchell, Ginny Sullivan and Lenore Threlkeld. The halfway checkpoint was maned (and womaned) by Janet Cummings, Jana Hinely, Skip Leck, Betsy McCray, and Paul Sloan. The merchandise tent was under the auspices of Ann Troppmann. Start/Finish was ably handled by Joey Cabaniss and Jim Troppmann. Also helping in a variety of capacities both before and during this event were Tara Boyce, Beth Fisher, Elaine Hobbs, Lucy Hooper and Cynthia Milligan.

Our Hunter Pace and Trail Rides would not be able to take place without the generosity of our gracious land owners who allow us to enjoy their property and trails for these events and although some of them wish to remain anonymous, we offer heartfelt thanks!

Placement coupons were graciously provided by the Farm House in Landrum. The recipients of these coupons placed in the top ten spots for the Field Hunters and Trail Riders. Show the love to Noreen and crew when you spend your winnings maybe on some of the new summer clothing!

Today's ride brought 89 riders to the beautiful meadows and forestland. The trail length was roughly eight miles for the Field Hunters and Trail Riders. The Mini-Pacers had a reduced distance of four and a half miles. Their trails veered off onto their own private trace, later rejoining the main trail. There were plenty of obstacles for riders to traverse if they so chose. The crossing guards were of great help to insure traffic was stopped so riders and their mounts safely crossed the road twice during the course.

There was a grand total of 89 riders in 44 teams.

Let's get to those results!

In the Field Hunter Division there were 39 riders in 19 teams. The Optimum Time was forty-six minutes.

First Place Honors were awarded to Taylor Blackwell from Cross Hill and Charlie Runion from Greer with the time of 37 minutes, nine seconds. Shannon Jackson from Ellenboro nabbed the Second Place Red Ribbon with the time of 57 minutes, 42 seconds. Carolyne and Tom Cadier from Landrum placed Third with a time of 59 minutes, 35 seconds. With a time of 59 minutes, 55 seconds, Nathalie Weenaels from Columbus placed Fourth. One second behind, Elise Rogers from Columbus and Stephanie Wanicka from Mill Springs brought home Fifth Place with the time of 59 minutes, 56 seconds! Rounding out the placements for the Field Hunter Division with a time of one hour, 51 seconds, Jane Barrett and John Chatterton from Columbus placed Sixth.

Other Field Hunters out enjoying the day were: Jessica Aimes, Kinsley Allaire, Jacklyn Bonner, Tamarra Bruning, Debbie Croft, Nicola Deines, Stephanie Easler, Karolin Eichler, Tom Eizenberger, Beth Fiszer, Caprice Fullam, Sara Gibbens, Gabrielle Grubic, Susan Haslam, Marcia Headrick, Diane Hicks, Lucy Hooper, Amanda Aiello Jones, Megan Jornigan, Catherine Mooneyham, Richard Neel, Emma Otten, Neil Parnes, Linda Plummer, Maddie Rogers, Madison Stout, Erin Stroud, Mandy Su, Rebecca Tolson, and Faith Wanicka.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 42 riders in 20 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was one hour, 45 minutes, three seconds.

First Place was awarded to the trio of Anna Dalton from Columbus and Lenore and Leslie Threlkeld from Hendersonville with the time of one hour, 44 minutes, 20 seconds. Second place was awarded to solo rider Jennifer Smith from Simpsonville with the time of one hour, 44 minutes, 17 seconds. The Third Place Yellow Ribbon was awarded to the trio of Cindy James from Mountville, and Amy Mims and Sheila West from Enoree with the time of one hour, 46 minutes, nine seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to the duo of Lynn Fitch from Taylors and Debbie Knebel from Greer with a time of one hour, 43 minutes, 35 seconds. Another duo, Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder, both from York, placed Fifth with a time of one hour, 43 minutes, 23 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division, Carla Fullam from Columbus placed Sixth with the time of one hour, 43 minutes, seven seconds.

Other Trail Riders out enjoying the trails and - making the rounds were Teresa Altman, Missy Bright, Stacy Calvert, Chris and Kelly Cannon, Susannah Cord, Pernilla Dale, Julie Frederick, Heather Gross, Susan Halderman, Emily Holden, Peggy Horton, Jill Kelly, Anna LaVigne, Christy Ledbetter, Claire Moore, Paula Moore, Meaghan Morris, Dot Moyer, Kathleen Nebel, Boots Plyler, Leslie Shealy, Patt Tarr, Michelle Townsend, Lisa Trojan, Maegan Watson, Carrie and Olive Wilsey, Jennifer Wilson, and Kailey Wortman.

Also out to enjoy the Green Creek Hounds hospitality and trails, and riding in the Mini Pace were: David & Jeanne Ahrenholz, Patricia Iacomini, Sharon Maxwell, Carole Milne, Connie Moore, Ivey Sumrell, and Tommi Young.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series is the Tryon Hounds Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride scheduled for Sunday, April 7th, 2019 at Michael and Kia Atkins' Long Shadows Farm at 500 Blackwell Road Campobello, SC. The rain date will be on April 14th, 2019. There will be a short break for Eastertime and the series will resume on April 27th, 2019 for the S.C. Upstate Equine Council Hunter Pace.

To save some time and 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 in our beautiful Carolina foothills, rain dates are in place in case of a postponement.

See you on the trails!