

Windridge Winter Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Sunday, January 24th, 2021

Submitted by Missy Bright

Mother Nature held good weather for this Hunter Pace, given rain was due to move in at some point in the afternoon. As the weather was rather chilly early in the morning, more riders arrived later in the morning. With a whopping 100 riders checking in, it goes to show that our local equestrians are a hardy bunch!

Once again, upon entering the gate their drive-thru registration was in action with Alicia Henderson at the helm. Most riders had the forms filled out prior to arrival, which indeed sped up the process. Filling out the menu for lunch beforehand moved things along as well. Riders checked off what they wanted to eat and it was ready to be picked up when their ride was finished. Once trailers were parked, all riders had to do was tack up and go. No walking back and forth to register.

The trails were clearly marked with pink ribbons throughout the ride on the riders' right sides. An addition were the yellow signs with black directional arrows. The yellow arrows added an extra touch to the direction to follow. Once again, low lying stumps were clearly marked with orange paint. With all of the serpentine one might think the trail flaggers are messing with riders' minds! The three road crossings were clearly marked with orange arrows and the words; Stop, Look, and Cross. Two of the crossings are the usual ones for this Hunter Pace.

There were personal sandwiches that were made from the menu list that riders had filled out. Chips, pickles, choice of beverage, and dessert were offered. There weren't as many kinks this go around with the brown bag lunches. Once again, this unique way of being able to serve riders a nice lunch worked well, and many teams were seen picnicking around the area. Riders and workers were practicing social distancing but still able to have a good time.

Many thanks go to Cynthia Thomas and Anita Earley for carefully packing the bagged lunches. They put their game faces on and made this work. Allen Carlton, David Henderson, and Jeff Davis did a great job with the trail trimming. It appeared that there were some new additions to the trails. Jeff Davis, Amber Henderson, David Henderson, and Liliana Henderson did a bang-up job on the trail flagging. Amber Henderson and Alicia Henderson handled the check-in and once again, it was very efficient.

The gracious Landowners who allowed riders passage over their properties to enjoy the trails were Allen Carlton, Alicia and David Henderson, and Jana Johnson. It is an honor to be able to ride on these properties.

There was a total of 100 riders in 45 teams riding the 7.65-mile trail.

In the Field Hunter Division there were 39 riders in 19 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, seven minutes, 16 seconds.

Now, let's get to those results:

First Place Honors were awarded to Asher and Sarah Quinn from Pisgah Forest who were only one second off the optimum time, with a time of one hour, seven minutes, 17 seconds. Diane Hicks from Pendleton was awarded the Second Place Red Ribbon with a time of one hour, eight minutes, 14 seconds. Not far behind was the team of Britney Clark and Devon Tracy from Columbia nabbing Third Place with the time of one hour, eight minutes, 53 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to Carrie and Olive Wilsey from Hendersonville with the time of one hour, ten minutes, 25 seconds. Anne and Andrew Curell from Columbus were awarded Fifth Place with a time of one hour, 13 minutes, 22 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division for Sixth Place was Nora Claire Croft from Anderson with the time of one hour, 16 minutes, 53 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy the trails were Natalie Aiello, Carol Bridges, Lisa Broyles, Pavlina Byma, Barb DiPalma, Ellie Dumler, Karolin Eichler, Mark Farino, Shalise Gallaher, Hailey Gardener, Hailey and Jamie Garris, Shannon Jackson, Amanda Jones, Anna Dunn Joyce, Carol Land, Natalie Lane, Isabella Leet, Mary Livesay, Beverly Phillips, Linda Plummer, Jill and Mary Rose Schwarzkopf, Seamus Sheehan, Elizabeth Stahnke, and Jacqueline Wasniewski.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 57 riders in 24 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, eight minutes, 11 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to the mother-daughter team of Boots and Sarah Plyler from Greenville with the time of two hours, seven minutes, 46 seconds. Following in Second Place were the teams of Bob and Tammi Bruning and Madison and Paige Stout from Columbus with a time of two hours, nine minutes, 30 seconds. Third Place was awarded to solo rider Dawn Harrison from Hendersonville with the time of two hours, nine minutes, 32 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to the team of Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder from York with a time of two hours, ten minutes, 18 seconds. Fifth Place was awarded to the trio of Susan Angermeier from Chesnee, Gary Biggerstaff from Cowpens and Debbie Fowler from Columbus. Their time was two hours, ten minutes, 20 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division for Six Place was the duo of Gayla Little from Bessemer City and Julia Nicopoulos from Shelby with a time of two hours, ten minutes, 34 seconds.

Other Trail Riders bundled up and out enjoying some time on the trails were Gabrielle Miller Beam, Meredith Benefield, Missy Bright, Samantha Butterworth, Kaylee Campagna, Wrylan Chaput, Melissa Dalton, Lauren Davis, Olivia and Peyton Daeker, Becky Deyton, Nancy Erny, Linda and Wayne Farris, Debbie Franklin, Sara Gibbens, Carolyn Groves, Amy and Ashley Guinn, Donna Hajek, Kristina Jay, Lisa Kotalik, Mary Macy, Ronnie Mann, Kathleen Nebel, Piper O'Connell, Makenna Parker, Anna Parris, Darcie Phillips, Feliks Ptak, Raegan Stonecker, Catherine Smith, Nancy Spriell, Carter, Hazel, Keith, Olive, and Renee Wade, Margaux Weinstock, Jennifer and Olivia Wilson, Jess Wright, and Deb Zarish.

Also out to enjoy the day and amenities, but with a shorter trail, were Mini Pace riders Emily Barton, Alexia & Mary Coker and Megan Jornigan. For those of you who are interested in

checking out the Hunter Paces, the Mini Pace, offered at most of our WCHPace Series events may be just the way to do it.

Next up for The Western Carolina Hunter Pace is the Cannon Equine Annual Hunter Pace and Trail Ride with Bonus Trivia Prize Competition! Scheduled Date is Sunday, February 21st, 2021 with a rain date on Sunday February 28th. Camp Croft State Park is the venue.

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 of late, rain dates are in place in case of a postponement.

See you on the trails!