

Green Creek Hounds Spring Hunter Pace & Trail Ride

held Sunday, March 21st, 2021

by Linda Farris & Jan Smith

The Green Creek Hounds did not disappoint with another great ride at their White Oak location. They must have an “in” with Mother Nature because the weather could not have been more perfect for riders and their mounts. Not too hot, not too cool. Enjoying the day were a grand total of 108 riders in 46 teams on the 9.6-mile primary trail.

Social distancing was of the upmost importance and riders were encouraged to pre-register online and select their time. It was quick and easy. Check in was done on the driveway with masks being worn at all times, except when mounted. A lunch menu was given to riders and they got to select from a variety of yummy sandwiches with aioli sauce, pesto sauce, and different breads and lunch meats. There was a choice of apple, Mexican cookie or chips, or you could select all of them. Your meal was prepared on site and waiting for you as you rode in.

Many thanks to the generous landowners for allowing the Hunter Pace riders to enjoy their trails. As well as to the wonderful team of volunteers who made this Hunter Pace run extremely smooth. The trails were impeccably marked with green arrows and yellow ribbons. They also offered a mini course which was clearly marked as to which way to go. It was approximately 4.5 miles. A fun way of making sure you stayed on course was a large picture of a Green Creek Hound with his or her name, along the trail. As you rode in you told the timer the names: Astro, Argentine and RuhRoh. The private landowners have put a lot of work into their trails with proper drainage, crush-n-run where needed, and lots of mowing. Ann Fratcher’s “Deli and Catering” was assisted by Anna Dalton, Cyndi Milligan and Henry the Grouse. The timers took their time explaining the course and filling in for Joey were Terry and Jane Lynch. Registration was handled by Anna LaVigne and Cat Mooneyham. Halfway was on top of a rolling hill and Betsy McCray and Skip Leek offered water at the three-minute hold. The parking staff included Deb Jundt, the Sloans, Jillian Woolridge, Tara Boyce, Suzy Nixon, Beth Fisher, and Elise Rogers. Christi Hueman and Christine Vincent helped with people crossing the road safely. Tom Eizember helped clean up tables and chairs after the pace had ended and lastly, flag and sign clean-up crew included Andy and Anne Curell, as well as Shallise Gallaher and Seamus Sheehan.

Now on to what everyone is waiting for – The Results. In the Field Hunter Division there were 45 riders in 21 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, 15 minutes.

First place Honors were awarded to Anne and Andy Currell, Shalise Gallaher and Seamus Sheehan of Columbus and Jillian Woolridge of Spartanburg, with a time of one hour, 19 minutes, four seconds. Shannon Jackson of Ellenboro came in second with a time of one hour, nine minutes, 13 seconds. Third place went to Karolin Eichler of Rock Hill and Linda Plummer of Clover with a time of one hour, 24 minutes, 49 seconds. Fourth place goes to Diane Hicks of Pendelton with a time of one hour, 25 minutes, 14 seconds. Fifth place was awarded to Lexi Cummings Shore of Waxhaw, Mary Grace Garbarino of Charlotte, Julianne Kosel of Waxhaw, Carol Land of Marvin and Niv Lorenzo of Charlotte with a time of one hour, 25 minutes, 29 seconds. Sixth place goes to Britney Clark and Devon Tracy of Columbia with a time of one hour 25 minutes, 31 seconds.

Honorable mentions go to Asher and Sarah Quinn of Pisgah Forest, Alexia Grisham of Winterville, GA, Jessica Stevens of Athens, GA and Andrea Stoll of Mill Springs as goth teams were within 30 seconds of Sixth place.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy day’s wide cantering fields were Pamela Burrows, Alexia and

Mary Coker, Nora Claire and Debbie Croft, Anne and Andy Currell(2nd ride), Stephanie Easler, Shalise Gallaher(2nd ride), Marcia Headrick, Amanda Jones, Danielle Lamb, Lillian Lowendfield-Jayne, Katherine Menke, Richard Neel, Maria Ogelsby, Toni Von Ruden, Jill and Mary Rose Schwarzkopf, Julia Schmidt, Seamus Sheehan(2nd ride), Becky Tolson, and Samantha Vaughn.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 51 riders in 20 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 16 minutes, 35 seconds.

Wow, was this a close contest! The top five placing teams were all less than a minute off the optimum! The Blue Ribbon for first goes to Thann Boyum of Columbus and Margaret Miller of Spartanburg who were just seven seconds over the optimum with a time two hours, 16 minutes, 42 seconds. Second place was awarded to Kristen Kuhns of Landrum and Mary Macy of Greer with a time of two hours, 16 minutes, 16 seconds. The sunny yellow third place ribbon goes to Tracie Parker of Gaffney who was 21 seconds under optimum. Fourth place was given to the quintet of Vivian Bruce of Spartanburg, Callie Fagg of Simpsonville, and Laura Lee Seiling, Natasha Steffen and Jennifer Weaver all of Woodruff with a time of two hours, 17 minutes, eight seconds. Pretty in pink fifth goes to Nancy Emry and Carolyne Groves both from Simpsonville. Sixth place was awarded to Janet Cummings of Columbus, Kathy Nebel of Tryon and Deb Zarish of Tryon with a time of two hours 14 minutes, 57 seconds. Honorable mention goes Kat Dooley of Matthews and Charlotte Nohr of Mill Spring who were only two minutes, one second over the optimum.

Also out to take in the gorgeous mountain views were Susan Angermeier, Sandra Bailey, Gabrielle Beam, Tamara Bruning, Sonia and Timothy Burke, Marlana Burrell, Sam Butterworth, Stacy Calvert, Wrylin Chapit, Ashlyn Cook, Mary Dukes, Olivia and Peyton Ducker, Linda Farris, Karla and Maddie Fernandez, Debbie Fowler, Anna Ginn, Laura Hendley, Lisa Kotalik, Ronnie Mann, Cindy McDowell, Karen Merrill, Paula Moore, Piper O'Connell, Anna Grace Paris, Feliks Ptak, Alison Saari, Reagan Slonecker, Teresa Snyder, Paige Stout, Maggie Suders, and Pat Tarr.

Out to enjoy the day's amenities, with the shorter trail option of the mini pace were Jeanne Ahrenholz, Jorja Clark, Elizabeth Clevnger, Joleen and Tom Eizember, Aaron Goetz, Karen Graham, Claire Moore, Anna Rakovskaya, Leslie Scott, Terry Russell, and Katie Tighe.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace is the Tryon Hounds Annual Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride on April 11, 2021 at the beautiful Long Shadows Farm and Cross Country. Check the WCHPace Series web site for additional information and Registration Form. 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 from or use the aforementioned label.

Check the website at www.wchpace.org for upcoming events, changes, and to view your photos taken by Series 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!