

Tryon Hounds Spring Hunter Pace & Trail Ride

held Sunday, April 18th, 2021

by Lynn Fitch & Jan Smith

The Tryon Hounds Spring Hunter Pace held at Long Shadows broke all recent attendance records with over 200 riders! There is no doubt everything came together beautifully to hold the Tryon Hounds Hunter Pace at Long Shadow Farm this past Sunday. The morning temperatures were in the mid-50's and gradually increased to mid-70's by the end of the day. Under a blue sky with white streaking clouds, the hunter pace was run with the expected efficiency and enjoyment that the Tryon Hounds and WCHPace Series is known for. The starter, Joey Cabiness, got each individual or team started with his good-natured banter and instructions. The trail began up a mild incline through the woods then followed a pasture fence line of a private farm before ducking back in the woods again. The trail followed the curve of the nearby stream offering solid and inviting jumps for those who wanted to play. A pleasant trot to warm up along this trail brought riders to a wooden bridge crossing the stream then a left turn to a double track pathway which invited a nice canter and view of newly planted fields along the side. Crossing the hard paved road was assisted by a crossing guard/photographer, then back on a short stretch of open trail before crossing an iron bridge over the Pacolet River. A right turn led to a double track pathway which bordered the river on the right and pastures on the left with cows grazing peacefully. Another right turn across another wooden bridge brought a trail with a bit rougher footing along another section of the river. Then up a moderate incline to the top of an open field offering a spectacular view of the surrounding area and distant mountains. Truly a Kodak moment! Down the opposite side of the hill, around a pond filled with lily pads, through a short section of woods to arrive at the half-way point. Here the horses rested while the riders were offered a refreshing beverage. Crossing the road, the double track path turned left then gave way to a single track through the woods, across a bit of bog then up along an edge of trees and back across the iron bridge. A left turn after the bridge and under a concrete car overpass revealed another long, inviting double track pathway paralleling the river on the right. Crossing a third wooden bridge brought riders to a wooded trail with several inviting jumps then opened to an open field and view of the Long Shadow Farm stables and the finish line.

A big thank you to the Tryon Hounds Hunter Pace Committee for another outstanding Pace! Nelson Minnick, Chair, Becky Barnes, Co-Chair, Dean McKinney, Course Designer, and committee

members Bonnie Lingerfelt, Jeanne and Dave Ahrenholz, Amanda and Ian McDonald, Skip Leck, Wendy Hamil, Mike Boles, Jim Ritchie and Don West.

And special thanks to their generous landowners: Michael and Kia Atkins of Lon Shadows Farm, Jan and Cornelia Alexander and Bob and Pat Jordan of Caroland Farms and the North Pacolet Association. Without the generosity of these wonderful landowners, the Hunter Paces would not be possible.

Now on to – The Result:

The Tryon Hounds offered the traditional Wings Award for the speedsters in the crowd and at this event there were two entries for the fastest rider title. For everyone's safety, the Wings contenders are asked to arrive early so that they have a clear run at the course without disturbing any of the later riders. Shannon Jackson turned in the fastest time with a trail tally of 55 minutes, 38 seconds on the almost ten-mile course! Elise Rogers came in close behind with a trail time of one hour, three minutes and 34 seconds. Congratulations, ladies!

In the Field Hunter Division there were 77 riders in 41 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, 11 minutes, 35 seconds.

First Place blue ribbon was awarded to Elise Rogers of Columbus, on her second time around the course, with a time of one hour, 12 minutes, seven seconds. Anne & Andy Curell, Shalise Gallaher and Seamus Sheehan, all of Columbus and Miki Razo of Tryon earned second place honors with a time of one hour, 12 minutes, 20 seconds, just 45 seconds off the optimum. Third place went to Britney Clark and Devon Tracy of Columbia with a time of one hour, 16 minutes, 59 seconds. Fourth place was a tie between Karolin Eichler from Rock Hill and the sextet of Carol Land from Marvin, Mary Grace Garbarino, Ava Giardono and Niav Lorenzo from Charlotte, Asher Quinn from Pisgah Forest, and Lexi Shore from Waxhaw; both teams turned in a time of one hour, 20 minutes, 49 seconds. Sixth place green goes to Summer Irons from Newburg with a time of one hour, one minute, four seconds.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy the gorgeous trails Natalie Aiello, Meg Allen, Birdie and Mike Axelrod, Jane Barrett, Mary Benson, Ryleigh Budde, Angela and Alex Cairnes, Stacy Calvert, John Chatterton, Alexia and Mary Coker, Lydia Cox, Debbie & Nora Claire Croft, Anna Dalton, Nicola

Deines, Barb DiPalma, Cindy and Stephanie Easler, Carla Fullam, Amy Gantt, Jenny Gardner, Christina Goen Alexis Grisham, Hollianne Haldeman, Alex Hazlett, Marcia Headrick, Diane Hicks, Amanda Jones, Shannon Lafferty, Natalie Lane, Elissa LaRock, Anna LaVigne, Gena Meredith, Emily Mitchell, Holly Mitchell, Jessica and Louise Palmer, David Raley, Maddie Rogers, Daniel Short, Jana and Paul Sloan, Andrea Stoll, Patt Tarr, Alan and Jenny Taylor, Rachel Garcia Trout, Samantha Vaughn, Toni Von Ruden, Stephanie Wanicka, Jacqueline Wasniewski, Carrie and Olive Wilsey, Pat Woods and Jillian Woolridge.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 77 riders in 41 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 23 minutes, four seconds.

Wow, this was a close contest! The top eight placing teams were all less than two minutes off the optimum! First place honor goes to Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder of York who were just five seconds under the optimum with a time two hours, 22 minutes, 59 seconds. Second place red ribbons were awarded to Kelsey Carithers of Spartanburg and Lisa Clements of Roebuck with a time of two hours, 23 minutes, 23 seconds. The Third-place honors go to Savannah Adkins, Nickey Guffey and Danielle Lamb of Marion and Lillian Lowenfield-Jayne of Asheville, who were 34 seconds under optimum. Fourth place was awarded to the trio of Cindy Hansult of Candler, Ruthie Lovelace and Connie Moore of Waynesville with a time of two hours, 22 minutes, 26 seconds. Pink fifth place ribbons went to Ekaterina Delgado of David, FL, Debi Morris of Mill Spring and Jeanne Steele of Columbus whose time was only one minute, six seconds under optimum. Sixth place was awarded to Kathy Nebel and Deb Zarish, both from Tryon, with a time of two hours 21 minutes, 53 seconds. Honorable mention was awarded to Tracie Parker of Gaffney and Peggie Sullenberger of Inman who were a mere one minute, 21 seconds over the optimum.

Also out to enjoy the beautiful day and glorious views were Nancy Anderson, Susan Angermeier, Karen Benson, Tara Boyce, Kristen Brown, Bob and Tamara Bruning, Stephanie Bryant, Michaela Burkhardt, Jeanie Burrell, Pamela Burrows, Kaylee Campagna, Kelly Cannon, Samantha Collins, Janet cummings, Elaine and Darek Czarnecki, Melissa Dalton, Kathy Davis, Mihran D'Dgerogki, Kat Dooley, Cindy Dotson, Cora and Ella Elliot, Kim Ewing, Lynn Fitch, Daisy Fouts, Debbie Fowler, Shelby Frazier, Julie Frederick, Danielle Galli, Karen Graham, Dennie Hall, Dawn Harrison, Angela Hayton, Laura Hendley, Jane Herman, Elizabeth Hipp, Lucy Hooper, Kensley Hurry, Rebekah James, Helen Kaiser, Julee Kaplan, Debra Kennerly, Lisa Kotalik, Kaitlyn Kubiak, Kristen

Kuhns, Leslie Lattanzio, Harriet Lewis, Olivia Loheac, Arlene Lulavage, Abby Lyle, Mary Macy, Ronnie Mann, Sophia Martin, Shanna Mauldin, Cynthia McDonald, Anne McIver, Karen McMunavg, Lauren McRae, Kristine Means, Crystal Montoya, Marianne and Mark Moore, Meaghan Morris, Jon and Towles Napper, Meredith Neer, Charlotte Nohr, Rachel O'Brien, Gisele O'Grady, Camile and Kerry Pennington, Tasha Ann Pizzola, Boots Plyler, Sheila Poteat, Terry Russell, Deb Schmitz, Jennifer Scott, Martha and Peter Shanahan, Phil Sinclair, Jennifer R Smith, Jennifer A Smith, Chuck Stark, Marla Steinberg, Olynda Stretcher, Laura Summer, Lisa Trojan, Sarah Tweed, Carter, Hazel, Keith, Olive and Renee Wade, Avery Walsh and Maxine Winesett.

Out to enjoy the day's amenities, with the shorter trail option of the mini pace were Jeanne Ahrenholz, Terra Eaterlin, Joleen and Tom Eizember, Lori Kunkel, Sarah LeShane, Sandra McConnell, Betsy McCray, Claire Moore, Mary Jane Rice, Melissa VanDoren and Tommi Young.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace is the FENCE Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride scheduled for their raid date of Sunday, May 9th, 2021. FENCE will be followed by the Goodwin Hounds Spring Hunter Pace on Sunday, May 16th and the Scotsgrove Farm Hunter Pace will finish off the regular Series competitions on Saturday, May 29th, but don't forget the Year End Awards set for Sunday, June 20th. Check the WCHPace Series web site for additional information and Registration Forms. Add a return address label and include your emergency contact and email to insure you can be contacted for the generous prize vouchers awarded to the top ten placing teams at each of our events by The Farm House tack and feed store.

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 in our beautiful foothills, rain dates are in place in case of a postponement.

See you on the trails!