

Scotsgrove Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Held Saturday, May 29th, 2021

Submitted by Missy Bright, Leslie Scott, and Jan Smith

After the torrential rain and winds the Friday night before this Hunter Pace was scheduled, all went off without a hitch on Saturday morning, but not without a lot of trail mending and directional ribbons being replaced. The weather turned out nice with pleasant breezes whilst riding through the woods and that made riding the power lines more tolerable. Since Duke Energy had cut the power line right of way, there was one lone directional ribbon attached to a lone thistle stem!

Trails were through woods, fields, and the pine plantation, with some cross-country jumps, but no water crossings. Riders were taken around the ponds and down "Kudzu Hill". However, there were two new obstacles to cross. These were new culverts, apparently freshly installed, that gave some mounts a wild eye look!

Thanks to all the riders who came out to support the Series and enjoy the beautiful day, Scotsgrove Farm hospitality and trails at this last Hunter Pace of the 2020-21 Series. The Landowners for this Hunter Pace were Scotsgrove and the Broadus Family. Trail clearing was performed by Laurie Ridgeway, Leslie Scott, and Scott Tate. Scott Tate also completed the earth moving and the new Culverts. Scott and Leslie took care of all the mowing. The trails were in good shape and were very nicely marked with red and black ribbons outbound and blue and white ribbons inbound. Randy Autrey and James and Lacy White were the parking wranglers. Once again, big rigs on the hill and smaller ones in the lower pasture. Lisa Porter was the registrar for the day and promptly took the forms, checked Coggins results, and issued team numbers. The starters were Joey Cabaniss and Gwen Phifer. Gwen gave out the pre-ride spiel as to what to watch for issues. And, as always Joey will leave the light on for you! At the Check Point Katheryn Becker, Beth Clevenger, Heather Daniel, Jacqueline Smith, and Cecelia Snyder provided riders with ice cold water and carrots to the mounts.

Last but most certainly not least, one mustn't forget about the lunch spread. Beth Straitiff catered and served her specialties, the Egg Salad or Chicken Salad Sandwiches on croissants. They were absolutely delicious. She provided soft drinks of choice, cold water, or iced tea and chips of one's choice. For dessert she had those luscious round brownies.

Everyone must have noticed that there were three photographers at this event. Lou Smith who is the Series Official Photographer was on site. Amanda Towery, who is one of Leslie's "barn moms" and a professional photographer was working with Lou to help catch riders in different locations. Amanda's photos will be posted on the WCHPace website along with Jan and Lou's photos. Mark Jump was also on site.

Now, let's get to those results:

In the Field Hunter Division there were 44 riders in 22 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, 35 minutes, 39 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to Carrie and Olive Wilsey from Hendersonville with a time of one hour, 39 minutes, 41 seconds. Anne and Andy Curell from Columbus claimed the Second Place Red Ribbon with the time of one hour, 41 minutes, 48 seconds. Third Place was awarded to the team of Asher and Sarah Quinn from Pisgah Forest with the time of one hour, 26 minutes, 18 seconds. Adam and Jennifer Brown from Tryon took Fourth Place with a time of one hour, 46 minutes, 25 seconds. Fifth Place was awarded to the duo of Taylor Quick from Tryon and Andrea Stoll from Mill Spring with a time of one hour, 46 minutes, 28 seconds. The Sixth Place green ribbon in the Field Hunter Division goes to solo rider Diane Hicks from Pendleton with a time of one hour, 48 minutes, 22 seconds. There were two Honorable Mentions in the Field Hunter Division! Honorable Mentions are awarded when a team is less than 30 seconds from the Sixth Place Time. Rebecca Tolson from Pendleton finished the Pace with a time of one hour, 48 minutes, 30 seconds. Mary Cullen and Jane Herman from Tryon finished the day with a time of one hour, 48 minutes, 40 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy the day were Natalie Aiello, Deborah Allen, Stacy Calvert, Britney Clark, Nora Claire Croft, Anna Dalton, Nicola Deines, Abigail DeVries, Ann Fratcher, Hailey Gardner, Marcia Headrick, Alex Huley, Amanda Jones, Kaitlyn Kubiak, Carol Land, Harriet Lewis, Jenn Martell, Emily Mitchell, Richard Neel, Gisele O'Grady, Anne Pierce, Linda Plummer, David Raley, Julia Schmidt, Martha and Peter Shanahan, Devon Tracy, Susan Tramel, and Sutton Tuner.

There were 40 riders in 21 teams in the Trail Rider Division. The calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 24 minutes, 31 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to the trio of Hazel, Olive, and Renee Wade from Tryon with a time of two hours, 24 minutes, 14 seconds, a mere 17 seconds from nailing the optimum! Solo Rider Lisa Kotalik from Tryon nabbed the Second Place Red Ribbon with a time of two hours, 23 minutes, 11 seconds. Kirsten and Tom Stanley from Gulf Stream finished in Third Place with a time of two hours, 22 minutes, 59 seconds. Nancy Erny and Caroline Groves from Simpsonville pulled in the Fourth Place White Ribbons with a time of two hours, 21 minutes, 30 seconds. The Fifth Place Pink Ribbon was awarded to Missy Bright from Campobello, and Ronnie Mann from Columbus with the time of two hours, 21 minutes, 17 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division for Sixth Place was the team of Kathy Nebel and Deb Zarish from Tryon. Their time was two hours, 27 minutes, 46 seconds.

Other Trail Riders out enjoying the trails were Jeanne Ahrenholz, Susan Angermeier, Kathy Bethka, Missy Cashman, Jorja Clark, Elizabeth Clevenger, Steph Culbertson, Anna Daniel, Kat Dooley, Erin Earl, Debbie Fowler, Dawn Harrison, Sue Kessell, Kristen Kuhns, Mary Macy, Carol-Ann Maroy, Karen Merrill, Claire Moore, Rachel Neese, Charlotte, Nohr, Boots Plyler, Jim Roberts, Chris Simonetti, Teresa Snyder, Peggine Sullenberger, Marcy Vance, Kelly Walker and Emma Whitaker.

The Mini Pace Division was very well represented for this final Hunter Pace of the 2020-2021 Season. The participants were Brooklyn Becker, Ashlan and Nathaniel Benjamson, Shelby Frazier, Agniete Kiznis, Khloe Miller, Meredith Neer, Kaleigh Porter, Carol and CR Stanley, Claire White, and Braelyn Williamson.

The Competitions are done for the season, but don't forget, next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series is the Nineteenth Annual Year End Gathering and Awards Ceremony at the beautiful Windridge Farm, scheduled for June 20th, 2021. Their rain date is June 27th, 2021. Come, ride, eat, see who won the trophies and awards this season and receive your 2021/22 WCHPace Series Wild Card to use anytime during the upcoming season for a completion credit when you can't attend a ride.

Please RSVP for lunch. 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!