

Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series Year End Gathering

For the 2020-2021 Season

June 27th, 2021

Submitted by Missy Bright and Jan Smith

The beautiful Windridge Farm was the setting for this year's Year End Gathering for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series. The weather started out a tad wacky first thing in the morning but all ended well.

This is the first Hunter Pace in quite some time in which riders could register at the table just outside the office area. Lunch orders were taken at the same time as registration. Once again, made to order lunches were ready for pick-up after riders returned to camp from the trails.

Trails were marked with the usual ribbon and visual arrows. The trails were well marked with a minor mishap, but that as quickly resolved.

There were 47 riders in attendance. These riders earned their Wild Cards by attending and supporting, whether they rode that day or not. Those riders were:

Susan Angermeier, Kathy Bethka, Missy Bright, Elena Burtis, Britney Clark, Debbie and Nora Claire Croft, Steph Culbertson, Andy and Anne Curell, Abby DeVries, Beth and Camille Fiszer, Debbie Fowler, Shalise Gallaher, Dawn Harrison, Diane Hicks, Shannon Jackson, Amanda Jones, Kaylie Lentz, Ronnie Mann, Karen Merrill, Kathy Nebel, Rachel O'Brien, Aneta O'Connor, Maria Oglesby, Tracie Parker, Linda Plummer, Asher and Sarah Quinn, Seamus Sheehan, Lexi Shore, Jan Smith, Teresa Snyder, Andrea Stoll, Peggie Sullenberger, Devon Tracy, Carter, Hazel, Keith, Olive and Renee Wade, Carrie and Olive Wilsey, Jennifer and Olivia Wilson, Maxine Winesett and Debbie Zarish.

In the Field Hunter Division, following are the placements for the year:

There are four riders who earned the Grand Champion Ribbon and Trophy. They are Britney Clark, Nora Claire Croft, Diane Hicks, and Devon Tracy. Asher Quinn and Carrie and Olive Wilsey received the Reserve Champion Ribbon and Trophy. In First Place is Carol Land. Second Place is Sarah Quinn. Third Place is awarded to Anne and Andy Curell. Karolin Eichler received the Fourth Place Ribbon. Fifth Place is awarded to Natalie Aiello and Amanda Jones. Sixth Place is Rebecca Tolson. There is a trio of riders who tied for the Seventh Place Ribbon. They are Marcia Headrick, Shannon Jackson, and Linda Plummer. Debbie Croft placed Eight. Ninth Place is awarded to Shalise Gallaher and Richard Neel. Rounding out the Year End Placements is Lexie Shore who received the Tenth Place Ribbon.

In the Trail Rider Division, the Champion Ribbon and Trophy are awarded to Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder. The Reserve Champion Ribbon and Trophy are awarded to Susan Angermeier and Debbie Fowler. The First Place Blue Ribbon is awarded to Nancy Erny, Carlyne Groves, and Ronnie Mann. Missy Bright and Mary Macy received the Second Place Red. Deb Zarish brought home the Third Place Yellow Ribbon. Fourth Place is awarded to Tamara Bruning and Kathy Nebel. Bob Bruning was awarded Fifth Place. Boots Plyler and Peggie Sullenberger received Sixth Place. Renee Wade is the recipient of Seventh Place. Eighth Place is awarded to Hazel and Olive Wade. Dawn Harrison is Ninth Place. Rounding out the Year End Placements for the Trail Rider Division for Tenth Place is Tracie Parker.

There are 13 riders who received the 100 percent Support and Appreciation Awards. These riders are Natalie Aiello, Susan Angermeier, Britney Clark, Nora Claire Croft, Debbie Fowler, Amanda Jones, Ronnie Mann, Karen Merrill, Kathy Nebel, Teresa Snyder, Devon Tracy, Carrie Wilsey and Olive Wilsey. For those who did not use their Wild Card, a Bridle Tag was also given.

Support Awards were given to Diane Hicks, Shannon Jackson, Mary Macy, and Deb Zarish.

The Western Carolina Hunter Pace has always had some Superior Seniors and the list has been growing! They are listed from youngest age to oldest:

Riley who is owned and loved by Nancy Masonis a 21-year-old Registered Paint, even though he is a beautiful buckskin. He was bred in this area and has lived here his whole life. This team achieved five years of 100 percent with the series in 2016. He has been Reserve in both the Field Hunter and Trail Divisions.

Maggie, who is owned and loved by Jennifer Wilson is a 21-year-old Spotted Saddle Horse. Rumor has that she had horrible manners and had a habit of not wanting to stop when asked. After a lot of wet saddle pads, she has turned into best trail horse. She is brave and can be lead anywhere. She's now a role model for green and young horses

Tigger is a 22-year-old Appendix Quarter Horse who was born at Clemson University and is now loved and ridden by Amanda Jones and Natalie Aiello. She has been in some sticky situations and is sometimes goofy, but she is definitely loved.

Tron is a 23-year-old Paso Fino living the life of Riley in Columbus. He is owned and loved by Missy Bright. Tron can be a handful for his age. His favorite pastime on trails is spooking at tiny little shimmering puddles. He is a very loving sweetie, though.

Dichoso, affectionately known as Cho, also a 23-year-old Paso Fino, is owned by Arlene Lulavage. He is very responsive to feel. He knows Arlene's intentions and body movements. Cho has the willingness to interact and ability to communicate in the ways of Ray Hunt and Tom Durrance was taught this duo a world of awe. This friendship inspired Arlene to start Partnership with Horses in 2015 that promotes respectful horsemanship.

Rusty, a 24-year-old POA loved and ridden by Natalie Aiello and Amanda Jones, just loves to go. Rusty and Amanda have caught two loose horses on Hunter Paces and he knew just what to do. He sets a great pace and is a fearless leader.

Shiloh is a 24-year-old Appaloosa being ridden in the Trail Rider Division owned by Teresa Snyder.

Rain is a 25-year-old Morgan owned and ridden by Deb Zarish. They have been in the 2021 Hunter Paces. She has been part of Deb's animal family for 23 years. After figuring out that she was not going to be a show horse, she found her nitch in competitive distance riding in Michigan. The Hunter Paces are perfect for her retirement.

Callie is a 25-year-old Thoroughbred Cross(?). Jana Sloan has been riding her in hunts and the Hunter Pace Series for 19 years. She was purchased from a kill Pen and is still going strong.

Killian is a 26-year-old Thoroughbred cross who is a great traveler and trail partner for Lynn Fitch. He has Fox Hunted, competed in Dressage, and Hunter/Jumper Shows. His favorite activity is competing in the Hunter Paces. He is a confident "bushwhacker" clearing and exploring new trails. The horse/rider relationship has improved with each passing year. After Lynn's hip surgery and a seven-week

layup, he got right back into a riding schedule. They traveled to Aiken and Erhardt for some awesome rides.

Raven is 27-year-old Quarterhorse/Morgan owned and loved by Marlana Burrell. She is not black and there is a running joke about the name that still bugs Marlana. She is a treat hog of the highest order! She has more endurance than many horses half her age. She is held back more times that she is pushed. As a matter of fact, at one Hunter Pace she tried to go back to the start line to go again. Her age is not always mentioned because someone might think she is overridden but that is the farthest from the truth.

Billie is a 28-year-old Oldenburg who is loved by Janet Burzlaff. Billie loves and is excited about trail rides. Billie had been a Dressage and Hunter and when she discovered the trail rides when she moved from Texas to North Carolina around three years ago.

Dallas is a 28-year-old Tennessee Walker! Richard Neel is Dallas' third human. Dallas was previously named from where a prior owner bought him, Dallas, Georgia. Dallas turned out to be exactly what Richard needed after a riding accident at Croft. Friends conspired to get Richard back in the saddle again. They make a great team and Dallas is dearly loved. The only trick he does in getting out of ANY halter and apparently does it quite often!

Rusty is a 32-year-old Tennessee Walker owned and ridden by Sherry Wyatt. Together, they have logged in over 120 Hunter Paces since 2002 thru 2017 when they retired from the Field Hunter Division after taking the Field Hunter Championship in the 2003-2004 series. They continued to ribbon in the Field Hunter Division thru 2017 and then moved to the Trail Rider Division. In this division they are true Trail Riders and they love to stop and smell the roses, enjoy the scenery, and new friendships that each event offers.

Our (admitted) oldest Superior Senior this year is Sterling, a 33-year-old Off Track Thoroughbred owned and loved by Kathy Bethka. Kathy's oldest daughter rode him in Jumpers when he was much younger. Off and on for the past 15 years this team has ridden in the Field Hunter Division but are now in the Trail Rider Division. With much loving care he is still going strong.

Keep a watch out on the website for updates and to review your photos.

See you on the trails for the 2021-2022 Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series!