

Scotsgrove Fall Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Saturday, September 17th, 2022

Submitted by Missy Bright and Leslie Scott

The opening Hunter Pace for the 2022-2023 season is in the books! Scotsgrove Stable was the venue and the weather was picture perfect. The date change due to Mother Nature's havoc meant lots of new volunteers stepped up and carried the ball. Grooming and marking 8-9 miles of trails is not an easy task. With the assistance of Scott Tate, Leslie Scott was able to work her magic and trails were marked very well. There was no yellow caution tape up this ride blocking wrong turns, but following ribbons was pretty easy. The usual trails were followed allowing riders to navigate the trails 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". One could tell where some damage was done by the storm the prior weekend.

Rigs were met and directed to the appropriate parking areas by Destinee Gregory and Grace Zatorsky. Most drivers with the small rigs knew to head to the lower pasture to leave room for the large rigs in the upper pasture. Later in the morning the driveway was full as well.

Angela Wheeler was the registrar for the day with Tara Bennett learning the ropes. There is always a little chaos at the registration table, so it helped out when paperwork was filled out prior to arrival with return address labels making info gathering easier.

Penelope Cook, Samantha Fouse, and Gwen Phifer were the timers for the day. That job takes nerves of steel even on a good day. Keeping track of 87 riders is not a small chore. Riders were given directions and colors of ribbon to follow outbound as well as inbound.

The check point or half-way point was held at the Hangman's Tree. Handing out ice cold water and timing the mandatory 3-minute hold were Anne Clevenger, AK McMillan, Jackie Smith and newcomer Ashley Autrey. What a pleasant group of ladies!

Now, let's get to the food! Lunch was shopped for, prepared, and served by Beth and Yasmin Straitiff. They were very organized. Chicken Salad and Egg Salad sandwiches were available with an assortment of chips and brownies for the sweet tooth. There was a wide variety of cold drinks on hand to quench the thirst.

Best. Farm. Family. Ever!

In the Field Hunter Division, there were 31 riders in 18 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, 48 minutes.

Now, let's get to those results:

First Place Honors were awarded to the team of Carrie and Olive Wilsey from Hendersonville with the time of one hour, 45 minutes, 46 seconds. Placing Second was the

team of Kathy Bethka from Simpsonville and Steph Culbertson from Fountain Inn with a time of one hour, 44 minutes, 42 seconds. Nabbing the Third Place Yellow Ribbon was solo rider Debra Sullivan with the time of one hour, 54 minutes, 58 seconds. Emily Mitchell, another solo rider from Greer placed Fourth with a time of one hour, 56 minutes, 10 seconds. Amanda Jones and Linda Plummer from Ellenboro brought home Fifth Place with the time of one hour, 38 minutes, 54 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division for Sixth Place was the team of Gayla Little from Bessemer City and Elise Rogers from Columbus with the time of one hour, 38 minutes, 35 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out enjoying the trails were Jane Barrett, Kayla Casura, John Chatterton, Kathryne Copeland, Katy Cowan, Anita Crouse, Anne and Andy Corell, Mihran Dulgerollo, Beth Fiszer, Bryce Knopp, Deb Kornacki, Marc Leaf, Korie Painter, Tracie Parker, Asher Quinn, Seamus Sheehan, Melanie Snowwhite, Andrea Stoll, Toni VonRuden, and Sarah Yeziarski.

In the Trail Rider Division, there were 43 riders in 21 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 27 minutes, 34 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to the team of Emma Bridges from Boiling Springs and Jill Davis from Inman with the perfect time of two hours, 27 minutes, 34 seconds! Jennifer and Olivia Wilson from Mill Spring placed Second with the time of two hours, 36 minutes, 17 seconds. Third Place was awarded to the team of Bob and Tammi Bruning from Columbus with the time of two hours, 29 minutes, four seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to the quartet of Susan Angermeier from Chesnee, Missy Bright from Campobello, Ronnie Mann and Nancy Mason from Columbus. Their ride time was two hours, 30 minutes, one second. Placing Fifth was the team of Nancy Erny and Carolyn Groves from Simpsonville with a time of two hours, 30 minutes, 17 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division for Sixth Place with a time of two hours, 31 minutes, eight seconds was the team of Kelly McComas from Belton and Kelly Grisham from Easley.

Other Trail Riders out enjoying the day were Dorothy Bayer, Kelly Black, Stacy Calvert, Sarah and Payton Cyrill. Joleen and Tom Eizember, Camille Fiszer, Debbie Hines Fowler, Ann Fratcher, Shelby Frazier, Tot Goodwin, Dawn Harrison, Baylon Hubes, Brandy Johnston, Mary Macy, Marianne Moore, Meaghan Morris, Charlotte, Noir, Tracie Parker, Erica Revelle, Mary Jane Rice, Doris Saunier, Peggie Sullenberger, Melissa VanDoren, Christine Vingnt, and Sherry Wyatt.

The Mini-Pace Division had quite a showing as well. Riders enjoyed a shorter trail by crossing the road at the bridge instead of going across the bridge. Riders' times were from 57 minutes, 29 seconds to one hour, six minutes, 43 seconds. Those riders were Anna Bennett, Lilah Branch, Leslie Campbell, Allison Frasier, Dylan Charles Johnson, Natalie Lane, Julie Lavoie, Khloe Miller, Jasmine Peirce, Vickie Smith, Candy Spicher, Halleia Wheeler, and Izabella Williford.

Join us for the next event coming up - the Windridge Farms Fall Hunter Pace scheduled for Sunday, September 25th. Better yet, bring a friend and introduce them to the Series fun!

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 Photographers Lou Smith and Amanda Towery. With the weather being so unpredictable here of late, rain dates are in place in case of a postponement.