

Windridge Fall Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Sunday, September 26th, 2021

Submitted by Missy Bright

The beautiful Windridge Farm was the venue for the day. The weather started a tad cool but quickly warmed up to make the 8.1-mile trail ride most enjoyable.

Upon entering the gate, rigs were directed to the appropriate parking area. Larger rigs were directed to the top field this time. Once trailers were parked, riders proceeded to the office area to register. Riders filled out their choices on the menu sheet and the lunch was ready and waiting when the ride was finished. There were some new additions to the trails, including some additional water crossings. This trail ride included a nice deep-water crossing. Riders have not been able to ride these trails across the river in several years due to flooding and a few other issues. Riders also had access to the Cross Country Fields which is always a treat, and some returned to play after their trail ride and lunch.

The trails were very nicely marked and serpentine through the woods and were groomed quite well, even with a breakdown of machinery. For the most part stumps were marked with orange paint but it's hard to get them all when several hundred acres are involved. The footing was very nice throughout the trails but had the standard mush around water crossings.

Alicia Henderson coordinated the effort with several volunteers helping to make this Hunter Pace run smoothly. Volunteers were Genenine Conner, Jeff Davis, Anita Earley, Daniel Gooding, Chris Hartford, Amber Henderson, Cynthia Thomas, and Ricky Thomas.

The Landowners who allowed riders passage over their properties were Windridge Farm and Davis Lake. Without our generous landowners, no Hunter Pace could take place.

In the Field Hunter Division there were 33 riders in 13 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, four minutes, 20 seconds.

Now, let's get to those results:

First Place Honors were awarded to Shannon Lafferty from Spartanburg and Samantha Vaughn with the time of one hour, six minutes. Carrie and Olive Wilsey from Hendersonville nabbed the Second Place Red Ribbon with a time of one hour, two minutes. Third Place was awarded solo rider Shannon Jackson from Ellenboro; her time was one hour, nine minutes, two seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to the seven-some of Lily Bancroft from Weddington, Supra Janampalli, Julianne Kosel from Waxhaw, Carol Land from Marvin, Nithvi Mallipeddi from Indian Land, Niav Lorenzo from Charlotte, and Lexi Shore from Waxhaw. Their time was one hour, 19 minutes, 17 seconds. Craig Cheevers and Alene Hartmann from Monroe and Jamie and Haley Garis from Waxhaw placed Fifth with a time of one hour, 25 minutes, 21 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division with the time of one hour, 27 minutes was another 7-rider team. Tosha Bell-Pizzola from Pacolet, Stephanie Bryant from Chesnee, Samantha Collins from Boiling Springs, Helen and Jacob Kaiser from Landrum, Rachel Neese from Inman, and Jennifer Trilk from Travelers Rest brought home the Sixth Place Green Ribbon.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy the trails were Deb Allen, Mary Dukes, Beth Fiszer, Amanda Jones, Emily Mitchell, Maria Oglesby, Linda Plummer, Asher Quinn, Sutton Turner, and Sara Yeziarski.

There were 55 riders in 22 teams in the Trail Rider Division. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 17 minutes, 48 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to Jennifer and Olivia Wilson from Mill Spring with the time of two hours, 18 minutes, 54 seconds. Kathy Nebel and Deb Zarish from Tryon were awarded the Second Place Red Ribbon with the time of two hours, 19 minutes, 32 seconds. Missy Bright from Campobello and Ronnie Mann from Columbus nabbed the Third Place Yellow Ribbon with the time of two hours, 20 minutes, 31 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to the trio of Ann Becker and Kensley Hurry from Spartanburg and Kelly Cannon from Roebuck with a time of two hours, 20 minutes, 43 seconds. Fifth Place was awarded to Paula Ball from Landrum and Pat Woods from Columbus with the time of two hours, 14 minutes, 40 seconds. Rounding out the placements for the Trail Rider Division for Six Place was the team of Susie Justus Hill from Hendersonville and Lisa Kotalik from Tryon with the time of two hours, 21 minutes, 12 seconds.

Other Trail riders out on that beautiful day were Lilah Branch, Carol Bridges, Vivian Bruce, Tammi Bruning, Pavlina Byma, Alexia and Mary Coker, Shelby Frazier, Bristol Gomer, Christina and Scott Graziano, Donna Hajek, Dawn Harrison, Dixie Howell, Elaine and Michaela Hughes, Meredith Keen, Cindy King, Danielle Lamb, Elizabeth Lister, Gabrielle Miller, Maryann Morelli, Jennarose Ortmeyer, Bev Phillips, Boots and Sarah Plyler, Regina Randall, Leslie Scott, Natasha Steffen, Paige and Madison Stout, Katie Tighe, Alyssa Trantha, and Marcy Vance.

There was a nice group of riders in the Mini Pace Rider Division. Those taking the shorter route were Dorothy Bayer, Vicki Beilharz, Barrie Coffin, Jennifer Dowdney, Camille Fiszer, Grace Harrigan, Justen Hull, Ro Leigh, Amanda Miller, who enjoyed it so much she rode twice, and Madigan Murphy.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series is the Tryon Hounds Fall Hunter Pace and Trail Ride, scheduled for Sunday October 10th, 2021 to be held at Cothran Field in Landrum. Their rain date is Sunday October 17th, 2021. Come, ride, and enjoy the day and beautiful private trails.

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.