

Windridge Fall Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Held Sunday, September 27th, 2020

Submitted by Missy Bright

Windridge was poppin' for Sunday's Hunter Pace! The day started off super foggy but that finally broke. Alicia had a very unique setup. Upon entering the gate, the first booth was the Covid questionnaire, temp check, and filling out preferences on the menu for lunch. Riders checked off what they wanted to eat and it was ready when you finished your ride. The next tent was the drive thru registration. Once trailers were parked, all riders had to do was tack up and go. No walking back and forth to register.

It takes much preparation to hold a winning Hunter Pace. It was quite obvious that much thought went into grooming the course. The trails were clearly marked with pink ribbons throughout the ride on the riders' right sides. A helpful addition were the yellow signs with black directional arrows. Once again, low lying stumps were clearly marked with orange paint. The two road crossings were clearly marked with orange arrows and the words; Stop, Look, and Cross. The two crossings are the usual ones for this Hunter Pace.

In addition to Alicia's hard work, there was traffic and parking control, registration, and chief cooks. Alicia and David Henderson were your organizers and took charge of the trails and most anything else that needed to be done. Alicia and David oversaw mowing, trimming, rock and stump painting. Allen Carlton was the chief timer and well as set up, tear down, and garbage. Amber Henderson was the chief Registrar and monies collector! Jeff Davis and Ricky Thomas were in charge of parking, set up and tear down, trail grooming, and garbage detail.

The Landowners who allowed riders passage over their properties were Allen Carlton, Alicia and David Henderson, and Jana Johnson. Without them, no Hunter Pace could take place.

A wonderful lunch was served up by Anita Early, Cynthia Thomas, and Alicia Henderson. This year the lunch setup was unique. There were personal sandwiches made from the menu list that riders had filled out. Chips, pickles, choice of beverage, and desserts were offered. Alicia said that once the kinks were worked out it was smooth sailing. She was definitely thinking outside the box and it worked wonderfully! Many riders remarked at how smoothly the event was run, especially given all of the extra precautions!

There were a total of 96 riders in 46 teams riding the 7.4-mile trail.

There were some new additions to the trails, including riding through another large pasture after the second road crossing. Riders didn't have access to the Cross-Country Course due to the Cross-Country Schooling but that was ok. There is a new dressage ring on top of the hill next to the older one. The original one was flooded out last year with the heavy rains and storms. Trails were serpentine through the woods and running parallel with one another. There were two creek crossings but they were very easy to access.

In the Field Hunter Division there were 49 riders in 22 teams. The Optimum Time was 77 minutes, 30 seconds.

Now, let's get to those results:

First Place Honors were awarded to Britney Clark and Devon Tracy from Columbia with a time of one hour, 14 minutes, ten seconds. With a time of one hour 21 minutes, 42 seconds, the sextet of Lily Bancroft and Katie Galeazzi from Weddington, Laney Hines and Lexie Shore from Waxhaw, Carol Land from Marvin, and Emma Love from Matthews claimed the Second Place Red. Third Place was awarded to Natalie Aiello and Amanda Jones from Ellenboro and Linda Plummer from Clover with the time of one hour, 21 minutes, 49 seconds. Asher and Sarah Quinn from Pisgah Forest earned the Fourth Place slot with the time of one hour, 21 minutes, 55 seconds. Carrie and Olive Wilsey brought home the Fifth Place Pink with the time of one hour, 22 minutes, 22 seconds. Rounding out the placements for the Field Hunter Division for Sixth Place is Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesboro with the time of one hour, ten minutes, 24 seconds.

Other Field Hunters traversing the trails were Carol Bridges, Crystal Crispin, Nora Claire Croft, Karolin Eichler, Ann Fratcher, David and Rhonda Gallaher, Alex Goin, Joy Griffin, Gabrielle Grubic, Emma and Jenny Gryder, Lacey, Hannu, Alex and Marilyn Hazlett, Marcia Headrick, Diane Hicks, Shannon Jackson, Janet Johnson, Melissa Kenny, Natalie Lane, Cecilia Libby, Rich Neel, Alexis Patinos, Bev Phillips, Samantha Rabideau, Angela Reichardt, Terry Russell, Alison, Saari, Ashley Schofield, Seamus Sheehan, and Stephanie Wanicka.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 47 riders in 24 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, six minutes, 43 seconds.

The First Place Blue Ribbon was awarded to the duo of Susan Angermeier from Chesnee and Debbie Fowler from Spartanburg. Their time was two hours, nine minutes, 20 seconds. There was a tie between three teams for Second Place! The first team in the tie is duo of Donna Hajek from Inman and Jessica Wright from Marietta. Their time was two hours, nine minutes, 26 seconds. The second team was Elaine and Michaela Hughes from Forest City with the time of two hours, four minutes, and the Third team was solo rider Mary Macy from Greer also with the time of two hours, and four minutes. Receiving the Pink Ribbon for Fifth Place was the team of Betsy McCray from Columbus and Kathy Nebel from Tryon with the time of two hours, three minutes, 57 seconds. Rounding out the placements for the Trail Rider Division were Jennifer and Olivia Wilson from Mill Spring, who claimed the Sixth Place Green Ribbon. Their time was two hours, nine minutes, 43 seconds.

Other Trail Riders who started out the day in somewhat of a fog were David and Jeanne Ahrenholz, Karol Aschaffenburg, Emily Barton, Wendy Bradshaw, Missy Bright, Missy Cashman, Holly Charbonneau, Rachel Childers, Robin Clay, Megan David, Jeannie DeVany, Kim Ewing, Debbie Franklin, Kaitlin Greer, Nicole Grier, Nickey Guffey, Mackenzie Gunn, Barbara Horn, Megan Jernigan, Danielle Lamb, Ronnie Mann, Debbie McGrath, Karen Merrill, Jan Mullis, Faye

Nesmith, Tracie Parker, Boots Plyler, Harley Reeves, Antje Richter, Janna Ritacco, Jennifer Scott, Teresa Snyder, Peggie Sullenberger, Wanda Thompson, and Deb Zarish.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Place is the Tyron Hounds Fall Hunter Pace and Trail Ride on Sunday, October 11, 2020. Check the WCHP web site for the Registration Form. 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!