

Windridge Winter Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Sunday, November 7th, 2021

Submitted by Missy Bright

Once again riders were able to enjoy the beautiful Windridge Farm as the venue for the day. The weather started chilly but quickly warmed up to make the 8.1-mile trail ride most enjoyable and jackets were taken off!

Upon entering the gate, rigs were directed to the parking areas. Smaller rigs were allowed to park at the cross-country warm-up area this time. Once trailers were parked, riders proceeded to the office area to register. Many riders had already filled out their registration forms and choices on the menu sheets. Lunch was ready and waiting when the ride was finished. As on the fall ride at Windridge, this course was almost identical. There were several creek crossings as well as the nice deep-water crossing, affectionately known as the "pond", which by the way was not as much of a rip roaring rapid as before. But that left side was still deep! Riders were once again able to ride the trails across the river. And, how about that ditch! Riders had access to the Cross Country Fields which is always a treat and many riders took advantage!

The trails were very nicely marked and serpentine through the woods and were groomed quite well. 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.

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

The Landowners who gave their blessing for passage over their properties were Windridge Farm and Davis Lake. Without them, this Hunter Pace could not take place.

In the Field Hunter Division there were 33 riders in 17 teams. The Optimum Time was one hour, nine minutes.

Now, let's get to those results:

With a time of one hour, eight minutes, 43 seconds, First Place Honors were awarded to the team of Carol Land from Marvin, Lanie Hines, Julianne Kosel, Matthew Savage and Lexi Shore from Waxhaw, and Camden Latta from Charlotte. Solo rider Linda Plummer from Clover received Second Place with the time of one hour, ten minutes, 11 seconds. The Third Place Yellow Ribbon was awarded to Barb DiPalma from Inman with the time of one hour, 12 minutes, nine seconds. Shannon Jackson from Ellenboro placed Fourth with a time of one hour, three minutes, 12 seconds. Nora Claire Croft from Anderson nabbed the Fifth Place Ribbon with the time of one hour, 19 minutes. Rounding out the placements for Sixth Place in the Field Hunter Division was the duo of Brynja Gunnarsdotter from Pauline and Tosha Pizzola from Pacolet with a time of one hour, 25 minutes, 30 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy the trails were Mary Benson, Debbie Croft, Marcia Headrick, Dixie Howell, Alex Huley, Natalie Lane, Jen Martell, Emily Mitchell, Carina and Crystal Montoya, Maria Oglesby, Laura Paradis, Elena Perea, Julia Schmidt, Madison Stout, Allison Thompson, Rebecca Tolson, Sutton Turner, Carrie and Olive Wilsey, and Pat Woods.

There were 48 riders in 20 teams in the Trail Rider Division. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 12 minutes, 18 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to the team of Tamara Bruning and Cynthia McDonald from Columbus with the time of two hours, 11 minutes, 20 seconds. Second Place was awarded to the trio of Megan Lapkoff from Clemson, Trisha McDowell from Pickens, and Lyndsey Orr from Walhalla with a time of two hours, 11 minutes, five seconds. Third Place was awarded to the quartet from Tryon, Hazel, Keith, Olive, and Renee Wade with the time of two hours, ten minutes, 42 seconds. Jennifer and Olivia Wilson from Mill Spring placed Fourth with the time of two hours, ten minutes, ten seconds. Fifth Place was awarded to Hayley Johnson from Rutherfordton and Paige Stout from Columbus with a time of two hours, 15 minutes, ten seconds. Rounding out the placements for Sixth Place in the Trail Rider Division were Kathy Nebel and Deb Zarish from Tryon with the time of two hours, eight minutes, 27 seconds.

Other Trail riders out for the lovely ride were Susan Angermeier, Kris Astle, Sara Borkosky, Emma Bridges, Gavin Bright, Missy Bright, Beth Clevenger, Taylor Docktor, Erin Fletcher, Susan Foster, Debbie Fowler, Shelby Frazier, Bailey Greer, Kelly Grisham, Dawn Harrison, Elaine and Michaela Hughes, Lillian Lowenfield-Jayne, Meredith Keen, Susan Kessel, Allison Lockridge, Ronnie Mann, Kelly McComas, Marianne Moore, Rachel O'Brien, Tracie Parker, Megan Ryan, Doris Saunier, Leslie Scott, Megan Stumbo, Peggy Sullenberger, Katie Tighe, and Maxine Winesett.

There was a nice group of riders in the Mini Pace Rider Division. Those taking the shorter route were Doug Brand, Kyra Dillion, Daisy Fouts, Leslie Lattanzio, and Tina Wolfraun Stieniges. These riders were a single team of five.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series is the Goodwin Hounds Fall Hunter Pace scheduled for Sunday, November 21st. Next will be the FENCE Poker Ride, scheduled for Sunday December 5th, 2021 to be held at FENCE. Then we'll be taking a break for the winter holidays and plan to start back up on Sunday, February 6th with the Foothills Riding Club and followed by Cannon Equine's Hunter Pace set for Sunday, February 20th.

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 our official Photographer, Lou Smith. With the weather being so unpredictable here in the foothills, rain dates are in place in case of need for a postponement.