

## Biltmore Equestrian Center Winter Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series - February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Reported by Missy Bright*

Punxsutawney Phil had it wrong for the weather at Biltmore for this Hunter Pace. Even with threatening strong and gusty winds, the day was gorgeous! Riders were following the red with black arrow trail and were mostly in the woods. However, it wasn't total shade. The sun shone through the trees which offered spectacular lighting in the beautiful woods. There were a few times that riders rode along the fence lines in the sunshine. Riders were offered several special treats on this ride. At the checkpoint riders were offered water for the mounts and themselves as well as viewing the Biltmore Manor. The beautiful statue of Diana, the Huntress awaited everyone with her trusty canine at her side. She is facing the front entrance of the Biltmore Mansion. What a beautiful view that is! After leaving the checkpoint, riders and their mounts passed by one of the cisterns that supply water to the grounds. Riders had photo ops at the checkpoint as well as later during the ride at the rear of the mansion.

Many thanks go to the trail crew, headed by Mason Wood. The rest of the BEC Staff ran the trails. One could tell that there had been some trail damage due to the high winds but, the BEC Staff made sure that the trails were wide and clean of fallen trees. Charles Ferguson headed up the registration crew. Nick McLean, Mark Wood, and Terry Wood were the timers for the day, giving out instructions for riders before they started out. Elizabeth Lusk manned the checkpoint.

Once again, the Biltmore catering group was on site with a delicious lunch. They provided a nice salad with several different dressings, a Tomato Basil Soup as well as the delicious Kielbasa and Cabbage Soup. There were Dinner Rolls with ample butter. The dessert was a variety of cookies to take care of the sweet tooth. They also had plenty of iced tea and water available.

Riding at the Biltmore was a treat for everyone. This is one of the gorgeous places where riders attend that the everyday person does not get to enjoy. Many thanks to the BEC Staff and Biltmore for allowing riders to enjoy the beauty by horseback.

There was a total of 186 riders in 77 teams

The trail distance was a tad over 12 miles with the start and finish area near the BEC Stables.

Here are the results:

There was a total of 82 riders in 31 teams for the Field Hunter Division. The Optimum Time for the Field Hunters was two hours and 30 minutes.

There was a tie for First Place! Team 148, with Frances Brown from Weaverville, Kate Dilworth from Alexander, Megan McCoy from Pegasus Hill Farm finished with a time of two hours, 30 minutes, 48 seconds, and Team 188, Nina Hopper from Monroe, Sam Jackson from Alexander, and Levi Roper from Weaverville tied with the same time of 2 hours, 30 minutes, 48 seconds! Congratulations to both teams. Finishing with a time of two hours, 31 minutes, 25 seconds to win Third Place was the duo of Lauren Leistner and Brittany Whitmire from Brevard. In for the Fourth Place ribbon was the team of Tracy Estes and Amy Gantt from Seneca with a time of two hours, 33 minutes, 15 seconds. Fifth Place pink was awarded to Kelsey Hooper and Linda Tesar from Woodstock, GA, with a time of two hours, 35 minutes. Sixth Place Honors were awarded to the team of Bonnie Lingerfelt from Columbus and Heidi Mendez from Tryon with a time of two hours, 36

minutes, 20 seconds. It's always exciting when there are Honorable Mentions! Honorable Mentions are given when riders are less than 30 seconds out of Sixth Place. The first Honorable Mention was awarded to Janine and Tom Stenson from Columbus with a time of two hours, 36 minutes, 20 seconds. The second Honorable Mention was awarded to Samantha Raubaud from Greenville and Jaime Robertson from Spartanburg with a time of two hours, 36 minutes, 40 seconds.

Other Field Hunters who enjoyed the ride were Amanda Aiello, Susan Anway, Camille Bailey, Isabella Barker, Mike Bass, Carrie Boris, Heather Bounds, Ann Brumback, Melissa Champion, Amy Christensen, Debbie Croft, Cindy Davis, Nicola and Callie Deines, Kaitlyn Dunegan, Lorie Fleenor, Richie Fleming, Jamie Fritsch, Caprice and Carla Fullam, Katharine Geisler, Christina Goen, Kendrick Govan, Paula Hammond, Marcia Headrick, Diane Hicks, Kathy Hodge, Mary Hodgkin, Rebecca Horne, Anne and Rachel Howard, Sandra Hunter, Shannon Jackson, Nancy Klouda, Carol Land, Anna LaVingne, Natalie Luttrell, Caroline MacKey, Sadie Mann, Sarah Maurer, Dean McKinney, Tess McNally, Brenda McNenny, Emily Mitchell, Shauna Moore, Paula Moore, Anna and Madeline Mostrom, Richard Neel, Taryn Page, Chandra Phelps, Fern Powell, Asher Quinn, Angela and Caleigh Reichardt, Donna Schwind, Clare Summers, Rachel Butterworth-Tice, Rebecca Tolson, Rachel Turner, Victoria Ullique, Else Voorhees, Julie Wallace, and Amy Wooten.

There was a total of 104 riders in 46 teams in the Trail Rider Division. The calculated Optimum Time was three hours, 36 minutes 15 seconds. Here are the results:

The First Place Blue Ribbon was awarded to the team of Natalie Hyatt and Sydney Swenson from Marietta with a time of three hours, 35 minutes, 33 seconds. They were just 42 seconds off the Calculated Optimum Time! Second Place honors were awarded to Evie Good from State Road and Kim Sigmon from Newton with a time of three hours, 37 minutes, 32 seconds. Mary LaVigne from Brevard and Mary Stoehr from Hendersonville brought home the Third Place Yellow Ribbon with a time of three hours, 37 minutes, 45 seconds. The Fourth Place White Ribbon was awarded to a lone rider, Rene McDaniel from Williamston with a time of three hours, 33 minutes, 58 seconds. The Fifth Place Pink Ribbon was nabbed by the duo of Kirsten Hughes from Laurens and Jennifer Smith from Simpsonville with a time of three hours, 38 minutes, 38 seconds. Rounding out the placements for the Trail Rider Division for Six Place was the trio of Darleen Bullock, Nikki Hynes, and Deanna Norton, all from Greenville, TN, with a time of three hours, 33 minutes, 50 seconds.

Other Trail Riders out taking advantage of the beautiful weather to enjoy the trails were Beverly Baines, Allison Baskins, Dalton and Melanie Bell, Jodie Blaisure, Tammy Bodack, Brian Boyd, Missy Bright, Kristen Brown, Elizabeth and Marc Caldwell, Doug and Nicole Cobb, Shannon Collett, Erika Conklin, Lydia Cox, Carrie Crawford, Becky Dayton, Mimi Delaney, Gabby DiLemme, Debbie Doscha, Carla Draper, Michelle Drum, Shawn Fetzer, Lynn Fitch, Kay Fleenor, Julie Frederick, Kristi and Kimberly Freeman, Elizabeth Galloway, Deana Gilliam, Tracy Godfrey, Betsey Greenwood, Gena Haskell, Lynn Hathcock, Laura Hendley, Emilla Anne Hodges, Makenna Holden, Mary Holtschaw, Crystal Hooper, Tracey Hudson, Kelsey and Renee Hudson, Larry Huff, Calisa Hughes, Jessica Johnson, Lilly Johnson, Brenda Joyner, Claire Kennedy, Debbie Knebel, Susan Knickerbocker, Lori Kunkel, Keri Lewis, Rebecca McCall, Anna-Kelly McGonigle, Karen Merrill, Mariah Narup, Jessica, Kaitlyn and Karen Owen, Boyce Pitts, Eva Poole, Brooke and Shanna Proffitt, Laurel Pyatt, Valerie Quinn, Lacey Ramey, Ann Ramsey, Ashley Reeves, Allison Rhyne, Christine and Megan Salyer, Daniel Short, Joyce Smartt, Cindy Smith, Jan Smith, Jennifer R. Smith, Lauren Smith, Teresa Snyder, Ron Syrko, Donna Thomas, Wendy and Willow Tomlinson, Lisa Trojan, Heidi Trull, Bobby Turner, Judy Vogt, and Treva Walters.

Up next for the 2016-2017 Hunter Pace Series is the FENCE Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. On deck will be the Windridge Farm Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We look forward to these upcoming events with great hope that the weather will be as beautiful and warm as it was for Biltmore!

Check the website often at [www.wchpace.org](http://www.wchpace.org) for upcoming events and possible changes, and to view your pictures taken by Photographer Lou Smith.

See you on the trails!