

## FENCE Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*"The mission of Foothills Equestrian Nature is to serve as a community resource for the preservation of green space and for educational opportunities linking nature, animals, and people."*

*Reported by Missy Bright*

Weather two, Punxsutawney Phil, zero! The weather at FENCE on Sunday was another picture-perfect day for riders and their mounts! Mother Nature was kind, once again. And, it's allegedly still winter! The trails were wonderful as the rain the day before had no ill effects. There were several water crossings where riders could give their mounts a drink or in some instances, jump the crossing. Riders were commenting on their return to camp that the trails were great and the ride was wonderful! The wonderful course was designed and set up by Ginny Howard, Dot Moyer, Kathy Nebel, Ann Swift, and Carol TenBroek. Trails were wide enough to allow comfortable passing and riding abreast. Landowners play the key part in allowing the riders to pass on their property. There are some beautiful homes and land to view while on the trail. Peach Pond was almost full with geese coming in for landings. Special thanks go to The Douglas Family, Chinquapin Farm, the King Family, and the Schatzburg Family. Without the blessing of these owners, the ride would have been quite short!

Registration was held in the FENCE Office close to the start and finish line. Amy Schmitte, Gretchen Verbonic, and Dana Zygmunt greeted entrants, handed out the team number, and made sure that horses were up to date on their Coggins Tests. Tracie Hanson was seen wherever she was needed, from parking to registration. Meagan Lieberman was the chief parker for all of the rigs. Riders were met at the Check Point by Wendy Cochran, Martha Love, and Mary Tucker. Riders were offered cool water and a three minute mandatory stop. Afterwards riders were sent on their way. As always, a wonderful lunch was served by Foothills Mountain BBQ. One could have hotdogs, burgers or BBQ plates with cole slaw, chips, and baked beans or just the sandwich. They offered tea, water, and soft drinks.

The trail was 8.7 miles and took riders and their mounts on parts of the Steeplechase Track, Cross Country Field, and deep woods trails. Panoramic views were beautiful from the hill tops. The stream crossings were very easily traversed.

The turnout was wonderful for this event. There were 108 riders in 52 teams.

Now, let's get to those results:

There were a total of 46 riders in 22 teams. The Optimum Time for the Field Hunters was one hour, 29 minutes.

First Place Honors are awarded to Amanda Aiello from Ellenboro, Nicola Deines from Landrum, and Tracey Rouse from Tryon with a time of one hour, 29 minutes, three seconds. Folks, that's a mere three seconds off the Optimum time! But, not far behind was the duo of Heather Bounds from Greenville and Amy Christensen from Landrum with a time of one hour, 29 minutes, eight seconds. The Third Place Yellow was awarded to Leah Edwards from Erwin, Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesborough, and Rachel Turner from Elizabethton with a time of one hour, 30 minutes, 46 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to Autumn and Stephanie Wanicker from Mill Spring with a time of one hour, 31 minutes, 37 seconds. Jamie Fritsch from Johnson City and Angela Reichardt from Jonesborough brought home the Fifth Place ribbon with a time of one hour, 25 minutes, 42 seconds. The Tennesseans were out in force and doing well on this day! Rounding out the placements for Sixth Place was Caprice and Carla Fullam from Columbus with a time of one hour 32 minutes, 38 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out to enjoy the day were Korie Albright, Irene Backer, Mike Bass, Sydney Broussard, Reagan Burrell, Melissa Champion, Trevor Chavez, Rachel Childers, Debbie Croft, Stephanie Easler, Tim Giles, Christina Goen, Marcia Headrick, Shannon Jackson, Danielle Lamb, Nancy Klouda, Carson Langston, Carson Manley, Janna Marshman, Andy Miles,

Gabrielle Miller, Emily Mitchell, Richard Neel, Stephanie O'Neill, Amy Orsini, Jane Polk, Donna Schwind, Brandon Spencer, Kayla Stacy, Katherine Stancliff, Rebecca Tolson, and Erin Walker.

In the Trail rider Division, there were 62 riders in 30 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, ten minutes, three seconds.

Here are the results:

First Place Honors were awarded to Madlyn Fox from Fairview, Sayler Hardin from Forest City, and Jessica Herndon from Bostic. Their time was two hours, ten minutes, 12 seconds. They were just nine seconds off the Calculated Optimum Time. Not far behind in Second Place was the duo of Missy Bright from Campobello and Jan Smith from Columbus with a time of two hours, nine minutes, 21 seconds. Catherine Gillet from Tryon and Barbara Ketchum of Landrum missed out on the red ribbon by one second! They finished with the Third Place Yellow with a time of two hours, nine minutes, 20 seconds! Still under a minute off the optimum, Fourth place was awarded to Valerie Quinn from Campobello and Bobby Turner from Spartanburg with a time of two hours, nine minutes, 16 seconds. Arlene Lulavage cemented Fifth Place with a time of two hours, eight minutes, 55 seconds. Rounding out the placements is the team of Susannah Francis from Mill Spring and Carrie Wilsey from Hendersonville with a time of two hours, eight minutes, 37 seconds.

Other Trail Riders out enjoying Mother Nature were Nellie Brennecke, Melissa Cameron, Doug and Nicole Cobb, Sandra Cribbs, Natalie Crombie, Michelle Drum, Michael Field, Joni Fielding, Lynn Fitch, Elizabeth Galloway, Michael Guire, Susan Haldeman, Cindy Hansult, Nancy Hasselbring, Laura Hendley, Susan Justus Hill, Kristen Hughes, Elaine and Michaela Hughes, Natalie Hyatt, Nikki Hynes, Janet Isaac, Cindy James, Charlotte Jones, Debbie Knebel, Lisa Kotalh, Lori Kunkel, Sue Lampton, Patti Lovelace, Donna Lowney, Connie Moore, DeAnna Norton, Beverly Ozman, Michele Parrish, Arden Pierce, Judith Possinger, Mary Jane Rice, Donna Searby, Jennifer Smith, Debbie Stanfield, Sydney Swenson, Ron Syrko, Wendy Tomlinson, Theresa Tyree, Judy Vogt, Lindsey Weicker, Michelle Williams, Jennifer Wilson, and Sherry Wyatt.

Up next for the 2016-2017 Hunter Place Series is the Windridge Farm Hunter Pace & Trail Ride on Sunday, March 5, 2017, with the Rain Date on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, followed by the Green Creek Hounds Spring Hunter Place and Trail ride on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Check the website often for upcoming events, changes, and to view your photo taken by photographer Lou Smith. check the classifieds as well at [www.wchpace.org](http://www.wchpace.org).

See you on the trails next time!