

## Foothills Riding Club Inaugural Hunter Pace

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

What a great day for a Hunter Pace! The Foothills Riding Club's Inaugural Hunter Pace was a class act! The signage leading in to camp was awesome. There was no mistaking in where to go with the big yellow arrows! Dawn, Molly, and Pete Gutowski were on hand to handle parking. They expertly guided rigs in and out of the parking areas. Those who cleared the trails are to be commended! They did a wonderful job. Again, yellow arrows marked the way along with the red ribbons. The trails were awesome! There was a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to get these trails cut, cleared, and set up so well. The trails were magnificent and there were many photo ops available. The trail was 6.5 miles. There were no road crossings but there were plenty of creek crossings with beautiful wooden bridges. The last obstacle on the course was the water crossing near the finish line. It was an easy crossing with clear cool water flowing freely thru. Some horses, however preferred to walk or play in the water for a while!

Special thanks go to Gerry and Sara Zordan, the landowners for this Hunter Pace. What a gorgeous venue. Gerry was the course designer as well.

KC Betzel, Carole Foster, Sally Herring, and Robin Hnat were on hand to manage the registration table, ensuring all the paperwork was filled out correctly and Coggins were shown. No strings necessary with the nice number that could be clipped to the headstalls.

Joey Cabaniss was the timer for the day with the help of Jan Smith and Dana Zygmunt. As always, Joey gets the riders on their way with a little humor and a promise to "leave the light on for you"!

The Check Point was located at the end of one of the many pastures. Rebecca Brown, Susan Faulkner and daughters, Virginia Maclure and Megan McCoy were on hand for the mandatory three-minute stop. Riders were offered a nice cold beverage. There was a nice big rock for remounts if needed.

And last but certainly not least is the coordinator/organizer, Jillian Woolridge. She took the helm on this event and ran with it! She was certainly available for calls and texts beforehand.

Once again, Foothills Mountain Barbeque outdid themselves. They served up a hot meal of barbeque chicken or pork, sandwiches, and cookies. There was a vegetarian option and cold drinks were available for riders as well.

What a pleasure it was to ride on this beautiful land! The day started out very cold but with hand and body warmers, gloves, tall boots, and a winter helmet cover all was good in the world. Oh, and let's not forget the thermal under-rooms! Those Brave Hearts just keep showing up with a scattering of trailers coming in right thru lunch! It was super to see so many trailers there but there was plenty of room for more.

Despite the cold weather there were 57 riders in 28 teams.

Now, let's get to those results.

There was a total of 24 riders in 14 teams in the Field Hunter Division. The Optimum Time was one hour, six minutes.

First Place Honorees are the duo of Marcia Headrick and Richard Neel from Townville with the time of one hour, two minutes, 31 seconds. Just three seconds out of the First Place, Rebecca Tolson from Pendleton nabbed the Second Place Red Ribbon with the time of one hour, two minutes, 28 seconds. Coming in Third Place was Debbie Croft from Anderson with a time of one hour, two minutes, 27 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to solo rider Pam Burrows from Spartanburg with the time of one hour, 41 seconds. Another solo rider, Linda Plummer from Clover placed Fifth with the time of one hour, two seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division is the Rock Hill duo of, Karolin Eichler, and Gabby Gribic winning Sixth Place with a time of 58 minutes, 39 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out on the trail were Tiffany Aurelt, Tim Giles, Christina Goen, Joy Griffin, Susan Haslam, Emily Mitchell, Kaitlyn and Shawna Owen, Jane Polk, Allison Rhyne, Brandon Spencer, Lisa Steele, Donna Thomas, Jessica Thomas, Samantha Vaughn, and Jacqueline Wansiewski.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 33 riders in 14 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was one hour, 44 minutes, 45 seconds.

Here are the results!

First Place Honors were awarded to Boots Plyler from Greenville and Cheryl Thorp from Pickens with the time of one hour, 43 minutes, 55 seconds. Coming in Second Place was the Greenville, Tennessee duo of Darlene Bullock and Nikki Hynes with a time of one hour, 46 minutes, 43 seconds. The Third Place Yellow Ribbon went to Jeremy and Kristin Ahlum from Greer and Jaclyn McElhaney from Waxhaw with a time of one hour, 42 minutes, 44 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to Missy Bright from Campobello and Ronnie Mann from Columbus with the time of one hour, 40 minutes, 49 seconds. The Fifth Place Pink Ribbon was awarded to the quartet of Janet Burzlaff and Barb Oklesen, both from Tryon, Leslie Shealy from Spartanburg, and Melissa Van Doren from Landrum. Their time was one hour, 51 minutes, one second. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division, Kristen Brown from Spartanburg placed Sixth with the time of one hour, 54 minutes, 18 seconds.

Other Brave Hearts out on the Trails were Ashley Autrey, Vicki Bertsch, Anthony Cone, Bob and Terri Davenport, Lynn Fitch, Debbie Knebel, Hannah and Sarah McClintock, Marianne Moore, Karyn Owen, Laurel Pyatt, Nathan Rabensteine, Taylor Reed, Diane Roemer, Cindy Smith, Jennifer Smith, Jennifer Trilk, and Dawn Ware.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace is the Cannon Equine – Ride for the Rowleys to be held on Sunday, February 18, 2018 at the beautiful Camp Croft State Park in Spartanburg County. The rain date will be the following weekend, Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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](http://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!