

# River Valley Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

## To Benefit Christmas on Miracle Hill

Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series - December 11, 2016

*Reported by Missy Bright*

The Polar Vortex decided to make its debut at the River Valley Fall Hunter Pace this year! Not to fear, though. Riders who usually come in early were asked, as a precaution, to please come later to let any frost thaw. The trails were well marked with pink ribbons to follow and arrow signs. It was a good thing too, because of all the fall leaves on the ground the trail was hard to see. In the woods, it didn't seem as cold as it was. Riders came prepared, though! Layered clothing was the dress code for the day, with hand warmers, toe warmers, heavy coats and gloves in evidence. There was one rider who was sporting a winter helmet cover. What a genius idea! Riders reported that the trails were well marked and enjoyable and they had a very nice ride.

The landowner hosts were Glenn Arledge, John Bell, Barbara Claussen, Cindy Goldberg, Chris and Rhonda Lewis, Sara Lyter, Bill and Dot Moyer, Lisa and Walter Otto, and Richard and Susan Wallahora. Riders were thankful to be able to pass over parts of their slices of Paradise!

Registration was on the knoll near the entry gate for this invigorating ride. The ladies were making sure that all paperwork was in order and riders had their correct back numbers. Riders started and finished their trails over the hill from the registration and lunch location. Joey Cabiness was the timer along with his Christmas helpers Kaiya Mann, Baylon Hubbs, Shelley Contin-Hubbs, and Lynn Moorshead! Joey made sure riders were well with the directions and ribbon color. And, as usual, let riders know that he would keep the light on for them.

There was a village of workers that made sure that this ride went off without a hitch, from pulling in, parking, and pulling. All work was done with a smile. The workers were Meg and Trilby Allen, Elaine and Katie Burke, Becky and Elizabeth Corthell, Becca and Ivette Drumgool, Helen and Sammie Firby, Lynn Fitch, James and Madlyn Fox, Eliza and Emelia Frederick, Caprice Fullam, Becky and Elizabeth Galloway, Jennifer Gruhn, Baylon and Shelly Hubbs, Carrie and Lilly Johnson, Aaron, Carla, and Sydney Langley, Bette and Milton Mann, Sasha and Kaiya Mann, Beth McGregor, Lynn and Sarah Moorshead, Denise Ritacco, Addison and Alicia Sama, Vicki Schenter, Ivey Sumrell, and Autumn, Faith, and Stephanie Wanicka. Many thanks to Carla Fullam for all the hard work that it takes to manage a Hunter Pace.

Riders were greeting at the Check Point by smiles, lemonade, water and cookies while horses had a large tub of water and were offered refreshing peppermints! After the 3-minute rest, riders were sent on their way and soon crossed back over Collinsville Road. Back at Camp, riders were fed a very nice, warm lunch of Pasta Marinara, salad complete with crasins and several options for the dressing. There were cookies, hot chocolate, and coffee to warm the bones.

The trail was 6.46 miles and took riders through some very pretty territory. Several riders didn't remember the swamp area and enjoyed the sign to beware of the horse eating swamp monster! There was also a new bridge for horses to cross. There were many natural jumps as well as some manmade jumps along the way and those who were so inclined took advantage of them. The trails took riders through some truly beautiful country!

Considering the weather, the turnout was very nice. There were a total of 53 riders in 26 teams.

Now, let's get to those results!

There were a total of 23 riders in 11 teams in the Field Hunter Division. The Optimum Time for the Field Hunters was one hour, 13 minutes, 50 seconds.

The First Place Blue was awarded to Kathy Bethka from Greenville with a time of one hour, 15 minutes, 48 seconds. Not far behind in Second Place was the trio of Angela and Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesborough and Rachel Turner from Elizabethton with a time of one hour, 15 minutes, 59 seconds. The Third Place Yellow Ribbon was awarded to another one horse and rider team, Pam Burrows from Spartanburg with a time of 1 hour, eight minutes, 56 seconds. Fourth Place Honors went to the team of Kathy Hodge from Asheville and Shauna Moore from Columbus with a time of one hour, 18 minutes, 49 seconds. The Fifth Place Pink Ribbon was awarded to Linda Plummer from Clover with a time of one hour, 18 minutes, 51 seconds. Sixth Place was awarded to the trio of Marcia Headrick and Rickard Neel from Townville, Diane Hicks from Pendleton with a time of one hour, 19 minutes, 58 seconds. An Honorable Mention goes to Michael and Roberta Axelrod of Tryon with a time of one hour, 20 minutes, 15 seconds. They were out of sixth place by a mere 23 seconds!

Other Field Hunters out braving the cold, but having a wonderful ride were Morgan Baudean, Melissa Champion, Val DeVine, Tim Giles, Christina Goen, Emily Mitchell, Crosby Reed, Diane Roemer, Brandon Spencer, and T. J. Vore.

There were a total of 30 riders in 15 teams for the Trail Rider Division. The Calculated Optimum Time was one hour, 48 minutes, six seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to Lynn Fitch from Taylors and Debbie Knebel from Greer with a time of one hour, 48 minutes, 43 seconds. They were just 37 seconds away from the perfect time! Second Place Honors went to the trio of Jennifer and Kathryn Gruhn from Columbus and Bette Mann from Campobello with a time of one hour, 46 minutes, 56 seconds. Third Place Honors were awarded to the trio of Missy Bright and Michelle Drum from Campobello and Jan Smith from Columbus with a time of one hour, 51 minutes, 57 seconds. Bobby Turner from Spartanburg was close on their heels for Fourth Place with a time of one hour, 52 minutes, 34 seconds. Arlene Lulavage from Columbus was the Fifth Place winner with a time of one hour, 53 minutes, 36 seconds. Rounding out the placement for Sixth Place in the Trail Rider Division was Kathleen Davis from Old Fort with a time of one hour, 58 minutes, 55 seconds. Doug and Nicole Cobb from

Reidville received an Honorable Mention with a time of one hour, 59 minutes, 12 seconds. They were a mere 17 seconds out of Sixth Place!

Other Trail Riders who braved the cold to support the RVPC and enjoy the CETA trails were Emoll Annetbdges, Barbara Claussen, Mimi Delaney, Stephanie Easler, Cindy Hansult, Susan Haslam, Nikki Hynes, Llyn Josef, Susie Kocher, Martha Love, Sara and Teresa Lyter, Lin Martin, Connie Moore, Rebecca Murphy, and Jessica and Karyn Owen.

As the Western Carolina Hunter Pace takes a break for the Holiday Season, have a safe and fun time off. But, hope you plane to come back well rested to start the New Year at Biltmore Equestrian Center on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

Don't forget to check the website, [www.wchpace.org](http://www.wchpace.org) for your favorite pictures for Christmas presents! Check the site often for the upcoming events, changes, and to view your photos taken by Lou Smith, the Series Photographer.

See you next year on the trails!