

S. C. Upstate Equine Council Hunter Pace

January 13th, 2018

Who would have thought there would be a Hunter Pace on this day! Just a day after the monsoons came through, with the wind whipping, and cold! Despite the rain the trails were in remarkably good shape as the volunteers work hard to keep good drainage and footing a priority for year-round riding. Though there were fewer riders than usual, the Bravehearts who were there had a great ride. Thanks to the SC Upstate Equine Council for hosting a fabulous ride at Clemson Forest/Butch Kennedy Trail Head.

The food was hot and delicious and many thanks to all who contributed the food. Wendy's provided the Regular and Vegan Chili, Grits and Groceries provided corn muffins cakes, cookies and some great breads. Ruby Tuesday's Key Lime Cake was out of this world, and donuts were provided by a wonderful vendor who also does Bountyline Gas Marts. Other refreshment donators were Ag South, Quality Coffee Services of Seneca, Ann Mahalik, and Kathy and Martin Powell. Late arriving riders were advised by the Greeter/Parker Ray Wyatt it might be a good idea to eat before riding since there might not be any hot food left upon their return. The cooks were Kathy and Martin Powell and Cindy Wilson.

The Field Hunter Pace Setter was Amy Gantt and the timers were Jim Cassidy, Carolyn Groves, and Sue Higgs. The Check Point for the Field Hunters were manned by Mallie Merck and Sherry Wyatt. The Road Crossing Guard was Alix Symborski. The wonderful trail prepping was handled by Debbie Beckwith, Dale Massey, Kathy Powell, and Poag Reid. Other volunteers included Lynn Fitch, Carolyn Groves, and Debbie Knebel. Greg Quarles was also helping with the incoming trailers. Lynn Fitch and Debbie Knebel appreciated for their input for this article.

The Volunteer Coordinator was Faith Connelly. The transporter was George Patterson. The SCEC Board Members include Debbie Beckwith, Faith Connelly, Marietta Gambrell, Donna Patterson, Kathy Powell, Poag Reid, and Linda Symborski. Many thanks to all of you.

A huge Thank You goes to the Farm House in Landrum and the Tack Shop in Greenville for their placement coupon prizes.

For this blustering day there were 33 riders in 18 teams. The trail length for the Field Hunters was 8.6 miles. The trails took riders through the woods, up and down hills, and had several places for good photo ops. There were also several creek crossings that had wonderful bridges. The actual horse in the water creek crossing was navigated very well. The Optimum time was one hour, 49 minutes, 34 seconds.

Let's get to those results:

In the Field Hunter Division there were 21 riders in 11 teams.

In First place, guess what, there were two teams who tied. Beth Goldizen from Roebuck had a time of one hour, 53 minutes. Marcia Headrick and Richard from Townville had the same time, one hour, 53 minutes. Both teams received the coveted Blue Ribbon. In Third Place with a time of one hour 43 minutes was Richard Putnam from Tryon. Fourth Place Honors were awarded to Debbie Croft from Anderson with a time of one hour, 58 minutes. Fifth Place was awarded to Tara and Terry Wyatt from Bradley with a time of one hour, 59 minutes. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division was the trio of Amanda Aiello from Ellenboro, Nicola Deines from Landrum, and Linda Plummer from Clover who nabbed the Sixth Place Green Ribbon with the time of two hours, eight minutes.

Other brave Field Hunters out were Kate Fosberry, Christina Goen, Joy Griffin, Karen Merrill, Emily Mitchell, Maria Oglesby, Natalie Owens, Teresa Snyder, Jessica Thomas, and Courtney Weeks.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 12 riders in 7 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was one hour, 45 minutes. The Trail Rider trail was 7.6 miles.

Taking First Place Honors was the duo of Kristen Hughes from Laurens and Jennifer Smith from Simpsonville who nailed the one hour, 45 minute Calculated Optimum Time! Second Place Honors were awarded to Lynn Fitch from Taylors and Debbie Knebel from Greer with the time of one hour, 59 minutes. Amy Meyer from Anderson took the Third Place Yellow Ribbon with the time of one hour 39 minutes. Fourth Place was awarded to Hannah and Sarah McClintock from Greer. Their time was one hour, 36 minutes. Missy Bright from Campobello and Ronnie Mann from Columbus brought home the Fifth Place Pink Ribbon with a time of one hour, 56 minutes. Rounding out the placements in the Trial Rider Division placing Sixth was Caprice and Carla Fullam of Columbus with the time of one hour, 28 minutes.

Bob and Terri Davenport were also out enjoying the trails and taking in the scenery.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace is the Foothills Riding Club Inaugural Hunter Pace to be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018. Their Rain Date is on Saturday February 10th, 2018. Following will be the Cannon Equine Instruction's Ride for the Rowleys to be held at Camp Croft on Sunday, February 18th, 2018. Their rain date is Sunday, February 25th, 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 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!