

Tryon Hounds Spring – Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series - April 2nd, 2017

Reported by Missy Bright and Louise Hughston

What makes a Hunter Pace a successful event, you ask? It is the wonderful combination of eager riders, a village of dependable helpers, and the weather! Considering the downpour just a few days prior to this Hunter Pace, the weather and grounds were as close to perfect as one can get! And that perfect day was April 2nd, 2017 at Long Shadows Farm in beautiful Campobello, South Carolina! The Course Designer was Dean McKinney and Co Designer Nelson Minnick. Riding in two Kubotas, Mike Axelrod, Beth Blackwell, Louise Hughston, Dean McKinney, Wesley Moore, and Don West made sure that the trail was well marked with pink ribbons. They were also checking the trails for any storm damage and wet areas. At the completion of the Pace, what goes up must come down. Bonnie Lingerfelt and Dean McKinney were in charge of ribbon removal.

Without Land Owners permissions the Hunter Pace Trails would be very short. This weekend, Mike and Kia Atkins hosted the beautiful ride at Long Shadows Farm in Campobello. Jay Alexander and Bob Jordan of Caroland Farms, David Slater, and NPA opened up their property as well, allowing riders a great escape for such a wonderful day.

Ann Pierce took her faithful position as secretary signing in entries totaling 136 riders. Attendance was so great that registration was running out of numbers and had to collect them from the finish line and any of the worker bees who had them. Cathy Clapp was happily showing off Tryon Hounds Merchandise, including some new blue long sleeve shirts and green tote bags. The Lunch service tables, under the tents, provided by Heidi Mendez, were attractively decorated by Beckey Barnes. Grill Masters Wes Moore and Jim Sumrell prepared grilled sirloin burgers and hotdogs complimented by potato salad, chips, a variety of cookies, iced colas and water.

Volunteers helping with the parking, lunch prep, and serving included Beckey Barnes, Mike Boles, Wendy Hamill, Susan Holderman, Louise Hughston, Dean McKinney, Nelson Minnick, Peter Shanahan, Paul Stathakis, and Don West. One can never tell where they'll see this band of good workers. Word was that one was at one of the ponds with a camera in hand!

While all of the above was happening, two very special people, Skip Leck and Richard Pierce were manning the Check Point. Here the riders rested for three minutes. The riders were offered water, apple juice, and a very smooth Port.

Joey Cabaniss, the timer, was on spot as usual at the start and finish line. He always gives riders the information they need to have a nice ride. Since attendance was so huge, he almost did have to keep the light on! Lou Smith, the Series Photographer, was taking photos at the start finish line and helped call the last team in to cross the Finish Line. What a glorious day!

The trail was a whopping twelve miles, allowing riders to enjoy the outstanding mountain vistas, streams, and stretches of lush spring grass. There were several drop dead gorgeous photo ops! There were plenty of jump opportunities for those who wished to take. The Optimum Time for the twelve mile ride was one hour and 45 minutes. The Pace was set by Huntsman Beth Blackwell.

The turnout was incredible with 136 riders in 67 teams.

Now, let's get to those results:

There were a total of four riders in two teams in the WINGS Division. This Division is set for the fastest riders in the Division. Those, if you will, who have the "need for speed"! First Place Honors went to Melissa Champion, Tim Giles, and Brandon Spencer, all from Campobello with a time of one hour, six minutes, 28 seconds. Second Place is awarded to Katharine Stancliff, also from Campobello with a time of one hour, 33 minutes, 56 seconds. Folks, these times are 38 minutes and 11 minutes respectively, Faster than the Optimum Time!

There were a total of 41 riders in 25 teams for the Field Hunter Division.

First Place Honors went to Bonnie Lingerfelt from Columbus with a time of one hour, 34 minutes, 56 seconds. The Second Place Red went to Hannah Bowers and Brittany Whitmire from Brevard with a time of one hour, 57 minutes, 23 seconds. Very close behind nabbing the Third Place Yellow was the duo of Jamie Fritsch and Angela Reichardt from Jonesborough, TN with a time of one hour, 57 minutes, 25 seconds. That, ladies and gentlemen is just two seconds out of Second Place! Fourth Place Honors are awarded to another team from Tennessee, Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesborough and Rachel Turner from Elizabethton with a time of one hour, 58 minutes, 28 seconds. Fifth Place Honors go to Kinsley Allaire from Blacksburg with a time of two hours, 16 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division is Reagan Burrell from Clover securing Sixth Place with a time of two hours, 55 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out enjoying the day were Michael and Berdie Axelrod, Holly Bacola, Heather Bounds, Amy Christensen, Cindy Colon, Debbie Croft, Anna Dalton, Ann Fratcher, Hilary Garrison, Marcia Headrick, Diane Hicks, Kathy Hodge, Barb Ketcham, Amanda McDonald, Reed and Roanne McNutt, Holly Mitchell, Kay Mott, Richard Neel, Erin O'Dwyer, Lyn Owen, Fern Powell, Diane Roemer, Elise and Maddie Rogers, Cathy Rotruck, Rebecca Tolson, Elsa Voorhees, TJ Vore, and Faith and Stephanie Wanicka.

There was a total of 91 riders in 40 teams in the Trail Rider Division! The Calculated Optimum Time was three hours, one minute, 52 seconds.

The First Place Blue Ribbon went to Susannah Francis from Mill Springs and Carrie Wiley from Hendersonville with a time of three hours, three minutes, 44 seconds. The duo of Jeanne and David Ahrenholz from Landrum was only seven seconds behind with a time of three hours, three minutes, 51 seconds. Third Place Honors were awarded to Lyn Martin from Campobello with a time of two hours, 59 minutes, 28 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to Julie Frederick and Lisa Trojan from Gowansville with a time of two hours, 59 minutes, four seconds. Fifth Place Honors were awarded to Janet Cummings from Columbus and Paula Moore from Landrum with a time of three hours, five minutes, two seconds. Only 22 seconds behind to win the Sixth Place Green Ribbon were Barb Okleson from Tryon and Melissa Van Doren of Landrum. Their time was three hours, five minutes, 24 seconds. An Honorable Mention goes to Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder from York with a time of three hours, five minutes, 35 seconds. An Honorable Mention is when a team or a single rider are 30 seconds or less off sixth place.

Other Trail Riders out really enjoying the beautiful weather and awesome trails were Nicole Aquilar, Jeremy Ahlum, Korie Albright, Brittany and Zane Annis, Michael Atkins, Karen Benson, Katelyn Beorden, Tara Boyce, Missy Bright, Kristen Brown, Darleen Bullock, Caroline Coates, Doug and Nicole Cobb, Lainie Coeby, Lydia Cox, Natalie Crombie, Michelle Drum, Joni Fielding, Lynn Fitch, James Gregory, Martha Hall, Saylor Hardin, Susan Haslam, Laura Hendley, Jessica Herndon, Kristen Hiller, Mary Holtschaw, Peggy Horton, Elaine and Michaela Hughes, Kristen Hughes, Natalie Hyatt, Nikki Hynes, Patricia Iacomini, Cindy James, Ginny Jennings, Debbie Knebel, Lisa Kotalik, Nancy Kruger, Lori Kunkel, Katie Labbe, Janet Ladd, Donna Lowery, Arlene Lulavage, Anne McIver, Cynthia Milligan, Connie Moore, Meaghan Morris, Kathleen Nebel, DeAnna Norton, Sandy Rhodes, Mary Jane Rice, Sally Rock, Lynn Ronzello, Dewie and Melissa Roof, Emilie Settakeel, Jennifer A Smith, Jennifer R Smith, (Yes, there are two!) Jan Smith, Annette Spencer, Kayla Stacy, Paula Stathakis, Ivey Sumrell, Sydney Swenson, Lenore and Leslie Threlheld, Bobby Turner, Stacie Wadsworth, Eric and Lisa West, Aimee Williams, Jennifer Wilson, Jess Wright, and Sherry Wyatt.

Next up on the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series will be the River Valley Pony Club's beautiful Spring Hunter Pace & Trail Ride scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd, with a rain date of Sunday, May 7th to avoid Rolex weekend when many of our folks will be traveling to KY. Once again, we will get to enjoy some beautiful trails on the scenic CETA trail system from Collinsville Meadows. Following will be the Biltmore West Range Hunter Pace and Trail Ride on May 14th, 2017.

Check the website, www.wchpace.org, for upcoming events, weather changes, and classifieds. You can view your photo taken by Photographer Lou Smith and even order online!

Everyone have a safe Holiday. Be safe on the roads as schools are taking their Spring Breaks. See you on the trails next time!