

Windridge Farm's Winter Hunter Pace & Trail Ride December 3rd, 2017

By Missy Bright

What a beautiful weekend Mother Nature provided for riders at Windridge Farm. The day started off a little foggy but cleared up by ride time. When one can rinse off their mount after a ride, it's a nice day!

Without permission from landowners, many of these trails would not be shared for riders' pleasure. Many thanks go to Melvin [Junior] Arrowood, Allen Carlton, Alicia and David Henderson, Jana Johnson, Phillips and Shayla Reynolds, Gail and Terry Webb, and Dr. Wylie.

To make a Hunter Pace happen, there are many behind the scene activities. The trails must be cleared and checked for any unsafe issues. It was appreciated that many of the stumps were painted white or orange. There were white arrows sprayed on the ground at certain points to keep riders heading in the right direction. Kudos to whoever thought of that! There were also yellow signs with black arrows at certain junctures. Riders were advised by the timers to follow the pink ribbons on the right side of the trails. All in all, the trails were beautifully marked. Many thanks go to Allen Carlton, Avery Carlton, Daia Conner, Genevieve Carlton, Jeff Davis, Paul Downes, David Henderson, Susie McKinney, Cynthia Thomas, and Ricky Thomas.

The trails ridden were 8.3 miles and took riders through the woods, past the Dressage Arena, and out onto the Cross-Country Course. Riders had the opportunity to take jumps at their leisure. After winding through the Cross-Country field, riders crossed the road and continued on. There were volunteers at the road to ensure rider safety in crossing. After the road crossing there were several water crossings to negotiate, but there was no report on any issues with them. Rider comments upon finishing the ride were positive and that they had enjoyed the ride.

The wonderful smells from lunch being grilled enticed riders coming in from the trails (or before heading out). The Windridge Farm folks served up delicious grilled chicken cutlets, green beans, and mashed sweet potatoes, with tea or soda and chocolate chip cookies for desert!

There was a good turnout on this beautiful day. There were 67 riders in 34 teams.

Now, let's get to those results!

There was a total of 36 riders in 18 teams in the Field Hunter Division. The Optimum time for the Field Hunters was one hour and ten minutes.

Amy Christensen from Landrum and Rich Putnam from Tryon received First Place Honors with the time of one hour, 16 minutes, five seconds. There was a tie for the Second Place Slot. Marcia Headrick and Richard Neel from Townville were awarded Second Place with the time of one hour, 16 minutes, 50 seconds. Rebecca Tolson, also received the Second Place Red Ribbon with the time of one hour, 16 minutes, 50 seconds. Fourth Place Honors were awarded to a duo from Pickens, Joy Griffin and Jessica Thomas. Their time was one hour, 17 minutes. The

Fifth Place Pink Ribbon was awarded to a pair from Tryon, Mary Livesay and Barb DePalma with the time of one hour, 19 minutes, 40 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division in Six Place with a time of one hour, 20 minutes, 15 seconds was Jessica Ames from Asheville, Karolin Eichler and Gabrielle Grubic from Rock Hill, and Sara Jackson.

Other Field Hunters enjoying the beautiful weather and trails were Amanda Aiello, Irene Backer, Lydia Cox, Alyssa Davidson, Nicola Deines, Jutta Echevarria, Elizabeth Galloway, Tim Giles, Christina Goen, Beth Goldizen, Stacy Guerra, Susan Haslam, Laura James, Reiss McKinney, Emily Mitchell, Paula Nguyen, Mary Oliphant, Arden Pierce, Lina Plummer, Daniel Short, and Emily Thomas.

In the Trail Rider Division there were 31 riders in 16 teams. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, 12 minutes, 38 seconds.

Let's get to those results!

First Place Honors were awarded to the ever-present duo of Lynn Fitch from Taylors, and Debbie Knebel from Greer with a time of two hours, 13 minutes, two seconds. Another duo, Caren Harris from Candler and Diane Wilson from Asheville nabbed the Second Place Red Ribbon with a time of two hours, 13 minutes, 30 seconds. Less than ten seconds behind with a time of two hours, 13 minutes, 38 seconds, Charla Draper from Chapin and Lori Kunkel from Newberry were awarded the Third Place Yellow Ribbon. Erin Fletcher and Forrest Samuels from Asheville received Fourth Place Honors with a time of two hours, 11 minutes, 30 seconds. Fifth Place was awarded to the trio of Llyn Josef from Columbus, Jennifer Smith from Simpsonville, and Molly Watson from Landrum. Their time was two hours, nine minutes, six seconds. Rounding out the Trail Rider Division for Sixth Place was Mary Beth Herbert and Peggy Horton, both from Tryon, with the time of two hours, four minutes, 54 seconds.

Other Trail Riders out in the woods and fields and enjoying the day were Margo Barrett, Missy Bright, Darlene Bullock, Julie Frederick, Elaine and Michaela Hughes, Nikki Hynes, Carla and Syndey Langley, Ronnie Mann, Karim Shihata, Annette Spencer, Lisa Trojan, Stacie Wadsworth, Dan, Kay, and Laura Wellbaum, and Sherry Wyatt.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eric and Trayce-Doubek Dierks. Eric was involved in a very serious accident, getting kicked in the face by a mare. He has since had surgery and is recovering.

The Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series is taking time off for the Holiday Season. But, when the 2018 calendar rolls around, Clemson is the next stop! The SC Upstate Equine Council Hunter Pace and Trail Ride is coming up on **Saturday** January 6th, 2018 with the rain date being **Saturday** January 13th, 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 to ensure they can get you the ribbon you might earn!

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 a postponement is needed.

Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season and see you on the trails next time!