

Windridge Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series March 5th, 2017

One again, Mother Nature granted riders and their mounts a beautiful day for the Hunter Pace at Windridge Farms. The weather started off on the cold side early on but it warmed up considerably allowing some riders to partake in the short sleeve attire. General Beauregard Lee, the groundhog from the Atlanta area has come through for equine events thus far. However, forecasts may offer up some surprises in the next few days. Incoming riders gave high compliments about the trail and the course was well thought out.

Many thanks go to Alicia and David Henderson and their crew of worker bees: Allen Carlton, Avery & Adelee Carlton, Jeff Davis, Daniel Gooding, David Henderson, Amber Henderson, Karen Park, and Teri Whisnant, for clearing, marking, timing and especially for inviting riders to their property for this Hunter Pace.

Many thanks go to Allen Carlton and the WILEY/PRATT CAROLINA LLC for offering their property as well. Without these equine lovers inviting riders to enjoy their land, the Pace would be somewhat boring as well as short!

A nice warm lunch of beef vegetable soup was served, complemented with warm Garlic buttered French Bread. There were cookies, tea, and water available as well.

Registration was held at the office where riders showed their Coggins Tests and received their team numbers. The start/finish was located a few yards away with plenty of room for riders and their mounts to gracefully canter in or out! Riders were advised of the ribbon color to follow on the trails and that there were a few water crossings.

The trail was about 8.6 miles and took riders over several nice water crossings. The beautiful Cross Country fields laid out a zig zag course and allowed riders to take a variety of jumps if they so desired. It appeared that there were some new jumps around the course as well as the water trap. Even though it was just moist, it helped riders get their mounts accustomed to the area. Lou Smith, the Hunter Pace Photographer was on hand all over the Cross Country Course to take riders' pictures.

Here are the results:

There were a total 21 riders in 9 teams in the Field Hunter Division. The Optimum Time for the Field Hunters was one hour, 11 minutes, 28 seconds.

First Place Honors went to the trio of Melissa Champion from Campobello, Tim Giles from Gaffney, and Brandon Spencer with a time of one hour, three minutes, 55 seconds. The Second Place Red Ribbon was awarded to Christina Goen from Lyman and Emily Mitchell from Greer with a time of one hour, 28 minutes, 16 seconds. Third Place was awarded to a trio from Tennessee. Angela and Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesborough and Rachel Turner from Elizabethton came in with a time of one hour, 31 minutes, 27 seconds. Marcia Headrick and Richard Neel from Townville came in Fourth Place with a time of one hour, 32 minutes, 52 seconds. With a time of one hour, 36 minutes, 16 seconds, Debbie Croft from Anderson and Diane Hicks from Pendleton grabbed the Fifth Place Pink Ribbon. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division was another trio. Anna Dalton from Columbus, Ann Fratcher from Greer, and Holly Mitchell from Travelers Rest came in with a time of one hour, 41 minutes, 47 seconds.

Other Field Hunters enjoying this strange "winter" weather were Amanda Aiello, Nicola Deines, Susan Haldeman, Amanda McDonald, and JoAnn and Tom Trull.

The Calculated Optimum Time for the Trail Rider Division was two hours, 11 minutes, 41 seconds. '

First Place Honors were awarded to the duo of Valerie Quinn from Campobello and Bobby Turner from Spartanburg with a time of two hours, 12 minutes, 44 seconds. The Second Place Red Ribbon welcomed Arlene Lulavage in with a time of two hours, 12 minutes, 12 seconds 47 seconds. She was a mere 3 seconds out of the First Place spot. Arriving only four seconds later for the Third Place Yellow with a time of two hours, 12 minutes 41 seconds was the trio of Missy Bright and Michelle Drum from Campobello, and Jan Smith from Columbus. The Fourth Place Honor went to Lin Martin from Campobello with a time of two hours, nine minutes, 53 seconds. The Fifth Place Pink Ribbon was awarded to a trio from Hickory: Colleen Hargroves, Delane Huggins, and Sue Smolka. Their time was two hours, 13 minutes, 37 seconds. Sixth Place was awarded to Paula Moore from Landrum and Jan Solovey from Middleton, Maryland with a time of two hours, eight minutes, 18 seconds. Nikki Hynes and DeAnna Norton from Greeneville, TN received an Honorable Mention nod with a time of two hours, 15 minutes, 24 seconds. They were less than 30 seconds out of the Sixth Place slot.

Other Trail Riders out having a blast were Tammy Bodack, Reagan Burrell, Doug and Nicole Cobb, Natalie Crombie, Cheyenne and Kathy Davis, Lynn Fitch, Susan Haslam, Laura Hendley, Jill Kelly, Michelle Klopp, Debbie Knebel, Connie Moore, Kay Mott, Ann Ramsey, Kim Sabatini, Josie Thompson, and Jennifer Wilson.

Up next for the 2016-2017 Hunter Place Series is the Green Creek Hounds Spring Hunter Pace and Trail Ride on Sunday, March 19th, 2017 to be held from their John Watson Road location. The rain date, should we be rained out will be on March 26th, 2017. On deck will be the Tyron Hounds Spring Hunter Pace, scheduled for Sunday, April 2nd, 2017.

Check the website often at wchpace.org. There you will find information on upcoming events and changes. You can also view and order your photos taken by Photographer Lou Smith.

See you on the trails!