

## Windridge Farm Fall Hunter Pace and Trail Ride

Western Carolina Hunter Pace and Trail Ride Series - November 20th, 2016

*Reported by Missy Bright*

The Windridge Fall Hunter Pace went off without a hitch and the riders who attended were heard to complement trails and vittles. With the recent fires that are still not 100% contained and the lack of significant rain for more than 100 days the trails were very dry and creek crossings lower than usual. But although many riders stayed at home worried about breathing conditions, there was no smoke in the air because of changes in the wind. The temperature was cold early, warming somewhat, but dipping again in the afternoon. When the winds started blowing it got downright chilly, reminding us that the calendar has rolled into winter.

Many thanks go to Alicia and David Henderson and their crew for opening their property for this Pace. Also, thanks go to Allen Carlton, Avery Carlton, Jeff Davis, Chris Hall, Amber Henderson, Karen Park, and Teri Whisnant for cooking, clearing trails and placing the numerous flags that kept everyone on course. Very special thanks go to the Arrowoods, Reynolds, and Wiley families for allowing the riders to cross their properties. A new wooden bridge has been built to allow access to a pretty new section of trail along a pond we'd not known was there before!

A nice warm lunch was serviced. 10 gallons of White Chicken Chili was made and was piping hot for the riders to consume with rice, chips and sour cream to accompany the chili. There were drinks and an assortment of cookies for desert. The warm chili was welcomed by the riders as the weather was getting colder. Riders sat under the shelter to eat and were safe from the blowing wind.

Registration was held under the trees near the stalls and clubhouse. There, the timers told riders how the course was marked and how many water crossing they would cross. The start/finish line was near the registration table and right behind the clubhouse.

The trail was about 8.8 miles and took riders over six water crossings with one being about a fifty foot walk thru the creek. There were the beautiful Cross-Country fields to zig zag through. The water trap was dry due to the drought but there were some riders who took their mounts through it pretending there was water there. Riders could have their pictures taken by Photographer Lou Smith on the Cross-County Course. The pond on the cross country course was also low due to the drought, but it still made for a beautiful picture.

Here are the results:

There were a total of 26 riders in 10 teams in the Field Hunter Division. The Optimum Time for the Field Hunter Division was one hour, 27 minutes, 32 seconds.

First Place Honors were awarded to the team of Stephanie Easler Gagnon from Mill Spring and Amy Orsini from Berkeley Heights, New Jersey with a time of one hour, 27 minutes, 28 seconds. Coming in to nab the Second Place Red was the Trio of Debbie Croft from Anderson, Marcia Headrick from Townville, and Heidi Trull from Belton with a time of one hour, 41 minutes, 10 seconds. In for the Third Place ribbon were Angela and Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesboro and Rachel Turner from Elizabethton with a time of one hour 43 minutes, 38 seconds. Fourth Place was awarded to the duo of Christina Goen from Lyman and Emily Mitchell and Scott Tate from Greer with a time of one hour, 44 minutes, 40 seconds. Fifth Place, a quartet, was awarded to Amanda Aiello from Ellenboro, Nicola Deines and Pam Hilsman from Landrum, and Tracey

Rouse from Tryon. Their time was one hour, 47 minutes, 25 seconds. Rounding out the placements, in Sixth Place there was a tie! Diane Hicks and Rebecca Tolson, both from Pendleton, had times of one hour, 51 minutes, 36 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out enjoying a cold day on the ridge and cozier climates in the woods were Anne Ager, Dana Cain, Daniella Lamb, Carrie Nicholson, Jen Perkins, Jules Porter, and Casidie Rose.

There were a total of 33 riders in 15 teams in the Trail Rider Division. The Calculated Optimum time was two hours, 7 minutes, 42 seconds.

First place honors were awarded to the trio of Missy Bright from Campobello, Jan Smith from Columbus, and Bobby Turner from Spartanburg with a time of two hours, seven minutes, 42 seconds. Their time was a mere 34 seconds off the Calculated Optimum Time! Second Place was awarded to Doug and Nicole Cobb from Reidville with a time of two hours, 12 minutes, 20 seconds. The Third Place yellow ribbon was awarded to the quintet of Irene Backer from Greenville, Hannah Bauchat, from West Columbia, Carla Draper from Chapin, Michelle Drum from Campobello, and Lori Kunkel from Newberry with the time of two hours, 12 minutes, 22 seconds. Another close time of just being two seconds out of Second Place. Fourth Place went to the duo of Nikki Hynes and DeAnna Norton from Greenville, TN with a time of two hours, 13 minutes, 20 seconds. The Fifth Place pink was awarded to Lynn Fitch from Taylors and Debbie Knebel from Greer with a time of two hours and 57 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division for Sixth Place was Jennifer Wilson from Mill Spring with a time of one hour, 59 seconds.

Other Trail Riders out braving the winter weather were Thomas Eizembor, Susan Haslam, Saylor Hardin, Elaine and Michaela Hughes, Natalie Hyatt, Cindy James, Sherrie Johnson, Claire and Dru Kennedy, Nancy Kruger, Sarah Lawing, Katlyn Lowder, Lin Martin, Amy Mims, Connie Moore, Sydney Swenson, and Aimee Williams.

Up next for 2016-2017 Hunter Pace Series is the River Valley Pony Club Hunter Pace to be held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to Benefit Christmas on Miracle Hill. The Rain Date will be December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This will be the last ride before we break for the Holiday Season.

Check the website often at [wchpace.org](http://wchpace.org). There you will find upcoming events, changes, and photographs taken by Photographer Lou Smith.

See you on the trails!