

Scotsgrove Fall Hunter Pace and Trial Ride

Sponsored by the Middle Tyger Ruritan Club for the benefit of Southeastern Children's Home, Special Olympics and other charities in the Greer area

Held Saturday, September 19, 2020

Submitted by Missy Bright and Leslie Scott

The Season Opening Hunter Pace for the 2020-2021 season almost wasn't. Once again Mother Nature tried to throw a curve ball but it didn't work and Leslie Scott made a good call! Heavy rain was on everyone's mind and how could the trails possibly be rideable after the downpours that came. Stranger things have happened! The eight-mile trail ride took riders through woods, fields, old orchards and a pine plantation, with some cross-country jumps, but no water crossings. There were views of the ponds filled with lily pads still in bloom. And of course, the kudzu field is always a joy to hand gallop up!

Scott Tate and Leslie Scott groomed the trails for the September 12th date, which got rained out. Then hurricane Sally gifted the area with winds and a little over 3" of rain on Thursday, and Leslie spent 8 hours Friday rerouting one loop near the beginning of the ride to avoid a stretch that had become fetlock deep marsh, and sawing, removing 4 fallen trees, and re-flagging the entire course as some ribbons had taken flight! Weather on the day co-operated beautifully!

Participants were greeted by Michael Anderson and Lou Kunz, and directed to the parking areas. Two-horse trailers were directed to the lower pasture and driveway area while the upper pasture was designated for the larger trailers. Kim Carver and Cecelia Snyder took entries and checked Coggins with masks and safe spacing at the entry table. Joey Cabaniss was the timer with assistant Riley Brown. They were located just inside the woods beyond the upper pasture, and as always, Joey was chipper and delivering jokes.

Halfway point was handled by Anne and Beth Clevenger, Patti Kunz and granddaughter Brittany Anderson, and Heather Daniel. They provided ice cold water for riders during the mandatory stop. Laurie Ridgeway and Katie Tighe ran the Scotsgrove barn assisting riders, and taking care of horses and tack. Beth Straitiff and her dad, Don Long, catered the volunteers' lunches, while Yasmin Straitiff shepherded the young riders in the mini-pace! The first riders clocked out at 8:56 and the last rider was sent out at precisely 2:00 pm!

In the Field Hunter Division there were 36 riders in 20 teams. The Optimum Time was clocked at one hour, 36 minutes.

Now, let's get to those results:

First Place Honors were awarded to Karolin Eichler and Gabrielle Grubic from Rock Hill with a time of one hour, 33 minutes, 54 seconds. In Second Place with the time of one hour, 38

minutes, 21 seconds were Andy and Anne Corell from Columbus. Natalie Aiello and Amanda Jones from Ellenboro nabbed the Third Place Yellow with the time of one hour, 33 minutes, 12 seconds. There was a tie for Fourth Place! Nora Claire Croft from Anderson had the time of one hour, 31 minutes, 39 seconds. Jane Barrett and John Chatterton from Columbus came in with the time of one hour, 40 minutes, 21 seconds, both teams only four minutes, 21 seconds off optimum. Rounding out the placements in the Field Hunter Division for Sixth Place was Diane Hicks from Pendleton with a ride time of one hour, 31 minutes, 38 seconds.

Other Field Hunters out on the trails were Carol Bridges, Stacy Calvert, Britney Clark, Kat Dooley, Beth Fiszer, Ann Fratcher, Karen Graham, Kay Griffin, Marcia Headrick, Sara Isley, Shannon Jackson, Katherine and Natalie Lane, Cecilia Libby, Richard Neel, Beverly Phillips, Elsie and Maddie Rogers, Terry Russell, Patt Tarr, Devon Tracy, Jacqueline Wasniewski, Riina Watts, Carrie and Olive Wilsey, and Kathy Yaw.

There were 50 riders in 25 teams in the Trail Rider Division. The Calculated Optimum Time was two hours, five minutes, 43 seconds.

First Place Honors in the Trail Rider Division were awarded to Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder from York with a time of two hours, six minutes, 57 seconds. Second Place was awarded to Susan Angermeier from Chesnee and Debbie Fowler from Spartanburg with the time of two hours, four minutes, one second. Linda Farris from York and Katherine Smith from Tega Cay were awarded Third Place with the time of two hours, three minutes, 47 seconds. Solo rider Deb Zarish was awarded Fourth Place with a time of two hours, three minutes. Bob and Tamara Bruning were awarded Fifth Place with a time of two hours two minutes, 34 seconds. Rounding out the placements in the Trail Rider Division is Janet Burzlaff taking the Six Place Ribbon with the time of two hours, two minutes, six seconds. There was one team that received an Honorable Mention in the Trail Rider Division. Missy Bright from Campobello and Ronnie Mann from Columbus came in with a time of two hours, nine minutes, 41 seconds. An Honorable Mention is given when a team is less than 30 seconds out of Sixth Place.

Other Trail Riders out for the Season Opening were Kristin Ahlum, Chloe Aikenhead, Kinsley Allaire, Katelyn Anderson, Aria Baddorf, Emma Bridges, Martana Burrell, Missy Cashman, Jorja Clark, Cathleen Coggins, Stephanie Easler, Lynn Fitch, Oska Gobin, Kimberly Hannu, Donna Hejek, Laura Hendley, Debra Kennerly, Christine LaFrance, Elyssa LaRock, Lauren McCrae, Betsey McCray, Debbie McGrath, Margaret Miller, Marianne Moore, Kathy Nebel, Rachel O'Brien, Kathy Scully, Jennifer Smith, Olynda Stretcher, Angela and Josie Thompson, Marcy Vance, Emma Whitaker, Jennifer, Olivia, and Rosaleah Wilson, Jess Wright, and Sherry Wyatt.

There were several participants in the Mini-Pace Division. The Mini Pace Division has a shorter trail distance. This is a wonderful division for those older mounts, younger mounts, or younger and older riders of any age. This shorter distance is perfect for those who have an engagement in the afternoon or evening. Mini Pace riders were Ann Bowling, Carol and CR Stanley, Yasmin Straitiff, Aallyah Williams, and Braelynn Williamson.

Next up for the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series is the Windridge Farm Fall Hunter Pace scheduled for September 27th, 2020. There is no rain date for this event.

To save some time at the Registration Tables, download the entry 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!