

On Saturday, 14 May 2004, members of the FIRC got together for a ride on the Manassas Battlefield in Virginia. The weather was nice and sunny, the trails were dry, and everyone had a good time. There were 15 riders for the event. Ten rode Icelandics, and there were two Tennessee Walking Horses, one Peruvian Paso Fino, and one quarter horse.

The group rode for a time together and then divided into tolt/cantering and tolt/trotting groups. Sverrir Bjartmarz led the cantering group along with his friend Trisha, Cindy (on her quarter horse), and John Schumacher. Jo Ann Brown led the second group that included Denise Brinker, Terri Malec and her friend Marsha, Rich Moore, Eric and Nancy Nystrom, and Hedy Sladovich (on her Peruvian Paso Fino). The two TWH riders-Rex and Betty, friends of Hedy-ended up going off in a third group.

Jo Ann and Sverrir had done a great job in organizing the event and knew the trails well. Jo Ann provided maps of the trails to each rider. Rich brought his wrist compass, which helped a lot in keeping the group heading in the right direction. The trails at the battlefield were excellent for toltting, and the groups had good runs.

After riding separately for two and a half hours, the groups happened to meet on the way to the parking area, and rode the last part of the ride together. After the ride, everyone took it easy and had a picnic lunch. FIRC members John Brinker, Pat Moore, and Jack and Sharon Schumacher joined the riders for lunch. The ride was a lot of fun. Thanks again to Jo Ann and Sverrir for setting it up.

Submitted by Rich Moore