



## IN THIS EDITION

Winter Delight Recap

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2025 Rider Awards

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Thoughts About Posting (Or Not)

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Meet a Member

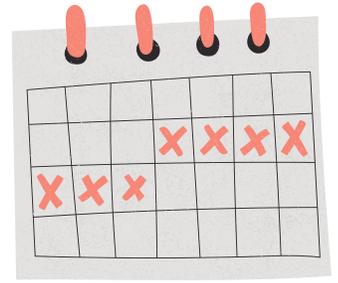
## FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to the February edition, filled with updates from our winter gathering, rider recognitions, and a look at what's ahead for our community.

We're starting the year on March 4 with our super popular Equine Trivia night! Test your knowledge and enjoy a fun evening with fellow horse lovers. You can find more details on page 4.

Then join us for the start of show season on March 21-22 with a full weekend of Dressage, Combined Training, and Cross Country Schooling. Keep an eye out for sign-up information—spots will go fast!

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## March

- 3.4 Trivia Night**
- 3.21 Dressage & Combined Training Show**
- 3.22 Dressage Show**
- 3.22 Cross Country Schooling**

## April

- 4.4 Hunter Pace at Circle Z Farm**
- 4.4 Working Equitation Show**
- 4.16 Seminar with Matt Devlin, D.C.**

## May

- 5.23 Dressage & Combined Training Show**

## July

- 7.18 Dressage Show**

## September

- 9.5 Dressage & Combined Training Show**

## October

- 10.31 Dressage & Combined Training Show**



## 2026 FRC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership into the FRC is a great idea. Perks include an informative, emailed monthly newsletter, discounts on club-sponsored activities, educational programs, socials with fun people, scholarship opportunities and year end awards! Join now with any one of our three membership options below.

- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$30)
- Business (\$35) – includes a free business card sized ad in our monthly newsletter!

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write legibly!** The club is not responsible for members not receiving club communications due to illegible membership forms.

**Check ALL interests:**     Dressage     Eventing     Western Dressage     Working Equitation

Pleasure Riding     Endurance     Fox Hunting     Hunter/Jumper     Breeder     Driving

Hunter Pace     Trail Riding     Social member only    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Ideas for clinics, horse events, educational seminars or social events for 2026:

\_\_\_\_ I am available to volunteer for club sponsored events (list volunteer job you would like)

\_\_\_\_ I am available to help set up (usually Thurs) before the show (30 club bucks for about 2 hours work)

\_\_\_\_ I am available to help pack up after the show (15 club bucks for about 1 hour work)

Make your check payable to FRC and mail to: FRC, P. O. Box 637, Landrum, SC 29356.

If you have chosen to join as a Business Member, please attach your business card with this application! You can **also join on-line** at [www.foothillsridingclub.org](http://www.foothillsridingclub.org)

For questions, please contact [foothillsridingclub@gmail.com](mailto:foothillsridingclub@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

Check our website for info, updates & more! [www.foothillsridingclub.org](http://www.foothillsridingclub.org)

# SAVE THE DATE TRIVIA NIGHT



Equine Trivia Night is back!

Join us for a fun evening of dinner, drinks & all things equine.

Registration Link to Follow

## WHEN

**MARCH 4, 2026**

SOCIAL TIME & DINNER @ 6:30  
TRIVIA @ 7:00

## WHERE

**FENCE HOUSE**

3381 HUNTING COUNTRY RD,  
TRYON, NC 28782

FREE FOR 2026 FRC MEMBERS & \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS

# HUNTER PACE



**April 4, 2026**

Circle Z Farm

1550 Oak Grove Road

Landrum, SC 29356

Ride Times: 9AM to 2PM

**Field Hunter & Trail Rider**

\$40 for riders

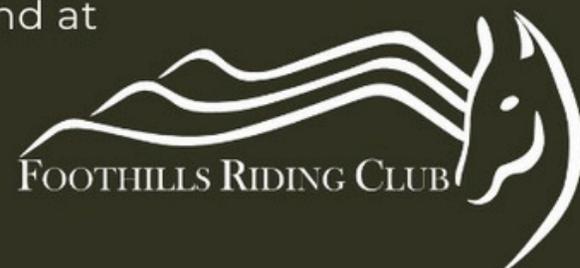
\$30 for 2026 FRC Members & Juniors

Lunch included for riders

\$10 lunch for non-riders

Trails are mainly wooded with some fields and some steep grades. Most trails are wide and open; there are some bridge crossings, a short time on a road, and at least one water crossing. All jumps are optional.

Rain date: April 25





**FOOTHILLS RIDING CLUB  
DRESSAGE AND CT SHOW  
XC SCHOOLING**

**When:** March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Where:** FENCE Showgrounds  
3381 Hunting Country Rd, Tryon, NC 28782



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# SAVE THE DATE

Finding Balance in the Seat  
Through Pelvic Mobility and  
Core Stability

Seminar with  
Matt Devlin, D.C.  
of Trade Street  
Chiropractic

**APRIL 16, 2026**

SOCIAL TIME & DINNER @ 6:30  
SEMINAR BEGINS @ 7:00

**FENCE HOUSE**

3381 HUNTING COUNTRY RD  
TRYON, NC 28782



# WINTER DELIGHT & RIDER AWARDS

Submitted by Kristen Griffith

On Saturday, January 17th, the Foothills Riding Club gathered for our annual Winter Delight and Rider Awards Night, with around 80 members and guests coming together at Southern Manners to celebrate another great year. We enjoyed good food, great company, and a fun, relaxed evening focused on what matters most—our riders and horses.

The night included fabulous raffles, plenty of laughter, and the presentation of our year-end awards. Riders were recognized for high point horse and rider combinations in various divisions, highest dressage score, lowest eventing dressage score, and perfect show attendance. It was wonderful to celebrate the dedication, consistency, and sportsmanship that make our club such a special community.

This year also marked the close of the first season with our new show secretary, Kathy McFadden. We're grateful for her hard work and all she has done to keep our shows running smoothly.

A huge thank you goes out to our generous raffle sponsors, whose support added so much excitement to the evening: Dreamwinds Equine Assisted Learning Centre, Full Circle Equine, Grand Impression Design Co., Landrum Hardware, Plain Bay Equine, Susannah West Cord, Sweet Grass Farms, The Farm House Tack Shop, and White Sun Saddlery. Every prize was fantastic, and we truly appreciate the continued support of our sponsors.

As we look ahead, don't forget to renew your Foothills Riding Club membership so you'll be eligible to earn points toward prizes in the 2026 season. Be sure to follow us on social media as well—we have lots of fun events and shows coming up, and we'd love to see you there!

## 2025 RESULTS

<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>	<u>HORSE</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Susan	Faulkner	HelloHello	TRAINING CT	1
Katie	Hauenstein	Dawn's Early Light	NOVICE CT	1
Ashley	Rice	Stars Remarque	NOVICE CT	2
Rachel	Childers	On A Whim	NOVICE CT	3
Conoly	Sullivan	Saratoga Sass	NOVICE CT	4
Harriette	Smith	First Drink	BEG NOV CT	1
Kathy	Bennett	Apollo	BEG NOV CT	2
Lee	Dudley	Happy Camper	BEG NOV CT	3
Margret	Stiles	Mr. Jekyll	BEG NOV CT	4
Mandy	Lindler	Midas DHL	STARTER CT	1
Megan	Lapkoff	Just My Luck	STARTER CT	2
Cora	Sullivan	Lucy	STARTER CT	3
Sophie	Evans	Donatella	STARTER CT	4
Maddie	Goddard	FGF Tiebreak Bella	GRASSHOPPER CT	1
Aria	Reini	Rogue Endeavor	GRASSHOPPER CT	2
Brooke	Mercier	Cadbury Fruit N Nuts	GRASSHOPPER CT	3
Julia	Lewis	Serendipity	GRASSHOPPER CT	4
Maddie	Goddard	FGF Tiebreak Bella	INTRO, JR	1
Gwyneth	Skoglund	Magic	INTRO, JR	2
Lexi	Malloy	me and my shadow	INTRO, JR	3
Cora	Sullivan	Lucy	INTRO, JR	4
Renee	Erickson	Mercedes	INTRO	1
Amanda	Palmer	The Poet	INTRO	2
Krista	Rose	Mighty Blessed	INTRO	3
Julie	Tatar	Bewitched	INTRO	4
Charlene	McMurray	Iveagh Romance	TRAINING	1
Ashley	Guinn	Circe Maria ASH	TRAINING	2
Liz	Mclamb	It's Miller Time	TRAINING	3
Elizabeth	Martineau	Fabe BP 41	TRAINING	4

Natalie	Gourley	Dei Lutte Deern, aka Fari	FIRST	1
Bri	Ambrosic	Caicos Express	FIRST	2
Elizabeth	Martineau	Fabe BP 41	FIRST	3
Frauke	Westrich	Honestly Heaven	FIRST	4
Katie	Hauenstein	Dawn's Early Light	UPPER LEVEL	1
Johanna	Fowler	Erludine	UPPER LEVEL	2
Susan	Faulkner	Mission Point	UPPER LEVEL	3
Amy	Cobb	Cooley Continental	UPPER LEVEL	4
Pernilla	Dale	Fancy Pants Chance	WORKING EQUITATION	1
Roberta	Decker	Signal Corp (Major)	WORKING EQUITATION	2
Megan	Malan	DEM Lancelot	WORKING EQUITATION	3
Abby	Lail	Bailey's and Cream	WORKING EQUITATION	4

**ATTENDED EVERY SHOW**

Charlene	McMurray
Katie	Hauenstein

**HIGHEST DRESSAGE SCORE**

Ashley	Guinn	Circe Maria ASH	Training Test 2, highest dress	76.034
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**LOWEST EVENTING SCORE**

Susan	Shelton	Circe Maria ASH	Grasshopper CT, lowest dress	19.4
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Cora Sullivan, Charlene McMurray, Erin Stroud



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Top: Winter Delight Attendees

Bottom: Natalie Gourley, Bri Ambrosic, Frauke Westrich, Erin Stroud

To view and purchase photos visit [lkgriffith.shootproof.com](http://lkgriffith.shootproof.com)



Left: The Farm House Tack raffle winner, Gwyneth Skoglund  
Top Right: Landrum Hardware raffle donation  
Bottom Right: Grand Impressions raffle donation

To view and purchase photos visit [lkgriffith.shootproof.com](http://lkgriffith.shootproof.com)



Left: Allie Evans, Sweet Grass Farms raffle winner  
Top Right: Melissa Coates, Plain Bay Equine raffle winner  
Bottom Right: White Sun Saddlery raffle donation

To view and purchase photos visit [lkgriffith.shootproof.com](http://lkgriffith.shootproof.com)



Top: Jan Bellows and Christie Moldovan  
 Bottom Left: Susannah West Cord raffle donation  
 Bottom Right: Dreamwinds raffle donation

To view and purchase photos visit [lkgriffith.shootproof.com](http://lkgriffith.shootproof.com)

# THOUGHTS ABOUT POSTING (OR NOT)

Submitted by Margaret Freeman

At the awards dinner in January, I was looking at some pictures from Civil War reenacting with my dinner partner. We started talking about the design of military saddles from that era. Those saddles were clearly designed for the horse's comfort more than for the rider's. I commented that posting wasn't something done in the U.S. cavalry then, which surprised him.

Posting supposedly has a longer history in England than it does in other countries, and indeed the U.S. cavalry didn't use posting until nearly the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It basically was invented by postal riders in England who covered long distances at the trot. In addition to relieving stress on themselves, of course they found that posting was also easier for their horses. They also found that, while traveling over relatively long straight roads, if they switched the diagonal occasionally their horses would tire less quickly.

This idea eventually led to the concept of how a rider in a ring should post on the "right" diagonal while going in one direction or the other, in order to ease stress on the inside hind leg (coordinated with the outside shoulder).

It always surprises my hunter friends to hear that we aren't so concerned about diagonals in straight dressage. A rider can post any way she wants in the dressage tests that allow posting. (There is a reference to the correct diagonal for judging dressage equitation.) The theory is that the rider should post on whichever diagonal most benefits her horse. Occasionally that may be the so-called "wrong" diagonal if the horse is particularly stiff to one side. However, if the judge feels the horse's balance and suppleness may be affected by a "wrong" diagonal, that might have an effect on their score at the bottom of the test.



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# TD CORNER

Submitted by Jan Bellows

## 2026 Eventing Dressage Tests Now Available

The U.S. Eventing Association and U.S. Equestrian Federation have announced the publication of the new 2026 USEF/USEA Eventing Dressage Tests for the Beginner Novice through Advanced levels, effective Dec. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2029.

The following tests have changes for the 2026 competition season:

- Beginner Novice A
- Novice A
- Novice B
- Training A
- Training B
- Modified A
- Modified B
- Preliminary B
- Intermediate A
- Advanced A

All 2026 tests are published on the USEA website and can be found here:

<https://useventing.com/events-competitions/resources/forms-documents>

# MEET A MEMBER



## BAYLON HUBBS

### Favorite Horse:

Dixie, my first lesson pony (Quarter Horse /Arabian mare), is my most memorable horse. She was such a great teacher to me when I was 7 years old as she was absolutely not a beginner horse. She spooked at loads of things and over-jumped everything, but aside from this, she was my best friend who I went on my first fox hunt with, first jump course, and first pony club rally.

### # of Years Membership:

3

### Discipline(s):

Little of everything, Hunter paces and working equitation

### Favorite Food:

Sushi

### Favorite Music:

Country music

### Favorite Horse Movie:

Hildago

### Favorite non-horsey thing to do:

Trap shoot and play guitar

### Favorite thing about FRC:

The people are super sweet!





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December 22, 2025

Foothills Riding Club  
Natalie Gourley  
PO Box 637  
Landrum, SC 29356

Dear Ms. Gourley,

I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for facilitating the donation of \$1,000.00 received on December 18, 2025 in response to our annual appeal. Your generosity and support mean the world to Steps to Hope, and I cannot thank you enough for your commitment to our work in the community.

Your contribution helps us provide hope to our clients. Not only does your donation help fund our temporary emergency shelter, where everything is provided free of charge, it also allows us to provide clothing and toiletries, assistance with gas and groceries, court advocacy and accompaniment, education and support, medical accompaniment, and so much more. We recently assisted a client with purchasing a new-to-them vehicle, giving them transportation to their job and completing one of their biggest goals.

All of these things, no matter how large or small, make an impact on our clients during a difficult time in their lives, helping them find hope and move forward.

Once again, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Please visit our website or reach out to me directly. I truly appreciate your support and hope that you will continue to be a part of our organization's mission and a partner in our work.

Warmly,

Diane Nelson  
Executive Director

*many many thanks*

Tax ID: 56-1484890 -- This letter confirms that no goods or services were exchanged for your donation. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The mission of Steps to Hope is to provide safety and assistance to individuals affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse through emergency shelter, client advocacy, and education.

Please visit us online at [www.stepstohope.org](http://www.stepstohope.org)



Dear Foothills Riding Club folks,  
Thank you so very much for  
thinking of us and for your  
generous donation. We really  
appreciate it and it helps us  
help more animals in our  
community. 😊

# FRC Scholarship Application

The Foothills Riding Club (FRC) offers up to 4 scholarships annually for current members, aimed at supporting specific educational or competitive opportunities (not for regular lessons or local shows, but for championship events).

Scholarships are announced in the newsletter and on social media. The Board will select the recipients and determine the scholarship amounts. To be eligible, applicants must have logged a minimum of 4.5 hours of volunteer time with FRC. Scholarship recipients are required to "payback" their award in some way, such as by writing an article for the newsletter, speaking at a monthly meeting, etc.

Each member is eligible for **one scholarship per year**.

Applications must be submitted at least **6 weeks before** the proposed event.

The scholarship award amounts are based on the number of volunteer hours logged with FRC:

- **4.5 hours** = \$250
- **9 hours (full day)** = \$500

A total of **\$2,000** is available each year, with a **\$500 cap** per scholarship recipient.

If there are more than 4 applicants, volunteer service to the club in the current and preceding membership year will be taken into awarding scholarships.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance after review by the FRC Board.

*I wish to apply for an FRC Scholarship for:*

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Purpose for Scholarship Request (include name, date, place)

How will you benefit from attending this event?

How will you "pay back" your scholarship to the club? Creative ideas welcomed!

**Please submit your application to:  
FRC President PO Box 637 Landrum, SC 29356**

**Note: In the event that you are unable to fulfill the scholarship requirements the scholarship money must be returned.**

# FRC HAS AN ONLINE STORE!

We have partnered with Grand Impressions Design Co. to offer over 40 different items, including saddle pads, beanies, vests, and shirts, all featuring our logo. We have carefully selected items that are both comfortable and stylish for everyone. Although the turnaround time is a bit longer, the quality is excellent. You can also use Club Bucks to purchase items from the store. If you would like to use Club Bucks, please send an email to Erin at [erin.e.stroud@gmail.com](mailto:erin.e.stroud@gmail.com) with the amount you would like to use, and we will provide you with a gift card for the online store with the matching amount for you to redeem. If you need any assistance with ordering or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Follow this link to the online store:

<https://grandimpressiondesign.com/collections/foothills-riding-club>



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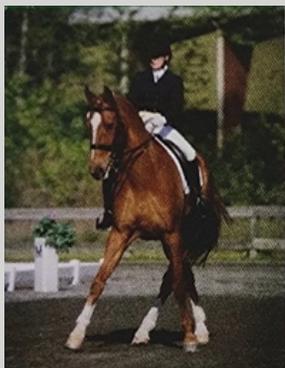
[Foothills Riding Club](#)



## BIT O' NEWS

DO YOU HAVE A NEW HORSE?  
ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING NEW?  
HAVE A FUNNY PHOTO OR  
TIDBIT TO SHARE? SEND IT TO  
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President, Website Manager: Erin Stroud-Parker

Vice President, Clinics: Candice Carr

Secretary: Bette Mann

Treasurer: Natalie Gourley

Special Events, Points: Margo Savage

Newsletter: Kristen Griffith

Volunteers: Melissa Van Doren

Volunteers: Meaghan Morris

Membership & Show Secretary: Kathy McFadden

Hospitality: Jan Bellows

Events: Margaret Freeman

Publicity, Events: Anne Bandes

Hospitality, Events: Christie Moldovan

Members at Large:

Carole Foster (Newsletter)

Jillian Woolridge (Website)