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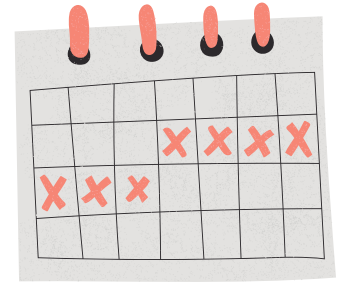
MARCH 2026

We had a blast at Trivia Night with 56 people (check out the photo above!) and 10 teams—a huge shoutout to our winners, Mutton Withers, for taking the top spot!

This month's edition is packed with everything you need to gear up for show season, from helpful reminders to a deep dive into the "Big E" (Elimination).

If the show ring isn't your thing, there are still plenty of ways to get involved! We've got XC schooling and a Hunter Pace coming up, plus a must-attend seminar with Matt Devlin on finding your balance through pelvic mobility and core stability.

UPCOMING EVENTS



March

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

For questions, please contact foothillsridingclub@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!
 Check our website for info, updates & more! www.foothillsridingclub.org



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

When: March 21st and 22nd

Where: FENCE Showgrounds

3381 Hunting Country Rd, Tryon, NC 28782



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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





Welcome to the Foothills Riding Club Hunter Pace!

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026 (Rain Date: Saturday, April 25)

Place: **Circle Z Farm, 1550 Oak Grove Road, Landrum, SC 29356**

Registration Desk Opens: 8:30 am-1:45 pm

Ride times start: 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Organizer: Foothills Riding Club (foothillsridingclub@gmail.com)

Questions or more information: Gerry Zordan – 860-485-8124

Day of Hunter Pace Contact: Margo Savage West 864-399-3473

Divisions: Field Hunter and Trail Rider

Entry Fee: \$40 for riders (lunch included), \$30 for current 2026 FRC members & Junior riders (under 16), \$10 lunch for non-riders. Lunch from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. FRC members may pay with club bucks.

****HELMET AND NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED****

Bring a hard copy of your Coggins or picture of your Coggins on your phone—internet is not always available on grounds at check-in.

The Foothills Riding Club would like to welcome you to our fifth annual hunter pace. Trails are mainly wooded trails, with some fields and some steep grades. Most trails are wide and open, with some bridge crossings, a short time on a road, and at least one water crossing. All jumps are optional.

Parking will be very limited and we encourage you trailer-carpool when possible. Enter at main gate and PLEASE follow parking attendant volunteers to assist with maximizing our capacity for the day.

PLEASE OBSERVE COURTEOUS TRAIL ETIQUETTE. When passing—please walk when approaching and departing a slower group, and give adequate distance before resuming a faster pace. Communication is KEY! Many people bring young or green horses that can get rattled by the commotion and excitement, and we wish all riders to have pleasant rides, no matter what pace they ride.

OFFICE USE ---ENTRY/TEAM NUMBER: _____ Number of Riders in team: _____

ENTRY FORM AND RELEASE

(Please fill out address completely as this is how ribbons are mailed)

Circle: **FIELD HUNTER** or **TRAIL RIDER**

Circle: 2026 FRC member **YES** or **NO**

RIDER: _____ HORSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT AND PHONE: _____

A copy of your horse's Coggins must be presented at check-in.

*****HELMETS ARE REQUIRED*****

RELEASE– READ AND SIGN: I understand that this is a high-risk sport and I am participating at my own risk. I hereby assume this risk and further do hereby release and hold harmless the FRC and Circle Z Farm, their employees, volunteers, judges, and officials from all liability for their negligence resulting in accident damage, injury, or illness to myself and to my property including the horse or horses I compete at these events. Under South Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of equine activity. (*Article 7, Chapter 9 of Title 47, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976*) **BE AWARE: There is NOT a medic or medical personnel on grounds.**

RIDERS NAME: (Print): _____

RIDER'S SIGNATURE (Parent or Guardian if under 18):

Date: _____

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Fresh colors have arrived at The Farm House



The Farm House Tack Shop - Landrum

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**FOOTHILLS RIDING CLUB
WORKING EQUITATION
SCHOOLING SHOW**

When: APRIL 4th

Where: FENCE Showgrounds

3381 Hunting Country Rd, Tryon, NC 28782



TD CORNER

Submitted by Jan Bellows

Helpful Hints:

- Read your rulebooks.
- The new 2026 USEA dressage tests are active now. Just a few changes and they look super rideable.
- No unauthorized assistance for the dressage and stadium for riders showing in the tests. We do love for people to cheer after a round is finished.
- Please thank our wonderful volunteers and consider a shift or 2 as we always love to have fabulous cooperation from our club members.



Volunteer Opportunity

FENCE HORSE TRIAL

Help us help FENCE! Calling on volunteers to assist as jump judges for this fun, low-key event.

If you're available, email us and we will help coordinate!

foothillsridingclub@gmail.com

3381 Hunting Country Rd Tryon, NC

April 11 - 12, 2026

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



FRC TRIVIA NIGHT

Submitted by Margaret Freeman

Trivia Night returned to FENCE this month with another large and raucous crew on hand. There were 56 attendees on 10 teams who ate pizza and salad and answered a list of tough questions authored by FRC board members Anne Bandes and Margaret Freeman. Board members Erin Stroud-Parker, Christie Moldovan, Kathy McFadden and Margo Savage West providing scoring, prizes, food and registration.

Here is one of the questions (answer on page 18): What famous candy bar was named after the favorite horse of the manufacturer?

One fun aspect of FRC's Trivia Night is that the teams select their own team name. My favorite of the evening was "Vet Bill Support Group." Unfortunately, they didn't win a cash prize (there were no cash prizes), but at least dinner was a bargain!

The winners of the March Trivia night were:

1. Mutton Withers

Bette Mann, Mary Otwell, Knuter Berndsen, Cerice Berndsen, Jennifer Gruhn (pictured on page 15, top)

2. Lawn Ornaments

Judie Klapholz, Shannon Kelley, Tosha Bell, Natalie Fife, Heidi Huffmont (pictured on page 15, bottom right)

3. Count-Me-In!

Ariel White, Cassie LeMaster, Jack Kern, Redenta Soprano (pictured on page 15, bottom left)





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THE BIG “E” (FOR ELIMINATION) IN DRESSAGE

Submitted by Margaret Freeman, USEF Senior Dressage Judge

Dressage-show judges have a responsibility to consider the welfare of the horses, the safety of those at the show, and to keep the competition fair for everyone. Thus, they pay close attention to the rules that involve elimination.

For judges, dressage shows fall into two basic categories: “USEF-recognized” and “schooling,” meaning any show not recognized by the USEF, no matter who puts it on. The distinction is important for at least two reasons. 1. A recognized show follows that dense USEF Rulebook, while a schooling show can make its own rules. 2. Who can actually eliminate someone, if it comes to that.

It makes a lot of sense to review the USEF Rulebook each season, because it’s both very sad and very expensive to get eliminated, since you’ve devoted so much time and dollars to your horse and your training, and also because the USEF changes its rules with some frequency.

Most riders think that it’s either the judge or the technical delegate at a recognized show who can eliminate, but that’s not quite right. The judge may eliminate you for a rule violation during a test only after you’ve entered the arena (except for the 45-second late-entry rule). Outside the competition ring, the authority for rules enforcement rests with the show committee. The TD can inform the show committee of a rules violation and advise a competitor who is unsure of a rules situation. The TD’s role is to clarify the application of USEF rules to judges, exhibitors and management alike and to investigate any situation in which the rules aren’t upheld.

At schooling shows, like those held by FRC, show management makes the rules. Schooling shows can state that the show will run primarily according to USEF rules, with specified exceptions. Schooling show management can override the decision of the judge concerning rules if it wishes.

FRC exceptions to the USEF Rulebook are printed on the website and primarily address protective wraps and the dress code.

Here are maybe the five most common causes of elimination at a dressage competition, both recognized and schooling:

- Three errors during a test.
- Sustained resistance of longer than 20 seconds during a test.
- All four of the horse's feet go outside the arena fence.
- Marked lameness.
- Evidence of blood on a horse, except for environmental causes, such as insect bites. (Don't feed your horse treats containing red food coloring, which can tint his saliva red and be mistaken for blood.)

If you've shown just at schooling shows such as the FRC shows, but you are now going to try a USEF-recognized show, it is an excellent plan to review the USEF Rulebook, especially for the dressage and equipment considerations that don't apply at a schooling show.

Answer to the trivia question on page 14: Snickers

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**

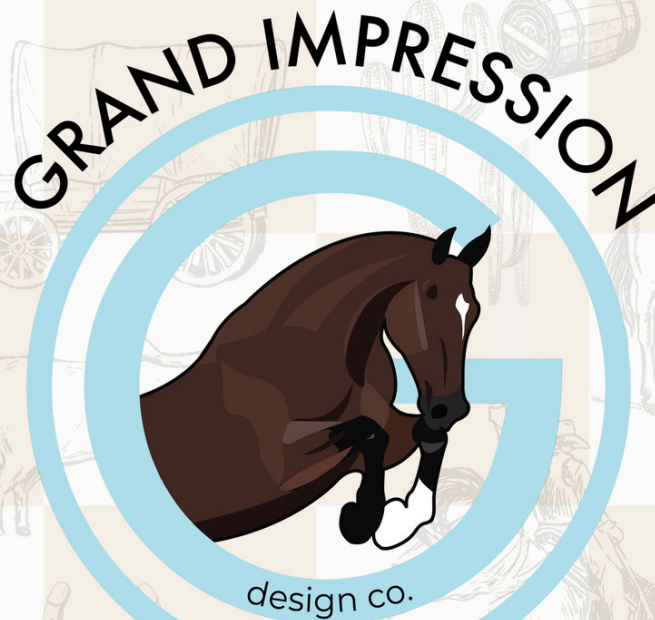
Note: In the event that you are unable to fulfill the scholarship requirements the scholarship money must be returned.

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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 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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"Some horses are being trained with mechanical and technical devices in the shortest time possible...the goal of training should be to further the horse's capacity to perform, and optimize his physical beauty as well as his overall well-being by taking enough time."

~ Dr. Gerd Heuschmann

Dr. Gerd Heuschmann, world-renowned expert on equine biomechanics, is the author of *Tug of War - Classical versus "Modern" Dressage*, *Balancing Act: The Horse in Sport - an Irreconcilable Conflict?*, the film *If Horses Could Speak*, as well as *Collection or Contortion: The Anatomy and Biomechanics of Positioning and Bend*, and the newly released *H.DV.12 with Commentary: The Rules of Equestrian Culture Explained Anew* (with Kurd Albrecht von Ziegner).

May 21st - 23rd

\$300 per ride

\$75 per audit day

*FRC members-discounted

Hosted by



Spots are very limited! For details and registration email navillusdressage.nc@gmail.com or fill out the google form!

I'm a newly- minted (2026) USEF Eventing TD! I was blessed to receive a Broussard Charitable Trust Fund Going Forward Grant, which supported some of the expenses that were required in a two-year long journey of seminars, apprenticeships and testing. I've met some fascinating people, seen some lovely horses, learned lessons about horsemanship and life, and only panicked a slight bit before my final exam at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala last October. My first official TD gig will be at Full Gallop Farm on March 8th.

I also announce at horse trials, and will be doing so at the Local Charities Horse Trial, and the USEA Intercollegiate and Interscholastic Championships and Stable View Alumni Cup events. They are both being held at Stable View in Aiken in May.

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