

Steeplechase Q & A

What is the weather like on race day? What happens if it rains? What about thunderstorms? Is there a rain date?

The steeplechase does go on whether the sun is shining or if it is pouring down rain so there are no refunds. The Block House Races are on a circuit with the National Steeplechase Association and a rain date would interfere with other race dates. If it does rain, horse participation is up to the owners, trainers, and riders.

What are the events that happen during the morning before the races begin and what time is each event?

The gates open at 10 a.m. for admission to the grounds. Pre-race activities start at 11 a.m. with the beginning of the judging for the Tailgate Competition. The Hat Contest starts around 11:30 in front of the judges' tower. Between 12:00 and 1:00 watch the Parade of the Hounds, the Green Creek Miniature Horses, The Hulinndalur Icelandic Horses, and the Old Tryon Foot Beagles exhibition. Be sure to open your ticket packet upon receipt as times and activities may change slightly.

May I make a donation to the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club?

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club is a non-profit (501c3) organization celebrating over 89 years of supporting and preserving the equestrian tradition in Polk County and Upstate South Carolina region. With funds raised from successful events, including the Block House Steeplechase, nationally accredited Horse Shows, Horse Trials and the *Any & All Dog Show*, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club has contributed over a half million dollars to the community in the last five years.

Do you take checks and or credit cards?

Yes, we take Master Card, Visa, American Express, and Discover Card. Checks may be made payable to the TR&HC.

What is FENCE? What is their relationship to TR&HC?

The TR&HC and the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center are two separate non-profit organizations. The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club leases the grounds from FENCE for events.

What Restroom facilities are at the track?

There are port-a-johns available on the grounds.

What or who is *Morris*? When was *Morris* first introduced? Who came up with him and why?

Morris the Horse stands watch over the center of Tryon. Tryon Toymakers, for the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, built the original in 1928. No one today remembers whose idea it was to build him, but most likely it came from Tryon Toymakers owners Miss Eleanor Vance and Miss Charlotte Yale with credit also going to TR&HC founder, Carter P. Brown. The current Morris stands 22 hands high and is the fifth generation.

If I have an emergency, what Cell Phone carriers are accessible at the track? Can my family reach me at the track?

Cell phone service is available at the track and pretty reliable on all carriers. There is not a direct line to the officials on the course so family would need to contact your personal cell phone.

What emergency services are at the track? May I make a donation to these emergency organizations? How?

Columbus Fire Department, Landrum Rescue Squad, Polk County EMS, Polk County Rescue Squad, and ambulance service are on the grounds. Check the map in your ticket packet or in the program for locations. Look for the EMS symbol.

What vendors are at the track and what do they sell? Can you get food and beverages at the track? Is alcohol sold at the event? What about souvenirs?

Excellent refreshments are available from vendors at the track. No alcohol is sold at the event, but you may bring your own just make sure to have a Designated Driver. Official Block House T-shirts and hats may be found at the base of the tower in the Vendor area. Consult program for map of course.

How do I get a parking spot?

beginning February 15, non-members of the TR&HC can call 828-859-6109 or go online and purchase using a credit card www.blockhouseraces.com. About 3 weeks before the event, tickets may be purchased at the following outlet locations:

Asheville, NC: **Jos. A. Bank Clothier** 828-274-2630

Greenville, SC: **Blockhouse Restaurant & Oyster Bar** 864-232-4280

Hendersonville, NC: **Boyd Pontiac Cadillac Buick** 828-693-3461

Spartanburg, SC: **Wakefield Buick GMC** 800-605-2340.

How does it work? When you buy a ticket, you are actually purchasing an

assigned parking place for your car. Every person in the vehicle is included at that price.

How much is the entrance fee for each person in my car?

There are no additional charges per person only a charge for the parking place itself.

If I don't have a pre-purchased parking space, can I buy one the day of the race?

The only parking available on race day is in an off course, non-viewing area called Reserved Pasture Parking (RPP). It is a general admission lot with a first come, first serve basis. Spaces sell for \$60.

If I have a pre purchased parking spot, what is the size of my spot and how much room do I have for tailgating?

Spaces are measured for cars, SUVs, and standard trucks, anything larger (passenger vans, RVs, limos, etc.) park in the Bulky Vehicle Area. There is room for tailgating, but make sure that you don't infringe on someone else's space.

Can I use a tent?

10' x 10' tents are allowed everywhere except on the rail. Must provide 14 feet clearance from rail. 6 ft 2 inch maximum height. Tents must be staked down for security. Tents will be monitored for placement.

Are there any rules we must abide by at our tailgate? Be considerate of your neighbors and don't overcrowd your space. Don't let your good time interfere with theirs. Other restrictions are as follows: No loud music, charcoal grills, ATVs, golf carts or any other kind of motorized vehicles, trailers, or generators.

May I bring pets? Only on a leash.

What about tables, blankets, chairs, umbrellas, flags, etc.?

Table, chairs, blankets, and coolers are permitted. Large umbrellas and flags fall under the same category as tents, none along the rails or on hillside except in the last row.

Which gate is the “Main Entrance”?

Please refer to the map in your ticket packet. Your ticket is color coded and corresponds to the gate you will use to enter the grounds. That color also corresponds with the driving map on how to get to the event. Please use suggested routes to avoid traffic jams.

May I park on the road, outside the entrances to FENCE?

FENCE is in a residential area so any vehicles parked along the roadside will be towed at the owner's expense.

May I be dropped off?

Yes, but it's not recommended because of traffic congestion. Gate admission is \$10 paid at the gate on the day of the race.

May I bring my own food and alcohol?

Yes, but try to limit the use of glass items. We do pass out trash and recycle bags, but don't forget to bring your own also.

What if I forget something?

Make sure that you have everything you need upon entering the gates as we have a 1 entrance / 1 exit policy. Your parking pass will be pulled if you leave early.

Hat Contest

What time is the hat contest and how long does it last?

It starts at 11:30 a.m. in front of the tower in the paddock area and lasts about 30 minutes.

What are the prize categories?

Divisions for children (12 & under): *Funniest* and *Most Appropriate*.
Divisions for Adults: *Funniest*, *Most Appropriate*, and *Most Unusual*.

How many prizes are awarded in each category?

Prizes are awarded for 1st & 2nd place in each division.

What are the prizes?

Prizes vary depending on the sponsor we have for the contest. Previous sponsors have included Tryon House Apparel and The Book Shelf. This year's contest sponsor is BI-LO.

If I make a hat with a sign, which side is best for the judges to see?

Our judges stand in the center of the paddock with participants walking in a circle around them. Contestants then stop and face the judges so put your best sign side forward.

Who are the judges?

A variety of area business people have judged the competition for many years. We don't announce our judges prior to the contest.

Tailgate Contest

What time is the tailgate contest judged?

Judging begins at 11:00 and ends at 1:30.

What are the categories?

Divisions include:

Best *Hunt Country* Tailgate

Best *Fancy Party* Tailgate

Most *Original Theme* Tailgate

Most *FUN* Tailgate

How many prizes are awarded in each category?

One 1st prize gift is given for each division and 6 prizes for runner-ups are given at the judges' discretion.

What do the judges look for?

In a one word "CREATIVITY!"

What are the prizes? We have had sponsors give anything from Fresh Market gift baskets to satellite radios! This year's sponsor is BI-LO.

Directions

How many Gates are there?

There are 5 gates onto the property.

What are the directions to the different gates?

All tickets are color coded to correspond with entry gates. Please open your ticket packet upon receipt and look at the maps provided. The map provided will give you directions to the facility. Please use the routes given to avoid traffic congestion. There will be color-coded signs on the roadsides to guide the way.

RACES

How many races are there?

4 sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association and 1 or 2 Amateur races, depending on the number of entries.

What time does the first race start? Second?

Horses go to the paddock at 1:30 for the first race with to the start at 2:00. The races run every 30 minutes thereafter.

When is the last race over?

The last race runs at 4:30 (or sooner if there are less than 6 races). The gates close at 5:30pm.

How many horses run in each race?

Sanctioned races may have no more than 10 horses per race. We receive entries on Wednesday of race week from NSA, that lists horses and riders.

May I visit the horses in the paddock?

Horses may be viewed in the paddock, but keep in mind that these are professional, thoroughbred racehorses and they are high strung so keep your hands back.

What is a Paddock? It is the area where horses are saddled before the race. Ours is located on the steeplechase track in front of the judges' tower.

SPONSORS

How may I become a sponsor?

Contact the Executive Director at TR&HC or email your interest in sponsorship to: office@trhc1925.org, and we will get an official Sponsorship Guide to you. The sponsorship guide and more information about the races is available as a downloadable pdf, online at www.blockhouseraces.com