

90th Blowing Rock Horse Show Opens

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This Thursday when the first class of flashy, high stepping Five Gaited Pleasure Horses is called to the historic arena at the Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve, it will mark the beginning of the 90th consecutive year of horse showing in Blowing Rock. Hackneys, Roadsters, Pleasure Horses, under saddle and in harness, along with the giant Frisians and much smaller ponies will join the Gaited Horses for four days of competition. There will be classes for children and adults who are just learning as well as intense competition among professionals. Over four days, Mr. Clark Clouse of Versailles, KY will judge over 300 horses in more than 150 classes.

The show is a production of the Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show Foundation, which is served by dozens of volunteers who devote their time to helping fulfill the Foundation's mission: "Supporting worthy charities by encouraging and preserving the traditions of horse sports in Blowing Rock." The annual horse show is the Foundation's primary fundraiser.

The Blowing Rock Horse Show is among the oldest continuously operating horse shows in America. Begun in 1923 by Pinehurst horseman Lloyd M. Tate, early events were held on Green Hill Road behind the 122-year-old Green Park Hotel. In 1928, the show moved to the current site adjacent to Moses Cone's elegant Flat Top Manor Estate.

Known throughout the horse show world for its charm and hospitality, Blowing Rock has become a favorite stop on the circuit for both professional and amateur riders. The horses seem to perform at their best in the cooler summer climate of the North Carolina Mountains.

In 2012, The United Professional Horseman's Association (UPHA) presented the Saddlebred Division with the Chapter Honor Show Award. UPHA members select the Honor Shows, and only one show is chosen in each region every year. This was the third consecutive year the Blowing Rock Horse Show Saddlebred Division has earned this award.

Spectator admission is \$5 and supports the charitable work of the Blowing Rock Rotary Club. Children under 12 are free. Action begins at 9:30AM each day except for a start time of 9:00 AM on Saturday. The show normally ends by 6:00PM each day.

More information: At www.blowingrockhorses.com .

Contact: Maurice Ewing mdewing1@windstream.net

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