



## Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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### Everyone is welcome at Wellston

By Thom Pye

An enthusiastic crowd was on hand at the Jackson County Fairgrounds on Friday (July 13th) as an all-volunteer group of locals hosted the 2018 Southern Valley Colt Circuit colts and fillies.

E. Diane Baker's Pine Kiss (by Pine Valley) surprised the gathering when the Steve Baker-trained 2-year-old, driven by Derek Watiker, captured her \$3,375 SVCC division when she paced the mile in 2:05.2 in her very first appearance. Cruisin Camnation (by Yankee Cruiser) with Greg Forcum landed 2nd as Night Prowler and Hunter Myers took 3rd.

A good old time knock `em sock `em battle took place in the \$4,600 SVCC 1st division 3-year-old pacing colts when Jack Dailey tipped Reagan's Avenger, Mark Ford's altered son of Dragon Again-Up Front Foxy, just past the 1/4 pole and went eyeball to eyeball with Rocknroll Charm (by World Of Rocknroll) and a determined Chris Shaw who finally faded to third behind a well-positioned Happy Stew E (by Woodstock) and driver Jonas Hershberger in 2:01.3.

It was a good Friday the 13th for owner/trainer Michael Myers as young Hunter Myers made his move in front of the grandstand with Simmy and drew off to win FFA trot in 2:02 flat over Major Count (Ryan Holton) and Jack Dailey and Caring Gracee.

Young Myers had a driving triple as he also took the \$3,375 SVCC 2-year-old filly pace with Ron Rondall's Officially My Way (by Art Official) by 5 in 2:04.1 and the \$4,600 SVCC 3-year-old colt division as the Dustin Arledge-conditioned Smell That Rock (by Pet Rock) paced a sharp mile in 2:01.3 over Jets Surprise (Jonas Hershberger) and Final Gambit with local co-owner/trainer/driver Michael Charles of Jackson.

Trainer Steve Carter hopped aboard his and Peggy Carter's Sackfullofmemories and dominated the \$4,515 SVCC 2-year-old fillies as she trotted off by herself to win by 53 open lengths... in 2:13.1.

In the Racing With The Stars "Invitational" event, the \$8,655 SVCC stake for 3-year-old trotters, pocket-sitting veteran Jack Dailey collared Heavy Duty K and Kato Young in 2:04.1 as a game young Kato opted for the frontend in his 3rd lifetime drive.

It was a first-time trip to the races for Jackson residents Linda Fisher and her family and as bearer of the matching RWTS Number 1, it also got to be a first-time ever trip to the Winners Circle. As the apprehensive novice to the festivities walked across the track there was a multitude of questions such as "what do I do?" that was answered with a reassuring "just smile."

And after the win photo and the return trip back into the grandstand, it was a happy lady who lifted her arm over her head and let out a loud "wuh-hoo!" to her friends. Quite the feeling, eh?

## More action at Jackson

By Thom Pye

Wellston Ohio - The Southern Valley Colt Circuit trotters and pacers closed out their 2018 program at Jackson County Fairgrounds with a flourish as folks from all over came to enjoy themselves.

Beginning with Diamond H Racing Stable of Greenfield, IN and Steve Carter of Londonderry, OH's 2-year-old gelding Bat Chip Crazy (by Manofmanymissions) and Ryan Holton's easy win in 2:07.4 in the \$4,635 SVCC 1st division the crowd was entertained.

In the \$4,740 SVCC division for 3-year-old fillies Jonas Hershberger took owner/trainer Tim Vanhorn of Malta, OH's VH Princess Brea (by Big Bad John) to a 2 length victory in 2:0.3 as she paced her last quarter in :29.3 and held off Princess Lil Devil (Jordan Myers) and Ucia Hanover with Chris Shaw.

The \$4,740 SVCC 2nd division was captured by Chris Shaw as he drove Mason Shaw-owned/Jason Shaw-trained Friskie Jewels to a mile in 2:01.2 and bested Marthas Star (Dustin Bothman) and Powerful Sermon with Jonas Hershberger.

The FFA 1st division went to owner/trainer Dustin Arledge of Mt. Sterling, OH's Gun Show as Thomas Litt win in 2:01.4 for the 9-year-old gelding's 28th win in 200 career starts.

Sir Howie's Z Tam and Hunter Myers grabbed the 2nd FFA division as the Michael Myers of Williamsport, OH owned and trained gelding by Art Major paced the fastest of the day as the 9-year-old win by 5 in 2:00 over Picture Me with Allen Woolums as Redbud (Nick Turley) took the show spot.

The \$4,658 SVCC 1st division for 3-year-old fillies saw Triumphant Swing, Richard McCormick's lass by Triumphant Caviar-Swing Anna Miss, trot to a commanding win over the field as Tamar (Jonas Hershberger) and Syrah Adele (Ty Van Rhoden) finished 2-3. And as driver David Myers brought the victor back for her accolades, the successful Racing with the Stars contestant Cindy Cuccio of Columbus, OH stood by the trophy presenter wearing her bright yellow Number 6 and a wide smile. Trainer Chuck Vigneron hopped off the golf cart, shook her hand like an old friend and asked "Are you the winner? Congratulations!"

"He was nice!" smiled Cuccio as she walked back into the grandstand. "He really made me feel welcome." Hats off to Triumphant Swing and Chuck Vigneron for sharing their joy in the Winners Circle. May there be many more of them.