

Pigmania BBQ & Blues Festival

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October 7-8, 2016

Absolutely splendid weather and gracious hospitality greeted seasoned BBQ cooks at the inaugural Pigmania BBQ & Blues Festival in Marion, OH. This first-year contest benefitted Community Computer Alliance, a non-profit organization that empowers and improves individuals & communities through computer recycling and workforce development training for people with Autism and other developmental disabilities.

In all, 26 teams flocked to this quaint town in north central Ohio, including two who found safe harbor while fleeing from Hurricane Matthew. Everyone enjoyed the warm autumn sun and set up for a good weekend of fellowship and competition.

Friday evening kicked off with a very competitive field of Kids-Q competitors. These kids really went all out and showed their developing Q-skills with chicken wings. Coming in third place was Shodd Brothers BBQ. Slippery Pete's BBQ took second and winning the Kids-Q was S & G BBQ.

Immediately after Kids-Q was turn-in for the Charity Rib-Off, sponsored by one of the event sponsors, WDIF 97.5 radio, the local blues station. WDIF's main goal is to get musical instruments into the hands and hearts of children in Marion who otherwise would not have the means to do so (how awesome is that!). High on the Hog Ohio prevailed as the Rib-Off champion and the only team who managed to best the 11-year-old Elle from Slippery Pete's BBQ (yes, the same Elle who took home 2nd in Kids-Q). It seems this girl has learned well from her mentor, Pitmaster Paul.

Saturday morning greeted all with chilly but continued fabulous weather. Yet, the cooks maintained a sunny outlook as the first turn-in approached. Once the blues music paused for awards, the 180 pins started flying! Historic BBQ was stout with a 180 in both Chicken and Brisket. Not to be left out, Quau struck gold with a 180 in Pork! Old Virginia Smoke made their mad dash away from the hurricane worthwhile by taking home RGC, but it was Yellow River BBQ whose name was called last for GC. With a 699.9656, they are still looking around their cooksite for another 0.0344 point needed for that coveted 700 pin – so close!

And then there was the Dessert category. Remember Elle with Slippery Pete's BBQ from earlier? Well, she rocked it again, winning Dessert with a 180! Dang! That girl's got game!

In all, this was a tremendous first time event, organized and flawlessly executed by Master CBJs, competitive BBQ cooks and organizers Dan & Ann Hurst and their hard-working team. This is a great comp for that final tune-up for the American Royal. You would do well to add it to your schedule for 2017!

Grand Champion - Yellow River BBQ

Grand Champion - Kids Que