



The Wanderbird Hike & Fly Trophy in Dorf Tirol was a complete success!

Under the motto "Find your Path", the organizers of the Wanderbird Hike&Fly Trophy attracted countless adventurous paraglider pilots to Dorf Tirol in South Tyrol on the weekend of July 15 - 16, 2023. With 125 international athletes and a great atmosphere, the unique event concept offered an unforgettable experience for all participants again this year. The event took place in the best weather and also attracted numerous enthusiastic spectators to the Merano region.

The Wanderbird Hike & Fly Trophies are characterized by three exciting categories: FUN, TOUR and HERO. Each category has its own challenges and offers athletes the opportunity to demonstrate and at the same time improve their personal skills and passion for Hike & Fly. The race started at the landing area in Dorf Tirol at the valley station of the Hochmut cable car. The first turning point was to get to the starting point of the Muthöfe. The route then included four more 'selfie turnpoints' where, as the name suggests, athletes have to send a selfie to the race organizers in order to pass successfully and finally finish back at the starting point, the landing area at the Hochmuth cable car. In total, one lap counted 37.7 kilometers.

The exciting thing about the Hike & Fly Trophy is not only the alpine route itself, but the possibility to start on the same route in one of the three different categories with different requirements. The athletes of the FUN category are allowed to use the cable cars as a support on their Hike&Fly round, for the participants of the TOUR category this ascent support is prohibited. The HERO athletes have to complete the loop twice - completely under their own steam - and thus cover more than 75km.

So that the enthusiastic fans on site but also those who stayed at home had the feeling of being there live with the athletes, the race could be followed in real time via the live tracking of Burnair Map, in addition, social media updates of the participants were shown to the spectators again and again. In addition to the relaxed atmosphere and good mood, there was also a breathtaking acrobatic air show by Jerry the Pilot. At the end of the race day, the winners of the Wanderbird Hike & Fly Trophy 2023 were duly cheered and celebrated for their outstanding performances in their respective categories on the festival meadow in Dorf Tirol. At the subsequent party, the South Tyrolean band Straight Flush played and ensured an exuberant atmosphere until the early hours of the morning.



Results

FUN- Men

1st Place Damian Marcher (ITA) 2nd Place Helmut Höfler (ITA) 3rd Place Werner Pircher (ITA)

FUN- Women

1st Place Nadine Wyss (SUI) 2nd Place Birgit Ploier (AUT) 3rd Place Valentina Porro (ITA)

TOUR-Men

1st Place Peter Sellemond (ITA) 2nd Place Jakob Weger (ITA) 3rd Place Armin Pircher (ITA)

TOUR- Women

1st Place Tamara Lunger (ITA) 2nd Place Elisabeth Fuchsreiter (GER) 3rd Place Sara Capobianco (ITA)

HERO-Men

1st Place Christian Schugg (GER) 2nd Place Aaron Durogati (ITA) 3rd Place Daniel Oberauer (AUT)

HERO-Women

1st place Viktoria Brunner (AUT) 2nd place Elisa Deutschmann (GER)

The full results are available on the website at hikeandflytrophy.com.

It should be emphasized that at this year's Wanderbird Hike & Fly Trophy, for the first time, more than € 5,000 in prize money was awarded to the athletes in the HERO category. This is to show a clear appreciation and support for participation in this demanding competition and to give the sport Hike&Fly a more professional image in the long term.

After the exhausting race day, Sunday morning started much more relaxed. With a yoga session by Elisa Deutschmann, the participants were able to find themselves before Paul Guschlbauer ensured that the participants were able to find themselves completely with a flow meditation. Afterwards, Veronika Mayerhofer (sports psychologist), Aaron Durogati and Paul Guschlbauer gave insights and holistic tips around the various challenges of Hike&Fly with their Mental Performance Workshop. Exhibitors Advance, Skywalk and Woody Valley were on hand throughout the weekend for athletes and visitors to showcase their latest products and have them tested.

Another sensational new feature is the introduction of the Storyteller Award. Entries for this award can be submitted via social media until July 25. The best three videos will be awarded a total of €2,000. More information is available on the hikeandflytrophy.com website under the prize money menu item.



The organizers and visionaries of the Wanderbird concept, around Paul Guschlbauer and Aaron Durogati, are thrilled with this year's edition in Dorf Tirol and are already looking forward to the next Hike & Fly Trophy on 2 - 3 September 2023 in the Stubaital. The Hike & Fly community, but also all interested spectators, can already look forward to another exciting event weekend with competition, coaching, great atmosphere and unique experiences.

A special thanks goes to our helpers and sponsors, especially the Tourism Association Dorf Tirol and Salewa. We would also like to thank our exhibitors Advance, Skywalk and Woody Valley for their presence and support. A big thank you also goes to our cable car partners, Seilbahn Hochmuth, Meran2000 and Hirzer Seilbahn, who provided free mountain rides for the participants in the FUN category.

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