



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

May 2008

Volume 18 • Number 5

## Anabolic steroids require caution

Trainers are reminded to exercise caution regarding the administration of anabolic steroids.

Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia have recently adopted regulations for anabolic steroids.

The Maryland Racing Commission is awaiting data from research that is currently underway; it expects to promulgate steroid regulations by December 31, 2008.

Trainers taking horses to race out of state are urged to familiarize themselves with the rules for that racing jurisdiction, so as to avoid potential penalties.

## Referendum needs everyone's VOTE

Now is the time to ensure that you, your employees—and everyone else you know—are registered to vote.

Remember: Only registered voters will participate in next November's general election, when the future of Maryland racing is at stake.

The ballot for that election will contain a referendum, allowing voters to say yes or no to the slots program created in the 2007 special session of the Maryland General Assembly.

If you have not voted recently, or you have moved since the last time you voted, your registration may not be valid.

The MTHA can guide you through the voter registration process. For assistance call Bobby Lillis at (410) 265-6843.

Every vote counts.



Tom Chuckas

## Chuckas in line for top post at Maryland Jockey Club

Tom Chuckas is expected to be named to the top management post in the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC), although the change is not yet official.

Mr. Chuckas, 53, was CEO of Cloverleaf Entertainment, the management company that operates Rosecroft Raceway, from 1997 until earlier this year.

Currently on the MJC staff as a consultant, Mr. Chuckas is expected to replace Chris Dragone, who was named MJC president and general manager in the wake of Lou Raffetto's departure in November 2007.



## Board actions

Meeting held May 1 in Laurel

*Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Valora A. Testerman, Katharine M. Voss*

*Members absent: Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe*

### Bylaw amendment

The board agreed by vote of 11-1 to approve an amendment to the MTHA by-laws regarding conflict of interest.

Voting in favor were Alecci, Bender, D. Capuano, P. Capuano, Fitzgibbons, Gaudet, Glasser, Meyer, Murray, Robb and Testerman; voting against was Voss.

The amendment states:

*No Member or spouse of a Member who, as of the date of any Election, or during the two (2) year period prior to the date of such Election, is or was (a) an officer, director or employee of a racetrack, racing commission, breeders' organization, or other organization deemed to have a conflict of interest as determined by the Board; or (b) the owner of a beneficial interest in a business contracting with a racetrack; or (c) the owner of a beneficial interest in a business contracting or doing business with this corporation, may serve as a Director of the corporation. No person entering into any of the relationships described hereinabove after Election as a Director may continue to serve as a Director of the corporation. The Board, however, is authorized to waive the prohibitions contained in this Section for good cause.*

### Bylaw clarification

The board was informed of a clarification to the bylaws necessitated by the above amendment.

The clarification was approved by unanimous vote.

### Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through March 31, 2008 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

## Maryland withdraws signal from Florida; exception made for Black-Eyed Susan, Preakness days

Simulcasts of Maryland races have been withheld from Calder Race Course, pending resolution of the contract dispute between that Florida track and its horsemen.

A special exception was made for Black-Eyed Susan and Preakness days.

On those days, the MTHA allowed the signal from Pimlico to go to Calder, with the provision that the proceeds

due to Calder and its horsemen be held in escrow until the dispute ends.

Under Florida law, the operator of a current live racing meet serves as a hub, providing the signal for betting purposes to all approved Florida locations.

Thus, the MTHA and Maryland Jockey Club made the two of America's great racing days available for wagering throughout the state.

## Hoofprints

### For Maryland For Our Future—not just for racing

For Maryland For Our Future, the group that is leading the lobbying effort for the slots referendum, is gathering support from a number of groups outside of racing.

Organizations that are working with the group include the Maryland State Teachers Association, Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Association of Counties and Maryland and District of Columbia AFL-CIO.

"There is no realistic alternative to replace the revenue slots will generate for the state," Kathleen Snyder, the state Chamber's president and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "Recapturing money spent on slots in other

states will help provide needed education funding increases and prevent future tax increases."

### Maryland Horse Radio

Stan Salter's Maryland Horse Radio is back on the air, with a series of shows to continue through June 8.

Hour-long shows are broadcast at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. on Sundays on WBIS-AM 1190.

Trainer interviews are among the show's regular features.

### Racing Commission has new phone/fax numbers

The Maryland Racing Commission has new telephone and fax numbers. To reach the Commission, call (410) 296-9682 or fax (410) 296-9687.

## Congress passes Farm Bill containing tax law changes favorable to racing

The 2007 Farm Bill—containing tax law changes beneficial to racing—has passed by overwhelming margins in both the House and Senate. The vote was 318 to 106 in the House, and 81 to 15 in the Senate.

The President was expected to veto the bill, but Congress appears poised to override the veto.

To support an override, both chambers must reach a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

The bill amends the depreciation schedule for race horses, allowing an owner to recover his/her costs over the period of time that the horse is likely to race.

Under current tax law, race horses

are depreciated over either three or seven years, depending on their age when "placed in service."

"This provision will provide enormous economic incentives to the horse racing and breeding industry and also bring more fairness to the tax treatment of one of the most important assets in our industry—the race horse," said National Thoroughbred Racing Association President and CEO Alex Waldrop. "A simplified, uniform depreciation schedule for race horses will help keep buyers in the market for racing bloodstock and improve the overall economics of horse racing and breeding."

For updates, visit [www.SupportHorseRacing.org](http://www.SupportHorseRacing.org).

# Jockey Club forms Thoroughbred Safety Committee

In response to alarms raised by the breakdown of Kentucky Derby runner-up Eight Belles, The Jockey Club created a seven-member Thoroughbred Safety Committee to be chaired by Marylander Stuart S. Janney, III.

The committee will review a range of issues, including medication, rules of racing and track surfaces, and recommend actions to be taken by the industry to improve the health and safety of Thoroughbreds.

Additional members of the committee are John Barr, James G. Bell, Dr. Larry Bramlage, Donald R. Dizney, Dell Hancock and Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Larry M. Wolf**, a retired Rouse Co executive who had owned horses in Maryland since the 1970s, died on April 17. He was 72.

Mr. Wolf and his wife, Alice, campaigned in the name of Fast Kitty Farm. In recent years they operated in partnership with David and JoAnn Hayden's Dark Hollow Farm.

**John T. (Jack) Sadler, Jr.**, a longtime owner, died on May 1 at the age of 82. A noted show rider in his youth, Mr. Sadler was a member of McDonogh School's Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Howard ("Fluffy") Brooks**, 73, a longtime employee of King T. Leatherbury, died on April 9.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the

### Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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*The Horsemen's Newsletter*  
reports on issues and events of interest  
to owners and trainers in Maryland.  
Your suggestions are welcome.

## Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,  
MTHA Recreation Director  
(410) 437-4405*

### Orioles night at Camden Yards

The MTHA's Orioles night at Camden Yards is set for Wednesday, June 18, vs. the Houston Astros.

June 7 is the date for the drawing at Pimlico to select the ticket winners. Sign up in the track kitchens.

### Committee bulletins

#### Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported problems with flooding in the shedrows. Maintenance has been making repairs.

#### Health and welfare

Rich Meyer, Health and Welfare chairman, said that efforts are underway to again provide mammograms for backstretch workers, beginning in 2009.

## Horsemen's calendar

#### RACING

**Pimlico** ..... Now through June 7  
**Laurel** ..... To be announced

**Colonial Downs** ..... June 9 through Aug. 6

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS  
AT TIMONIUM**  
(410) 392-5555

**Eastern Fall Yearlings** ..... Sept. 29-Oct. 1

(Entries close July 9)

**December Mixed** ..... Dec. 7, 8  
(Entries close Sept. 21)

#### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company**  
**Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age**  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 ..... June 17, 18

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July  
Selected Yearlings**,  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 ..... July 14, 15

**Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected  
Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(516) 328-1800 ..... Aug. 4, 5

**Fasig-Tipton New York  
Preferred Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(516) 328-1800 ..... Aug. 9, 10

**Fasig-Tipton New York  
Open Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(516) 328-1800 ..... Aug. 12

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company  
Selected/Open Yearlings**,  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 ..... Aug. 18-22

**Keeneland September Yearlings**,  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 ..... Sept. 8-21

### MTHA to sponsor golf outing

The MTHA will sponsor a golf outing on Monday, June 23 at Ft. Meade. Sign up in the track kitchens.

#### Orioles tickets

Most recent winners of the Orioles tickets drawings were Steve Heinz (Pimlico), Susan Lennon (Bowie), Steve Rosenthal (Pimlico) and Eugene Gums (Pimlico).

#### Baysox tickets

Baysox tickets are still available for August and September. Sign up sheets are posted in the track kitchens.

#### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: J.D. Brown, Kathy Delp, Gene Gilhooley, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Rosemary and Scott Lishia, Gladys McHargue and Miriam and Herb Mittenthal.



## Health Fairs offer valuable services—and they're free!



Hours are  
8:30 to 1 p.m.  
each day.

### Bowie

June 4  
(Wednesday): conference room.

### Laurel

June 5  
(Thursday): recreation area next to the track kitchen.

### Pimlico

June 6  
(Friday): MTHA office above the track kitchen.

### Health Fairs, co-sponsored by the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, will be conducted free of charge for backstretch workers at all three tracks in June.

Services, provided by Adventist Health Care, will include lipid profiling, HIV testing, hepatitis C testing, screenings for blood pressure, body fat composition, carbon monoxide and skin cancer, PSA testing, colo-rectal counseling, plus seated massage therapy and more. Health promoters will be on hand to answer questions.

Important note: Cholesterol tests require a 12-hour fast (no food or drink in the 12 hours before the test). HIV tests require pre-approval by a physician. Individuals seeking HIV testing should visit Dr. Harry M. Harris in the Backstretch Health Center prior to the Health Fair. (The Health Center is open Fridays and Saturdays in the track kitchen building at Laurel, and Tuesdays in the First Aid Room at Pimlico. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon at both locations.) All results are confidential and will be sent to the mailing address provided by the participant.

For more information call Bobby Lillis at (410) 265-6843.



**MTHA**  
6314 Windsor Mill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

**May 2008**

## Thoughts and comment

At the MTHA's annual meeting on June 5, the Nominating Committee will present a list of candidates for the Board of Directors Election to take place this summer.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at that meeting. (See election notice on page 1.)

The slate of candidates, as always, will consist of well-qualified individuals who have an active interest in this organization and are committed to serving the best interests of horsemen and the industry as a whole.

Your ballot will arrive in the mail by

mid-July, along with a brochure containing profiles of the candidates.

Please take time to read the information carefully, and then cast your vote for the candidates who are, in your opinion, the best people to serve in this important capacity.

These are the people who will lead the MTHA through the next three years—which are certain to be a critical time for the industry.

Your vote in this year's MTHA election counts more than ever.

/Richard J. Meyer, MTHA Vice President,  
Nominating Committee Chairman

## MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger  
President

Richard J. Meyer  
Vice President

John V. Alecci  
Howard M. Bender

Dale Capuano  
Phillip L. Capuano

William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr.  
Linda S. Gaudet

H. Neil Glasser  
Arnold A. Heft

Timothy L. Keefe  
Lawrence E. Murray

John J. Robb  
Valora A. Testerman

Katharine M. Voss