



The Horsemen's Newsletter

November 2009

Volume 19 • Number 9

It's status quo for next several months

At least until June, Maryland's racing schedule and purse distribution for 2010 are expected to be virtually identical to 2009.

"As the additional revenue from slots begins to trickle in, we will reassess the situation," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "A purse increase could be on the horizon later in the year. But for now we are pleased to be able to avoid reductions. Maintaining the status quo is, by itself, a remarkable accomplishment."

Laurel's winter meet will consist of 58 days of live racing: Friday, January 1 through Saturday, April 10. Racing will be conducted four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday, with a 12:35 p.m. post time.

Pimlico is expected to open in April and close soon after the Preakness. Exact dates have not yet been set for the Pimlico meet and beyond.

Cecil County slots site gains approval

Penn Cecil, a subsidiary of Penn National Gaming, has received a license for a slots site in Cecil County.

The Video Lottery Facility Location Commission voted on October 21 to approve the license for the 1,500-machine facility to be located in Perryville, near Interstate 95.

The site is expected to be in operation by late 2010.

Maryland now has two licensed sites under construction. The other, at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, is scheduled to open in late May 2010.

Jockeys' insurance fee: best bargain in Maryland racing just got better

The fee that each Maryland owner and trainer pays to provide jockeys' workers' compensation coverage will be only \$50 in 2010.

This is a dramatic cost reduction from previous years—and, in fact, is the lowest assessment since the program began in 1986.

Coverage is provided through a non-profit corporation known as the Maryland Jockey Injury Compensation Fund, Inc., managed by the Maryland Racing Commission.

The fee is set on an annual basis. It is determined by a number of factors.

Numbers and types of claims against the Fund affect the yearly cost of the policy—and, fortunately, in recent years there have been relatively few race-related accidents.

But newfound competition among insurance companies bidding on the policy is one of the biggest reasons for next

year's decrease.

Until 2009, coverage was available only through the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund (IWIF). For 2009 and 2010, Chartis (formerly AIG) submitted a lower bid.

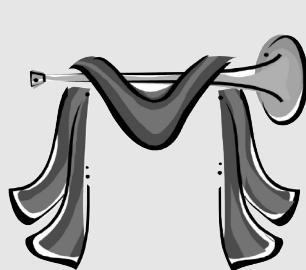
Maryland has been a pioneer in providing workers' compensation coverage for jockeys.

Even in its most expensive years, the advantages of Maryland's workers' compensation program for jockeys have far outweighed the fee.

If a jockey is injured while riding in a race, the necessary benefits are assured. And owners and trainers have no liability.

"The cost may go up next year—we're not sure of that," said the Racing Commission's executive director, Mike Hopkins. "But we're certainly pleased with this year's decrease."

For more information call Mr. Hopkins at (410) 853-1672.



MTHA Christmas Party Featuring Our Annual Awards Presentations

November 30 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Carriage Room at Laurel Park

Buffet ♦ Open Bar ♦ Dancing

Tickets may be purchased on race days at the MTHA Office at Laurel Park for \$30 in advance, or at the door for \$40.

2009 MTHA Awards Will Be Presented To

Outstanding Maryland Owner:
JANET L. WAYSON

Outstanding Maryland Trainer:
HAMILTON A. SMITH

Special Appreciation:
FREDERICK A. TALLARICO

Outstanding Backstretch Employees:

FRANCISCO M. OSEGURA,
employed by Chris Grove at Bowie
LOUIS D. BERNIER, JR.,
employed by Ferris Allen at Laurel



Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- A covered viewing stand is now in place, providing a comfortable spot to watch horses on the track.
- Repair of potholes is continuing.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray reported:

- Major refurbishing is underway on one of the dorms, including new doors, windows and heaters.
- The track has been in good condition.

Hoofprints

Happy Thanksgiving!

The MTHA, continuing its longstanding tradition, will provide complimentary dinners for all backstretch workers in the Bowie and Laurel track kitchens on Thanksgiving Day.

Check the kitchens for details.

Peddicord new leader of Tourism Board

Ross Peddicord, a lifelong horseman and former Baltimore *Sun* racing writer, has been elected chairman of the board of the Maryland Tourism Council for 2010. Mr. Peddicord is a founder and co-publisher of *Maryland Life* magazine.

Maryland Horse Council Equine Injuries Survey

The Maryland Horse Council is conducting a survey on injuries to paid and unpaid workers at Maryland equine businesses.

The purpose of the survey is to attempt to identify how much risk and exposure Maryland equine businesses experience, so that the Horse Council can work with insurance providers to develop more affordable workers' compensation insurance coverage for equine businesses.

The survey is estimated to take an average of three minutes to complete. Participation is confidential.

To participate, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=JipIa3bCThdeJ2qtpA_2fToA_3d_3d.

PAC belongs on your Christmas gift list

When making your Christmas gift-giving list this year, please consider a donation to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee. Your contribution is truly a gift to yourself and the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry. In 2010, and beyond, it is vital that we have the funds to support the election of those state leaders who understand the industry and its importance to Maryland's economy.

Please make checks payable to
Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC

Send checks to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207

AMOUNT OF DONATION

\$100 \$250 \$500 Other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer

Scholarships, from page 4

\$2,000. **Nicole Fiorellino**, in equine nutrition master's program at the University of Maryland, College Park; manager of university's equine research unit in Ellicott City. **Kathleen O'Loughlin**, sophomore in animal and poultry science program at Virginia Tech; Country Life Farm employee. **Heather Radford** (Miss Preakness 2009), pursuing animal science degree at the University of Maryland, College Park; exercise rider for John Melton; pony girl.

\$1,500. **Jane Allen**, in M.B.A. program at Loyola University; Chanceland Farm employee. **Jermaine Haughton**, sophomore at the University of Maryland, College Park; employee of his father, trainer Donovan Haughton. **Sabrina Morris**, attends Frederick Community College; exercise rider and assistant trainer with the Tim Tullock stable. **Lindsay Thigpen**, junior at Iowa State University; Chanceland Farm employee.

\$1,000. **Brooke Bowman**, in final year of veterinary medicine program at Ross University; prospective equine practitioner. **Theresa Maggio**, first-year stu-

dent at Salisbury University, received Fund's largest-ever scholarship for an incoming freshman; Fox Quarter Farm employee. **Cash McHargue**, attends University of Maryland Baltimore County; groom for trainer Gladys McHargue, his mother. **Colleen O'Reilly**, sophomore equestrian studies major at Wilson College; employed at Winding Creek Farm. **Sarah Warren**, attends St. Mary's College; assistant with the Chesapeake Equine Veterinary Practice at Bowie and Laurel.

\$750. **Demelza McMahon**, enrolled in the Washington School of Photography; exercise rider for Scott Lake. **Joseph P. Pons III**, attends University of Kentucky; Merryland Farm employee.

Special thanks to Scholarship Fund donors Milton P. Higgins, III, Maryland Horse Industry Foundation, Sandra and Howard Bender, Jay Em Ess Stable, Tack Express, Delaware Park, Taking Risks Stable, Katharine Peterson, Charlene Passmore, Murray Thoroughbred Services, At Last Farm and Eric Wirth.



Photo is worth a thousand words when finding homes for horses

Horsemen seeking good homes for retired runners can find help through Thoroughbred Placement and Rescue, Inc. (TPR).

This service has recently expanded, with volunteers at both Bowie and Laurel now available to take photographs and video of prospective adoptees.

The images will be posted in advertisements and on the TPR Web site.

Call Kelly Cox (443) 336-3618 at Bowie or Lucy Krone (443) 995-2950 at Laurel.

For more information, go to www.LeightonFarm.com or call Kim Clark at (301) 579-6898.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles N. (Nick) Bassford, 71, a long-prominent owner/breeder, died on October 25.

Among the many stakes winners to campaign for Mr. Bassford and his wife, Elaine, were 1992 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Brilliant Brass, Maryland Million Classic winner Brilliant Patriot, and Ameri Valay (sire of 2002 Preakness runner-up Magic Weisner).

A. Ridgely White, a widely accomplished steeplechase trainer, died on November 2 at the age of 82.

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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. For information on any of these programs call Mr. Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

Bowling

The bowling outing has been postponed until January 21. It will begin at noon at Laurel Fairlanes.

Basketball

Basketball starts January 11 at Meade High School in Laurel. Anyone interested in playing is asked to call Mr. Mangum immediately.

Poker

A mock Texas hold 'em poker tour-

nament is scheduled for December 14 at noon in the Bowie Kitchen.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Robin Fulco, Gene Gilhooly, Richard Hoffberger, Sean Lillis and Rashid Thoroughbred Racing Stables.

Winter clothing drive

Donations of winter coats, gloves and hats will be much appreciated over the next few months!

Please keep backstretch employees in mind when cleaning out your closet.

Horsemen's Counseling Program provides wide range of services

Domestic problems? Substance abuse? Depression? The Horsemen's Counseling Program is here to help.

"This program has been extraordinarily successful in turning some people's lives around," said Rich Meyer, the MTHA's Health and Welfare Committee chairman and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund President.

For immediate and confidential services call Bill Borchardt at (301) 776-0404 or (410) 368-5570 (pager).

Lecture series at Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va., will once again offer its Tuesday Talks—a series of free lectures designed to provide practical advice on a wide array of equine health care topics.

All lectures will be held at 7 p.m. in the Center's library.

Admission is free but pre-registration is required.

To register, e-mail Amy Troppmann or call (703) 771-6843.

Dec. 8: "Regenerative Medicine: From Stem Cells to PRP," Dr. Jennifer Barrett.

Jan. 12: "Endocrine Disease in the Horse: Cushings and Insulin Resistance," Dr. Martin Furr.

Feb. 9: "Lameness Diagnosis Panel," moderated by the Center's director, Dr. Nat White.

March 9: "Diagnosis and Treatment of Upper Airway and Sinus Disorders," Dr. Ken Sullins.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through April 10

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

December Mixed Dec. 7

KEENELAND AUCTIONS 2010

Horses of All Ages Jan. 11-16

Two-year-olds in Training April 5

Yearlings Sept. 13-26

Breeding Stock Nov. 7-20

Laurel Park's Thanksgiving Day schedule

- Thanksgiving Day post time is 11:05 a.m.
- Training hours that day will be 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., with no break.
- There will be no gate schooling that morning.



Scholarship Fund distributes total of \$27,500



JIM MCCUE

Christina Hash receives the Eddie McMullen Memorial Scholarship from MRMA President David Richardson.

Once again, Maryland's racing industry rallied to support educational opportunities for young people contributing to the work force.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund awarded a total of \$27,500 in financial aid this year to 17 individuals employed on the backstretch or at farms and veterinary clinics in Maryland. Checks were presented at the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) Crabfeast on October 23.

The Scholarship Fund is sponsored jointly by the MRMA, MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, and receives additional support from many generous donors. The Fund has distributed nearly \$275,000 in financial aid for higher education in the past 10 years.

Christina Hash was awarded the 2009 Eddie McMullen Memorial Scholarship, and received a check for \$4,000. Ms. Hash is a senior majoring in equine science and

management with a concentration in pre-veterinary medicine at Delaware Valley College. She worked this summer as a student intern with the Maryland Vet Group at Laurel Park and plans to enroll in veterinary school.

Additional scholarships went to—\$3,000. **Stephanie Wolf**, senior English major at University of Maryland, College Park; exercise rider and groom at Sean and Kelli Magee's Flying Free Farm.

\$2,500. **Philip Pons**, senior business major at Elon University; employee at his family's Country Life and Merryland Farms.

See **Scholarships**, page 2



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

November 2009

Thoughts and comment

Could this be a sign of better things to come for Maryland racing?

The lowered fee for jockeys' workers' compensation coverage (*see article on page 1*) won't make or break us as owners and trainers. But it's enough to put a little extra spring in our step when we renew our license for 2010.

Expenses, in this day and age, usually go in only one direction. It's refreshing when something actually costs many times less than it did last year.

Owners such as myself are in racing because we love the business.

It is a great reassurance to know that,

here in Maryland, we have a means of taking care of jockeys who are injured during a race. And that owners and trainers are protected from financial calamity should something bad happen to our riders.

If we can accomplish all of that for a one-year fee that's about the same as the cost of a tank of gasoline, we should consider ourselves extremely fortunate.

It's been said before in this publication, but I'll say it again. This just might be the best bargain in racing.

*/H. Neil Glasser, MTHA Director,
longtime Maryland owner*

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