



The Horsemen's Newsletter

July 2009

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Twilight racing brightens Laurel mini-meet

Twilight racing, now proving popular throughout the country, will be among the special features of the Laurel Park summer mini-meet, which begins August 1.

Three consecutive Fridays (August 7, 14 and 21) will have a 3:35 p.m. post time. Post time on Saturdays and Sundays will be 1:10 p.m. for the 11-day meet that extends through August 23.

Twilight racing made its debut in Maryland in the summer of 2006, and is now a tradition at Laurel in the summer.

Laurel's director of racing, Georganne Hale, reminds horsemen that entries close July 29 for opening day, and that stall applications for Laurel's summer/fall/winter meet are due August 1.

Timonium readies for seven-day stand

Racing returns to Maryland's last remaining half-mile track on August 28, when Timonium will open for its 128th season.

A \$10,000 trainer's bonus (divided 4-3-2-1 among the four winningest trainers) is among the highlights of the seven-day live race meet at Timonium (August 28, 29 and 30, and September 4, 5, 6 and 7).

Economic considerations have caused Timonium to eliminate stabling and training on its grounds for the upcoming meet.

In addition, simulcasting will be offered at Timonium only on days when it is conducting live racing.

Maryland's other simulcast facilities, including Laurel and Pimlico, will follow their usual schedules during this time.

Maryland's Thoroughbred industry has been at war with Rosecroft Raceway's owner, Cloverleaf Enterprises Inc. (CEI), since last April, when CEI announced that it would no longer live up to the 15-year Cross-Breed Agreement signed in 2006.

That agreement calls for Rosecroft to pay Maryland's Thoroughbred interests \$5.9 million a year for the right to receive simulcasts of Thoroughbred races. CEI has declared that it will pay no more than \$2 million a year.

The conflict escalated on July 6 when CEI filed a \$20 million lawsuit against various Thoroughbred entities, including the MTHA, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, TrackNet Media Group and a number of Thoroughbred tracks throughout the U.S. that have refused to send their signals into Rosecroft.

Cloverleaf's lawsuit asked the court to restore certain Thoroughbred signals to Rosecroft, and claimed that the Thoroughbred entities are in "breach of contract" by denying Rosecroft access to

Appeals process could soon be eliminated

Appeals of stewards' judgment calls involving the running of a race are expected to be eliminated, beginning in September.

The revised rule is scheduled to come before the Commission for final approval at its August meeting.

The MTHA board considered the issue at its January 2009 meeting, and a majority of the board chose not to oppose the change.

their signals.

In June, CEI filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The court was not taken in by CEI's antics. After three days of testimony, United States Bankruptcy Court judge Paul Mannes ruled on July 15 that Cloverleaf had failed to provide sufficient evidence to support any of its claims. He noted that Cloverleaf's situation is largely of its own making and that instead of paying the Thoroughbred industry as required, it had used more than \$500,000 for professional fees and \$20,000 for Washington Redskins season tickets.

Judge Mannes also noted that while Cloverleaf made no showing of immediate or irreparable harm caused by the loss of Thoroughbred signals, its conduct had harmed the Thoroughbred industry, which has been forced to cancel at least six live racing days this fall because of Cloverleaf's breach of the Cross-Breed Agreement.

Cloverleaf is attempting to use the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to do an end run around more than a decade of Maryland Racing Commission decisions, Attorney General's opinions, court decisions and legislative decisions, which have all re-

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Gate fee raised to \$25 on Aug. 1

The gate fee has been raised to \$25, effective with the beginning of the Laurel Park mini-meet on August 1.

For more on this subject, see *Thoughts and comment on page 4*.



Board actions

Meeting held July 15 in Laurel

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, H. Neil Glaser, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keele, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, Christopher W. Grove, John J. Robb

Administrative policies

The board agreed by unanimous vote to adopt a basic Document Retention and Destruction Policy as well as a basic Whistleblower Policy, as recommended by the Internal Revenue Service.

Gate fee increase

Based on a request from the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, the board agreed by unanimous vote to support a \$10 increase in the gate fee (see *Thoughts and comment on page 4*).

Scholarship Fund

A \$5,000 contribution to the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund for 2009 was unanimously approved.

National Thoroughbred Racing Association

The board agreed by majority vote to renew the MTHA's membership in the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) at a cost of \$46,440 for 2009. The vote was 8 for and 1 against, with Mr. Alecci casting the opposing vote.

Simulcasting extension

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to approve simulcasting through December 31, 2009.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through June 30, 2009 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Annual audit

The audit of the MTHA's financial statements for 2008 was presented and accepted.

Ellin & Tucker, Chartered performed the audit.

What Maryland can learn from its slots-enhanced neighbors

Pennsylvania's new era of slots-related prosperity is under threat from proposed legislation that could take approximately \$100 million from the Race Horse Development Fund and use it to help balance the state budget, which is billions of dollars short.

The \$100 million would come from purses and breed development programs for Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds.

Pennsylvania's horse industry receives 12 to 18 percent of revenue from slot machines at race tracks and non-track locations in the state. That amounts to about \$300 million since slots began operating in 2006.

"The experiences of West Virginia—where the Thoroughbred industry has

already been forced to give up a significant portion of its revenue from slots—and now Pennsylvania are unfortunate examples of what the MTHA has been emphasizing to its membership all along," said MTHA president Richard Hoffberger. "Any slots program is vulnerable to change, and when changes do occur they are not likely to be favorable to racing.

"That's a major reason why the MTHA is committed to maintaining a strong lobbying effort in Annapolis—and why donations to the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Political Action Committee (PAC) really can make a difference."

For information on donating to your PAC, call (410) 265-6842.

Study indicates growing problem with unwanted horses

The problem of unwanted horses is perceived to be growing on many fronts, according to findings from the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC)'s national study concluded last January.

Results of the study are available at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

The study is the first of its kind to assess the causes and magnitude of the unwanted horse population in the U.S. More than 23,000 horse owners, equine industry stakeholders and non-horse owners reportedly participated.

"One of the highlights of the survey

is the willingness by all respondents to resolve the unwanted horse problem," said Tom R. Lenz, DVM, chair of the UHC. "We believe these findings will be useful in identifying common ground for all interested groups and aid us in developing solutions that will have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of unwanted horses and the horse industry at large."

For more information, contact Julia Andersen, UHC director, at (202) 296-4031 or jandersen@horsecouncil.org.

Hoofprints

Bob Manfuso new Breeders' Cup vice chairman

Maryland owner/breeder Robert T. (Bob) Manfuso has been elected vice chairman of Breeders' Cup Ltd.

Mr. Manfuso, who owns and operates Chanceland Farm in West Friendship, Md., along with MTHA board member Katharine (Katy) Voss, was the only incumbent voted to the 13-member Breeders' Cup board of directors in the July 9 election.

Welfare of the Horse forum may be viewed online

The American Horse Council's Welfare of the Horse forum, held June 16 in

Washington, DC., is available for on-demand viewing at www.horsetv.com/hspan_ahc1.htm.

Cloverleaf, from page 1

fused to allow Cloverleaf to take out-of-state Thoroughbred signals at Rosecroft without a compensation agreement with the Maryland Thoroughbred industry," said MTHA counsel Alan Foreman. "Cloverleaf is engaging in a reckless strategy that will not only do irreparable harm to what remains of the Standardbred industry in Maryland, but also to the entire Maryland racing industry. We are pleased that the court saw Cloverleaf's action for what it is."

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gate fee (see *Board actions on page 2*).

We made the request reluctantly, with full awareness of the economic circumstances facing all horsemen.

However, this was the first increase in the gate fee in many years, and there are few Maryland racing operations that do not receive some benefit, either directly or indirectly, from the MHA.

We urge all horsemen to consider a donation to this exceptionally worthy cause.

*/Richard J. Meyer, MHA President,
MTHA Vice President*

IN MEMORIAM

John A. (Jack) Hartner III, 79, a long-time Maryland owner/breeder, died June 24. His best runners included stakes winner Love's Strong Hart. Damon Dilodovico trained Mr. Hartner's horses for the past 15 years.

Harold F. McCormick, 85, one of this region's most respected horsemen, died June 29. Mr. McCormick, a distinguished veteran of World War II, counted as his major client the late Art Rooney and the Rooney family's Shamrock Farms in Woodbine, Md.

Woodruff Awkard, who owned and trained horses at Bowie for a half-century, died July 5 at the age of 86. Mr. Awkard had been retired since 1992.

Terry Kupfer, 49, a former exercise rider and assistant trainer for Joe Devereux and Frannie Campitelli, died June 7.

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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.

Committee bulletins

Health Fairs draw strong participation

Health Fairs sponsored by the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and MTHA were once again a success, reports Health and Welfare Committee Chairman Rich Meyer.

Offered free to all backstretch workers, the programs were held July 9 at Bowie and July 16 at Laurel.

Bowie

Special thanks go to backstretch chairman Phil Capuano, who provided

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.*

*For information on the MTHA's
year-round recreation program call Mr.
Mangum at (410) 802-5798.*

Golf

The MTHA's golf outing is set for August 11 at Ft. Meade. Continue to sign up in the track kitchens or call Dan.

Soccer

The MTHA conducted a drawing for eight sets of tickets to the soccer match between A.C. Milan and Chelsea at

the track kitchen/recreation area with a window air conditioner while the regular unit was awaiting repair.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray reported continuing problems with the horse path, including rocks coming to the surface. Maintenance is addressing the situation.

Board members Dale Capuano and Katy Voss added that race track poles have been removed and need to be returned.

Ravens Stadium on July 24. Thanks to Juan Ramirez for all his help.

Orioles tickets

Winner of the Oriole tickets for August 11 is Zenda Haynes. One drawing is remaining for the August 22 game vs. the Cleveland Indians.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, and Bobby Lillis.

Special events during Laurel's summer mini-meet

Twilight Crab Feast—Friday, Aug. 14. Crabs and buffet, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Four beverage tickets included (beer, wine and soda). \$45 in advance, \$50 day of event. Admission and live program included with advance purchase. Call (301) 470-5439 for tickets.

Picnic at the Park—Saturday, Aug. 22. Free admission with school supplies donation. Pony rides, petting zoo, carnival games and more. Stable area visits with a trainer.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Aug. 1-23; Sept. 12-Dec. 19

Timonium Aug. 28-Sept. 7

Maryland Horse Forum, Aug. 6
at Prince George's Equestrian Center,
Upper Marlboro

Maryland Million Day
Sept. 26 at Laurel

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS
AT TIMONIUM**

Eastern Fall Yearlings Oct. 5-7

December Mixed Dec. 6, 7
(Entries close Sept. 21)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected
Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800 Aug. 10, 11

**Fasig-Tipton New York-bred
Yearlings**, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800 Aug. 15, 16

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Selected/Open Yearlings**,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 Aug. 24-27

Keeneland September Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Sept. 14-27

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Fall Mixed**,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 Oct. 12-16

**New York Breeders' Sales Company
Saratoga Fall Mixed**, Saratoga Springs,
N.Y. (518) 587-1555 Oct. 18, 19

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall
Yearlings**,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Oct. 26-28

Keeneland November Breeding Stock,
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Nov. 8-21

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected
Fall Mixed**,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Nov. 9



Scholarships available for backstretch workers

Education is priceless, but college costs are steep.

If you are enrolled in college or graduate school this fall, and you have worked during the past year in the care of Thoroughbreds on the backstretch at a Maryland track, or on a farm, training center or veterinary clinic within the state, you may be eligible for financial aid from the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund.

More than \$20,000 will be available this year through the fund, which is supported by various industry groups and individuals, including the MTHA and

Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

The Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) sponsors the scholarship program and selects recipients, so as to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Last year, a record number of scholarships was awarded, with 24 individuals receiving varying amounts of aid.

Applications may be downloaded from the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com or contact MRMA President David Richardson at (410) 239-7022, drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com. Any one wishing to donate to the scholarship fund is urged to call Mr. Richardson.

Applications must be received by September 24.

In awarding scholarships, special consideration is given to:

- Grade point average
 - Number of college/university credits earned
 - Pursuit of undergraduate or graduate degree in animal sciences or other racing-related program
 - Continuity of service in employment
 - Employer's letter of recommendation
- MRMA does not pre-determine the number of scholarships to be awarded.*



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6314 Windsor Mill Road
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MTHA Board of Directors

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Christopher W. Grove

Arnold A. Heft

Timothy L. Keefe

Lawrence E. Murray

John J. Robb

Katharine M. Voss

Thoughts and comment

Helping people—that's what it's all about for the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund (MHA).

We are the ones who get called when a backstretch worker loses all of his possessions and can't afford a mattress. . . when doctor bills quickly outpace any ability to pay. . . or an addiction takes hold of a valued employee. . .

In addition, the MHA has a key role in supporting several ongoing programs, including the Backstretch Health Center staffed by Dr. Harry M. Harris, the Drug and Alcohol Program, and Backstretch Health Fairs.

An organization closely related to,

but separate from the MTHA, the MHA has served the racing community for more than 60 years.

And now, unfortunately, the MHA itself needs help.

With the shrinking number of racing days, and skyrocketing medical costs, the MHA is caught in a budget crunch.

The MHA derives a major portion of its income from gate fees. Fewer races mean fewer trips to the post, and less revenue to fund the work of the MHA.

An analysis of the MHA's finances led us to request a \$10 increase in the See **Thoughts**, page 3