



The Horsemen's Newsletter

September 2009

Volume 19 • Number 7

New shoe rule in effect

The new dirt and turf shoe rule took effect on September 16.

Under this rule, a horse may not be permitted to start if it has shoes on the front hooves that have toe grabs that are greater than four millimeters in height or contain bends, jar calks or any other traction device.

Racetrax ads get second look from Commission

The Maryland Lottery's new advertisements for its Racetrax game drew considerable comment among members present at the Maryland Racing Commission (MRC)'s September 15 meeting.

The Racing Commission is looking into discussions with the Lottery Commission, said MRC executive director Mike Hopkins.

In attendance at the MRC meeting were members Lou Ulman (acting as chairman), Frank Favazza, John McDaniel, Mary Louise Preis, Charles Tildon and Tom Winebrenner.

Bowie to have maintenance day

Bowie will be closed for training on Tuesday, September 29, to allow for winterizing of the track surface, if weather permits. An alternate date will be chosen if work cannot be completed on September 29 due to inclement weather.

The Hacienda will remain open as usual.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010

The 2010 state elections are rapidly approaching. Maryland voters will go to the polls next fall to choose a Governor. In addition, all seats in the Maryland General Assembly will be up for election.

Our current state elected officials have demonstrated admirable—and much appreciated—support for the racing industry. We must do our best to ensure that those who have supported our interests in the past have an opportunity to do so in the future.

Please help by making a donation to your Political Action Committee. Donations will go toward the election campaigns of state officials who hold the best promise for our industry.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC advocates for the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry, while promoting the interests of horsemen.

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



Fun-filled evening with something for everyone

Tickets are now on sale for the Maryland Racing Media Association's annual Crab Feast, to be held Friday, October 23 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

As usual, the menu includes all-you-can-eat crabs, plus a buffet featuring chicken and side dishes, as well as beer, wine and soft drinks. A silent auction of racing-related items and memorabilia will raise funds for scholarships, and the 2009 Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund winners will receive their checks at this event.

MRMA's annual awards will go to Robert T. Manfuso, Humphrey S. Finney Award for lifetime contributions to Maryland racing; and Vinnie Perrone, outstanding achievement.

Tickets are \$60 each, or \$550 for a table of 10. To order tickets call David Richardson at (410) 239-7022 or e-mail drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com.



Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- Asphalt work has been completed around several barns.
- The phone booth near the track kitchen has been removed.
- The track maintenance crew has been doing a good job under difficult circumstances.

Magna's policy regarding horse slaughter

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), the owner of Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie Training Center, maintains a company-wide policy promoting the humane treatment of race horses.

Under the policy, any owner or trainer stabling at an MEC facility who directly or indirectly participates in the transport of a horse from an MEC facility to either a slaughterhouse or an auction house engaged in selling horses for slaughter will be prohibited from having stalls at any MEC facility.

The policy also applies to any actions related to the transport of a horse from an MEC facility where the ultimate intended result is the horse's slaughter.

Fire, disaster insurance continues

Fire and disaster insurance has been renewed for another 12 months. Under this policy, MTHA members may be compensated for death or humane destruction of their horses due to a number of perils, including fire, lightning, wind storm, smoke and flood.

Coverage extends to horses located at or in transit to or from Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico and Timonium. Additionally, horses are covered when in transit from Bowie and Laurel to race and return from out-of-state tracks.

Lloyds Underwriters, Inc. is the insurer.

Hoofprints

Robb is leading trainer at Laurel Park mini-meet

John J. (Jerry) Robb was the leading trainer at the Laurel Park mini-meet in August, with seven wins from nine starts and two second-place finishes. Bigdaddysgirl accounted for two of his victories.

Kobiskie tops Timonium trainers

Dane Kobiskie won the top trainer's bonus—worth \$4,000—at the Timonium meet, with six wins at the seven-day stand.

Tied in next place were Dale Capuano, Chris Grove and Scott Lake, who had five wins each. The trio received \$2,000 apiece, as their share of the total \$10,000 in bonus money provided by the track.

The most far-reaching event of its kind ever held in Maryland, the Retired Racehorse Training Symposium will take place Sunday, October 4 at the Maryland Therapeutic Riding Center, located at 1141 Sunrise Beach Road in Crownsville.

Nationally recognized trainer and rider Steuart Pittman will work with retired race horses, demonstrating various techniques. His presentation will include prospects who are still winding down their racing careers, horses in their first months of post-race training, and successful sport horses who began their lives racing. There will be an intermission for networking and socializing.

Tickets may be purchased online for \$25 at www.dodonfarm.com; \$5 from each ticket goes directly to Maryland Therapeutic Riding Inc. For more information call (410) 798-0503.

RETIRED RACEHORSE TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The Maryland Therapeutic Riding Center, located at 1141 Sunrise Beach Road in Crownsville.

Study guide can help in preparing for trainer's test

The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit has published the *Uniform National Trainer's Test Study Guide*, a resource for individuals preparing to take a state-administered trainer's licensing exam.

The 108-page study guide is designed to assist with preparations for both the written and barn test components of the exam. It was compiled by Dr. C. Reid McLellan, executive director of the Groom Elite Program, a non-profit horsemen's education service that provides equine care courses to grooms,

owners and trainers.

The study guide covers every topic included in the national trainer's exam that has been provided to state racing commissions by the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit's Education and Licensing Committee. It also identifies the practical skills necessary to successfully complete the barn test portion of the exam.

The *Uniform National Trainer's Test Study Guide* is available for \$40 by contacting Cathy McNeely at (859) 224-2728 or cmcneely@jockeyclub.com.



Flu shots to be available free of charge

Dr. Harry M. Harris, medical director of the Backstretch Health Center, will be administering flu shots free of charge in the near future.

Details will appear in next month's newsletter.

The Backstretch Health Center is open in the Laurel Park track kitchen building on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Medical care is provided to backstretch workers and their families free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

IN MEMORIAM

Carroll Hiltner, a longtime owner/trainer, died on August 28. He was 78. Mr. Hiltner campaigned mostly homebreds from his Misty Hill Farm in Reisterstown and also operated Hiltner's Vanning company. He had been retired since 1993.

Lewis (Lew) Ruttengberg, an owner/trainer who maintained a claiming stable in Maryland for more than 50 years, died on September 7 at the age of 85.

Sallie Dinning, 75, who bred and trained horses at her Grandview Farm in Harford County many years ago, died on June 5.

Barry Sasser, a former jockey who worked for many years as a farm manager for Lucy Kessler and her late husband, trainer Elliott Kessler, died on August 19 at the age of 56.



Dr. Harry M. Harris, shown with Jose Reyes, works diligently to improve the general health of backstretch employees.

them confined.

1. Most important—Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands (using warm soapy water).
2. Hand sanitizers can help, but frequent hand washing is more effective than any product you can buy.
3. Cough and sneeze into your forearm, opposite your elbow—not into your hand.
4. Sneezes travel 100 miles per hour. You can't outrun them, so do your best to keep
5. Keep sanitizing creams and lotions in your work station.
6. Don't borrow anyone else's pens, keys or other personal items that can carry germs.
7. If someone in your work area has symptoms of illness, don't turn door knobs or touch other shared items with your bare hands. Use a napkin.
8. After washing your hands in the rest room, use the paper towel to open the door, and then discard it.
9. If you have symptoms of illness, stay home.
10. If people around you are showing symptoms of illness, wear a mask. Appearance should be the last thing on your mind.

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.

Basketball

Teams are forming now for the MTHA's basketball league to begin the second week of January at Meade High School in Laurel.

Call Mr. Mangum if you are interested in participating.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Linda Andrisani, David Butts, Robin Fulco, Gene Gilhooly, Phil Grove, Richard Hoffberger and Harry Kassap.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the
**Maryland Thoroughbred
Horsemen's
Association, Inc.**

6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;
(410) 265-6842;
Fax: (410) 265-6841;

E-mail: mdhorsemen@erols.com

Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com
The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through Dec. 19

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

Eastern Fall Yearlings Oct. 5, 6
December Mixed Dec. 6, 7

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

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

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall

Yearlings,
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Oct. 26-28

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected
Fall Mixed**,

Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 Nov. 9

Keeneland November Breeding Stock,

Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 Nov. 10-22

SEMINAR

"Fire, Water, Wind, and Ice: Equine Emergency Preparedness," MARE Center, Middleburg, Va., Oct. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Barn fires—how they start and how you should respond.
- Trailer safety—maintenance and common problems to avoid.
- Equine emergency kits—what you really need to have.

\$30 per person; (540) 687-3521, ext. 10; www.vaes.vt.edu/middleburg.



Backstretch Appreciation Day 2009

More than 300 backstretch employees and their families gathered on the grounds next to the white house at Laurel Park on Sunday, September 20, for the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day.

Pit beef and pulled pork, door prizes and d.j. music by Absolute Sound highlighted the festivities.

Special thanks go to caterer Russell Clark.

Winners of the door prizes included Allie



Russell and Aaron Clark (from left) manned the grill.



Participants included Rick Creel and Margaret Wetherington (foreground).



Tammy McBryer (left) and Betty Ropka.



Jade Charley-Delgado (left) and Tiffani Graffagnini.

CARMEN REYES (4)



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

September 2009

Thoughts and comment

Despite the current economy, individuals and groups within Maryland's racing industry have combined to make this one of the best years yet for the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund.

It's too soon to calculate a final figure, but I personally am amazed at the strong support that this program has received in what could have been a down year.

In addition to the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund—which have been a pillar of support for this program since the early 1990s—many others, including individual horsemen, have become important contributors.

Nearly every year has brought a new record. In 2008, the program awarded the

largest number of scholarships to date, with a total of \$27,500 divided among 24 backstretch and farm workers.

The 2009 winners will be announced at the MRMA Crab Feast on October 23 (see page 1) and profiled in next month's MTHA newsletter.

Paying for college is more difficult now than ever. Obviously, a lot of people within Maryland's racing community are aware of that fact—and they are willing to step up and do something about it. Their generosity reflects well on all of Maryland racing.

/David Richardson, President of Maryland Racing Media Association, which administers the scholarship fund

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

Christopher W. Grove

Arnold A. Heft

Timothy L. Keefe

Lawrence E. Murray

John J. Robb

Katharine M. Voss