



The Horsemen's Newsletter

July 2012

Vol. 22 • Number 6

Thoroughbred Horse Show Coming To Pimlico

The Maryland Jockey Club and Adena Springs will host the Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show on the Pimlico Race Course infield on Saturday, July 14. Admission is free. Proceeds from the event will benefit three local Thoroughbred aftercare programs.

The Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show is the brainchild of Georganne Hale, Maryland Racing Secretary and Stacie Clark-Rogers, manager of the Adena Springs Retirement program in Canada. Each horse will show under its Jockey Club name. The traditional show horse has its name changed often when it changes owners or circuits.

Some of the familiar names already entered are 19-time winner Outcashem and six-time stakes winner P Day, who earned nearly \$700,000 during his 57-race career, including a victory in the 2003 Baltimore Breeders' Cup Handicap-G3 at Pimlico.

"It is really important to see how Thoroughbreds can be utilized outside of racing," Clark-Rogers said. "Mr. and Mrs. Stronach (owners of Adena Springs and the Maryland Jockey Club) support this effort and want owners to be held responsible for finding an aftercare solution because Thoroughbreds are capable of doing all kinds of disciplines. We have programs at Gulfstream Park and Santa Anita and hope to change people's awareness by letting them know there are options to complete the circle."

"(P Day) was such a cool horse who was bred and trained by Charlie Hadry. He won races going long and short, on the main track and on the turf. He has had a great career as a show horse after

Continued on page 2

Expanded Gaming Workgroup Fails To Reach Consensus

The state's Workgroup to Consider Gaming Expansion, after numerous meetings, announced in mid June that it did not have a broad enough consensus to recommend moving forward with a special session to consider a sixth casino in Prince George's County, among other gaming changes.

Gov. Martin O'Malley, in forming the work group chaired by John Morton III after the gambling expansion debate engulfed much of the General Assembly's regular 90-day session this year, had said he would call a special session the week of July 9 if the panel reached consensus.

Though the workgroup did agree on many points - adding table games to the five already-authorized casino sites, transitioning ownership of slot machines from the state to operators, and establishing a state gaming commission - the debate over the sixth casino in Prince George's County, and whether or

not to lower the state's cut of slots revenues to accommodate it, proved to be too tough an issue for all 11 members to agree.

The vote to move forward with the group's recommendations was 8-3, with the three House members dissenting.

"We got stuck up on one issue, the issue of the sixth site and the tax rate," said District 13 Del. Frank Turner.

The tax rate Turner is referring to is the state's 67 percent cut on slots revenues, which it disperses among various funds, primarily the Education Trust Fund and the horse industry's Purse Dedication Account.

House members, including Turner, were willing to support the sixth casino under the condition that the 67 percent tax rate not be lowered.

Developers of National Harbor, the favored location for a Prince George's casino, said they would not be able to build a high-class facility without the state significantly lowering the tax rate, thus increasing the operators' share of revenues.

Continued on page 3





Secretariat's '73 Preakness Time Is A Record

In 1973, Secretariat won horse racing's Triple Crown and set records that still stand today in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. Now, 39 years later, the legend has been recognized as having also set a still-standing record in the Preakness Stakes.

The Maryland Racing Commission unanimously agreed at a meeting on June 19 that evidence shows Secretariat's Preakness time was faster than originally recorded and changed his time from 1:54 2/5 to 1:53 flat.

Penny Chenery, who owned Secretariat, made the request for the Commission to review the evidence.

The hearing lasted three hours and involved watching digital tapes and video overlays as well as listening to expert testimonies.

The controversy over Secretariat's time goes back to the 1973 race day.

The electronic timer at the Preakness recorded a winning time of 1:55 (one minute, 55 seconds). However, two independent clockers from the *Daily Racing Form* individually timed the race at 1:53 3/4.

Officials at that time admitted that there

were "extenuating circumstances" with the electronic timer's recording and changed Secretariat's official time to 1:54 3/4.

If Secretariat had indeed run the 1 1/4-mile (9.5-furlong) race in 1:53 3/4, as the *Daily Racing Form* timed, it would have broken the record at the time of 1:54 established by

Canonero II in winning the 1971 Preakness.

In later years, Tank's Prospect (1985), Louis Quatorze (1996), and Curlin (2007) each won the Preakness in 1:53 3/4, the stakes record that was officially previously recognized.

The Commission changed Secretariat's official time to 1:53 flat, meaning the then-3-year-old set an unmatched best in the race, the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Secretariat holds stakes and track records for the other two legs of the Triple Crown, as he won the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby-G1 in 1:59 1/2 and the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes-G1 in 2:24 by a staggering 31 lengths.

The Pimlico track record for the 1 1/4-mile distance remains with Farma Way, who recorded a time of 1:52 3/4 in the 1991 Pimlico Special.



News Clips

Stronach Group Names Rogers President, Ritvo COO of Racing

The Stronach Group has named Mike Rogers president and Tim Ritvo chief operating officer of its Racing Division, effective immediately.

"Mike Rogers and Tim Ritvo are recognized by the horse community as being the best in the business," Chairman Frank Stronach said. "It gives me great pleasure to appoint them to their new positions."

Rogers, who has worked in the racing industry for over 28 years, was previously vice president of The Stronach Group Racing Division.

Ritvo has been president and general manager of Gulfstream Park Racing and Casino since July 2011. A former jockey and then racing official at Suffolk Downs, he established himself as a Florida trainer in the 1990s.

Continued from page 1

retiring in 2005 and it will be fun to see him again," added Hale. "We also have many horses who were trained by Scott Lake, Hugh McMahon, Ann Merryman and Linda Gaudet. It will be interesting to see if many horses recognize the track."

There will be eight different classes during the day, with six ribbons awarded for each class and more than \$4,000 in prize money.

In Memoriam

Longtime Maryland trainer **Joseph W. Ayres Sr.** passed away on June 19 at the age of 88.

Beginning his training career in 1992, Joe conditioned horses at Pimlico until 2006. He leaves behind a wife of 69 years, Barbara B. Ayres, and four children, including current Maryland trainer Joseph W. Ayres Jr.

Benjamin J. Boniface, the 20-year-old son of Billy Boniface, died in an accident at Bonita Farm on June 18.

The Boniface family owns Bonita Farm in Darlington and bred 1983 Preakness and Haskell winner and existing Pimlico track record holder Deputed Testamony.



Recreation Report

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch, or made a monetary contribution: Gene Gilhooley, Jack Nimms, Jim Ford and Alfonso Griffith.

Softball

Softball pick-up games at Laurel Park are being held on Tuesdays through July. For information please call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Poker

A mock Texas Hold'em tournament is scheduled for Monday, July 23, at the Bowie Track Kitchen starting at noon.

Baseball Tickets

The next three winners of the Oriole ticket drawings were Libby Butts for July 12, Grady Sider for July 27, and Harley Foote for August 7. Every winner receives two box seats and a parking pass, valued at approximately \$125. Congratulations to all!

Note: There is one more drawing scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Laurel Kitchen. Winners will be notified immediately and posted on the board.

There is no need to sign up again if you signed up for either the Oriole or Baysox tickets. There are still a few Baysox tickets remaining. These will be given away on a first come first served basis.

The MTHA will have sponsored well over 275 free Baysox tickets this season.

Continued from page 1

It's unclear what rate the other members of the work group—three senators, four members of O'Malley's administration and chairman Morton—were looking to lower the tax to, but the House members weren't receptive.

"The tax rate was very difficult," Montgomery County Democrat Del. Sheila Hixson said, noting the state just raised taxes

on a large number of residents when it held a special session to increase income tax rates for six-figure earners.

Expansion of gambling, such as the sixth casino or the addition of table games, must receive voter approval. Without a special session, the next time these issues could be addressed is in the 2014 election, in which state legislators are up for re-election.

Rocky Gap Casino Moves Forward

The State of Maryland no longer owns the Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort near Cumberland.

Maryland's Board of Public Works voted on June 20 to sell the resort to the company which plans on building a slot machine casino adjacent to the existing hotel.

The resort was sold to Evitts Resort LLC of Minnetonka, Minn.

Earlier this year, the company was awarded the casino license for Rocky Gap, and as a condition of the license agreed to buy the resort for nearly \$9.8-million.

The company plans to operate up to 1,000 slot machines at the casino. It is scheduled to open late next year, and would be the fourth



casino to open in the state.

For the last 15 years, the resort was owned by the Maryland Economic Development Corp (MEDCO).

Under state ownership, the resort lost millions, and a number of lawmakers had argued the resort should be sold.

The state had trouble attracting a bidder for the casino license at Rocky Gap, because of its proximity to West Virginia, and because the state collects two-thirds of the revenue from the casino.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly voted to lower the state's take on the Rocky Gap site to 50 percent.



Calendar

Live Racing:

Timonium Aug. 24-Sept. 3



Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

Eastern Fall Yearling Oct. 1, 2

December Mixed Dec. 3

Out of State Auctions:

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Sale

Lexington, KY July 10

Fasig-Tipton New York Saratoga Selected Yearling Sale

Saratoga Springs, NY Aug. 6, 7

Fasig-Tipton New York Bred Yearling Sale

Saratoga Springs, NY Aug. 11, 12

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings

Ocala, FL Aug. 21-23

Keeneland September Yearlings

Lexington, KY Sept. 10-21

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

Fall Mixed Sale

Ocala, FL Oct. 16-18

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale

Lexington, KY Oct. 22-24

Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale

Lexington, KY Nov. 4-17

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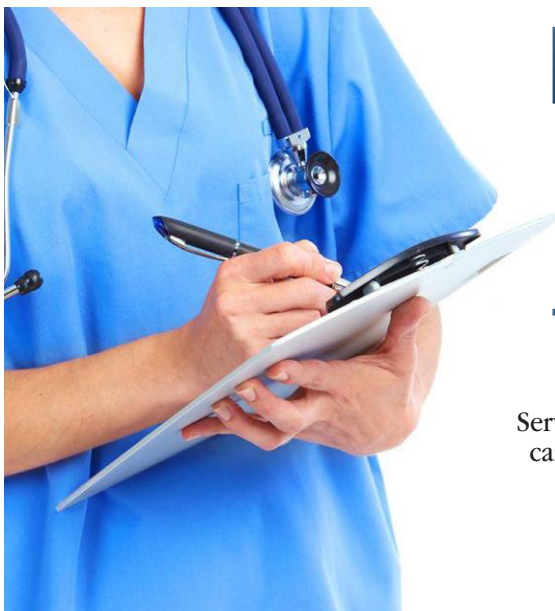
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The Horsemen's Newsletter

reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.



Free Health Fairs

Attention ALL Backstretch Employees, Assistant Trainers, Exercise Persons, Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable Foremen, Trainers, etc.

Tuesday, Sept. 4 • 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Bowie Track Kitchen

Tuesday, Sept. 11 • 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Laurel Park Recreation Room

Services include cholesterol, prostate, blood pressure, body fat composition, carbon monoxide and skin cancer screenings, massage therapy and more.

Note: 10-hour fasting is required for cholesterol tests. All results are confidential and will be sent to the address that you provide.

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MTHA

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July 2012

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Backstretch Appreciation Day

Food, fun and fellowship will highlight the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 9. The event will take place in the white house area adjacent to the paddock area.

Everyone's favorites will be served: pit beef and roasted pork, chicken and salads, catered by Russell Clark. Soda will also be provided.

Door prizes will be distributed.

All backstretch personnel and their families are invited to attend free of charge.

Backstretch Appreciation Day honors the unsung heroes of our industry.

Sunday, September 9 • 1-4 PM



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