



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

November 2013

Vol. 23 • Number 9

## Event For Injured Exercise Rider Deemed A Success

Over 300 horsemen generated upwards of \$30,000 while packing the Corner Stable Columbia Thursday, October 17 for a special event for injured exercise rider Jose Villegas. The entire proceeds from the event, which was hosted by the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund in conjunction with the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, are destined for a special fund established for the injured exercise rider's recovery.

"It was remarkable and heart-warming to see the incredible turnout of members of the racing community who wanted to help one of their own," commented MHA Executive Director Bobby Lillis. "Jose is a special person who was humbled by the support shown."

Villegas, a 43-year-old father of three from Hampstead, was recently seriously injured during a morning training session at Laurel Park. He was able to make a brief appearance at the event with his family by his side to thank supporters. Afterwards, he returned to Kernan Hospital in Baltimore County to continue his rehabilitation.

The MHA and MTHA wishes to acknowledge the following supporters for their assistance making the event a success: Fox Murphy Cassidy, Brenda Stacy, the Gaudet Family, Chip Reed, David and JoAnn Hayden, Tony Aguirre, Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, Clover-

*Continued on page 3...*



## MTHA Christmas Party

DECEMBER 7 • 6 P.M. – 10 P.M.

THE PARTY IS BACK ON!

## LAUREL PARK CARRIAGE ROOM

The Board of Directors of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association unanimously voted in early October to restore funding for the popular Horsemen's Christmas Party celebration to be held Saturday evening, December 7, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Laurel Park's Carriage Room.

The MTHA's Christmas party was last held in 2009 before uncertainties in available funding and live racing schedules forced its hiatus.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring back the Horsemen's Party for 2013," commented MTHA President Richard J. Meyer. "We originally promised to restore the event when we were on solid footing as an industry. While not 100% where we'd like to be, we are headed in the right direction and should see the 2014 racing schedule finalized very soon."

Dubbed *Maryland Racing's Party of the Year*, the MTHA Christmas party will feature a buffet dinner, an open bar and a dance floor with tunes provided by one of the area's top DJs.

Also making a return to this event is the Horsemen's Award ceremony to be held at the outset of the Christmas party. This is where outstanding members of the Maryland horsemen's community are recognized for their contributions to the Maryland back-stretch and to the industry as a whole.

Winners will be announced soon.

Tickets are \$40 in advance and can be purchased on race days in the MTHA race-track office at Laurel Park or by calling 410-902-6842.

Horsemen are urged to purchase tickets in advance.



## Calendar

### Live Racing:

Laurel Park ..... Now - Dec. 31



### Fasig-Tipton Auctions:

Midlantic December Mixed ..... Dec. 9

February Winter Mixed ..... Feb. 20



### Keeneland Auctions:

November Breeding Stock Sale ..... Nov. 5-14

January Horses of All Ages Sale .... Jan. 6-10

## In Memoriam

Donald D. Smith, the longtime jockey who won more than 1,500 races, has died at the age of 69.

Known as D.D., Smith began his riding career in the early 1960s and retired in 1989. He rode in 15,612 races and finished with 1,505 victories and more than \$4 million in total purses earned by his mounts.

He rode predominantly at Penn National, Charles Town, Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the

### Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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



## News Clips

### Lillis Recognized By Maryland Racing Media Association

Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund Executive Director Robert J. Lillis was presented a special award at the annual MRMA Crab Feast held October 26 at Laurel Park.

Created by MRMA President Ted Black, the *President's Award* was given to Lillis in recognition for his dedication to the advancement of backstretch issues in Maryland as well as the assistance he has provided to the media group for the past decade.

MRMA is responsible for the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund which awarded over \$23,000 at the event to students currently working in the Maryland racing industry.



### 139th Preakness Stakes Logo Revealed

The Maryland Jockey Club has unveiled the 2014 Preakness logo for the 139th running of the \$1 million Preakness® Stakes (G1). The middle jewel of racing's Triple Crown will take place May 17 at Pimlico.

For the 15th consecutive year, the Lefler Agency designed the official Preakness logo. The agency's creative branding division, BrandNU Marketing™, created the logo under the design guidance of senior art director Jeffrey Sewell.

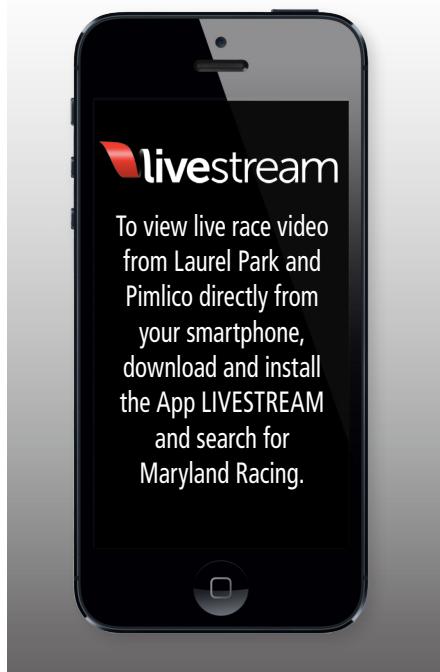


### Thoughts & Comments from page 4...

A crippling reduction such as this would severely hamper our program's ability to sustain the growth we are currently seeing and would encourage out of state horsemen to send their runners elsewhere, meaning shorter fields and possibly even reduced racing in the future.

We are encouraged by the news that construction of these new stalls at Laurel will begin soon, coupled with the replacement of a few older barns at Pimlico. We look forward to continuing to work with The Maryland Jockey Club as the two phases of the Laurel construction programs get under way. The plans are for 150 stalls to be built under each phase. These projects, along our dedicated horsemen, will help propel Maryland racing into a bright new future.

- Richard J. Hoffberger  
MTHA Director / Legislative Chair





## Attention Trainers:

All horses entered declaring the use of "FIRST TIME LASIX" must have written and veterinary signed recommendation on file with the Commission Veterinarian prior to entry.

It is the trainer's responsibility to comply with this regulation. Failure to do so will result in this entry being scratched at 9:00 a.m. on the posted scratch time.



## Rec Report

From Dan Mangum

### Thanksgiving Dinners For Backstretch Workers

The MTHA is again continuing its long-standing tradition of offering Thanksgiving dinners at Bowie and Laurel, this year on Thursday, November 28.

Carved turkey dinner, stuffing and all the traditional holiday fix'ins are served free of charge to all backstretch workers in the Bowie and Laurel track kitchens beginning at 8 a.m.

### Donations

The following generous people made donations: Petra Kapel, Ruth Picarello and Eugene E Gilhooly.

*Continued from page 1...*

leaf Standardbred Owners Association, Maryland Standardbred Breeders Association, Joe Sharp and Rosie Napranvik, Richard J. Hoffberger, Adena Springs, Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Vet Group, Harry and Tom Meyerhoff, Mike Trombetta, Milton Higgins, John Franzone, Wayne and Juanita Morris, Bill Reightler, The Jockeys Room and the entire Maryland racing community.

Those still wishing to contribute to the fund are urged to contact the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund office at 410-902-6843 or e-mail bobby.lillis@gmail.com.

## Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – October 10, 2013

**Members present:** Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, Christopher W. Grove, Richard J. Hoffberger, Michael F. Horning, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

**Members absent:** Howard M. Bender, H. Neil Glasser, Arnold A. Heft and R. Larry Johnson.

### Financial Report

The financial report for the period January 1, 2013 - September 30, 2013 was unanimously accepted as presented.

### Christmas Party

The Board unanimously authorized the funding of a Horsemen's Party to be held at Laurel Park during the holiday season of 2013.

### Thanksgiving Dinners

The Board unanimously approved the Thanksgiving Dinners at the track kitchens for Backstretch Employees.

### Jockey Worker's Compensation Insurance

The Board unanimously approved a nominal \$63.00 payment from the Thoroughbred Purse Account required to fully pay the 2013 premium for Jockey's Worker's Compensation Insurance.

### Voiding of Claims

The Board unanimously supported the MRC recommendation to void claims in the event that a claimed horse dies during a race or suffers an injury which requires the euthanasia of the horse as determined by a State Veterinarian.



A special thank you to the Maryland Jockey Club for their generous continued financial support of the Horsemen's Counseling Program.

## Barn Construction At Laurel Park Slated to Begin In November

Maryland Jockey Club officials have expressed to MTHA leaders optimism that the long awaited construction of new barns at Laurel Park will commence in mid-November.

Required by the 10-Year Deal struck between industry stakeholders last year, Maryland Jockey Club is to erect a minimum of 300 net new stalls at Laurel Park as part of a backstretch revitalization project designed to replace stalls lost by the impending shuttering of Bowie Training Center.

Terms of the agreement call for the first 150 net new stalls to be usable at Laurel Park before legislation will be sought to close Bowie.

The remaining 150 stalls will then be added to the project which is slated to be constructed across Brock Bridge Road from the current stable area.

MJC officials plan on a temporary crossing of Brock Bridge similar to Saratoga's Union Avenue crossing while a permanent tunnel is constructed for direct access to the new barn

area.

Currently there are 1,058 usable stalls at Laurel Park with an additional 984 stalls at Bowie. Once the Bowie Training Center closes, Pimlico's 665 stalls and dormitories will be made available for year-round stabling and training.

As of early November, the backstretch areas at Bowie and Laurel Park are operating at near capacity because of the influx of horsemen choosing to stable in Maryland because

Our Dedicated Backstretch Workers Can Enjoy A Free

# THANKSGIVING DINNER AT LAUREL PARK AND BOWIE

Compliments of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

Served In Both Track Kitchens: Laurel 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Bowie 8 a.m. - Noon



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

November 2013

STANDARD  
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## Thoughts & Comments

In an encouraging sign that our industry is headed in the right direction, as of early November, every one of the 2,042 accessible stalls at Laurel Park and the Bowie Training Center (including the Hacienda) is occupied with horsemen looking to take advantage of the competitive purses currently being offered during the Laurel Fall meet. Many of the stalls have been filled recently by horsemen shipping in from neighboring states, as their local programs close for the winter. One of our goals is to encourage them to stay in Maryland.

This positive development of renewed interest in the Maryland program further

underscores the long held position of the MTHA Board to insist on the construction of at least 300 new stalls at Laurel Park before supporting legislation calling for the closure of Bowie Training Center.

There are currently 665 usable stalls at Pimlico and 984 stalls at Bowie, which is a substantial and a significant differentiation. A simple trade, as still supported by a vocal minority, of opening Pimlico for year-round training in return for the closure of the Bowie Training Center would mean a net loss of 319 stalls available in the state.

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## Board of Directors

Richard J. Meyer, *President*  
Dale Capuano, *Vice President*  
W. Robert Bailes  
Howard M. Bender  
Christine E. Bricker  
Linda S. Gaudet  
H. Neil Glasser  
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