



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

December 2014

Vol. 24 • Number 10

## Carlos Garcia Retires From Training After 44 Years

Carlos Garcia has tried to slow down before. Two years ago, he said he was retiring as a trainer. He said he was hanging it up after the 2012 De Francis Dash. His horse Action Andy was running in that race, and Garcia hoped his training career would end on a positive note.

Action Andy did his part. He won. Garcia tried to do his. But he made a mistake. He kept a small string of horses. Before he knew it, he was back training.

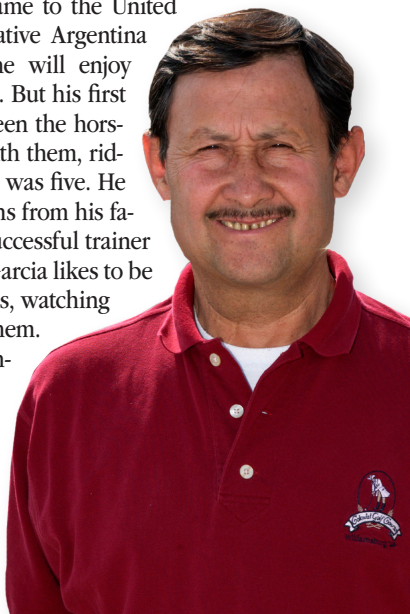
Now, he believes, he's done it the right way. No more racehorses on his farm. He's going to try being an agent for jockeys. He tried that two years ago, too. But the horses called him back.

It might have been expected. Garcia has sent 8,388 of them to post and won 1,354 times during the last 44 years. It was hard to let go.

"I'm going to try to stick with it [retirement]," Garcia said from his home near Tampa, Fla. "I've [got] no horses of my own now. Action Andy is being retired, too. My son and his girlfriend are going to give him a second career. Right now, he's enjoying some time off."

Garcia, who came to the United States from his native Argentina in 1964, hopes he will enjoy some time off, too. But his first love has always been the horses. He grew up with them, riding by the time he was five. He got his early lessons from his father, who was a successful trainer in Buenos Aires. Garcia likes to be around the animals, watching them, helping them. And he has compiled an impressive record as one of the little guys.

"I didn't have rich owners," he said. "I once



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## Deal Struck To Return Summer Racing in 2015

In the spirit of cooperation, the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Jockey Club reached an agreement in early November, which paves the way for summer racing to make its return in 2015 to Laurel Park for the first time since 2010.

The accord reached with MJC and approved by the Maryland Racing Commission on November 11, slightly modifies the terms of the much heralded 10 Year Agreement to allow MTHA the financial flexibility to purchase 11 live racing days in August which are in addition to days purchased in January, February and December.

The August session will allow for increased use of the Laurel turf course, which was rebuilt and widened in 2005. It will also guarantee summer racing in the region regardless of what the future holds for Colonial Downs in Virginia, which did not conduct a meet in 2014.

"We are extremely thrilled to have live racing return to Maryland in August," commented MTHA President Tim Keefe. "The long, unbearable summer break has been one of the chief concerns of our horsemen

for the past few years. Before now, we just haven't had the ability to bring August for a number of reasons. Track management and the MTHA realized horsemen have been clamoring to run in the summer and we worked together with MJC to make this a reality in 2015."

Under the 10-year agreement inked by the Maryland Jockey Club and the horsemen's association in late 2012, the MJC guarantees 100 days of racing per year. Horsemen must cover expenses associated with any added dates, and must buy the additional dates in monthly blocks. A total of 146 racing dates were scheduled in both 2013 and 2014.

In 2014, the horsemen paid for racing in the months of January, February, and March at Laurel.

Due to a compromise agreement between the Maryland Jockey Club and the horsemen for 2015, the horsemen will pay for the January and February dates and split expenses for August and December with the MJC.

"It behooves us all to have the best racing we can. We're all in this together," Keefe said.

# MTHA Honors Midwest Tbreds, Phil Schoenthal and Others

When the annual Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's Christmas Party returns to the Carriage Room at Laurel Park Monday, Dec. 15, the industry will glitter in the glow of the MTHA's award winners.

The outstanding owner award will go to Midwest Thoroughbreds – Karen and Richard Papiese – who had more starts and more winners in Maryland than any other owner; the outstanding trainer award will be presented to Phil Schoenthal, whose horse Miss Behaviour won the Miss Preakness Stakes on Black-Eyed Susan Day and also made her mark outside the state.

Backstretch workers of the year awards are given to men and women behind the scenes for their dedication and exemplary service to the industry. Three backstretch awards will go to Victor Garcia for his work at Laurel Park, Dottie Jones at the Bowie Training Center and Ronald Singh at Pimlico Race Course.

While owner Richard Papiese is self-deprecating, saying he doesn't know why Midwest Thoroughbreds deserves owner of the year honors, a look at the stable's achievements this year and during the past five years makes it easy to understand.

From a two-horse operation in 2001, the Papieses have built Midwest Thoroughbreds into one of the highest achieving stables in the business. They currently have five trainers around the country, including Jamie Ness, who trains about 40 horses for them at Pimlico.

If the numbers hold up, this will be the fifth consecutive year Midwest Thoroughbreds has won the most races on the continent. The star of their stable is homebred Work All Week, trained by Roger Brueggemann, who won the \$1.5 million Breeders' Cup Sprint at Santa Anita Park last month. Work All Week is a product of Midwest's breeding operation of about 40 broodmares.

"We are going to be part of what's going on in Maryland for a long time," Richard Papiese said. "If Maryland wants us, we're going to be there."

Schoenthal, the 2014 trainer of the year, also has been building an impressive body of work that has culminated in what owner/breeder JoAnn Hayden calls "a banner year" with Miss Behaviour. She's been watching Schoenthal ever since he bought a horse from the Haydens' Dark Hollow Farm about eight years ago.

"I happened to be at Saratoga the day [Miss Behaviour] was second in the Test,"

Hayden said. "I felt like, well, not a proud mother, because I don't have any connection in that way. But I felt like somebody I had watched for a long time had finally made it to the big time."

The Test was one of three major New York races for 3-year-old fillies (Victory Ride and Prioress were the other two) in which Miss Behaviour, a Pennsylvania-bred, finished second.

In Maryland, she won the Miss Preakness and in West Virginia she won the \$500,000 Charles Town Oaks, dominating by 9 ¾ lengths.

Schoenthal, who painstakingly plans for his horses futures, is described as a humble, inventive trainer. He has a program for feeding his horses in which he grows fodder in a shed next to his barn. And when he recently bought another filly from the Haydens, he didn't send her to a traditional thoroughbred trainer to be broken.

Instead, Schoenthal, with an eye to what might be, sent her to someone who does basic training for event horses and dressage horses, a process that will prepare her to be a good horse whether it's as a racehorse, a show horse or an eventer.

"Phil's a good human being," said Hayden, "and I think this is a good time for him."

Good humans are plentiful among award winners this year, including those on the backstretch.

Singh, who exercises horses for trainer Kieron Magee at Pimlico, was honored for leading fellowship meetings and helping anyone who needs help on the backstretch.

"The work he does is very, very valuable," trainer Linda Gaudet said. "He makes sure people get to the store and to the doctor. He sees that they have music, food, whatever – whatever anybody needs. ... Wherever he goes, he finds a way to help people."

Garcia, trainer Tim Keefe's assistant at Laurel Park, is another dedicated, conscientious provider of services.

"He's been working in my barn for 10 years," Keefe said. "He's the behind-the-scenes guy who helps me take care of everything. He takes care of all the loose ends so I never have to worry about a thing. He's very good not just with the horses, but also with all the people I employ. ... To say he's on time doesn't do it justice because he's always there."

And then there is exercise rider Dottie Jones. Everyone calls her "Little Dottie," said Gaudet, "because she's a petite wom-

an, very demure – a really, really good person. She's always got a smile on her face, will help anyone at any time. ... You never see her down. You never see her in a bad mood."

You will, however, often see her sprinting from barn to barn at the Bowie Training Center, as she hustles to exercise horses for all those who need her.

For more information on the MTHA's Christmas Party call the MTHA office at 410-902-6842 or purchase tickets online at [mdhorsemen.com](http://mdhorsemen.com).



## Rec Report

### Texas Hold'em

The next Poker Tournament will be held on Monday, January 17th at Bowie at 12:00 Noon. Everyone may sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

### Donations

The following generous people made donations of winter clothes and/or financial contributions: Gene Gilhooley, Francis Clements, Orvie Thummell, Phoebe Hayes, and Jack Adamecz. Thanks to all!

### Winter Clothes Drive

The MTHA is still seeking warm clothing, blankets, gloves, hats, etc for the cold winter months approaching. Please contact Dan @ 410-802-5798.

### Basketball League

Basketball starts in January at Meade High School on Sunday evenings. Anyone interested should contact Dan.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the  
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went to the sale at Keeneland and bought five horses for \$12,000. I think we only paid \$15,000 for Action Andy. When I started, I was living on bouillon soup. I had three horses I had bought for \$100 when I came to Maryland in 1970. One of them, Chimango was claimed for \$3,500. It was like I became a millionaire. I started with nothing. I've been very lucky."

Maryland trainer Larry Murray said Garcia has always had a strong work ethic.

"He was very diligent," Murray said. "He always had good help and took good care of his horses. All that effort and care came through. I've been next to him in the barns my whole training career at Laurel. He was a character, always had a joke, a great slant on life and had his hands on some very nice horses. We'll miss him here."

Garcia's horses won 14 graded stakes. The first of significance was the Grade 3 Barbara Fritchie Handicap with Donetta in 1976. The last was the 1992 Grade 2 Ladies Handicap with Brilliant Brass. In between there was the 1990 Grade 2 Cotillion Handicap with Valley Maid – who finished third in that year's Breeders' Cup Distaff – and there was another Barbara Fritchie in 1978 with Bold Brat, and three Grade 3 stakes wins with Squan Song, who Garcia views as possibly one of his best horses. He trained Fobby Forbes to a seventh-place finish in the 1986 Kentucky Derby.

All together, his horses won 146 stakes, \$25.9 million and made him a top 10 Maryland trainer for five years in the 1990s.

But, now, as an agent, he has taken on two jockeys, Rafael Mejia, a 21-year-old at the start of his career, and Jacinto Herrera, 42, who has won more than 3,600 races in Argentina.

"I'm at an age when it's time to move on," said Garcia, who asked not to reveal his age. "Right now, I'm retired, well, semi-retired. I spent yesterday at the track, walking around, introducing my jockeys. I like it here [in Florida]. I won't have to break the ice on the water buckets in the morning."

Still, Garcia is conflicted. He'd like to go back to training horses as a private trainer. He'd be happy to come back to Maryland, where he knows everyone, to do it.

"If the opportunity knocked . . .," he said. "All they have to do is call."

# Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – November 5, 2014 – TiPS Restaurant

**Members present:** Timothy L. Keefe (President), Linda S. Gaudet (Vice President), R. Larry Johnson (Vice President), Michael F. Horning (Treasurer), A. Ferris Allen, Dale Capuano, JoAnn Hayden, H. Graham Motion, Lawrence E. Murray, Charles J. Reed, Michael J. Trombetta and Katharine M. Voss.

**Members absent:** Christine E. Bricker, Ellen M. Charles and Robert T. Manfuso,

## New York

The Board voted 8 to 4 to fully endorse a recommendation letter for Rick Violette's candidacy for President of NYTHA, signed by MTHA President Timothy L. Keefe.

**Voting in favor:** Mr. Allen, Mr. Capuano, Mrs. Gaudet, Mrs. Hayden, Mr. Keefe, Mr. Murray, Mr. Reed and Ms. Voss.

**Voting against:** Mr. Horning, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Motion and Mr. Trombetta.

## Christmas Party

The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Awards committee to recognize Midwest Thoroughbreds as 2014 Outstanding Owner, Phil Schoenthal as 2014 Outstanding Trainer and Dottie Jones, Victor Garcia and Ronald Singh as Backstretch 2014 Workers of the Year.

## Aftercare Program

The Board voted unanimously to authorize the Aftercare Committee to distribute up to \$29,000 from the Purse Protection & Retirement program.

## Recreation Program

The Board unanimously to appropriate up to \$40,000, the same amount as in previous years, to extend the Recreation Program through December 31, 2015.

## Benevolence

Following established procedure, the Board unanimously approved up to \$65,000 in 2014 to fund the Benefit Trust, by which the MTHA provides health benefits to trainers and their spouses.

## Backstretch Pension

The Board voted unanimously to adopt resolutions to amend the Backstretch Pension Plan Document to permit participants, who have reached the normal retirement age, to receive disbursements from the plan and continue to work.

## Jockey Worker's Comp.

The Board voted unanimously to approve a contribution of up to \$1.2-million from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to fund the balance of the Jockey Worker's Compensation Insurance premium in 2015 over the amount collected by the Maryland Racing Commission from a \$100 license fee.

## Maryland Horse Council

The Board voted unanimously to renew its lifetime membership in the Maryland Horse Council and appoint Ms. Bricker as the liaison with this group.

## 2015 Race Days

The Board voted unanimously to purchase the months of January, February, August and December in 2015 from Maryland Jockey Club on the condition that the parties agree to a one-year revision of terms in the 10-Year Deal.

## 2015 Simulcasting Consent

The Board voted unanimously to grant its consent for the acceptance of interstate off-track wagers on the export of any live Maryland thoroughbred race to an out-of-state wagering facility and the import of any live race from an out-of-state track run from January 1, 2015 through and including December 31, 2015.



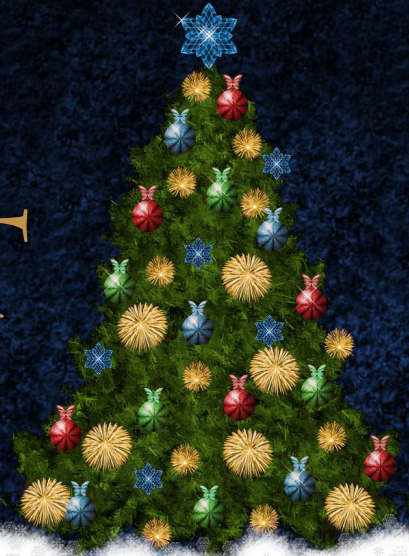
**MTHA**  
**Christmas Party**  
**& Toy Drive**  
**DECEMBER 15 • 6 P.M. – 10 P.M.**

Tickets are \$35 each or Two for \$50 – To Purchase visit [www.mdhorsemen.com](http://www.mdhorsemen.com), stop in the MTHA Office or call 410-902-6844

Our dedicated backstretch workers can enjoy a free

# HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Christmas morning at Bowie Training Center, Pimlico and  
Laurel Park track kitchens compliments of the Maryland  
Horsemen's Assistance Fund and the Maryland Jockey Club.



## MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105  
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**December 2014**

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## MTHA Announces Aftercare Program Grant Recipients

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's Aftercare committee has announced the winners of \$29,000 in grants for non-sanctioned Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) programs in the state.

The 2014 grant recipients are Foxy G Foundation, TRF Second Chances, Enchanted Haven Horse Rescue, Equine Rescue and Rehab and Days End Farm.

Each organization will be presented their grants at the MTHA Horsemen's Christmas Party on December 15.

Last fall the MTHA became a leader in the

effort to care for retired Thoroughbreds when its board voted to work with the TAA program. Maryland donates 50 percent of the funds its members raised for aftercare to TAA, while keeping the other 50 percent for Maryland farms that don't meet the TAA criteria. Over \$100,000 has been raised since the program's inception.

"Our goal is to get all our farms accredited by the TAA program. We like TAA because they do the accreditation. But we also want to support our local programs that are not presently qualified," said Committee Chair Christine E. Bricker.