



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

August 2017

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## First Horse To Beyond The Wire Takes Well To Retirement

The 4-year-old gelding D' Humerus, officially the first Thoroughbred to be admitted to the new Beyond The Wire aftercare program in Maryland, is taking very well to retirement from the racetrack, according to his new owner.

D' Humerus, a New York-bred son of D' Funybone, resides at Country Hill Farm, a Westminster, Md., facility operated by Marsha Herbert along with Jimmy Coles and Jessica and Dan Schindler. Herbert, a Hunter instructor with about 25 years of experience in horse shows, said D' Humerus has been a welcome addition.

"My two grandchildren love him—he's so well-behaved," Herbert said. "They take him out and graze him. They can groom him, too. He does have manners, and I'll think he'll make a nice show horse. He has a good head on his shoulders."

D' Humerus won once in 10 races—a maiden special weight event at Finger Lakes in upstate New York in September 2015 in his second career start. He ran his next eight races at Laurel Park in Maryland before his retirement.

Herbert, a former public school teacher who

*Continued on Page 2* ➔

## Backstretch Appreciation Day

Tuesday, September 19, 1-4pm • Tent Beside Laurel Park Grandstand • All Are Welcome

### All You Can Eat and Cash Prizes

The MTHA will celebrate the unsung heroes of the state's racing industry during its annual Backstretch Appreciation Day, which will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19.

The event, scheduled for 1-4 p.m., will be held under a tent on the racetrack apron at Laurel Park, which was the case last year.

The MTHA recognizes not only the hands-on care and attention backstretch workers provide racehorses on a daily basis, but also the unusual hours such jobs require. Family is a very important part of that equation, and the MTHA encourages workers to invite their family members for an afternoon of food, games, and cash giveaways.

The Maryland Jockey Club last year began offering cash prizes to Backstretch Appreciation Day attendees and will do so again this year. Plans call for \$2,500 in

cash to be awarded along with various door prizes.

Similar to last year, Russell Clark Catering will prepare an all-you-can-eat barbecue featuring chicken, pit beef and ham, as well as a variety of salads and side dishes and non-alcoholic beverages. The MTHA again has arranged for a DJ from Carlyle Entertainment to provide the sounds for the afternoon party.

If you're looking for a little exercise other than dancing, adults and children will be welcome to play horseshoes, cornhole and other games.

The Board and staff of the MTHA encourages all to attend to celebrate the work and dedication of those who work with our equine athletes on a daily basis throughout the year.





## MTHA Members—Check Your Mailboxes

Ballots for the MTHA's 2017 election for the Board of Directors were mailed in mid-July to all MTHA members which consist of all currently licensed owners and trainers as of May 31, 2017.

In order for a ballot to be counted, it must properly completed and received (**NOT POSTMARKED**) no later than August 15.

All 15 directorships are up for election in 2017. Directors will be elected to a three-year term that begins in September.

Results will be announced in mid-August on [mdhorsemen.com](http://mdhorsemen.com) and will appear in the September newsletter.

All ballots were mailed from and will be returned to a third-party company which specializes in corporate and non-profit elections. The MTHA office will not be able to accept completed ballots. The third-party election services company will count ballots electronically and certify the results.

## MTHA Poker Tournaments

The MTHA Recreation Program holds mock Texas Hold 'em tournaments twice a month in the new Recreation Room at Laurel Park. The next tournament will be held Aug 7 at Noon. Come join the fun and meet a few new friends. Call Marty for info at 203-733-1367.



## Timonium State Fair Meet Receives Boost

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association board of directors in late June approved a plan to assist the Maryland State Fair at Timonium in increasing overnight purses during its seven-day meet.

Officials associated with racing at the Maryland State Fair asked the MTHA board to consider several things, including "purse parity" for the Timonium meet. The MTHA settled on a compromise that would increase average daily purses at the fair meet to \$185,000 a day—last year the average was about \$160,000—and add a stakes to the meet.

State fair officials soon after announced the name of the stakes—the Coalition, in honor of the groups that have worked together to re-energize Maryland racing. The purse for the stakes, for 3-year-olds and up at 6 1/2 furlongs, will be \$75,000 with another \$25,000 offered for Maryland-bred or -sired entrants. Fasig-Tipton will pay \$10,000 to the winner if the horse is a Mid-Atlantic sale graduate.

The \$20,000 trainer bonus for the Timonium meet also will continue this year.

Timonium "owns" the Maryland racing network for 10 days during which the Purse Dedication Account earns revenue from casino video lottery terminals. Live racing is

scheduled for seven days: Aug. 25-27 and Sept. 1-4.

Bill Marlow, an attorney for the Maryland State Fair, discussed the history of the Timonium facility and how the fair attracts potential horseracing fans during its run.

"Only the quality of racing at Timonium will ensure the future of racing at Timonium," Marlow said. "We want to fill our races."

Bill Reightler, a member of the Maryland State Fair board, said an effort is underway to introduce more fair attendees to the grandstand on racing days as well as improve the overall racing experience.

"Timonium wants to be part of the renaissance we are seeing in Maryland and we want to be a good partner," he said. "This is a great thing you've done (by increasing purses). We can take this back to the board and it will give us more ammunition to do things."

The Coalition Stakes is scheduled for Aug. 26, the first Saturday of the meet. Purses for maiden special weight races will increase to \$35,000, only \$5,000 less than the \$40,000 paid at Laurel Park. For Sept. 2-3 the condition book contains \$50,000 allowance races for 2-year-olds and 2-year-old fillies; the 30% Maryland-bred bonus applies.

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## Rec Report

### Soccer League

The soccer league will be beginning in August. Get your teams together and have your full rosters turned in to Marty Leonard. Call 203-733-1367 if you have any questions.

### Fall Golf Tournament

The next Golf outing will be held at Compass Pointe Golf Course on Monday, Sept 18th. Please mark it down on your calendars and call Marty Leonard at 203-733-1367 for further details.

### MTHA Express Van Service

The MTHA is sponsoring a Van service for employees on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The service includes transportation for shopping, pharmacy, lunch, movies, doctor and dentist appointments, etc. You must sign up in the Laurel track kitchen each week for the service. For information please call Dan at 410-802-5798.

### Poker Tournament Results

We are now having Poker Tournaments twice a month on the second and fourth Monday of every month.

TJ Aguirre won the tournament on July 24 with Tony Aguirre coming in second and Tim Walsh coming in third.

For more information, please contact Marty Leonard at (203) 733-1367.



## News Clips

### Assistance Foundation Receives Grant

Thoroughbred Charities of America has awarded a grant to the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Foundation Inc., the organization that provides extraordinary benefits to backstretch employees in need.

TCA distributes grants to several categories of Thoroughbred industry related non-profits including rescue, rehabilitation and adoption organizations, as well as education and backstretch programs.

### MTHA Clothing Drive

The MTHA Clothing Drive makes necessary clothes, shoes, books, winter coats, etc available to backstretch workers in need at Laurel Park via a distribution center open seven days a week in the Laurel track kitchen.

Two collection bins are easily accessible for donations at Laurel Park located in front of the stable gate and at the horsemen's entrance to the track.



### Beyond The Wire Continued

now is a member of the Carroll County Board of Education, said Country Hill regularly takes horses from the Foxie G Foundation, a Union Bridge, Md., farm that is accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and is one of two Maryland farms and two Pennsylvania farms that work closely with Beyond The Wire. D'Hummer was sent to Foxie G, which is operated by Laurie Calhoun, upon his retirement from the track.

"I'm very good friends with Laurie, who told me she had a very nice horse who had been off the track for about 10 days," Herbert said. "I looked at him and decided to take him. I think he's going to do very well."

Herbert, who has been working with horses

for decades, said she enjoys working with and retraining retired Thoroughbreds and fully recognizes the need for aftercare.

"Thoroughbreds are wonderful," she said. "If you get a good one, you can't beat them. These guys are seasoned; they know what they're doing. And they need second chances."

Beyond The Wire, which was launched in May, is a partnership among the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, owners, and the local riding colony. As of late July, about 15 racehorses have been accepted into the program, which facilitates their transfer to accredited farms for rehoming or retraining in other disciplines.



MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

## Fantasy Horses Have Earned More Than \$700,000

They may not be stakes-caliber horses, but the 40 or so members of the Fantasy Ownership Challenge have done pretty well for themselves as a group. And there's still five months to go.

From March 18, the day the Challenge began at Laurel Park, through the last week in July, total purse earnings for the contest horses exceeded \$707,000, according to the official standings compiled by Equibase. They have won 29 races combined at tracks in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

The Challenge, which includes purse money earned at any racetrack, runs through Dec. 31. The three partners in Fantasy Owners Day—the MTHA, Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Horse Breeders Association—put up \$50,000 in prize money that will go to the "fantasy owners" of the top five horses by contest earnings.

Most horses have three owners. As announced March 18, winners will split the following: \$30,000 for first, \$10,000 for second, \$5,500 for third, \$3,000 for fourth, and \$1,500 for fifth.

The standings as of July 29 were headed by Andrew Sulley's Yes Mz Adah, who shipped from Parx Racing in Pennsylvania to Laurel March 18 to compete in one of six overnight races that made up the Challenge. The 4-year-old filly finished sixth that afternoon and returned to her home base.

Yes Mz Adah was claimed by Sulley for \$12,500 April 22 at Parx and, now trained by Patricia Farro, rattled off three consecutive victories. She has earned \$64,070 since March 18 and is the only horse to have three wins since the Challenge started.

Gunpowder Farms' Indian Paint, who had the standings lead after she won a two-horse, off-the-turf allowance event at Delaware Park June 24, sat in second with a bankroll of \$55,620. Trained by Kelly Rubley at Fair Hill Training Center, the 4-year-old filly has won twice since March 18.

Next in line with \$47,852 is another one-time leader, Danny Limongelli's Flight Crew, who won a \$52,000 allowance race at Pimlico Race Course in May. Trained by Hugh McMahon, Flight Crew, at 4-year-old colt who was claimed for \$10,000 in Kentucky last year, has two Challenge wins, the other having coming on the first day at Laurel.

Joan Everett's 4-year-old Maryland homebred filly Participate moved to fourth in the standings with a second-place finish at Laurel July 28. Trained by Jason Egan, Participate, who also won March 18 at Laurel, now has contest earnings of \$44,543.

The top five is rounded out by Triple Tree Stable's Claravoyant, a Mary Eppler trainee who broke out on top March 18 with a victory in a \$50,000 maiden special weight event. She has finished third three times in four subsequent starts and has \$38,730 in contest earnings.

The first 4 ½ months of the Challenge have shown that a lead in the standings can be short-lived. Expect things to tighten up through the summer and into the fall.

A Fantasy Owners Day seminar attracted a few hundred participants. Some have already invested in racehorses while others have met industry professionals numerous times to discuss plans and get advice for future investments.



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**August 2017**

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**Monday, September 18, 2017**  
**Compass Pointe Golf Club**

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- 18-Hole Tournament with Cart
- Two Drink Coupons with Prizes
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