



The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association May 2009 Newsletter

2009 Harness Racing Racing Dates

Lebanon Raceway

Feb 20-May 3

(Friday & Saturday)

April 26 & May 3 (Sunday)

May 16 & 17, June 6 & 7

(Saturday & Sunday)

Northfield Park

January 2-December 30

Raceway Park

April 18-October 11

(Saturday & Sunday)

July 10-August 28

(Fridays)

Scioto Downs

May 8-September 19

May 25, July 4 & Sept 7

(Matinees)

May 13 & 20, June 3, 10 & 17

(Wednesdays)

May 14-August 22

(Thursday-Saturday)

August 28-September 19

(Friday & Saturday)

OHHA Track Reps

Tom Blankenship
Lebanon & Scioto

Amy Hollar
Northfield Park

Kim Marts
Raceway Park



General Manager's Report for May 2009

HORSEMEN: BECOME PROACTIVE TODAY!

Expanded Gaming Update: There is the possibility of three separate gaming issues that could become enacted this year, as we go to press with this newsletter on April 22, 2009. The first is the Constitutional Amendment for four casinos (located in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus & Toledo), which would go to the ballot in November. The second is the Ohio State Racing Commission's (OSRC) proposal to "Save Ohio Racing." The third is the Ohio Licensed Beverage Association's (bars and restaurants) hope to piggyback onto a bill with the OSRC's proposal.

Here's What We Know Today: The OSRC's proposal to "Save Ohio Racing" is being prepared in bill form and will be introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives by Louis Blessing (R) Cincinnati and by Todd Book (D) McDermott, as a stand-alone bill, possibly this week. It was hoped the proposal would be included as an amendment to a Budget Bill (HB1) but that will not happen. However, included in the Budget Bill is the following language: "The Director of Budget and Management shall study the economic viability of tracks where permit holders conduct live horse racing. Not later than 30 days after the effective date of this section, the director shall prepare a report that includes the findings resulting from the study and that makes recommendations regarding ways to ensure the economic viability of tracks. The director shall transmit a copy of the report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate." The Ohio Licensed Beverage Association's plan to be included with the OSRC proposal in the House bill is very unlikely. Governor Ted Strickland has stated that he would likely veto any bill for expanded gaming which the legislature proposed to him, but he did leave the door open by using the word "likely" and the House is moving forward at this time.

What You Can Do: It is imperative that everyone involved in the Ohio horse racing industry continue to contact the Governor's office, their state Representative and Senator, and ask them to support the Ohio horse racing industry! You can call, write or e-mail these people. There is contact information for them on the OHHA web site, as well as topics to cover when speaking or writing to them. *(continued on page 2)*

2009 P.A.C.E.R Contributions

Now is the critical time for everyone to contribute to our PACER fund. PACER (Political Action Committee for Equine Racing) helps to fund our legislative efforts in our efforts to garner expanded gaming at Ohio's racetracks that would positively affect the horse racing industry in this state. Please donate today by sending a personal check or money order (*corporate checks are unacceptable for PAC fund donations*) to: P.A.C.E.R., 800 Michigan Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215-1166. Please include your employer and nature of business information as well. *All P.A.C.E.R contributors are listed on the OHHA web site at www.ohha.com.*

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Ohio Farm Bureau Endorsement: The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation State Board endorsed the OSRC's proposal, which provides another important affirmation to bring to the legislature. All OHHA members are now encouraged to become OFBF members immediately, so you can contact the Governor's office and your state legislators as a dual member of both the OHHA and OFBF.

Remember: All state legislators listen more to the people who can vote for them than they listen to lobbyists. The passage of a bill to allow up to 2,000 Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) through the Ohio Lottery Commission, at each of the seven Ohio racetracks is still a possibility and our industry must make this opportunity a reality. Therefore, everyone in the Ohio horse racing industry (owner, trainer, driver, veterinarian, feed dealer, tack dealer, blacksmith, racetrack employee or other capacity) should contact the Governor's office and state legislators now and continue to contact them until the legislation has been enacted and becomes law!

The Skinny: The language for a Constitutional Amendment for four casinos in Ohio has been approved and the Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee (Penn Gaming and Cleveland Cavalier's owner Dan Gilbert) can begin to collect signatures to have the amendment placed on the November ballot (over 400,000 valid signatures are required). Remember, this amendment provides no money for the State of Ohio: the casino operators would retain 67% of the net revenue and the Ohio State Racing Commission would receive 3% of the 33% tax to distribute to the horse racing industry. This would be an effective rate of 1% to divide between the seven Ohio racetrack operators, horsemen's purse pools, Standardbred Development Fund, Thoroughbred Development Fund, the Ohio Fairs Fund, and the OSRC operating fund. This amount of revenue would not put Ohio on a level playing field with our surrounding states. Check our web site often at www.ohha.com for updates.

Opening Night: Raceway Park's opening night on Saturday, April 18 was very successful. On a very beautiful night, weather-wise, there was a large crowd in attendance and the handle on live racing was up \$12,594, compared to the same day in 2008. Raceway Park General Manager Bill McLaughlin and new Director of Racing Anthony Clark and Publicity Director John McNamara have put together very good racing and promotional plans for this season.

Congratulations: Ohio native David Miller recently scored career driving victory 9,000. The 44-year-old Miller ranks 11th on the all-time list of career wins and fifth in the all-time career purse earnings (with over \$121 million) among all North American drivers. Congratulations to David as he continues to make Ohio proud!

Reminder: Ohio is testing for anabolic steroids and the penalty phase (Class III violation) began April 1, 2009. Thus far this year, seven positives for anabolic steroids have been reported to the Ohio State Racing Commission. If you acquire a new horse that has been racing out of Ohio and the state where the horse has been racing is not testing for steroids, you must be careful and allow enough time to pass (over 60 days) to avoid a potential positive test. If you have questions, contact me at the OHHA office or the Ohio State Racing Commission at 614-466-2757.

OHHA General Manager



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The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association May 2009 Newsletter

2009 Ohio Matinee Dates & Information

Date (rain)	Location	Sponsor	Post Time	Entry Fee	Photo Finish	Chart Lines	Trophies	Call in Dates & Phone Numbers
5/16 (5/23)	Seneca Co. Fairgrounds	Senenca Co HHA	Noon		No	No	Yes	5/14 noon to 4 pm 419-443-0432
5/15 (6/7)	Mahoning Co. Fairgrounds	Canfield HHA	12:30	\$15	Yes	Yes	Yes	5/14 8am-2 pm Joan Day 330-718-5210 & 330-549-2772
5/17 1134	Delaware Co. Fairgrounds	Delaware Matinee Club	11 am	\$20		Yes	Blankets	5/11 & 5/12 8am-2pm Jo Pollock @ 740-207- 740-362-6465
5/24	Mt. Gilead	Morrow Co. HHA	1 pm	\$15			Blankets	5/19 & 5/20 9am-Noon, 5-7pm Cindy Feasel 419-210-0568 Jim Lupton 419-946-1906
5/24 (5/25)	Darke County Fairgrounds	Darke Co. HHA	1 pm	\$20			Blankets	5/20 & 5/21 3-7pm Speed office 937-548-9977
6/6 (6/7)	Celina	Mercer Co. HHA	1pm	\$10		No	Yes	6/4 9am-3 pm Speed office 419-586-5820
6/7	Delaware Fairgrounds	Delaware Co. HHA	11am	\$25	Yes	Yes		6/1 & 6/2 8-10am & 4-6pm 740-272-8541 and 6/3 9am-Noon 740-972-4755
6/21	Richwood Fairgrounds	Richwood Matinee Club	1pm	\$25	No	No	Blankets	6/18 8am-5pm 740-360-5892 Kathy Pfeister



Dr. H.M.Parshall Memorial Futurity--Payment Reminder

Yearling nominations for the Dr. H.M.Parshall Memorial Futurity #58 to be raced at Greenville, Ohio in 2010 are due May 15, 2009.

The fee is \$15 to nominate your 2009 yearling.

Please include the yearling's name, sire & dam, sex & gait, nominator's name, address, phone number and e-mail, owner's name & social security numbers. Send payment & information to:

Judith F. Foureman, Secretary, 201 West George Street, Arcanum, Ohio 45304 Call 937-692-5755 or e-mail judyf@woh.rr.com

Harness Horsemen's Health & Retirement Plan 2009 Closing Date--June 1, 2009

Drivers, Trainers, Caretakers and Breeding Farm employees, who are eligible, may sign up for the Harness Horsemen's Health & Retirement Fund from January 1 until June 1 of each year. If you have signed up in the past, you do not need to sign up again.

However, if you have previously signed up in one category and no longer meet the eligibility requirements of that category, you may want to contact the OHHA field representative at your track or contact the HHHRP office to make sure that you are receiving contributions. For example: you may have signed up as a trainer/driver and are now working as a caretaker and thus, would not now be getting a contribution OR you signed up as a caretaker but are now training, and as well would not be receiving a contribution.

Eligibility requirements for each category are as follows:

DRIVERS or TRAINERS: Must have a current license from the Ohio State Racing Commission, 75 drives or 75 programmed training starts per year are required at Ohio commercial tracks and/or Ohio County Fairs. Drivers and trainers accounts receive \$1.50 per eligible drive or trianing start with a minimum of 75 and a maximum of 400 drives or trainer starts per year.

CARETAKERS and BREEDING FARM EMPLOYEES: Caretakers must have a current license from the Ohio State Racing Commission & breeding farm employees must be employed by a qualified Standardbred breeding farm within the borders of the state of Ohio. The farm must be standing one or more Ohio registered stallions serving ten or more registered mares on a physically existing Ohio Standardbred farm. Farm employees qualifying for this program must be full time employees with two years full time employment earning a minimum of 75% of their reported annual income from the breeding farm. W2s can and may be requested to verify eligibility. Caretakers must have two years full time employment and earn 75% of their reported annual income grooming in the harness raicng industry. W2s can and may be requested to verify eligibility. Caretakers and breeding farm employees receive a \$200.00 contribution per year to their account.

For information contact Shirley McCarter, Administrator at 614-221-3023 or (800) 353-6442.



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