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Cover photo: Fall 2016 with Stardust Memories on the backtrack at Northfield. Submitted by Rachel Kaneoka.
From Your Executive Director
Reneé Mancino

Out of Competition Testing

The OHHA has provided testimony on several important medication and testing initiatives under review and pending in Ohio. The initial commentary provided to the Ohio State Racing Commission on proposed R.C. 3769.09 on Out of Competition Testing was in October’s Newsletter. Following OHHA Medication and Testing Committee Meetings and additional Ohio State Racing Commission Hearings, the OHHA Supplemented that Testimony with the text that follows. Proposed R.C. 3769.09 as a medication and testing consideration and query continues in the coming months with the Ohio State Racing Commission investigating all aspects of Medication and Testing in Ohio. As testimony is provided we will update Members via our publications in the coming months on these important initiatives. As always, we look forward to your comments and input as these items are brought to your attention!

The OHHA fully supports equine drug testing and the wisdom of out-of-competition testing, however any regulation must be fair and reasonable to all concerned and geared towards the big picture goal. To detect and prevent illicit substances (that industry scientists say cannot be detected in traditional post-race testing) from being administered to a horse leading to unfair performance enhancement in a race.

The OHHA provided oral commentary on April 24, 2017 with written comments supplied post-meeting. With the assumption that the Ohio State Racing Commission will seek the necessary amendments to the Revised Code and Administrative Code, which would permit Out-of-Competition Testing in Ohio, the OHHA incorporates those comments by reference and supplements those comments with substantive items after additional meetings conferring with the OHHA Medication and Testing Committee, Board, and practicing standardbred racetrack veterinarians.

1. A Prohibited Substance List clearly defining what is being tested for and differentiating between “use” and “possession”.
   a. Implementation of an environmental contaminates standard.

2. The Class of Horse that can be tested should include only those that are training with trainers licensed in Ohio and qualified to race. Slightly different rules “bifurcating” out-of-competition testing rules among the different racing Breeds. Bifurcation would more reasonably relate the Rules to the intended purpose of detection and prevention leading to unfair performance in each racing breed.

3. The testing locations should be those specific locations that are currently licensed by the Ohio State Racing Commission, under their jurisdiction, and active at the time the test is required. That would extend to either the Northern or Southern racetrack location conducting a live racing meet.
   a. Sample designation is done by the Racing Commission Veterinarian randomly.
   b. Sample collection shall be done by the Racetrack Spit Box Veterinarian in the controlled location during racing hours. The same protocols and procedures currently in place for sample collection, tagging, securing, chain of custody should be used. No Vet Techs.
   c. Testing window provided should be at least 48 hours to give horsemen adequate time to comply. Provide for out of their control, “Act of God” intervening circumstance safe harbors. For example, if the window is to deliver the horse within 48 hours and three feet of snow come down, there should be a re-testing period provided and no penalty shall attach due to the intervening “Act of God”.

4. Test Samples should be limited to the type and scope of those permitted under race day testing, which includes blood, urine, and TCO2. Split Sample Rules and Procedures Apply.

5. Horses that are tested out-of-competition should be required to be re-tested as a “special” on their next racing night if they don’t finish in a position that would result in being tested.

6. All horses claimed should be tested.

The details provided are a more specific framework that would enable Ohio to be an industry leader in Out-of-Competition Testing. The OHHA is happy to work with the rest of the industry stakeholders to reach a consensus on how to bring this important initiative to fruition for the health, safety, and welfare of our equine participants and the integrity of the sport.

1 We question the validity of this statement because it presumes that post-race testing is not rationally related to its intended purpose, which is disconcerting and the potential topic for another legal comment on that potential legal challenge, however it is a widely-held industry opinion used as justification for OCT.
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Contact Regina Mayhugh at rmayhugh@ohha.com or by calling the office at 614-221-3650.

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Thank you to those who shared in 2017!

Looking forward to 2018!
Fun with Standardbreds!

Super Fans Visit Ohio Fairs
by Regina Mayhugh

Joe and Fran Darmofal are super fans of Ohio harness racing! Neither of them own race horses, but they have traveled to more fair races this season than probably many horsemen. They enjoy traveling the fairs to watch harness racing and this year they have attended thirty fair race days (at twenty-five different Ohio fairs and one in a fair in Michigan).

Why does this couple do so much traveling just to watch harness racing? They do it for the fun and entertainment. They started going to fairs to watch the races years ago when their friend Gordon Witty, from the Oak Harbor area raced. They also watched him race in a championship race at Toledo Raceway. Gordan passed away about ten years ago, but the couple continued following harness racing.

This year they decided that each year they would add new fairs to the travel list. New this summer were Mt. Gilead, Croton and Delaware. Joe shared that they enjoyed watching their first Jugette too! He said Croton is now the farthest they have traveled from their home on the Ohio/Michigan border in Sylvania, Ohio (a suburb of Toledo). Next year their goal is to attend Marysville, Marion and Lancaster. They enjoyed following Carmensdaleyapple, who won at every fair he raced this summer. “I don’t bet on the race he is in”, shared Joe, as he didn’t want to jinx his luck by adding the bet.

When Joe and Fran are not watching harness racing at the fairs, they are attending autocar races. They sponsor race cars and Joe says they can watch both car and harness races because most of the car races are at night or on the weekend, allowing them to fill their days during the week with harness racing.

Joe and Fran also attended the Ohio Fairs Championship race at Northfield Park. Joe shared that he prefers going to fair races versus pari-mutuel as he enjoys the fair atmosphere, but he had to come to Championship Night to finish out the fair racing season. Fans like Joe and Fran are greatly appreciated! As horsemen, be sure you reach out to anyone you can to share your sport. You just never know, the next super fan may be someone who follows your horses to the track!

Harness Horse Fan Celebrates 97th Birthday at Dayton Raceway!

World War II veteran and long time horse fan, Leonard Shaffner was surprised by family and friends with a birthday party to celebrate his 97th birthday at Hollywood Dayton Raceway on October 21st.

He was treated to a starting gate ride with Mike Woebkenberg. Dayton drivers then gave him a patriot greeting following his ride.

Photo by Conrad Photo
Ohio Track Updates

Rosemary Rose Wins $120,000 Courageous Lady At Northfield Park
by Ayers Ratliff

The Burke Brigade has finished first and second many times, but few of those times have resulted in a $433 Exacta. However, that was the result of the October 14th $120,000 Courageous Lady at Northfield Park when Rosemary Rose and Pittstop Danika crossed the line first and second.

Rosemary Rose was driven by Mike Wilder and sat sixth through the opening lap with fractions of :26.4 and :55. She pulled third over and found herself three wide the final 3/8 of the mile. She struck the lead approaching the top of the stretch and bested her competition by 1 ¾ lengths in 1:53.

“I love this filly,” admitted Wilder. “She might have been a longshot on the board, but I always thought she had a big chance.”

Ron Burke, harness racing’s leading trainer, conditions Rosemary Rose for owners Burke Racing Stable, Jason Melillo and Weaver Bruscemi LLC. The victory is Burke’s fourth win of this event in the last five years, scoring with Charisma Hanover in 2013, Fiyonce in 2014 and Sassa Hanover in 2015.

“I knew she would be ready, Ronnie (Burke) has them ready for every dance,” said Wilder. Completing the field were Pittstop Danika, Bettor’s Up, Terrortina, Bourbon And Barley, Ella Christina and Big City Betty. Al-Mar-Got A Fever was scratched sick.

Rosemary Rose (Foreclosure N-Pantathion-The Panderosa) now has 11 wins in 24 lifetime starts. This victory increased her career bankroll to $231,292. She returned $20.60 to win.

Congratulations to the October Groom Appreciation Winners!

Jordan Hanners (top) has been employed by the Ater Farm for five years. “Jordan takes a proprietary interest in every horse she cares for. Her sincere interest to win and her kindness toward the horses is second to none,” shared Jack Froschauer, an owner in Ater Stable.

Melissa Mueller (bottom) works at Northfield Park and Eldorado Scioto Downs for Marty Wollam. She started working for Wollam in 2001. ”Missy has worked for me for over 15 years now and has always been invaluable to my stable. She currently takes care of 10 horses and in the 15 years she has worked for me she has never missed a day of work and has taken very few vacations. I can always rely on her to have her horses ready to perform whenever they go to post,” shared Wollam. “Over the years Missy has groomed many Sire Stakes winners, Sire Stakes Champions and Horse of the Year nominees.”

Reminder Trainers/Owners:

Don’t forget to nominate your grooms for the OHHA Groom Appreciation Awards awarded throughout the year.

Nomination forms can be found on the website at www.ohha.com/groom-appreciation-award or from the OHHA track reps.
Ladies Pink-out at Northfield Park
by Emily Hay

Northfield Park had a big night of racing on October 14th. Not only did they host The Courageous Lady Pace they also hosted the Susan G Komen Pacing For The Cure race for the 3rd year in a row. Nine lady drivers were invited to come up and drive. Ayers Ratliff has taken this race under his wings by finding horses for the girls if they need one, making sure they all know to “pink-out” the horse for the special race, invited them to the winners circle after the race and had flowers handed out. While he was busy announcing the races that night, he still found time to accommodate the ladies.

Christina Evans, Jayne Weller, Renee Bauslaugh, Mary Birkhold, Ulrika Fox, Rosy Weaver, Hannah Miller, Rachel Kaneoka and Emily Hay battled it out for the win. Some of the ladies in the mix had been driving together at the Ohio Fairs this summer so they had a better idea of each others driving styles. These ladies don’t drive as often, especially on the pari-mutual tracks, so it made it interesting for the bettors when they made their picks.

We like to keep them guessing. Whenever we are out there racing, regardless of the venue, the number one question with the fans is “who will take home the win?”

As the horses came off the track into the paddock after warm-ups, the pink really came out! Pink harnesses, pink hobbles, pink lines, spray painted pink manes and tails, pink ribbons, race bikes wrapped in pink vet wrap, hooves painted pink with lots of added sparkle, pink hoods, pink headpoles and just about anything that the girls could “pink-out”, they did. There was a contest for the most “pinked-out” horse. The prize was a pink bag full of pink goodies. Team Brian Looney, with Mackenzie Parks won with the pinkest horse!

When the ladies headed out for the race the male drivers came out of the drivers’ room, stood at the door where the ladies passed and wished each of them good luck! What a great gesture and what a way to show their support! Jayne Weller took home the win that night with Just Plain Luck. I don’t believe it had anything to do with the name of the horse, it was all Jayne and her waiting to make the right move and her driving skills. She did a fine job.

After the race the ladies all went back to the winners circle, they received a bouquet of flowers and had a small interview. Jayne told us she was thinking of retiring after her big win, but we told her she could not! A gentleman in the crowd even asked for her autograph. It is so great when you find out you do have fans out there rooting you on and you didn’t even know it.

Northfield Park was happy with how the Pacing for The Cure Race turned out as it had over $80,000.00 bet on total purse pool and few upsets that weren’t expected, but that’s why we call it racing. Thanks again Northfield Park for the great hospitality.
Miami Valley Readies for 5th Season
by Gregg Keidel

Lebanon, OH – Miami Valley Raceway is positioned for an outstanding repeat performance including an even higher overnight purse structure than last season making the meet one of the highest purse structures in harness racing. Following a fourth season of record handle and purse growth, high expectations among horsemen and fans have become the new standard. Over $14 million in purses will be offered within the 87-day meet which is sure to foster a competitive racing with great wagering value.

Ohio’s premier boutique harness meet begins Jan 5th and continues through May 7th, five days a week, featuring Sunday, Monday, Tuesday matinees at 2:05pm and evening racing Friday and Saturday at 6:05pm. Plan now to be in on the action. OHHA representative Bret Merkle said, “in the eyes of the horsemen, Miami Valley comes the closest to the vibe generations before us knew racing to be: good times, amazing people such a pleasure to race in a positive atmosphere.”

The North American Drivers Challenge II kicks off Miami Valley’s Winter Festival on Jan 7, 8, and 9. North America’s top drivers will compete for $25,000 in awards as defending champion Doug McNair defends his title.

Multiple events are planned to foster outstanding racing and wagering value for horsemen and fans. Cornerstones of this year’s Winter Festival include:

- $700,000 (est.) Claim to Fame Series: 10 lucrative series for $5,000, $8,000, $12,500 and $20,000 claimers
- $200,000 (est.) Elite Survivor Series: Brand new three-week elimination tourney to crown best $10,000 claimer
- $200,000 (est.) Classic Survivor Series: Popular annual four-week elimination tourney for $5,000 claimers
- $600,000 (est.) Lebanon Legends Series: nine condition series honoring notable former SW Ohio horsemen

April ushers in Miami Valley’s Spring Festival building to the traditional season finale or the Ohio Sire Stakes leading towards Grand Circuit racing and the return of the Scarlet and Gray invitational.

- $150,000 (est.) James Hackett Memorial for fillies: traditional tune-up for 3-year-old stakes season
- $150,000 (est.) James Hackett Memorial for colts: traditional tune-up for 3-year-old stakes season
- $200,000 (est.) Spring Scarlet & Gray Invitational races: Ohio’s best 3-year-olds head-to-head
- $500,000 (est.) Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old fillies: first major test of the 2017 stakes season
- $500,000 (est.) Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old colts: first major test of the 2017 stakes season
- $100,000 (est.) Grand Circuit - Chip Noble Memorial: the best pacing mares in the world
- $100,000 (est.) Grand Circuit - Miami Valley Distaff: the best trotting mares in the world

The voice himself, Roger Huston says, “Miami Valley Raceway has emerged as a big-league track with a small-town feel,” and “One of my favorite ovals period......Be there!”
Ohio Driver, Chris Presley
Grove City, Ohio (originally from Michigan Center, MI)

How long have you been driving? This is my second year.

What made you decide to drive horses? I was hooked on the idea of driving horses at a very young age. My grandmother, Marie Koneickzi, has been in the business for as long as I can remember. I spent countless summers traveling to the races with her and I told her that one day I was going to be her favorite driver!

Do you drive as a career or hobby? Depending on how you look at it, but it could be deemed as an expensive hobby, but it is my career. I have traveled a lot to the fairs and raceways this year, although I have not had a lot of luck, but you have to start out somewhere! I’m not doing too bad for a kid from Michigan that no one knew just two years ago. I am hoping to progress over the next few years and make more of a career out of driving because it is what I love to do!

If you were not driving horse, what do you think you would be doing? My brother owns a semi-truck and told me if I ever needed work, he would consider buying another rig so we could make runs together across the country.

Is there a location that you have not raced that you like to? I would really like to do some driving at Hoosier Park. I have not raced on a track larger than 5/8ths.

What driver (present or past) do you admire and why? I like to watch Trace Tetrick and Chris Page. They seem to use a lot of “driving IQ”. They know a little about each horse in the race, besides the one they are driving.

What is your favorite style of bike? I recently purchased a Gorilla and I would have to say that I am very comfortable in it. It tracks well behind the horse.

Do you own or train horses too? I have done a lot of second training for Billy Farmer, Peter Wrenn, Danny Collins and currently training with Mike Medors. I am considering purchasing a horse of my own as well and trying to find owners so I can get my own stable started.

Do you have an embarrassing racing moment you can share? Nothing that comes to mind at the moment, but ask me in a few years and I am sure I will have plenty to talk about!

Share some of your most exciting driving moments: My first win was exciting. I can replay it from the word “Go!” Chris Page was on a thirteen in a row winning streak at Croton and it was my only drive. We were only going for $750. I sat on his back until the ¾ pole and opened up by 14 lengths in the stretch with Angela Nichole. In my head I wanted to do the Ron Pierce “wave” as I went by, but I was nervous that I would drop the line!

What horse has been your favorite to drive? I enjoy learning about each horse that I drive. How they like to race, how they respond to different means of urging, etc. I can’t really pick a favorite.

Is there a horse past or present that you would like to have driven? I had a horse in the barn named Dinner at the Met. This was before I had my license. He was a 17+ hand horse. His legs went every which way when he paced, but he was fast and would go 1:48 and some change. I would like to have him and/or Fancy Creek Elusiv, another one of my favorite horses.

What are some ways to get people more familiar and excited about the harness racing sport? We as a sport are doing more now than ever with social media. I think it is great! The videos we are capturing from drivers’ perspective really gets people excited. Mike Woebkenburg does a phenomenal job at getting fans into the starting cars at the raceways and fairs.

What is your favorite movie and favorite food? Tombstone is my favorite movie and favorite food is beef jerky.
Ohio Driver Ashley Howald
Circleville, Ohio (originally from North Adams, MI)

New to the driving world, Ashley Howald, had her first driving win at the Fairfield County Fair on October 11th with Saucy Brown (Sportsmaster - Dare Her Is - Incredible Finale), a 12-year-old gelding owned by Ashley. She is new to training as well. She started training in 2016 and this summer became a driver. Lancaster was her 6th start.

What made you decide to drive horses?
It looked like fun! After buying my own, (who was one of the first Standardbreds that I did therapy on) I pushed myself to get my trainer’s license more quickly than I thought I was ready for, which was summer of 2016. Then I set a goal of driving some this past summer.

Ron & Don Jacobs got me converted to Standardbreds in 2012. I knew them from doing Western riding horses. I just started my business called Quiet Hands Equine Therapy, providing equine massage therapy, Reiki, and later I incorporated the use of light therapy. I found out how exciting these horses were and began going to the races and learning how to be a groom.

In 2013, I first got my groom’s license. I got brave enough to sit behind, instead of on top and jogged my first horse in 2014. I jogged a couple more in 2015, and on March 30, 2016 I trained my first horse. On April 24, I bought Saucy Brown, a Pacer, from Don and Vickey Jacobs. I got my first win as an owner on June 28th, at Scioto Downs and my trainer’s license for the next start. My first training win was March 21, 2017 at Pompano. Both wins were new lifetime marks.

When I bought Saucy I wanted to show how a consistent massage therapy regime would help him perform more consistently and at a higher level. He was also one of the first Standardbreds I worked on. This is also when I decided I wanted to drive. I knew I wasn’t ready yet when I got my trainer’s license, so I waited till spring of this year. With a little direction and help from Steve Oldford, I got my driver’s license. July 17th was my first time going behind the gate in a qualifier. My win was my 4th race for money, and 6th time starting behind the gate.

What else do you do besides drive horses? I am an equine massage therapist, reiki practitioner and a horse transporter. I bought a rig after getting Saucy Brown as I wanted to be able to take him to the races myself. I also intended to haul horses. I enjoy traveling, meeting new people and seeing new places and hauling horses allows me to do that. I started hauling through Rockin J Transportation in Ohio. As part of my traveling I use massage therapy and essential oils on the horses to keep them comfortable and help them arrive in the best shape possible. It can be difficult to balance everything that I do, but I would like to drive more next year and get my P license so if nothing else, I can drive my horse on the pari-mutuel tracks.

What driver (present or past) do you admire and why?
Peter Wrenn. He also does reining horses. He drove my old fella to both of our previous wins, setting new lifetime marks each time. The second time at Pompano this past winter, was my first training win.

Favorite style of bike? One that will carry me around the racetrack, ha ha. I know little of the bike styles.

What horse(s) have been your favorite to drive and why?
I’ve only driven my own. My first drive with Orr Hanover was good, but he was an arthritic old fella and I retired him. Saucy Brown, is my fun, quirky, horse, riding or driving, and of course getting a win topped it all off.

Name some ways to get people more familiar and excited about the harness racing sport.
I think if we had a special event to include taking a limited number of people in the barns to sort of “shadow” a groom and learn a little of all the action behind the scenes and what goes into it might help.

What is your favorite movie and favorite food?
The Man from Snowy River and I love some good BBQ!

We look forward to seeing more of Ashley as she continues to grow through her new journey.
Have you ever wondered about those who work behind the scenes during the races? What does it take to make the races possible? Who are those responsible to make sure the races go off. There are many positions in harness racing with a variety of responsibilities. Among the various positions at a harness race track is a clerk and charter (many times one person fills both positions).

Pamela Weller, from Republic, Ohio has been a clerk and charter since 1992 and works at Ohio’s county fairs. Weller shared that her duties are not always the same. “The fair circuit that you are working at will determine your duties for that fair,” she shared. “You could be taking race entries, doing the draw, creation of race programs, taking starting fees and providing receipts, purse distribution to winners, charting the lines of each horse in the race, entering results in E-Track and working with fair board members & veterinarians during the race meet,” shared Weller. Weller continues, “occasionally horseman need some additional help to keep things running smoothly. Over the years, I have been a trophy presenter, golf cart driver, pylon installer, newspaper reporter, etc. Whatever is needed to keep the show rolling.”

Weller started her journey in the clerk/charter world when she started assisting Pam Cross at her home fair, Tiffin, for a couple of years. “This is when we had to handle those massively large yellow and blue papers and each clerk had a generous supply of yellow and blue white out. Charts and earnings were all handwritten and human error was impossible to avoid. Helping Pam with anything she needed was my job. I assisted her with a few fairs in northwest Ohio, and then she decided to abandon me, just kidding,” shared Weller. She explained that Pam and Jay moved to Indiana, so she was no longer able to continue to work all the Ohio fairs. “She recommended me as her replacement and from that point on, I have been working the county fair circuit. Originally, I started officiating to earn some extra money, while already being at the fair racing horses with my family. That pretty much continues today, now I call it my Christmas fund,” shared Weller. Besides being a charter and clerk, Weller has been involved in other areas of the industry as well. “As an official, I have helped as an associate judge and have been a backup timer. In the barn, along with being a groom, I have been appointed stall picker, bucket scrubber, aisle sweeper, tack room maid, jog cart washer, and the list goes on.”

When Weller became licensed as a clerk/charter, she took a 2-week course at the USTA in Columbus. The first week they learned the rules and requirements for clerk of course at the race meet. The second week at Scioto Downs charting qualifiers. Today the requirements from USTA for a Clerk/Charter license is to be a member in good standing with USTA and apply for the license. Then, once you know and understand the rules and regulations of the USTA rule book, there is a practical element to the procedure. TC Lane, USTA Director of Registry and Member Services explains, “The USTA racetrack system operates through a web based system referred to as E-Track. This system allows for race office personnel to input relevant data (charts/transfers/medications etc.) into the USTA database, in which accuracy is vital from a breed registry standpoint. This aspect is in my opinion crucial. To prepare for the practical element, we provide a test environment for the individual to prepare a complete race program from beginning to end. Lastly, upon successful completion of the examination and a suitable reference from an existing racing official is received, a license will be issued.”

Like many with a harness racing career, Weller grew up in the harness horse racing industry. Weller explains her family’s dynamics in harness racing, “The sport is part of my DNA. My entire family’s livelihood was harness racing all during my childhood. My grandparents Jay and June Weller raced harness horses their entire lives and my mother, Jayne Weller, was probably jogging a horse later that July day after I was born. Jack Quinn, my step-father, was a career horseman. My Uncle Jay and his wife Louise have gotten back into the business over the past couple of years. His daughters, Jayme (Laing), Courtney and Ashley are also active with the stable. Jayme is an owner...
The Buckeye Harness Horseman | November 2017

Continued on page 14

and she works at the USTA. My mother’s boyfriend, Eddie, and my boyfriend, Stephen, have a horse together as well. We have been a stable as large as 30 or down to just a couple, but there has always been harness racing in the Weller family. We embrace it as a family, sharing both the joys and heartaches that comes with this business. I enjoy the fair officiating aspect as it allows me to participate in the industry at the grass roots level, where it began and needs to continue.”

Weller encourages anyone who may be interested in becoming a clerk, charter or any other position in harness racing to get licensed. “As the industry ages, the need for fair officials becomes higher in demand. Shadow with officials in positions that you are interested in.”

Weller feels very strongly about the importance in promoting harness racing. “We need to promote the engagement and excitement at the fair level. Fairs are the grass roots of harness racing and it truly is ‘Where it all begins’. Industry promoters should focus on the family aspect of racing and share more stories on the smaller, local stables which includes the owners, trainers and grooms. When racing at county fairs, owners are excited and proud to hear their name over the loud speaker when their horse post parade.” She recommends involving the public with “the show”. She suggests interactive activities such as involving children with bouncy ponies on the track, offering driver autograph sessions, taking fans for rides in the starter car and any creative ways to increase fan involvement. She also said it is important to acknowledge and advertise the supporting trophy sponsors, announce historical facts during the races and to thank people for supporting and participating. It is important to work with fair boards and local media outlets to promote the races and coordinate activities, well before the fair opens.

Weller also shared that horsemen play a part in promoting their sport as well. “As horsemens, we need to do our part in setting ethical standards for ourselves. Maintaining the sport in an honorable fashion, perception is reality. We should do our very best to preserve the heritage while encouraging others to join our program. Talk to people about your racing experiences, invite them to a pari-mutuel track event or even ask them to join you at a sale! Keep the pride strong. When individuals are proud, they will share that enthusiasm and extend it to others, making people want to be part of this great sport!”

Weller clerks or charts anywhere from ten to twelve fairs a year and fills in whenever someone needs help. She has mainly stayed in the northwestern or central Ohio regions. She has been asked to work in other states, but when she is not traveling to fairs, she works her full-time job in sales and marketing, which also involves travel. She hasn’t been able to work in all the fair opportunities that she would like to but does as many as she can. Weller is also the secretary for Tiffin county’s 4-H horse council. Besides enjoying the harness racing at fairs, she enjoys walking around to see the livestock barns and likes to check out the 4-H booths. She also enjoys watching pig/calf scrambles. Her favorite fair food is Ray’s fries, loaded with salt and vinegar. Weller says, “who can resist all of the fantastic sights, sounds and smells of a great county fair!”

Loren Combs
Medina County Blacksmith
by Emily Hay

Eighty-one years and still going strong, you will see this guy driving around Hoosier Park on his golf cart with chaps. On hot days his sweat band is on and he has a cart full of Blacksmith Tools. Don’t forget the candy for the kids that he may see along the way. He has a smile on his face. When you hear a “hey, that’s my girl” you know you have just ran into blacksmith Loren Combs. They don’t come much sweeter than this guy!

I asked Loren about the first horse he and his wife Lois (aka Mom) purchased and he said, “well it’s kind of embarrassing. We went to Beneficial Financial and took a loan out for $150.00.” Loren said he couldn’t have gone wrong on the deal because selling that horse if it didn’t work out would have gotten his money back. Loren and Lois were now proud owners of their first horse and he has not been without a horse since. Loren began driving the new horse as they set off for a county fair race. When they got a check that night at the races, they were on top of the world. Loren continued to race the trotter and went on to make $4,500 that year. One of the races he won was an open trot, going in 2.22 for the win!

Loren and Paul, the couple’s son, would do the training and work with the horses while Lois was tasked with the laundry.

Loren told me he always tells Lois “Mom we may not have much, but boy have we met a lot of good people and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.” Lois always replies to Loren “we will have tough times, but don’t worry we will make it.” Look at them now, 61 years later and still going strong.

It’s so much fun to sit and listen to Loren tell his stories as he went on to tell me how he also remembered a time when they went to Scioto to race ‘the ole trotter’ and he went in 2.07. They got a check for $900 that night. Following that race they bought Paul a new bike. “Man was he so proud of that bike!” My re-telling of Loren’s stories don’t do them the justice that they deserve as you cannot see the pride and smiles on his face nor the giggles we had as he shared them.

Loren lived in Hilliard in his early years. He moved to Mercer County when he began training for Glenn Florence Sr. and Lyle Menchhofer. Loren trained Dancer’s Image. He shared a memorable winning win of when he beat Rambling Willie. Loren did a lot of his racing in Chicago as the money was good there. Loren was racing his own horse in Chica-

Continued on page 14
go one night in the Invite Trot going for $10,000. That’s a pretty good purse and a big deal back then. Today many would still be happy with a win going for that purse. Loren said, “When I won that Invite Trot that night, I took my $5,000 and went to Coldwater, Ohio to the local Buick Dealer that was in town and bought me a Buick.”

Now Loren didn’t become a great blacksmith overnight, he had his learning days. He’s been thankful that he’s had some great teachers along the way, Curly Smart and Stan Bayless. He says these guys have helped him become the blacksmith he is today. Loren has been at Hoosier Park shoeing before it was even opened. He has also been shoeing for Bobby Reesner for about 23 yrs. “Bobby has lots of trotters and has also been a good teacher for me,” Loren said.

Loren has an eye and a special knack for what he does. Last summer I was in a pinch for a reset as my mare lost her shoe in the field. I had called Loren, but he was at Hoosier. He stopped by later and looked at my horse and noticed she had her shoes on. Loren saw me later and he said, “I stopped out and looked at your horse. She had her shoes on and I told Mom if that was your first-time shoeing that’s not a bad job, but if that wasn’t your first time, it was pitiful.”

My most favorite story Loren shared with me was when I asked him if he had a favorite memory of a fair race. He said, “ole yes I do. It was at Greenville Fair. I was driving a horse of Paul’s and it was an 11-horse field. All at once my lines broke so I grabbed the horse’s tail and jumped right up on its back and was able to steer him!” As I couldn’t help but picture this in my mind and giggled a little as I said, “well, Loren did you at least get to finish the race?” He continued with a chuckle in his voice, “Oh yes I think we came in 4th or 5th and someone actually has a picture of it.” I am not sure what would have been scarier that day the 11-horse field on a fair track or how Loren recovered the broken lines.

Loren has had many other horses over the years. Loren’s horse Grander Special was another special horse. He paid $7,500 for him and later was offered $75,000, but he wouldn’t sell him. He had another one that they leased, and Lois saved all the money they made with it and used that money to buy the house that they still live in today.

If you see Loren out and about, do yourself a favor and stop and talk to him. You won’t ever forget the stories he shares and will certainly not meet a nicer person. He is one of a kind!

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**Breedings for sale to top sires for 2018!**

If you are looking for trotting or pacing mares.... call me!

**Trotters:**
- Muscle Massive
- Kadabra
- Muscle Mass
- Don'tyouforgetit
- Bettors Delight
- Guccio
- Uncle Peter
- Wishing Stone

**Pacers:**
- We will see
- Western Vintage
- Rockin Image
- Tellitlikeitis
- Well Said
- Sweet Lou
- Sunshine Beach

Explosive Matter
Cash Hall
Conway Hall
My MVP
Donato Hanover
Trixton
Stormin Normand
Dejarmbro

Art Major
Rockin Amadeus
American Ideal
Real Desire
Pet Rock
Western Ideal

Book early to avoid a shut out!
Claude Brault, Equine Agent, Breeding consultant
(905) 520-3941
e-mail for the complete list: cbrault2@cogeco.ca

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The Burns Family

wishes you a very
Merry Christmas
and Holiday Season!

Good Luck in the
2018 Racing Season!

Kacey, Noah,
Missy & Roy Burns
New Beginnings: by Dot Morgan

Pre-Jug Party and Charity Auction Raises Funds for Standardbred Aftercare

The Pre-Jug Party and Charity Auction held on September 20, 2017, once again helped raise funds for New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program and the Delaware County Fair. This fun event held the night before the Jug, brought over 500 people to the hospitality pavilion on the first turn of the track at Delaware, Oh. Attendees enjoyed food, drinks and live music all while being able to bid on some great vacations, OSU football tickets, racing equipment, a John Deere Lawn Tractor and many more exciting items. The highlight of the night was having Amy Hollar present the two spotted ponies during the live auction. With the help of driver Trace Tetrick the duo entertained the crowd by trotting the ponies up and down the pavilion. Albert and Michelle Crawford were the winning bidders on the pony pair that were dubbed Barbie and Ken.

This well attended event helps to raise funds for New Vocations through the auction and table sponsors. “The Pre-Jug party is a great way to mingle with the sports leading owners, trainers and drivers and help support our efforts in placing Standardbreds after they retire from the track,” said Standardbred Program Director Winnie Morgan Nemeth. “This important event helps us rehab, retrain and rehome over 100 Standardbreds annually. This year’s gala raised $50,000 for New Vocations and the Delaware County Fair. We want to thank all the participants who helped make this event so successful.”

Photos by Shelley Johnson
Ohio Owner Spotlight

Meet Ohio Owners, Bruce and Trish Soulsby
by Regina Mayhugh

Ohio not only has passionate trainers and drivers who love what they do, but we also have passionate owners. These owners are important to the industry, just as any industry professional. They are the ones buying horses. They send their horses to the trainers and drivers. Their time and money is dedicated to the industry.

Owners, like trainers, have different numbers of horses. Some owners may only own one or two while other owners own forty? Yes, Bruce Soulsby and his wife Trish from Powell, Ohio fit in the category of owning forty horses! Combining the horses that they own individually, together or in partnerships takes them to forty, including a few retirees and broodmares.

Harness racing has been in the couple’s blood for many years. Bruce has owned horses for twenty-five years. Harness racing has been a lifetime passion for Trish as she grew up in the industry. Bruce and Trish have been married for twenty-two years. “We have one son who is eighteen years old, but he doesn’t share our enthusiasm right now for all things horse related,” shared Trish. Trish has spent many hours at fairs and pari-mutuel racetracks in her home state of Illinois as well as surrounding states. Bruce is originally from New Zealand and spent many hours as a youngster watching races. “Both of us were bit by the bug at a young age,” Trish shared. Trish owned her first horse in 1974, a homebred named Performer. Bruce’s first horse was Ce Yaa BT in 1992. Helsa’s Sam was the first horse that the couple purchased together, before they were married.

There may have been many horses owned by these two, but they will always remember some of their favorites. “One of Bruce’s favorite horses over the years was a hard-knocking claiming horse named Ready Cut. He still enjoys talking about the many racing wins and thrills that this horse provided for him,” Trish explained. As for Trish, she loves them all! “I have a love and emotional tie with all the ones that I have ever been familiar with, horses that I took care of and didn’t own as well as those horses I did own. It doesn’t matter,” she shared. A few of the special ones to Trish over the years include Date Line, Mighty Mike, Bullet Bluecrest, Movin Out, Fly Fly Jules, Jim Badger, La Vite and Helsa’s Sam.

“A TC Queenie (Triumphant Caviar - American Queen - American Winner), my four-year-old trotting mare, has been a dream come true,” Trish shared about one of her current horses. Trish and her brother Rick Schaut are partners on A TC Queenie. They purchased her at the Ohio Select Sale in September of 2014. “She is wonderful on and off the track, possessing so many admirable qualities,” she shared. “Having her is most special because my brother broke her and has had her every winter. The rest of the year I take care of her at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in the Ron Steck barn.” A TC Queenie’s stakes record as a 3-year-old includes winner of Ohio Breeders Championship at Delaware in 1:54.2 and this summer she set the track record for 4-year-old trotting mares in 1:53 flat at Scioto Downs. Bruce shares highlights of one of the couple’s pacers, “K Ryan Bluechip (Art Major - Fool That I Am - Jenna’s Beach Boy) has been a dominant force in the top pacing ranks here in Ohio and recently went wire to wire at The Red Mile in 1:49.2.”

Both Bruce and Trish have family involved in harness racing. Trish’s brother drives and trains fulltime in Michigan. He started when he was seventeen. Trish shares her family’s involvement in the sport, “My parents have passed, but they owned and raised Standardbreds. Mom was knowledgeable on pedigrees and Dad had a fair driving and a trainer’s license.” Her sister has owned and worked with horses also. Bruce’s family isn’t involved in harness racing, but he has many friends in the sport, including one of his closest friends Alan Weisenberg who is a partner with Bruce on a few horses.

Trish also has a trainer’s license and has been involved in other aspects besides owning. “I drove in a celebrity race at Sacramento back when I worked for Lloyd Arnold,” she shared. She also used to jog and train a little with her brother as her mentor. “Now I stick to all the barn chores, care and management of a couple of my horses. I would love for Bruce to go to the USTA Drivers’ School. It is a different perspective, for sure!” Neither Bruce nor Trish are currently breeders, though they do have some interests in a few broodmares.

When I asked Trish what horsemen can do to better promote...
the sport of harness racing, she said she could go on at great
length about the subject. “It is my firm belief that we don’t
do a fraction of what we could do to elevate our brand of
horseracing.” She said horsemen need to engage, educate and
excite fans. “For example, the Little Brown Jug. It is a boutique
racing meet, with the centerpiece being this major race, like
the Thoroughbred's Kentucky Derby. The color, the drama, the
stories and the setting are all ripe for promoting to an audi-
ence that doesn’t have a clue about what harness racing is.”
She said it stuns her that so people, including those living in
the area, do not know about it.

“I have a few ideas. One is that the Delaware county fair
board/Jug Society should contact every Ohio high school and/
or middle school art departments well in advance to run a
contest for art students to create a new poster for the 2018
Delaware County Fair, featuring the Little Brown Jug. Each
teacher would provide materials about the history of the race,
photos of past winners, racing shots, the buildings, etc. The
winner could receive money, maybe a $5,000 scholarship and
grandstand tickets for themselves and their parents. A pre-
sentation could be made in the winners circle. You could also
have runner-ups and some honorable mentions with smaller
monetary gifts. All the submitted works could be on display in
one of the fair’s buildings during fair week. This would spread
the word to an entirely new group of young people, their
parents and teachers and generate interest while providing
education.” She also shared how this contest could be used
to promote the races through newspaper articles and on local
television.

“Racetracks should stop and think of what it is like for a first
timer who happens to attend the races without anyone being
with them that knows or understands harness racing.” Trish
suggests that tracks offer some user friendly, educational tools
and keep people from feeling like they do not know what is
going on when they attend. She also says it is important to
bring the horses closer to the fans.

Trish also feels that the name of the sport could be mislead-
ing to those not familiar with harness racing. “We went from
being the Trots and our counterparts were the Flats to har-
ness racing and thoroughbred racing. A harness doesn’t race
around the track, an amazing gaited performer, the Standard-
bred does. Harness racing by its own name identifies equip-
ment, not the horse.” Trish has many more ideas, and I can’t
wait to hear more of her ideas!

So what does Bruce and Trish do when they are not in the
barn working with the horses or at the track watching them
perform? Trish shares, “Bruce was a golf professional and still
plays as a hobby and I enjoy reading, singing, and dancing.”
Bruce’s favorite food is from the Japanese Steakhouse Beni
Hana and Trish loves pasta! These two are quite the horse
lovers and strong advocates of the sport of harness racing!

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**OHHA Annual Banquet will be January 13, 2018**
DOUBLETREE HOTEL COLUMBUS WORTHINGTON
175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43235

The hotel web page address to reserve your room is:
CMHHWNT-OHH-20180111/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
You can access the link on the Events page at www.ohha.com

Group Name: OHIO HARNESS HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION
Group Code: OHH

Hotel Phone Number: Phone Number: 614-885-3334

Watch the December issue of OHHA News for more banquet
reservation forms and additional information!
### 2017 Ohio Fairs 2CT Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

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### 2017 Ohio Fairs 2CT Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

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* Note, these are earning from Ohio Fairs only. Ohio Breeders Championships are included since they were raced at a county fair. Ohio Fairs Championship was not included since it was held at Northfield Park.

### 2017 Ohio Fairs 2FP Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

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### 2017 Ohio Fairs 2FP Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

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* Note, these are earning from Ohio Fairs only. Ohio Breeders Championships are included since they were raced at a county fair. Ohio Fairs Championship was not included since it was held at Northfield Park.
## 2017 Ohio Fairs 3CT Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

<table>
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<th>Horse</th>
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*Note, these are earnings from Ohio Fairs only. Ohio Breeders Championships are included since they were raced at a county fair. Ohio Fairs Championship was not included since it was held at Northfield Park.*

## 2017 Ohio Fairs 3CP Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

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## 2017 Ohio Fairs 3FP Top 25 by Ohio Fair Earnings

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The Buckeye Harness Horsemanship November 2017
2017 Ohio Breeders Championship Winners

Photos Conrad Photo at Delaware County Fair
2017 Ohio Breeders Championship Winners

Photos Conrad Photo at Delaware County Fair
2017 Ohio Breeders Championship Winners

Photos Conrad Photo at Delaware County Fair
PLAN TO ATTEND

the Blooded Horse Sales Company’s 70th Annual

FALL
SPEED SALE
DELAWARE, OHIO CO. FAIRGROUNDS

NOVEMBER 13-14-15-16, 2017
BLACK TYPE YEARLING SESSION - Monday, November 13

A four-day sales extravaganza, the Fall Speed Sale is our largest and most popular sale of the year! Once again it will offer a wide selection of racing and breeding stock, with horses to fit every stable and budget, plus a large selection of 2017 yearlings. If you’re looking for competitive racehorses and productive broodmares, you’ll find them here.

Don’t miss it! Make plans now to attend.

ONLINE CATALOG WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
www.bloodedhorse.com

INQUIRIES TO ANY ONE OF THESE:

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P.O. Box 187
Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
Phone: (859) 858-4415
Fax: (859) 858-8498

CHARLES MORGAN
(937) 947-1218

DEAN BEACHY & ASSOCIATES
Auctioneers

“Ther’s No Substitute for Experience”

Send e-mail to Jerry Haws at: jhaws@bloodedhorse.com
www.bloodedhorse.com
2017 Buckeye Stallion Series
Championship Winners
Photos by JJ Zamaiko Photography, Inc. at Northfield Park
Photos by JJ Zamaiko Photography, Inc. at Northfield Park

Sweetnfamous
2-Year-Old Filly Pace

Momentsoffire
2-Year-Old Filly Trot

Pacin To Paydaze
2-Year-Old Colt Pace

Rising MVP
2-Year-Old Colt Trot

Only Live Once
3-Year-Old Filly Pace

Joyfulntriumphant
3-Year-Old Filly Trot

Mcspidey
3-Year-Old Colt Pace

Dekeyser
3-Year-Old Colt Trot

2017 Ohio Fairs
Championship Winners

Photos by JJ Zamaiko Photography, Inc. at Northfield Park
## 2017 Director Meeting

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△ Present  
A Absent  
EX Excused

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## 2017 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship Winners

**Photos by Conrad Photo**

- **Impinktoo** 2FT
- **Mission Accepted** 2CT
- **Pistol Packin Mama** 3FP
- **Drunk On Your Love** 3CP
- **Rose Run Sydney** 3FT
- **Bad Girls Rule** 2FP
- **Fraser Ridge** 3CT
- **Seeing Eye Single** 2CP
Important Reminder to Breeders

Breeder's Award Mare Registrations

ARE DUE DECEMBER 31st!!!
You Must File by This Registration Deadline....
No Exceptions!

The forms can also be found online at http://www.ohha.com/breeders-award and were also included in the September issue of the Buckeye Harness Horseman.

Be sure to print off the W-9 form and mail it too.

If an Emergency Exception Form is needed, it can also be found on the OHHA website at the above link.

2018 OHHA Membership Application
(Please Print, * Fields Required)

* Name __________________________ *Address __________________________

*City __________________________ *State ______ *Zip ______ *County __________________________

*Phone __________________________ Alternate Phone __________________________ *E-mail __________________________

Active Membership includes free sulky coverage up to $3,000 (wheels & discs excluded). NOTE: The sulky owner(s), driver, trainer & all owners of the horse involved must be OHHA members and sulkies must be registered. Stables/Business Entities require an Associate Membership. All affiliates of any Stable/Business Entity must be full active members.

Active $65 ______ Associate $25 ______ Please check one: Owner ____ Driver/Trainer ____ Breeder ____ Groom ____

Check here if you were a member the previous year ____ USTA # __________ Date of Birth __________

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association
2237 Sonora Dr., Grove City, OH. 43123 | 1-800-353-6442 | 614-221-3650 | Fax 614-221-8726 | www.ohha.com
Congratulations to these Ohio Sires Stakes Consolation Winners!

RISKY DEAL—2-Year-Old Trotting Filly
Deborah J. Kvernmo—breeder & owner
Kurt Sugg, driver Crist Hershberger, trainer

BIG BAD GOLDIE—2-Year-Old Pacing Filly
David Wills, Richard Coad, Douglas Gregory, owners Midland Acres, breeder
Aaron Merriman, driver Tye Loy, trainer

ROCKIN AWAY—2-Year-Old Pacing Colt
Country Club Acres, Joe Sbrocco, Avo Sbro, Richard Lombardo, owners
P.L. Gafford, D.E. & A.E Miller, breeders Chris Page, driver Brian Brown, trainer

DEKEYSER—3-Year-Old Trotting Colt
Chris Beaver, Synerco Ventures, Inc., Steven Zehandelar, owners
Kevin Greenfield, breeder Aaron Merriman, driver Chris Beaver, trainer

BERAZZLED—3-Year-Old Pacing Filly
Marion Beachy, owner Lisa C. Ezso, breeder
Ronnie Wrenn, Jr., driver Chris Beaver, trainer

I LIKE PURPLE—3-Year-Old Trotting Filly
W. Johnson II, Carol Cramer, J. Rhoads, Jr., J. Sommers, owners Double Spring Farm, breeder
Chris Page, driver Scott Mogan, trainer

CAMWOOD—3-Year-Old Pacing Colt
Constance L. Polhamus & William W. Parsons, owners Alan E. Byler, breeder
Kayne Cauffman, driver Mike Polhamus, trainer

DON'T FORGET MASTER—2-Year-Old Trotting Colt
Mystical Marker Farms, VIP Internet Stable, Debra S. Garland; Harvey Eisman, owners
Double Spring Farm, breeder Josh Sutton, driver Alicia Hanners, trainer