



The Horsemen's Newsletter

July 2007

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Timonium meet trimmed to seven days

Timonium will offer live racing for only seven days this year.

Racing will be conducted on August 24, 25 and 26 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and August 31, September 1, 2 and 3 (Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday).

There will be simulcasting on 10 of the 11 days from August 24 to September 3. The track will be dark for simulcasting on Tuesday, August 28.

The stable area will open on Saturday, August 11, and the track will open for training on Monday, August 13.

Maryland's last remaining half-mile track, Timonium is in its 126th season of racing.

Foreign worker program at a standstill

Failure of the immigration bill in the U.S. Congress, as well as changes in policy, has caused enormous difficulty in the H-2B program for backstretch workers returning from Mexico.

Immigration facilitators are working on the issues, but at this time it's uncertain how many, if any, workers will be permitted to return to Maryland this fall.

Comprehensive immigration was voted down by the Senate in late June.

"In the end, there was just too much controversy and public opposition to the bi-partisan compromise crafted by the White House and both Democratic

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Laurel's August meet to feature "TEN DAYS AT 10 PERCENT —RACING'S BEST BET"

In an innovative program billed as "Ten Days at 10 Percent—Racing's Best Bet," takeout on Maryland's live races will be cut approximately in half during Laurel's 10-day meet that runs from August 10 through 23.

"We want to get people focused on Maryland racing, and this seems like a good way to do it," explained Maryland Jockey Club President Lou Raffetto.

The MTHA's Negotiating Committee, chaired by Dale Capuano, and also consisting of John Alecci, Jerry Robb, Katy Voss and President Richard Hoffberger, agreed to the plan.

The takeout will be 10 percent on all bets on all live races conducted at Laurel, plus a blended rate of 1.4 percent that goes to the Maryland Million. That equates to an average takeout of 11.4 percent.

"It will be like giving everyone a re-

bate—the \$2 bettor as well as the \$2,000 bettor," said Mr. Raffetto.

The lower takeout is an even better deal on the trifecta, superfecta and Pick 6, for which the standard takeout rate is 25.75 percent, noted Mr. Raffetto.

For example: If the trifecta has a \$50,000 wagering pool, and there are 3,000 winning tickets, each ticket is worth \$125 under the 25.75 percent takeout rate, and \$150 at the rate of 11.4 percent.

As to whether the MJC may consider extending the takeout reduction in the future, Mr. Raffetto said, "First we need to see what kind of impact it can have. Hopefully, people will be drawn to our product.

"The legislature wants the industry to take steps to help itself, and that's exactly what we're doing," Mr. Raffetto added.

Horsemen named to fill two places on Racing Commission

Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed two Thoroughbred horsemen to fill vacancies on the Maryland Racing Commission: Louis J. (Lou) Ulman and Frank F. Favazza, Jr.

Mr. Ulman, a 61-year-old Howard County attorney, becomes one of the few Commission members ever to return after an absence. He was first appointed to the Commission in 2001 by Gov. Parris N.



Lou Ulman



Frank Favazza

Glendening, and served as chairman from 2001 to 2003.

Mr. Ulman left the Commission in 2005, when his term expired and he was not reappointed by Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

Mr. Ulman has owned race horses in Maryland for more than 20 years as a client of trainer Dale Capuano, and currently has interests in

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RMTC Web site provides medication guidelines

The Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC) has completed a section of its Web site, www.rmtcnet.com, that enables licensed horsemen to look up guidelines for withdrawal times for approximately 75 therapeutic medications identified by the RMTC Veterinary Advisory Committee.

The guidelines are available for 18 states and Canada. The RMTC plans to add information from other states as it becomes available.

Withdrawal guidelines are available to licensed horsemen who submit their name and indicate the type of racing license they hold and the jurisdiction where they race.

Guidelines may be searched by medication or by jurisdiction.

For more information visit the RMTC Web site at www.rmtcnet.com or contact Dr. Scot Waterman at (859) 224-2844 or Dan Fick at (859) 224-2708.

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and Republican Senators," said Jay Hickey, President of the American Horse Council, which supported the legislation.

Mr. Hickey provided the following commentary:

"Obviously, it was not a perfect bill, but there were provisions in it that would have benefited the horse industry.

"The House has been waiting to see what the Senate would do with immigration reform. Now that the bill has failed a second time, it seems unlikely that the House will take up its version of comprehensive reform.

"Whether comprehensive legislation can still be considered, or whether a piece-meal approach to reform, like taking border security first, then temporary worker programs, and then handling the millions of undocumented workers, remains to be seen.

"The approach until now has been to try to eat the whole apple at one time. But I suspect there's not much stomach in Congress for stepping back into that orchard with its hornets' nests. Maybe after a long break, the will might return."

Hoofprints

MRMA announces annual award winners

The Maryland Racing Media Association will honor several of Maryland's outstanding achievers at its annual Crab Feast, on October 5 at Laurel.

The Humphrey S. Finney Award for lifetime contributions to the Maryland racing industry will go to Tom Bowman, noted equine veterinarian and co-founder/general manager of Northview Station Station.

Dr. Bowman and his wife, Chris, have also bred numerous runners who have competed successfully at Maryland tracks; they were named Maryland's breeder of the year in 1998, 2005 and 2006.

Achievement awards will go to trainer Graham Motion and jockey Mario Pino.

Mr. Motion, based at Fair Hill Training Center, ranked among the top 20 trainers in the nation in 2006 and was represented by two runners-up on Breeders' Cup day.

MRMA also will honor as its unsung hero Joe Kelly, longtime Maryland racing writer and Maryland Million publicist who is approaching his 90th birthday.

For ticket information contact Lucy Acton at (410) 337-0036; lacton@marylandthoroughbred.com.

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a half-dozen runners. He has campaigned stakes winners Praise Heaven, Searchforacure, Pride of Benray and What's Up Lonely.

A senior partner in the firm of Offit Kurman Attorneys At Law, Mr. Ulman concentrates on estate planning and elder law. He and his wife, Diana, have two sons in high-profile jobs: Ken Ulman was elected in 2006 as Howard County Executive, and Doug Ulman serves as president of the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Mr. Favazza, 79, is retired from a near 40-year career as a general contractor and building developer in Baltimore County.

Mr. Favazza became a Thoroughbred owner in 1970, and bred and raced horses for more than 20 years at his Triple F Farm in Worthington Valley, a property that he continued to own until two years ago.

Maryland tracks join national injury data base

Maryland's three Thoroughbred tracks, Laurel, Pimlico and Timonium, have signed on to a new on-track equine injury reporting system.

The program, developed by Florida veterinarian Mary Scollay and presented by the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit, is aimed at identifying the frequency and outcome of various types of racing-related injuries, developing markers for horses at risk, and furthering research to improve safety and prevent injuries.

More than 60 tracks throughout the country are participating in the pilot project, which got underway June 1.

The injured horses will not be identified at any time, but will become part of a statistical profile.

For more information visit www.grayson-jockeyclub.org/summitDisplay.asp.

Michael Neuman out as Magna CEO

After five months on the job, Michael Neuman no longer serves as chief executive officer of Magna Entertainment Corp., the company that owns a majority interest in Laurel and Pimlico.

Magna chairman Frank Stronach has again taken on the role of Magna's CEO.

Although he didn't own any high-profile runners, Mr. Favazza visited the winner's circle with a number of trainers, including John Tammaro and John Tammaro III, John Forbes and J. William Boniface.

Currently residing in Lutherville, Mr. Favazza and his wife of more than 50 years, Emma, have a son, Frank Favazza III, who is a Realtor in Ocean City, Md., and a daughter, Dr. Antoinette Favazza, who is a professor of education at the University of Rhode Island.

With these appointments, the Commission has its full complement of nine members.

Also serving on the Commission are John P. McDaniel (Chairman), Gregory H. Barnhill, P. David Bramble, David Clogg, John B. Franzone, William Gerweck and Jacqui Nigh.

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We concluded that the August meet is important to the overall best interests of Maryland racing, and in particular to horsemen, for a number of reasons.

The meet, although brief, allows this state to retain some semblance of a year-round racing program.

Without it, Maryland would have a nearly three-month break in major mile racing. Instead, it's two months from the end of the Pimlico spring meet until racing resumes at Laurel.

Year-round racing is vitally important

to people who live in the state and depend on this business for their livelihood.

Racing at Laurel in August also means that shipping to out-of-state tracks, and all the expense and stress that goes along with it, becomes less of a necessity during the summer.

Horsemen have 90 opportunities to win a race at a major track in Maryland in August, and 10 days in which to utilize Laurel's world-class turf course.

Finally—and this is a fact that many

people may not be aware of—the total amount of purse money paid out in 2007 will be greater if we race those 10 days and cut the purses, rather than do the opposite.

Hopefully, in the near future the state will take action to allow Maryland racing to compete advantageously with our neighbors.

In the meantime, you can be assured that the MTHA, and its Negotiating Committee, are doing our best to preserve a struggling industry.

*/Dale Capuano, MTHA Director,
Chairman of the MTHA's
Negotiating Committee*



Scholarship program to distribute more than \$25,000 this fall

Are you enrolled in college this fall—and also employed in the care of horses in Maryland, either on the backstretch or at a farm, training center or veterinary clinic?

If so, you may be eligible for financial aid through the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund.

More than \$25,000 will be available this year through the program, which is supported by various industry groups and individuals, including the MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

Deadline for application is September 1

The program is sponsored by the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA).

MRMA selects the recipients, so as to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

For more information visit the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com or call Vinnie Perrone at (301) 890-8776.

Anyone wishing to donate to this worthwhile cause is urged to call David Richardson at (410) 984-2770.

Applications must be received by September 1.

Unwanted Horse Coalition

The Unwanted Horse Coalition, a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council, is concerned that some horses may slip through the various safety nets within the industry.

Its mission is to help educate the horse industry about this issue and help people learn to "Own Responsibly."

For more information call (202) 296-4031 or visit www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Raymond (Ray) Regan, a longtime owner and father of former Maryland trainer Scott Regan, died on July 11 at the age of 92. Mr. Regan, who owned a construction company, campaigned numerous well-known runners, including stakes winner Over Fly and stakes-placed Tor's Baby. He survived the Omaha Beach landing as a member of the U.S. Army combat forces during World War II, and was decorated with a Purple Heart.

Thomas C. (Tom Cat) Patterson, an owner/trainer/breeder who managed the farm operation for the highly successful Fourbros Stable in the 1970s and '80s, died on June 7. He was 73.

Bennie Green, 81, a former jockey who worked as a parking lot attendant at Maryland tracks for more than 30 years, died on June 2. Mr. Green was a Navy combat veteran of World War II.

Marge Dance, longtime senior editor of *The Maryland Horse* and *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazines, died on June 24. She was 74.

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director*

Golf

The MTHA will sponsor a golf outing on August 13 at Ft. Meade. Please continue to sign up in the track kitchens, or call Dan at (410) 437-4405.

Orioles tickets

Latest winners of the Orioles ticket drawings were Jake Dillow (August 29) and John Brady (August 23).

One set of tickets is remaining—for the September 28 game versus the New

York Yankees. Anyone who has signed up is still eligible.

Laurel basketball court

The basketball court at Laurel has been renovated with all new equipment.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Gene Gilhooly, Joe Green, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Rob Leibner, Rosemary Lishia, Claire Minderlein and Jerry Trone.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Colonial Downs. Now through Aug. 7
Laurel. Aug. 10 through Aug. 23;
Sept. 5 through Dec. 31
Timonium. Aug. 24 through Sept. 3

MARYLAND MILLION DAY OCT. 13 AT LAUREL

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

Eastern Fall Yearlings. Oct. 1-3
December Mixed. Dec. 2, 3
(Entries close Sept. 21)

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800. Aug. 6, 7

Fasig-Tipton New York Preferred Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800. Aug. 10, 11

Fasig-Tipton New York Open Yearlings, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800. Aug. 14

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected/Open Yearlings, Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Aug. 20-24

Keeneland September Yearlings, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . Sept. 10-24

Charles Town Thoroughbred Horse Sales Fall Mixed, Charles Town, W.Va.
(304) 725-8026. Sept. 24

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Fall Mixed, Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Oct. 8-12

New York Breeders' Sales Company Fall Mixed, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(518) 587-1555. Oct. 14

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. . . . Oct. 22-24

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Mixed, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. Nov. 4

Keeneland November Breeding Stock, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. Nov. 4-18

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Adena Springs Mixed, Lexington, Ky.
(859) 255-1555. Nov. 8

**Check the
MTHA Web site
for notice
of the next
Board Meeting.
Go to www.mdhorsemen.com
and click on Calendar.**

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6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;
(410) 265-6842;
fax (410) 265-6841;

e-mail: mdhorsemen@erols.com
Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter
reports on issues and events of interest
to owners and trainers in Maryland.
Your suggestions are welcome.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

July 2007

Thoughts and comment

Cutbacks are always a dilemma. When the Purse Account can no longer support the existing racing program and we are forced to make adjustments—as happened last month—there are essentially two choices: race fewer days, or trim the purses and eliminate/reduce some stakes.

Either way, horsemen suffer. The financial effects ripple out to everyone who is in any way involved in racing.

After the MTHA and track management jointly agreed to cut the purse for every race by \$2,000 and trim the fall stakes program to offset a projected \$3

million shortfall in the Purse Account, some people questioned the decision.

Why not, instead, eliminate the 10-day meet at Laurel in August?

It's a legitimate question. But if faced with the same considerations, most people would probably have chosen the same answer that we did.

The MTHA's Negotiating Committee (consisting of myself as Chairman, along with John Alecci, Jerry Robb, Katy Voss and MTHA President Richard Hoffberger) spent a lot of time evaluating the various issues.

See *Thoughts*, page 3

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