



The Horsemen's Newsletter

September 2008

Volume 18 • Number 9

Maryland to ban steroids starting Jan. 1, 2009

The Maryland Racing Commission agreed by unanimous vote at its September 16 meeting to pursue an emergency rule change that will ban horses from racing on anabolic steroids at Maryland tracks as of January 1, 2009.

Maryland's steroid regulations will mirror the model rule proposed by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, and will be in line with regulations currently in effect in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The Commission is expected to allow a grace period, during which violations will not lead to penalties. The grace period, and penalties, will be determined by the Commission based on recommendations of its Medication Committee. Complete details will appear in future issues of this newsletter.

"The Commission has acted in a prudent and judicious manner," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "The time has arrived for us to move forward on this important matter."

Voter registration deadline: Oct. 14

Anyone who is eligible to become a registered voter, but has not yet completed the voter registration process, is urged to do so immediately.

October 14 is the registration deadline for voting in the November 4 election.

The MTHA office at Laurel has voter registration applications. For those needing help, Bobby Lillis can guide you through the process. Mr. Lillis can be reached at (410) 265-6843.

What everyone needs to know about the SLOTS REFERENDUM

—On **NOVEMBER 4, 2008**, the ballot for the statewide general election will include a referendum to allow as many as 15,000 video lottery terminals (slot machines) at five locations throughout Maryland.

—Voters will be presented with two choices: **FOR** or against the referendum.

—Passage of this referendum is **VITAL TO THE FUTURE** of Maryland racing.

—That's because **5.6 PERCENT OF THE REVENUE FROM EACH SLOTS SITE** will go to Thoroughbred horsemen and breeders.

—It's been estimated that slots revenue could add nearly **\$60 MILLION** to Thoroughbred purses by the year 2013.

—Tell everyone you know to vote **FOR** slots on November 4. Your livelihood depends on it.

Racing Commission discusses Pimlico closing

The Maryland Racing Commission, at its regular monthly meeting on August 19, discussed issues surrounding the Maryland Jockey Club's decision to close the Pimlico stable area as of August 31.

The MTHA provided input in the discussion, as did a number of Pimlico-based trainers and their employees.

Ultimately, the Commission voted 4-3 against a motion by newly appointed member Mary Louise Preis that would have required the MJC to keep Pimlico

open until November 5 (the day after the slots referendum).

The MTHA did not agree to the closing of the Pimlico stable area. However, the MTHA had no reasonable means to avert it. To maintain Pimlico as a training site would have required a costly sacrifice—diversion of funds from the Purse Account—that would have negatively impacted all aspects of Maryland's racing program, including a loss of live racing days.



Don't be confused by words on ballot—horsemen will receive their fair share under the law

Wording to appear on the ballot for the slots referendum does not mention horse racing. But horsemen will be provided with their fair share of the revenue under the law to take effect when the referendum passes.

Details of the slots program, including the horsemen's share of revenue, are contained in legislation approved in last year's special session of the Maryland General Assembly. A summary of the legislation is posted on the MTHA Web site at www.mdhorsemen.com.

Following is the final version of the ballot language:

Question 2 Constitutional Amendment

Authorizing Video Lottery Terminals (Slot Machines) to Fund Education
Authorizes the State to issue up to five video lottery licenses for the primary purpose of raising revenue for education of children in public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12, public school construction and improvements, and construction of capital projects at community colleges and higher education institutions. No more than a total number of 15,000 video lottery terminals may be authorized by the State, and only one license may be issued for each specified location in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Worcester, and Allegany Counties, and Baltimore City. Any additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming in Maryland is prohibited, unless approved by a voter referendum.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- In a restructuring of the various track maintenance posts, Jamie Richardson has been put in charge of maintaining the racing surface.

- The track kitchen is now open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., in addition to the hours of 5:30 a.m. to noon.

- Excessive noise during early training hours has created many hazards, including loose horses on the track. The noise is caused by emptying of manure storage bins and trucks on the parking

lot. The MTHA is working to resolve this problem.

- Numerous thefts have occurred.

- The relocation of many workers from Pimlico has led to problems in the bunkhouses.

Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray reported:

- Relocation of stables from Pimlico proceeded smoothly.

- The maintenance crew is doing a good job, but the departure of maintenance chief Glen Kozak in late August remains a great loss to horsemen.

Unwanted Horse Coalition maintains online directory

The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) urges horsemen to make use of its online directory that links people who are seeking alternatives for their horses and facilities that are able to accept them.

Currently, more than 200 facilities are listed on the UHC Web site at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

"This is a continuing process for the coalition," said Dr. Tom Lenz, UHC chairman. "We have received many inquiries not only from horse owners who are seeking retirement homes or second

careers for their horses, but also from people who are interested in adopting a horse or volunteering at equine placement organizations."

The UHC is a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the American Horse Council to reduce the numbers of unwanted horses and help horse owners understand the various options, services and assistance available to them when they are considering what to do with a horse they can no longer care for.

Scholarships, from page 4

PONS, groom/farm worker for Country Life Farm; Elon University; business. **TRACY RUDD**, assistant manager of Winding Creek Farm; Salisbury University; biology/pre-vet.

\$750

ALBERT ALLEN, helper for Ferris Allen; Virginia Tech; agricultural and applied economics. **DARCIE DALRYMPLE KENNEDY**, trainer; Carroll Community College; nursing. **CASH McHARGUE**, groom for Gladys McHargue; University of Maryland Baltimore County; history. **KAWANA SWANK**, exercise rider for Catherine Robinson; Community College of Baltimore County; nursing. **ERIKA TAYLOR**, exercise rider at Bonita Farm; Harford Community College; general studies/equine business management. **LINDSEY THIGPEN**, groom/caretaker at Chanceland Farm; Iowa State University; animal science/pre-vet. **KARIN WURTTENBERGER**, administrative assistant/farm manager at Chesapeake Equine Veterinary Practice/Crazy Horse Farm; University of Maryland College Park; early childhood special education.

\$500

PATRICK DeFRIES, farm worker/nightwatchman for Sean Magee; Towson University; business. **JERMAINE HAUGHTON**, stable employee for Donnavan Haughton; University of Maryland College Park; undecided. **KATHLEEN MORGAN O'LAUGHLIN**, assistant broodmare manager at Country Life Farm; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State College; animal sciences. **CHARLA OLSON**, exercise rider for Robbie Bailes; College of Southern Maryland; business. **MELANIE ANN WILLIAMS**, exercise rider/barn manager for Jonathan Sheppard, Jazz Napravnik, Lilith Boucher; Penn State University Harrisburg; business.

Honor roll of donors to 2008 Scholarship Fund

Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc., Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc., Milton P. Higgins, III, Glade Valley Farms, Maryland Horse Industry Foundation, Inc., Rosalee Davison, Hickory Plains Farm, Jay Em Ess Stable, National Steeplechase Association, Katherine Peterson, PTK LLC, Taking Risks Stable and Winding Creek Farm.



Backstretch Health Center open Tuesdays and Saturdays

New schedule for the Backstretch Health center is as follows:

Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, in the track kitchen building at Laurel.

Dr. Harry M. Harris provides medical care, free of charge, to all backstretch workers and their families.

No appointment is necessary. This is a walk-in clinic where services are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund sponsor the Backstretch Health Center in conjunction with the Maryland Jockey Club.

Thoughts and comment, from page 4

MTHA and Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund (MHAF).

Richard Hoffberger and Rich Meyer, the presidents, respectively, of the two organizations, deserve a large share of the credit for making the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund what it is today.

Until the MTHA and MHAF became joint sponsors of the program along with MRMA, in the mid-1990s, the scope of MRMA scholarships was extremely limited.

Now it is truly an industrywide effort, drawing major support from the long-time contributor Milton P. Higgins, III,

as well as the Maryland Horse Industry Foundation and a number of other individuals, who deserve our utmost thanks.

MRMA administers the scholarship program—and accepts the responsibility for making tough choices regarding individual awards. That eliminates any possible conflict of interest for the horsemen's groups, which do not have any information about the applicants until our judging is complete.

MRMA takes pride in this role, and we are especially proud to present this year's lineup of scholarship winners.

/David Richardson, President, Maryland Racing Media Association



Announcing—2008 scholarship winners

The 2008 Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund is distributing a total of \$27,500 to 24 backstretch and farm workers. Checks were presented at the Maryland Racing Media Association Crab Feast on September 26 at Laurel Park.

\$3,000

MARGARET WOLFENDALE, assistant trainer/exercise rider for Howard Wolfendale; Towson University; public relations.

\$2,500

SONJA ALEKSIC, exercise rider for Catherine Robinson; Towson University; animal science.

\$2,000

ALEXANDRA CURTISS, exercise rider for Elizabeth Lavine/Piper's Run Farm; Vanderbilt University; biology/veterinary studies. **ANDREA LATIMER**, stablehand, Hickory Ridge Farm and Tanterra Stables; Colorado State University; equine

science. **STEPHANIE WOLF**, groom for Sean and Kelli Magee, Becky Davis; University of Maryland College Park; English.

\$1,500

CHRISTIE CRAVEN, groom for Dale Capuano; University of Maryland College Park; equine business management. **NICOLE SHECKELLS**, farm worker, Dark Hollow Farm; University of Maryland College Park; animal science/pre-vet.

\$1,000

LORIE BENNETT, exercise rider for Flint Stites; Baltimore City Community College; physical therapist assistant. **BROOKE BOWMAN**, farm worker for Dance Forth Farm; Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. **JANE MERRYMAN**, exercise rider for Edwin Merryman; University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; equine medicine. **PHILIP**

See *Scholarships*, page 2

Recreation report

From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director. For more information call (410) 802-5798.

Backstretch Appreciation Day

Reminder: September 28 is Backstretch Appreciation Day. The MTHA will host a cookout at Laurel from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the area next to the white house, near the racing office and paddock.

Orioles tickets

Winners of the final Orioles ticket drawing were Mary Eppler, Eugene Gumbs, John Letts and Bruce Sider.

Poker

The MTHA will sponsor a mock Texas hold'em tournament at Bowie on October 20, beginning at noon.

Basketball

The MTHA's basketball league starts in January at Meade High School in Lau-

rel. Call (410) 802-5798 for details.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Linda Gaudet, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Sam Hoffberger, Jerry Trone and Frank and Virginia Wright.

Health Care Seminar

The Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Middleburg, Va., will offer an equine health care seminar on Friday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee is \$25.

Specialists will discuss current trends and research on hoof and dental care, diseases and parasites, alternative therapies and biosecurity.

For more information call (540) 687-3521, ext. 27 or e-mail cporr@vt.edu.

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Now through Dec. 27

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

Eastern Fall Yearlings Sept. 29-Oct. 1
December Mixed Dec. 7, 8

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Fall Mixed, Ocala, Fla.
(352) 237-2154 Oct. 6-10

Virginia Tech MARE Center Yearlings, Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Middleburg, Va.
(540) 687-3521 Oct. 12

New York Breeders' Sales Company Fall Mixed, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(518) 587-1555 Oct. 12

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . Oct. 20-22

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed, Lexington, Ky.
(859) 255-1555 Nov. 2

Keeneland November Breeding Stock, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 . . Nov. 2-15

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Adena Springs Mixed, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . Nov. 6

Ocala Breeders' Sales Co., Winter Mixed, Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 Jan. 6-9

Keeneland January Horses of All Ages, Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412 . . Jan. 12-17



MTHA
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Baltimore, Maryland 21207

September 2008

Thoughts and comment

Each year, when the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) committee gathers to evaluate applications for the scholarship program, we declare that this is our strongest field yet.

This year, it was the equivalent of a graded stakes race.

The 24 backstretch and farm workers chosen to share in a total of \$27,500 in financial aid through the 2008 Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund are all highly deserving candidates (see list at the top of this page).

We have awarded more scholarships than ever before—easily topping last

year's record of 17 winners. Our only regret is that the individual amounts could not have been larger. With the growing number of highly qualified applicants, our fund was stretched as never before.

In light of the many challenges that Maryland racing currently faces, it is encouraging, to say the least, that so many bright young people have chosen to focus their talents on its future.

As president of MRMA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who supported this year's scholarship program, and in particular the

See *Thoughts*, page 3

IN MEMORIAM

L. William (Bill) Donovan a long-time trainer, died August 27 at the age of 75. Mr. Donovan achieved national fame in the 1980s as the trainer of \$2 million-earner Lost Code.

E. Edward (Eddie) Houghton, a long-prominent owner/breeder, died August 31. He was 67.

Mr. Houghton and his wife, Elizabeth (Binnie) Houghton, were honored with the MTHA's Outstanding Maryland Owner award in 1997.

Over the last four decades, the Houghtons bred, raised or raced more than 40 stakes winners from their Buckingham Farm in Chestertown, Md.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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

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