



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association News

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
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August 2015



OHHA Promotes Harness Racing at the Ohio State Fair

Regina Mayhugh

When was the last time that you played a game of horseshoes or decorated a real horse-shoe? These are just a couple of the activities that hundreds of children and adults had the opportunity to do daily at the 2015 Ohio State Fair. For the first time, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association had a booth at the fair in the Land and Living exhibit located in the Nationwide Donahey Ag & Hort Building. This building's mission is to teach the public about agriculture and all exhibitors housed in the building had to gear their booths towards kid centric activities. It was a kid filled environment full of fun for the entire fair. What a great opportunity for the harness horse industry to be a part of this exhibit and to be able to share the sport, particularly with this year's record shattering attendance of 982,305 fairgoers.



The exhibit's activities included a chance to play horseshoes, make a horse craft (puppets, stick horses, paper horseshoes and helmets) and meet a young filly named Bubbles. One day children even made a horse treat that they could eat, which was only fun if you liked syrup flavored oatmeal and peppermints. One of the crafts that was well received was decorating a real horseshoe that had been worn by a racehorse at Scioto Downs.



The horseshoe game was even a hit with the adults. Some even came up and asked if they could play and were delighted when they could not only play, but left the booth sporting a new horse head key chain/bottle opener or other giveaway item and literature. This also created a bonding moment for kids and parents as they became competitive with each other. It was exciting to see the little ones when you could tell they were getting serious. For many, the game of horseshoes drew them into the booth. This was an example of how we can use simple fun to draw people in. We also had give aways, including a horse weeble (a pompom horse sticker) with our website on it for all the children that visited, and adults received OHHA branded reusable shopping bags or an OHHA branded horse head key chain/bottle opener. We also provided boxes of industry specific literature to visitors.



One of the highlights of the booth was the young filly named Bubbles, mentioned earlier. Yes, her name was Bubbles. This name was the result of giving the mascot job to our OHHA State Fair booth helpers, seven year old Sylvia Mayhugh and nine year olds, Samantha Mayhugh and Cianna Mancino. A special thank you to the Mercer County Fair and Emily Hay who allowed the OHHA to borrow their horse mascot costume for the fair. Bubbles was a star attraction that brought visitors into the booth. It was amazing to see how people of all ages would flock to a cute mascot. The Fair Booth helpers clamored for their respective turns to be Bubbles. Hey, I get it- I am like a kid when I am at Disney World stalking the mascots. It's fun to take your picture with something cute! One time when Sylvia was Bubbles she sat on a chair while people came to visit, and one adult whispered to me "is that a child inside?" It was a good thing she asked, as she really wanted to sit on Bubble's lap! Bubbles even made two older gentlemen smile when she went next door to the Pork Producers booth, made two farm pictures

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OHHA Staff

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Brett Merkle
Scioto Downs
Miami Valley
Gaming & Racing,
Hollywood at
Dayton Raceway,
(614) 354-1601

2015 Racing Dates

Northfield Park
Jan. 1 - Dec. 30
(214 Live Days)

Miami Valley Gaming
Jan. 2 - May 3
(89 live days)

Scioto Downs
May 5 - Sept. 12
(95 live days)

Hollywood at
Dayton Raceway
Sept. 14 - Dec. 30
(75 live days)

Important Dates

**OHHA Quarterly
Board Meeting**
October 20- 9:00 AM
Hilton Garden Inn
3232 Olentangy
River Rd.
Columbus, Ohio, 43202

OSRC Monthly Meeting
August 25- 10:00 AM
Rife Center
77 S. High St., 31st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

From Your Executive Director

Renée Mancino



With the Summer and Fair racing season in full swing we receive a lot of phone calls and requests for information on the insurance products that are included with an OHHA Active Membership. Whether a horseman is trying to avoid the Obama Care penalty by participating in an Obama Care compliant, subsidized, cost effective medical plan, or to ensure he has coverage if one of the horses in his charge gets loose and harms someone or damages personal property, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association provides a wide range of insurance products for Active Members in good standing. Some of the insurance products are included in the OHHA membership and other products are available on a self-pay basis. The information below is a brief synopsis of the insurance products available and in effect as of publication. For the complete policies, individual qualifying criteria, costs, or subsequent changes to any insurance products, visit the OHHA's website at www.ohha.com or give the office a call.

Active Member Included Insurance Benefits:

On track driver/trainer accident insurance is provided through Chubb Insurance administered by Van Gundy Insurance. On track accident insurance is in effect at all pari-mutuel racetracks in Ohio. The on track accident insurance provides medical, disability, accidental death and dismemberment coverage for all drivers or trainers during a race or warming up at the pari-mutuel racetracks in Ohio. For on-track coverage if an on track accident should occur members should immediately call 1-309-452-1156 to report a claim under OHHA Policy Number 6477-94-58.

On track driver/trainer fair track accident insurance is provided through Chubb Insurance administered by Van Gundy Insurance. For 2015 all of the 65 Ohio Racing Fairs have the fair track accident insurance in place. The on track accident insurance provides medical, disability, accidental death and dismemberment coverage for all drivers or trainers during a race or warming up at the fairs in Ohio. For on-track fair coverage if an on track fair accident should occur members should immediately call 1-309-452-1156 to report a claim under OHHA Policy Number 99051028-852.

On the fire, mortality, and general liability side of the business the two main products offered are through Markel Insurance and come from the OHHA's association and membership in the Harness Horsemen International (HHI). Harness Horsemen International is the organization representing the collective individual state Harness Horsemen's As-

sociations. They provide advice, consultation, and representation on an international scale to Horsemen's Associations nationwide. The current President of HHI is Tom Luchento, President of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, Co Vice-Presidents are Kim Hankins the Meadows Standardbred Owner's Association's Executive Director, and Tony Somone, Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association's Executive Director.

With the power of nationwide membership, HHI is able to negotiate international volume purchase agreements with vendors so member associations receive significant discounts on goods and services. With that capability they have been able to develop a multifaceted insurance acquisition program for member associations, which has enabled them to receive insurance discounts on the Markel Insurance products at an attractive group rate. Markel offers several products to horsemen nationwide and if you would like to see what individual products they offer for purchase, visit their website at, <http://www.markelhorseandfarm.com/>.

The Markel Third Party Liability Insurance has two components, a third party general liability policy and a catastrophic loss policy. For both products in the event of a loss, claim forms are available from the OHHA office or the OHHA Track Representatives.

The general liability policy is a secondary policy covering third party claims alleging bodily injury or property damage caused by a Member's standardbred racehorse in connection with the Member's standardbred business. Coverage on the third party liability policy extends to the third parties injured or with damages. The coverage follows the covered Member's Horse anywhere in the U.S. or Canada. The policy does not cover the personal injury or personal property damage for the covered Members themselves, nor does it cover claims where Worker's Compensation insurance applies. Coverage also does not extend to a Member who is sued by a horse owner for damages to a horse in the Member's care, custody, and control. It is a secondary policy and will cover claims when there is no other coverage or a primary policy limit has been reached. For eligibility the covered Member must own fewer than 20 horses. If a Member owns more than 20 horses it would be necessary to purchase your own policy.

The catastrophic loss policy covers catastrophic events—mortality and fire loss incurred at Race Tracks and Training Centers or Fairgrounds that are specifically scheduled on the policy endorsement. It also covers mortality for horses in transit to or from any USTA/CTA track or specifically scheduled training center or Fairgrounds. The policy does not cover injury only complete catastrophic loss. So if you are shipping a horse to or from your private farm or Fairgrounds to a USTA/CTA racetrack to race and the horse is killed in an accident there is coverage. If you are shipping anywhere other than to or from any USTA/CTA track or specifically scheduled training center or Fairgrounds on the policy's endorsement and the horse is killed in an accident you are not covered by this policy. For example you are shipping from a non-scheduled Fairgrounds to the Ohio State University for veterinary care. In that instance if the horse was killed in an accident that would not be covered. This policy also covers Fire horse mortality and equipment loss at USTA or CTA racetracks and policy scheduled training centers and Fairgrounds. Call the OHHA office for a copy of the policy for endorsed training centers and Fairgrounds with coverage. Few OHHA Members or Fairgrounds take advantage of this free benefit. Individuals (farms and training centers) or Fair Boards (fairgrounds) can contact the OHHA office for a Markel application and apply to be added to the policy endorsement. And again, for eligibility the covered Member must own fewer than 20 horses. If a Member owns more than 20 horses it would be necessary to purchase your own catastrophic mortality and fire loss policy.

Ohio is the nationwide leader for Member Sulky Insurance. Sulkies are insured for up to \$4,000 when an accident occurs on the track in a race or during warm up miles for a race or qualifying day at pari-mutuel tracks and county or independent fair tracks. The insurance covers sulkies only, wheels and wheel disks are excluded. Claims must be submitted within 30 days of the incident date. An OHHA pari-mutuel Track Representative, Regional Fair Coordinator, or Presiding Judge must verify the damage and their signature must be on the claim form. For effective coverage all Parties, the owner of the sulky, the driver, the trainer, and all owners or leasees of the horse involved, must be current active members of the OHHA. (If the owner of the horse is a stable, corporation, or business entity, all members of the entity must be OHHA Active Members) In the case of a borrowed sulky, the owner of the borrowed sulky must also be an OHHA member.

Active Member Subsidized Self-Pay Insurance Benefits:

The OHHA's Ohio Harness Horsemen's Health Insurance Trust offers subsidized self-pay medical benefits for Ohio resident qualified farm employees, trainers, and drivers through global health-care provider Cigna, <http://www.cigna.com/>. The OHHA subsidizes premium costs as a benefit for Ohio resident Members keeping monthly premium self-pay costs well below the national average for comparable Obama Care compliant medical insurance plans. Currently the premium costs for single member coverage is \$278 a month and family coverage is \$644 per month. OHHA member Ohio resident grooms earning 75% of their earned income from grooming horses for full time, qualified resident Ohio trainers are eligible for fully subsidized medical coverage.

Another self-pay insurance product offered through USTA Membership for licensed driver-trainers under the age of 70 is one that is underutilized by OHHA Members. The USTA Chubb Occupational Accident Coverage Plan, the plan has two coverage levels for differing premium costs, which range from \$328 to \$944 yearly. Plan 1 coverage is provided for injury sustained arising out of or in the course of being hit, struck, bitten, knocked down, run over or otherwise injured by a horse, sulky or jog cart in the course of training or driving at the track, farm, or training facility. Coverage is also provided for injury sustained while in the paddock area and while coming and going with a horse from the barn area in preparation for, or upon completion of training and/or racing. For differing premium costs Plan 1 offers a \$300 weekly disability benefit and \$100,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment or for a higher premium cost the member can choose a \$500 weekly benefit and \$250,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage. Plan 2 accident coverage is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on and off the job with the same level benefits offered under Plan 1, but for a slightly higher premium cost yearly. With these benefits the OHHA provides comprehensive coverage for Members' Ohio based standardbred-racing business. So if you are not an OHHA member become one to take advantage of these free and subsidized insurance products today! Make note of the types of coverage in place and the contact numbers if a claim is necessary. Contact the OHHA office for further information on policy limits and coverage amounts, qualifying criteria, and any other questions that you may have.

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**Congratulations
to all of the
connections of
Pinkman,
the 2015
Hambletonian
winner!**

Ohio Racing Commission Meeting Recap

Regularly scheduled Racing Commission Meeting recap from Tuesday July 21, 2015 at the Columbus Riffe Center.

In normal business, the Commission approved the Executive Director's Report items for Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton requested a waiver of their Surety Bond for 2015, approval of their Officials List, the Number of Races and Wagering Format, Post Times, and Simulcasting Schedule for their 2015 race meet. The Racing Commission unanimously approved all requests.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2015-6 a request for an escrow distribution of the Horsemen's Video Lottery Terminal revenue by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. Included in the request were the following allocations. A \$500,000 distribution from the Horsemen's Video Lottery Terminal revenue for claims, expenses, and operating costs for the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association's Health Insurance Program (O.H.H.H.I.T.), \$185,000 for Little Brown Jug Purse Support and Promotional Expenses, a \$400,000 purse supplement for the Ohio Breeders Championships at Delaware used to supplement purses \$50,000 per division, a \$400,000 purse supplement for the Ohio State Fair Stakes at Scioto Downs used to supplement purses \$50,000 per division, a purse support allocation for the Ohio Fairs Championship at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton of \$27,500 used to supplement purses for each division for \$15,000 finals, Fair Purse support of \$15,000 to the Darke County Fair, Gene Riegle Memorial Race, and \$17,500 for Charity Race Night at Scioto Downs, a 10 race charity sponsorship event to benefit the ALS Association, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundation, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Central Ohio Parkinson

Society, The Ronald McDonald House, 4-H Youth Development, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2015-7 the distribution of casino tax revenue. Based on the total revenue of \$1,926,179.57 for the second quarter of 2015 the breakdown was 31.2% to the Thoroughbred purse pools and Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund based on 2,369 races and 48.8% to the Standardbred purse pools and Standardbred Development Fund calculated on 5,788 total races. For Standardbred racetrack purse pools that included: Miami Valley Raceway at 9.02% for \$72,971.39, Northfield Park at 38.95% for \$315,103.72, Dayton Raceway 9.04% for \$73,133.19, and Scioto Downs 13.95% for \$112,854.86. Also included in the revenue disbursement were 15% distributions to each of the standardbred permit holders for commercial operations of \$72,231.73 and a \$96,308.98 (5%) distribution to the Ohio State Racing Commission to pay administrative staff that support the OSDF and TRF, and costs or fees associated with, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, Northfield Park, Belterra Park and Scioto Downs.

In the monthly status update on Permit Holder and Horsemen's Agreement Negotiations, the Racing Commission represented that Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OH-BPA) have formally requested that the Racing Commission set the rate for the O.R.C. § 3769.087, 9-11% revenue share lottery commission division.

Belterra Park provided an update on the Belterra Park Horsemen's Agreement negotiations. Belterra Park represented settlement on all issues outside of the O.R.C. § 3769.087 revenue share. The Racing Commission further queried Belterra Park on an agree-

ment that was to commence July 23, 2015 with the OHBPA agreeing to a 7-day race card with 7 horse races. This was represented as necessary for horsemen to maintain the current purse structure cognizant of a potential \$300,000 overpayment. Based on Belterra's representations the reduction in field sizes enables the OHBPA to preserve the purse pool and reduce the overpayment amount.

The OHHA and Penn Gaming provided an update on the Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway Agreement negotiations. The Parties convened via telephone conference for negotiations on July 15, 2015 for over three hours. There were no individual issues that stood out as problematic, there were a variety of issues still remaining, and if that changed the Commission would be updated. The Parties both represented forward progress towards final settlement.

An update on the horse racing fatalities was provided and so far this year there have been 10 thoroughbred fatalities (Thistle-down-2, Belterra-2, Mahoning Valley-6) and 7 standardbred fatalities (Northfield-4, Miami Valley-2, Scioto Downs-1) so far in 2015.

In the matter of the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation on the licensing of Trent Tharps Jr., Mr. Tharps did not appear. The Racing Commission sent Mr. Tharps advance notice of the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation for denial of licensing. There was no objection or appearance filed by Mr. Tharps and the Racing Commission unanimously adopted the report in its entirety affirming the Hearing Officer's recommendation.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission Hearing is Aug. 25, 2015 at 10:00 am, Room 1932, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

Northfield Park News:

Wiggle It Jiggleit Captures Northfield's Carl Milstein Memorial by Ayers Ratliff

Wiggle It Jiggleit went to post in Friday's (August 14) \$405,000 Carl Milstein Memorial at Northfield Park as the overwhelming 1-9 favorite. His stellar performance did not disappoint a packed apron full of fans, who showed their appreciation with loud cheers as he returned to the Winners Circle.

Montrell Teague was in the sulky for his father, George Teague Jr., who owns Wiggle It Jiggleit, and trainer Clyde Francis. Friday's victory represents the popular gelding's 16th win

in 18 career starts, while his share of the purse took his earnings to \$1,195,644.

Staring from post position four, Wiggle It Jiggleit let his rivals get position off the gate before brushing to the front nearing the quarter pole. After clocking a :26.1 opening fraction, Teague was able to rate the second panel and slowed the pace to a :55.3 half.

"That was the plan," said Montrell Teague in a post-race interview. "I wanted to take care of him tonight after the hard race he had last week."

Wakizashi Hanover (Tim Tetrack) made a first-over challenge in the second half and pushed Wiggle It Jiggleit to a 1:22.4 three-quarter

time. Wakizashi Hanover flattened in the final quarter while Lost For Words (David Miller), who sat the pocket throughout, also could not gain on Wiggle It Jiggleit, who posted a 1 ½-length victory in 1:49.3. Lost For Words finished second and Wakizashi Hanover was third.

The mile lowered Northfield's track record for three year-old geldings. The prior 1:52 record was held by both Gryffindor (Ray Fisher Jr.) in 2005 and Hare Craft (Aaron Byron) in 2011.

"I am glad he bounced back like he did. He was very strong tonight," offered Montrell, referring to his most recent disappointing fourth place finish in the Cane Pace. "I am glad to quiet the doubters."

Updates From Your President

Kevin Greenfield



Summer is here and the racing season is in full swing. Horsemen are traveling daily from venue to venue to race and the purses they are racing for makes the trip worth the effort. It is encouraging to see the increased number of horses and races that are being contested at the stakes level, both at the racetracks and fairs as well as the overnights. To help sustain our momentum, efforts are now underway with our lobbyists to map out a long term strategic plan to raise funds for our ongoing political efforts, which is so crucial to our sport's long term survival in Ohio. You can also help by making your contribution to PACER, if you have not already done so to date. Your support is crucial.

We are currently in the preliminary stages of discussions with the Racing Commission regarding the extent of how our percentage of the VLT money we receive will be administered and/or monitored going forward. Establishing a mutually beneficial agreement with the Racing Commission with respect to control and operation of this money is a crucial component in the ability of the OHHA to operate as a productive and viable business entity that can properly represent its members now and for the future.

Finally, during this busy season, I am making it a point to connect with horsemen as well as visiting as many fairs as I can to listen regarding any concerns or thoughts you may have so that your organization will be in a better position to assist with any issues you may encounter as they arise. For sure, it is an exciting time to be involved in harness racing in Ohio. I hope all of you are able in some way to enjoy each day and share in the fruits of your labor that our Governor and legislature have generously bestowed upon us. If your experience is not so, please let me know. We are here to listen and help.

OHHA Promotes Harness Racing at the Ohio State Fair

from cover

and handed them to the older gentlemen. Bubbles was busy greeting all ages and even took her driver around the building with her. Bubbles had so much fun meeting people that she started searching out other mascots that appeared in the building, one being the Columbus Clippers Seal Louseal who she challenged to a dance off. The dance off did not go well for Bubbles when Louseal backed people up so he had room, hit the floor and did the worm. Bubbles just walked away in a pout. This was one moment that drew in a crowd! Another highlight for Bubbles was meeting Brutus Buckeye! OHHA meets OSU, doesn't get much better than that!

As people came by, we asked them if they watch harness racing. It was amazing to hear the responses. We had people who were raised in harness racing, some were former owners (who we tried to convince now is the time to come back), many who knew someone either currently or formerly in the business and many said "yes we watch at the fairs". Of course you had those who didn't know what harness racing was or didn't know that admission to the parimutuel racetracks was free. That piece of information made them seem more interested as they thought you had to pay to go to the tracks. Some didn't realize horses were still at Scioto Downs. Several came up and said they owned a retired racehorse and it was the best horse they ever owned. One lady visited and said she would never watch harness racing as she was against the horses being whipped. I explained to her that the whip is not to be used in an abusive manner, that more often it was used to startle or scare a horse hitting the saddle pad or wheel disks, and there were extreme penalties for the driver. I also explained that part of what the OHHA does is strive to protect both the animals and the people involved in harness racing. By the end of our discussion her opinion had done a 180 degree turnaround and she thanked me numerous times for explaining that to her. That conversation among others left me feeling happy to have been there and able to educate the general public on widely held misconceptions. It's all about education, and in today's world we need that education more than ever! Some people even saw that the OHHA was in the building and made a special point to gather others to come visit. People were excited to see that the OHHA was part of the exhibit, the ten day booth was a successful event, and it was a fun filled Ohio State Fair for attendees and participants alike!

A special Thank You to those who generously volunteered their time to work a shift at the booth: Hunter Myers, Makala Pollock, Suanne & Judy Kochilla, Roy & Kacey Burns, Dot Morgan, Emily & Jason Hay, my craft directors and Bubbles the OHHA Mascot: Cianna Mancino, Samantha and Sylvia Mayhugh. This display is available to use at other functions and can easily be duplicated so that you have a display that you can use in your area at your events. Contact me if you would like for OHHA to set up at an event or would like help in creating your own display. This is an easy way to promote harness racing, just by adding a little fun and a lot of awareness!





Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
 850 Michigan Avenue, Suite 100
 Columbus, Ohio 43215-1920



Thank You to our 2015 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

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as of August 19, 2015

P.A.C.E.R.: Ohio horse racing received great support from Governor Kasich and Ohio legislators with the enactment of House Bill #386 (HB386). We must support those legislators who support us.

Donate by sending a personal check, LLC check*, or money order to:

**P.A.C.E.R 850 Michigan Ave
 Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43215-1920**

*(*Corporate checks are not acceptable for PAC donations- LLC checks only are acceptable for PAC donations)*

Include employer information and type of business.

All P.A.C.E.R. donations go to a candidate's campaign funds.

The OHHA offices receive calls every week from state legislators asking for campaign donations as they attempt to raise campaign financing throughout the year.

A special Thank You to those who donate!