



The Ohio Harness Horseman's Association

March 2010 Newsletter

2010 Harness Racing Dates

Lebanon Raceway

Feb 19-Dec 11
(50 live days)

Northfield Park

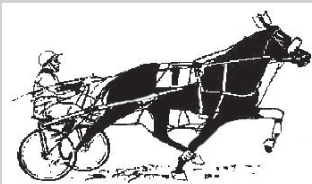
Jan 1-Dec 29
(213 live days)

Raceway Park

April 17-Oct 24
(56 live days)

Scioto Downs

May 17-Sept 18
(65 live days)



OHHA Track Reps

Tom Blankenship

Lebanon Raceway
Scioto Downs

Amy Hollar

Northfield Park

Kim Marts

Raceway Park

Volume 39, No. 3



A blast from the past.....the pacer Hummingbird and his driver aren't letting the heavy snows of 1910 deter them from training. Trainers in those days routinely replaced sulky wheels with sleigh runners during the winter months to keep their equine athletes in shape, and often trained and raced them on ice covered city streets.

Important Reminders for all OHHA Members

April 15 Matinee Deadline: The OHHA is requesting that all information regarding this year's matinees be sent to our office no later than April 15, 2010. Information should include: date (with rain date, if possible); location; sponsor; post time; entry fee; photo finish; charted lines; trophies; and call-in dates and phone numbers. Please contact Linda Nance at the OHHA office at 1-800-353-6442 or e-mail your information to lnance@ohha.com.

2010 OHHA Membership Dues: If you haven't done so yet, please renew your OHHA membership for 2010. Dues are \$65.00 for the year for an active or associate membership. It's easy to become an OHHA Member: See an OHHA representative at the racetrack, fill out an application and pay your fees, or download our Membership Application online. 2009 OHHA memberships expired on January 31, 2009.

2010 P.A.C.E.R. Contributions: We encourage members to continue to contribute to our PACER Fund (Political Action Committee for Equine Racing). These monies go to help fund our legislative efforts in order to garner industry-wide support for expanded gaming at Ohio's seven racetracks that would positively affect the Ohio horse racing industry. Please donate today by sending a personal check or money order (corporate checks are unacceptable for PAC fund donations) to: P.A.C.E.R., 800 Michigan Ave., Columbus, OH 43215-1166. Please include your employer and nature of business information as well.

General Manager's Report

by Jerry Knappenberger

Legislative Update: LetOhioVote.org, the group pushing for a statewide November ballot issue aimed at barring Ohio racetracks from installing video lottery terminals (VLTs) at their facilities, has submitted an additional 155,000 signatures to the Secretary of State for approval. LetOhioVote.org originally submitted over 320,000 signatures on December 20, hoping to have at least 241,365 valid signatures that would place the issue on the ballot. The language in House Bill 1 (HB1) is the implementation language needed to allow Governor Ted Strickland's Executive Order for VLTs to go forward.

Secretary Of State Jennifer Brunner ruled LetOhioVote.org was short of the requirement by 27,000 signatures and by state code they had ten days to submit additional signatures. Their submission of the 155,000 additional signatures on March 8 would almost certainly guarantee that the HB1 language will be on the November ballot.

The legislature has the opportunity to negate the November vote by repealing the HB1 language. There would be no need for a vote in November, and therefore Governor Strickland could alter his Executive Order to proceed by that order only. This approach would bring other legal challenges which would go to the Ohio Supreme Court for a decision on constitutionality, which the Governor has asked for, but the court has yet to rule. The repeal of the HB1 language is a possibility in the House of Representatives and has been discussed within the Democratic Caucus, which controls the House. However, it is highly unlikely to happen in the Republican controlled Senate, since very little bipartisan activity is taking place in the legislature.

Recently, State Representatives Louis Blessing, Jr.(R) Cincinnati and Todd Book (D), McDermott, introduced House Bill 250 for VLTs at Ohio racetracks. Their bill mirrors the Governor's Executive Order and is going through the State Government Committee.

Two hearings have been held thus far, the first was a hearing for sponsor only testimony; the second hearing on February 17 was for proponent testimony. Those submitting testimony were David Paragas, representing the racetracks; David Basler, Ohio HBPA, and Steve McCoy, OHHA President. Both horsemen's representatives stated that Ohio horsemen supported the concept of VLTs at the racetracks and expected a fair and equitable amount of revenue for horsemen. House Bill 250 has some probability of being passed in the House but is unlikely to pass in the Senate.

If the HB1 language is on the November ballot, the Ohio horse racing industry must come together for a strong grassroots campaign to pass the language which will allow the Governor's Executive Order to move forward. We will have the "Yes" side and must win!

Until then, please continue to contact your state legislators and ask them to support House Bill 250 and provide the necessary means that the agriculture-based Ohio horse racing industry can be put on a level playing field with surrounding states and provide revenue to the state government which it so desperately needs! If you have any questions, contact me at 1-800-353-6442 or 1-614-224-3650 or e-mail me at Jlknappenberger@ohha.com.

Lebanon Horseman's Relief Fund: The OHHA distributed checks totaling over \$113,000 to the owners and trainers who lost horses in the tragic barn fire that occurred on December 5, 2009 at Lebanon Raceway. The OHHA received this astounding amount of contributions from Canada to California and the donors were fellow horsemen's associations, individual owners, drivers, trainers, racetrack owners,

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OHHA General Manager



Jerry Knappenberger

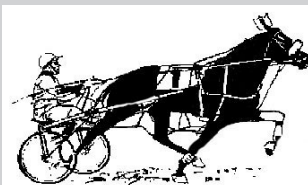
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Jerry Knappenberger

Office Manager
Linda Nance

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Administrator
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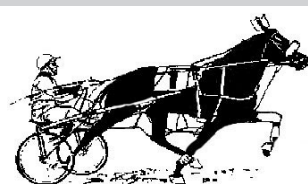
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This trotter and his trainer-driver get ready for an outing on Lake Erie in 1905. From this photo, other than the sleigh and traditional harness, little has changed in the way of equipment. This trotter wears an open bridle, standard driving and overcheck bits, knee and grab boots.

management and employees, and some were racing fans. Each individual donor is being sent a letter thanking them for their tremendous support, and, a list of donors is available on the OHHA website (www.ohha.com).

A check was sent to each owner and trainer of the 42 Standardbred horses lost. As well, a check was also sent to veterinarians Scott and Jennifer McQuinn, who not only lost a riding horse in the fire, but also, at their own expense, purchased medications to treat all the horses in the three barns near Barn 16, for the effects of smoke inhalation and other injuries sustained during the noise and confusion as a result of the fire.

The OHHA wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Ronald Williams and James "Turtle" Edwards. We also send our sincere best wishes to all the owners and trainers for a successful and profitable return from this terrible disaster.

Ohio Fairs Fund: The Ohio Fairs Fund Distribution for 2010 that was released during the Ohio Fair Managers Convention is not correct. The revised 2010 Ohio Fairs Fund base purse is \$1,880. Following the Fair Manager's Convention, an additional \$100,000 was discovered in another account, which should have been included in the distribution. It was thus added and the base purse has been raised. The calculation for the Fairs Fund base purse is contained in this newsletter and the complete Ohio Fairs Fund distribution can be obtained on the OHHA website (www.ohha.com) or by calling the OHHA office. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Fair Officials Meeting: The Ohio Harness Horseman's Association, in conjunction with the Ohio State Racing Commission and the United States Trotting Association, will host the Fair Racing Officials Seminar. This year's meeting will be by invitation, with the date to be set in the near future and the officials notified by mail.

OHHA Awards Banquet: The OHHA thanks everyone who attended the OHHA-USTA District 1 Annual Awards Banquet on January 16, 2010. We again congratulate all the award winners on their outstanding achievements, both on and off the racetrack. We want to most especially thank Ohio Hall of Fame inductee David Miller for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come home to Ohio to receive his most deserved award. Jason Setlemoir was outstanding as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and again we thank him for coming home for our special night.

Ohio Breeders Stakes: The exact dates for the Ohio Breeders Stakes at Scioto Downs have now been set. All 2-year-old events will be raced on Friday, August 27, 2010 and all 3-year-old events will be contested on Saturday, August 28, 2010. The OHHA and Scioto Downs are sorry for any inconvenience of not having the exact dates available before the February 15, 2010 nomination payment. Scioto Downs management had hoped to race on Sundays this year (dropping Wednesdays during May and June and Thursdays during July, August and September) but the logistics could not be worked out through the Ohio State Racing Commission.



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
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Columbus, Ohio 43215-1166

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Important Dates

2nd Quarter
OHHHA Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

3rd Quarter
OHHHA Board Meeting
June 22, 2010

4th Quarter
OHHHA Board Meeting
October 26, 2010

POWER HALL

3, 2:01.1f; 1:55.1f (\$153,661)

Speedy Crown--Power Bay--Super Bowl
2010 STUD FEE \$750

Standing at

Henry Burkholder Farm
8030 CR 189

Holmesville, OH 44633
(330) 279-2535

Ohio Racetracks

Lebanon Raceway

665 North Broadway
Lebanon, Ohio 45036
(513) 932-4936

www.lebanonraceway.com

Northfield Park

10705 Northfield Road
Northfield, Ohio 44067
(330) 367-4101

www.northfieldpark.com

Raceway Park

5700 Telegraph Road
Toledo, Ohio 43612

www.racewaypark.com

Scioto Downs

6000 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43207
(614) 491-2515

www.sciotodowns.com

2010 Ohio Fair Stakes Racing Purses

\$ 500.00	Ohio Fairs Fund base per stake race
\$ 880.00	Ohio Fairs Fund added purse per stake race
\$1,380.00	Total from Ohio Fairs Fund per stake race
\$ 500.00	Mandated fair's contribution per stake race
\$1,880.00	Total mandated minimum purse money per stake race at Ohio Fairs