

The Buckeye Harness Horseman



**July 2015
Volume 45, Number 2**

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The Buckeye Harness Horseman

The Official Publication of the
Ohio Harness Horsemen's
Association



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From Your Executive Director

Renée Mancino



The rulemaking process in Ohio is a somewhat lengthy and complex process. Many members know little about rulemaking. This month we discuss the rulemaking process as illustrated through the new Use of the Whip rule.

On January 14, 2015 the Racing Commission announced a Rule Change, that §3769.17.17 the existing “Whip Restriction” was going to be rescinded and replaced. The OHHA arranged a workshop to discuss issues with the proposed new rule, which was held on February 9, 2015.

An OHHA draft model rule approved by Ohio Drivers was proposed to the Racing Commission on February 11, 2015. On March 30, 2015 at a regularly scheduled monthly hearing the Racing Commission passed Resolution 2015-2, “Use of the Whip”. The Resolution provided the Racing Commission’s final proposed replacement Rule for §3769.17.17.

Once passed by the Racing Commission the Resolution is vetted through the Common Sense Initiative and Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) process. The Racing Commission submitted the Resolution to the Common Sense Initiative after passage at the Hearing. The Common Sense Initiative reviewed and released the Resolution May 4, 2015.

The Racing Commission had its only noticed and public hearing on the substantive portions of the Resolution on June 4, 2015. At the public hearing anyone can appear and speak in support of or in opposition to the proposed rule. The only party appearing at that Hearing was the OHHA to put the OHHA’s public position on the record and answer the Commission’s questions. The OHHA’s representative was Vice President Steve Bateson, an owner, trainer, and driver. Next time you see Steve thank him for taking the time to appear on this important issue. During that hearing the OHHA encouraged the Racing Commission to withdraw the proposed replacement rule and instead review and revise Code provisions §§ 3769-17-11 through 3769-17-18, which define prohibited driver conduct during a race. The OHHA sought replacement of those code provisions in their entirety with a single, uniform rule that wasn’t substantially different from what was being proposed, but one that unified all Drivers’ conduct provisions and included a clearly defined penalty chart.

The Racing Commission declined to withdraw the rule, which led to the last public hearing in front of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review on June 22, 2015 and again the only interested party in opposition was Renée Mancino on behalf of the OHHA appearing to testify. The Racing Commission had seven representatives, an Assistant Attorney General, Racing Commission Staff Attorney, Chariman Schmitz, Director Crawford, Commissioner Winters, and two other Commission Staff Members. The Joint Committee is made up of five State Senators and five State Representatives who ensure that administrative agencies do not exceed their rule-making authority. After hearing from interested parties the Joint Committee members can send the rule back to the administrative agency, vote to invalidate the rule, or do nothing enabling the rule to become law. In the history of JCARR less than a dozen rules have ever been invalidated. In this case after hearing from the interested parties the Committee members chose not to act. The time period for the JCARR process runs until July 9th when the Racing Commission will register the Rule. After registration the Rule’s effective date will be July 19, 2015.

What follows is the written position letter offered at the June 4th Racing Commission Hearing by the OHHA. Position letter points I, II, and III, below, were made at the Racing Commission public hearing, points II and III provide the JCARR Hearing testimony. For the OHHA’s proposed February 11, 2015 model whip rule visit, www.ohha.com.

The OHHA is cognizant of nationwide public opinion on whipping racehorses. No matter how you dress it up, limit and regulate its use, it is still seen as, “whipping a horse” in the most graphic sense of the description. OHHA Members are even more sensitive to it from the perspective of the welfare of the horse, because Standardbred Owners, Breeders, Trainers, and Drivers overwhelmingly support the ethical and humane treatment of racehorses. They treat them in the same way that the family

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dog is treated, as a member of the family. The overwhelming majority of trainers and drivers are interested in a whip being permitted for use on a horse as a gentle reminder, for control purposes, and for the safety of the driver and other horses in a race. There isn't any reputable participant that is interested in seeing a whip being used to abuse a horse, the same way that every dog owner was sickened and disgusted by Michael Vick's highly publicized dog abuse.

To that end the OHHA would urge the Ohio Racing Commission not to throw the baby out with the bathwater and only pursue further restriction on the actions and personal style of a driver. Unlike a NASCAR driver's car, horses have a mind of their own and that mind can wander or act erratically during a race. In response Driver's each have their own individual "ticklers" or aids that are highly guarded and protected ways to discreetly and non-abusively keep them focused. All Drivers will admit that their hand tricks, foot glides, or whip slides are signature moves they use to surprise a horse, wake them up, and keep their mind on the business of a race. All Drivers will also admit what works on one horse or another is completely different and part of knowing what to apply to each is also part of the race. Judges often admit they cannot discern the use or application of a good portion of these aids when applied. Moderate whip use is necessary for safety and control when a subtle cue or correction is simply and repeatedly ignored or the horse acts erratically.

1. The OHHA would like to see the withdrawal of the pending "Use of the Whip" Resolution 2015-2, passed March 30, 2015 replacing § 3769-17-17. The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is in favor of industry relevant review and study with all stakeholders participating, and a complete revision to Administrative Code provisions §§ 3769-17-11 through 3769-17-18, which define prohibited driver conduct during a race.

In revising the Administrative Code promulgate one rule for all Drivers' conduct during a race and include a uniform penalty chart, which has been done in Ontario and Pennsylvania. This would clarify and simplify the application of driver's restrictions and penalties at the four pari-mutuel racetracks and 60 pari-mutuel racing fairs overseen by the Racing Commission.

Show the same careful state-specific attention to the problem that is currently being paid to medication and testing with all industry stakeholders present. Be the nationwide industry leader on Driver's conduct and whipping, not an industry follower. The OHHA's recommended single model rule and penalty chart is attached here as Exhibit 1.

Bring the harness racing whip manufacturers into the process to help become part of the solution. The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) has done extensive research on Jockey Crops since at least 2009. They have a rule that specifically outlines a more humane crop. ARCI 010-035(A) (1), specifying the crop be, "covered by shock absorbing material that gives a compression factor of at least one-millimeter throughout its circumference." Regulators in Canada, Australia, California, and New York have adopted variants on the ARCI guidelines. ARCI has no such model rule for harness racing. They do however have a model rule for Driver's Conduct, ARCI-024-035 (J), Conduct of the Race.

Beneficial for the industry would be for a Racing Commission to mandate creation of a whip not only with a shock absorbing material, but with an ultimate tensile strength (UTS), (the maximum stress that a material can withstand while being stretched or pulled before failing or breaking) at a level that can do no harm to a horse. Investigate the process of manufacturing a whip, then partner with a whip manufacturer to create a "breakable" whip, a more humane whip, or a whip that cannot be used in an abusive manner.

The system of regulating Driver conduct has had moderate success nationwide evidenced by the fact that regulators continually move to restrict further. There are few facts or statistics as to racing being safer or not when Drivers keep two hands on the lines at all times during a race, most evidence is opinion. During the course of preparation Racing Commissions and Horsemen's Associations nationwide were contacted and they do not gather those statistics. The USTA statistics on accidents were obtained and there is no data referencing a cause, an accident can only be detected by an "AC" or "ACC" Boolean search of charted lines in their database.

New York had stricter two-handed regulations in mid-2012. Pennsylvania enacted two hands on the lines for the entire race mile as-of November 1, 2014 at their four pari-mutuel racetracks and 16 racing Fairs. Pennsylvania also enacted a detailed

penalty chart in conjunction with their stricter penalties.

An accident search of the USTA database restricting the data to Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New Jersey, and New York (including fairs) from 2007 through 2014 shows the following, per year.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
New York	48	33	14	28	15	21	36	27
Ohio	37	31	13	17	12	9	19	24
Pennsylvania	12	15	18	7	14	10	3	8
New Jersey	5	8	5	2	11	2	2	7
Indiana	2	3	7	6	6	3	6	9

In 2009 Indiana restricted whipping and mandated handhold use, with two hands on the lines until the last quarter of a mile, which remains to date. At the time of enactment, Indiana Horse Racing Commission Executive Director, Joe Gorajec made the following published comment:

“From what I understand, if these rules are passed, Indiana will be the most stringent. From a public perception standpoint, this would be a very positive thing for the industry.” The rule would differ from that adopted by Kentucky and other jurisdictions in one regard; while drivers must keep their hands in the handholds for a majority of the race, it would not be required in the stretch drive. Presiding judge Tim Schmitz, who has drafted the proposed changes, sees potential problems with requiring drivers to keep their hands in the handholds in the stretch. “I can see nothing but major problems requiring drivers to have hands in the handholds while whipping,” Schmitz said. “To me, it could cause problems with some drivers turning a horse loose and veering right or left while aggressively whipping and putting other horses on the track in peril. “

The Ohio Standardbred industry concurs, particularly as applied to younger and less experienced drivers. From the Indiana data, the statistics seem relatively level since 2009, reinforcing the Presiding Judge’s position.

Nationwide Racing Commissions seek to modify and restrict a Driver’s ability to concentrate on a race, his horse, and safely guiding a 1,200-pound animal around a racetrack, on stride, at 30-55 mph speeds during a race. All while balanced on a ten by six inch wide seat with his feet suspended in front of him, straddling the horse’s rear end, back hooves flying at him, positioned as-if awaiting a gynecological exam, with the arch of his foot balanced on a three-inch long peg.

With tighter and more technical restrictions, the onus more and more is being placed on a Driver’s ability to move and concentrate on the task at hand and a Judge’s ability to moderate and regulate. The way the current industry at large has addressed the public perception issue is to restrict a Driver’s bodily movements, reduce the ability for them to freely move their arms, legs, feet, and force them to have to think about those things while driving. This course of regulation has even risen to a level of absurdity where Drivers and Judges in some jurisdictions “count” the number of times the whip is used or have to ensure that a whip is or isn’t used at particular points in a race. If a Driver or Judge is concentrating and focused on counting how many times a whip is being used during a race, or when a whip is used, and keeping track of that, their minds are clearly not focused on other, big-picture items critical to safety and well being or the accuracy of race results for the general public.

JCARR Testimony

I regret the need to be here today. We have appealed to the Administrative Agency for a complete and full review of all “Driver’s Conduct” code provisions to no avail. So I turn to you as Legislators to provide the checks and balances on the administrative agency that oversees racing to ensure they do not exceed their rulemaking authority granted to them by the General Assembly. What we are looking for is regulation, consistency and clarity in the regulations, both in defining prohibited conduct and with clear penalty provisions to protect the Constitutional Due Process rights of our members.

Continued on page 7

The proposed rule violates more than one of the JCARR Prongs. In opposition we would request that the Committee make a motion to recommend the proposed new rule be invalidated in its entirety.

1. Do the rules exceed the agency's statutory authority;
2. Do the rules conflict with an existing rule of that agency or another state agency;
3. Do the rules conflict with legislative intent;
4. If the rule has an adverse impact on business (ORC 107.52), that the rule-making agency has demonstrated through the business impact analysis (BIA), the Common Sense Initiative Office (CSI) recommendations and the agency's memorandum of response to the CSI recommendations, that the rule's regulatory intent justifies its adverse impact on business.

This is about clear restrictions and guidelines and consistent penalty applications to protect the Constitutional Due Process Rights of Participants as well as maintaining integrity for the public.

II. Proposed Resolution 2015-2 is Ambiguous, Conflicts with and Contradicts Several Other Existing Administrative Code Provisions Not Under Review and conflicts with the clear subject matter of the rescinded §3769.17-17.

Several different Ohio Administrative Code Provisions define prohibited driver conduct during a race. They each handle different aspects of a driver's conduct during a race.

3769-17-11 Driving rules.

3769-17-12 Foul driving, disqualification.

3769-17-16 Improper conduct in race.

3769-17-17 Whip restriction.

3769-17-18 Brutal use of whip.

§3769.17.17 as rescinded, the "Whip Restriction" rule was narrowly tailored to regulate whips and whip use. The main thing it did was define "excessive or indiscriminate use" of the whip, it specifically, "provided that the following actions may be considered as excessive or indiscriminate use of the whip." Code provision 3769-17-17. The original intent appears to have been to provide a definition for and specific description of a whip and when an "action may be considered excessive or indiscriminate use". The difficulty with expansion of this particular provision to a general "Whip Restriction" is the Revised code provision at issue here appears to eliminate that definition and expands the provision to cover other areas of "Driver Conduct" already covered in separate code provisions.

Several portions of Proposed Resolution 2015-2 are already present and covered in the existing Administrative Code provisions. Therefore, Proposed Resolution 2015-2 is contradictory to the following existing Administrative Code provisions not under review.

3769-17-16 Describes a driver's actions and body movements during a race. They aren't to lean back, remove their feet from the stirrups, or use their feet in any manner. This conflicts with 3769-17-17(A), which regulates that they are to have two hands on the lines at all times. There isn't any reference to why they need to keep two hands on the lines under the proposed Resolution 2015-2, there is no reference to enabling them to whip or not, it is simply a conduct prohibition. As such it should properly be codified in 3769-17-16, which is the code provision governing body movements.

3769-17-11(A)(12)"Whipping under the arch of the sulky, the penalty for which shall be days suspended". Conflicts with Resolution 2015-2, (D) which also provides for the same prohibition, however it adds the ability to place or disqualify in addition to merely suspend for days. When levying a penalty which provision will govern driver's conduct?

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Johnson Joins OHHA Staff

When you call in or stop by the OHHA office now, you most likely will have a chance to talk to the newest member of the OHHA staff, Cheri Johnson. Johnson joined the staff on June 15th as the new Office Administrator. She brings 20 years of office management experience with her. The last twelve years she has managed a family owned furniture store.

Johnson is from Grove City. She has been married for 32 years and has two sons, one currently living in Grove City and the other is serving in the United States Air Force. Johnson states "Although never owned one, I have always enjoyed the grace and beauty of horses, while appreciating their temperment and strength".



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3769-17-11(D)(2) "Every horse shall be driven to the finish unless injured. Any driver who shall rein in before crossing the finish line or who shall fail to use his utmost exertion to obtain a winning performance from the horse driven by him shall be fined, suspended, or referred to the commission." Conflicts with Resolution 2015-2, (I), which encourages a, "lack of effort" without a clear definition of the terms of art for a tired horse, a horse that is not visibly responding, or a horse not in contention in a race. There is also conflict with the penalty provisions. If a driver fails to drive to the finish they can receive a fine, suspension, or commission referral. However, if a driver uses the whip on a horse that is tired, not visibly responding, or in contention he can be fined, suspended, disqualified or placed.

3769-17-12 Judges have the ability to disqualify for "foul driving" they can place an offending horse just behind such horses it interfered with, or place the horse last. This code section conflicts with Resolution 2015-2, (M), where the penalty can also include disqualification and placing penalties. Which penalty will apply for the same conduct?

3769-17-16 Prohibits Drivers from "Loud shouting and improper conduct". It also mandates, "both feet must be in the stirrups at all times, except to pull ear plugs", Further, "drivers shall not use any part of their feet and/or legs to impel a horse whether or not the feet remain in the stirrups". And, "shall not lean back excessively in the sulky during a race and shall keep the hand holds set in a position to keep control of the horse." Conflicts with Resolution 2015-2, (A). That section of the code prohibits a driver from taking a hand off of any line at any point from the start to the conclusion of the event. There is no reference to being able to adjust equipment if the Driver cannot pull the plugs with his feet. Same with adjusting drop-down blinds, that equipment is rendered useless. If a trainer utilizes either piece of equipment the driver risks penalty for their use.

3769-17-18 Already defines and clearly outlines "The brutal use of a whip, crop, or excessive or indiscriminate use of the whip or crop shall be considered a violation and shall be punished by a fine and/or suspension." Conflicts with Resolution 2015-2, (L) and (M) where "excessive, indiscriminate, visibly injurious, or abusive use" are prohibited under (L). It adds the ability to disqualify and place for violations of "abusive use" under the Resolution, but not under 3769-17-18. Which provision will govern brutal, excessive, or indiscriminate use?

Penalty provisions are separate and distinct from provisions that regulate participant driver conduct.

3769-17-43 Disqualification, purse redistribution.

3769-17-99 Penalties commission may impose.

3769-17-11 Disqualifications and placing can only occur in the event that there is a collision when horses are coupled as an entry.

These existing penalty provisions provide specific circumstances under which each of the potential penalties can be applied. Drivers' conduct violations under other code provisions that could result in disqualification or purse redistribution are handled by reference to 3769-17-43. Any other penalties are outlined by reference to 3769-17-99. Under 3769-17-11 if a driver commits a violation when coupled as an entry in the betting, the judges shall set both horses back, if, in their opinion, the violation may have affected the finish of the race. Otherwise, penalties may be applied individually to the drivers of any entry.

All three provisions conflict with Resolution 2015-2, (M). Proposed Resolution 2015-2 doesn't refer at all to §3769-17-43 for disqualifications or purse distributions. It does refer to 3769-17-99 for penalties. The penalty guidelines in the Resolution are in addition to those already outlined in 3769-17-43 and 3769-17-11 where disqualification can only occur under specific circumstances. With no clear guidelines in the Resolution a placing or disqualification may occur under any circumstances without specific reference to 3769-17-43, and the proposed Resolution doesn't refer at all to horses coupled as an entry for placing and disqualifications. The Resolution's enumerated penalty provisions conflict with all of these existing penalty provisions.

No "terms of art" are defined in any section of the Administrative Code or proposed Resolution 2015-2. That includes "Brutal Use", "Excessive" or "Indiscriminate Use", "Exaggerated Manner", "Foul Driving", "not visibly responding". Prior to proposed rescission 3769-17-17 "Whip Restriction" that definition by rule, "provided that the following actions may be considered as excessive or indiscriminate use of the whip." And that is now eliminated in the proposed Resolution.

No defined penalties in Resolution 2015-2. All are referred to generically, "Punished by a fine and/or suspension", Shall be, "Fined, Suspended, or Referred to the Commission", "the penalty for which shall be days suspended". There are no penalty charts outlining penalty guidelines published or distributed. Penalty charts that have been published are not followed. We just had four drivers suspended within the last three weeks. The Commission Penalty Dispatch from January 2014 was completely disregarded for the type of infraction the driver was penalized for. The chart should have resulted in a first offense \$300 fine and the Drivers were levied that penalty and an additional 3 day suspension contrary to the disseminated guidelines. So Racing Commission dispatches even though they aren't codified aren't reliable.

Recession and replacement of O.A.C. 3769-17-17 is overbroad, overreaching, and ambiguous. Portions of the proposed Replacement O.A.C. 3769-17-17 conflict with and contradict other Administrative Code Provisions.

Therefore, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association encourages withdrawal of Proposed § 3769-17-17 and careful study of the issue as outlined for the reasons stated, with all stakeholders participating, and a complete revision to Administrative Code provisions §§ 3769-17-11, 12, 16, and 17, through 3769-17-18.

III. Proposed Resolution 2015-2 exceeds the agency's statutory authority. It will have an Adverse Business Impact on Drivers, Trainers, Owners, and Horseplayers.

The Racing Commission asserts a Driver can choose to avoid a rules violation by simply following the rule so the rule justifies the impact. We believe that is not accurate, an adverse impact can occur even-if a driver does not "choose" to violate a rule. Drivers do not operate in a vacuum. Their conduct impacts other participants (other drivers-during that same race), owners during that race and after that race), and non-participants (horseplayers).

The proposed Whip rule as applied will have a significant business impact on Drivers and Horse Trainers. Resolution 2015-2 expands that impact to Horse Owners and Horseplayers. Two classes of industry participants where most have little to no knowledge as-to the inner workings of the racing industry and have even less control over any aspect of management or regulation of racing. The Horseplayer isn't licensed or overseen by the Racing Commission at all, yet they too are subject to and financially impacted by this regulation.

All Parties noted as subject to a business impact can appeal Racetrack Judge's Rulings to the Racing Commission, and into Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Penalties are initially levied by the Judges under O.R.C. § 3769.091-Imposing fines and suspensions, and 3769-17-30-Suspensions for driver and/or trainer. Any fine or suspension may be appealed to the Racing Commission under § 3769-17-41.

Administrative Code § 3769-17-30 provides for "limited suspensions" for drivers, "from driving only" when so notated on the hearing disposition slip, and "full suspensions" when the penalty extends beyond their ability to drive alone and also prohibit them from racing other horses they train in their stable while suspended.

As-to Drivers the proposed penalties would result in the potential to fine, suspend with days, be disqualified and re-placed for position in the final order of finish. Fines and day suspensions are penalties for their conduct alone. Disqualifications and placements are an additional loss of income for that drive and could serve to negate any driver's commission income received for that drive. With greater restrictions on Drivers, ambiguous provisions, no penalty guidelines, or limits on punitive penalties, it is reasonable to believe more will appeal into the court system with stricter regulation.

Resolution 2015-2 expands the ability to extend a driver's suspension beyond the single horse it occurred on. With a "full suspension", that will extend the penalty to other horses that driver trains for other, independent Owners. Owners that have nothing to do with the horse penalized except for employing the same trainer/driver.

As applied to the Owner of the horse a driver may be penalized on, the proposed penalties can result in the potential disqualification of his horse and a re-placing of the official order of finish. Aside from the obvious loss of purse money through a punitive

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placing, disqualification could also serve to negate a horse's lifetime record if he won and was disqualified or placed, thereby potentially altering the horse's value. Further, a Saturday night Overnight Open race with a \$25,000 purse and a \$40,000 Sires Stakes leg or \$225,000 Sires Stakes final is worth appealing a placing or disqualification violation. All monetary sanctions applied based upon an employee that is likely an independent contractor. And in the business of harness racing most Owners have no say or don't hire the Driver when an independent contractor, the Trainer does when he enters the horse to race.

Proposed Resolution 2015-2 also has an adverse business impact on the Pari-mutuel pool Wagering Public, commonly the, "Horseplayers". Wagering on horses is a sophisticated and information-centric endeavor. Modern Horseplayers are very well informed, assembled and represented. One trade association boasts more than 3,000 members, (i.e., <http://blog.horseplayer-sassociation.org/>), which rivals most horsemen's association's numbers. Nationwide there are betting conglomerates formed, and computer programs utilized to churn out all possible bet combinations. Horseplayers look for any business advantage when wagering into higher paying pari-mutuel pools with lower takeouts. Like the recent April 2015 Woodbine harness High Five wager final pool was \$ 3,428,963 where each winning ticket paid \$460,232.

Proposed Resolution 2015-2 would have an adverse business impact on Horseplayers with the potential disqualification of a horse and re-placing in the official order of finish. If a whip rule violation was the impetus behind a Horseplayer losing out on a half a million-dollar payday, like the Woodbine High Five referred to above, a lawsuit won't be far behind. That is a significant business impact on an unregulated party in racing and regulating Horseplayer's conduct does not fall under the Racing Commission's statutory O.R.C. § 3769 authority.

Therefore, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association encourages withdrawal of Proposed § 3769-17-17 and careful study of the issue as outlined for the reasons stated, with all stakeholders participating, and a complete revision to Administrative Code provisions §§ 3769-17-11 through 3769-17-18.

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June Racing Commission Meeting Recap

from Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the Columbus Riffe Center

Dr. Robertson provided an update on the progress of the cobalt research announced at the April Racing Commission hearing being conducted in conjunction with Ohio State University and Analytical Toxicology Laboratory (ATL). The Phase I Cobalt Pharmacokinetics pilot study was discussed at the last Committee meeting. The study will include 5 horses and was submitted for animal use approval and decision. That is pending, but the expectation is that will be approved this month, which will enable the pilot study to commence in early July.

In normal business, the Commission approved a request by the Delaware County Agriculture Society to conduct future win wagering on the Little Brown Jug, simulcast all the Delaware County races, require Jug and Juliette participant arrival by 11:00 a.m. two days prior to each race, and waive administrative rule 3769-15-31(B)(2) for all overnight races. O.A.C. 3769-15-31(B)(2) requires an agricultural fair with overnights to accept all entries made for overnight races, which normally results in multiple division races. The waiver enables the Agricultural Society to limit their liability for multiple division races and permits them the discretion to conduct one overnight race for the advertised purse by applying date preference to limit the entrants to one full field. The Racing Commission unanimously approved all requests.

In normal business, the Commission approved a request from Belterra Park to move their live quarter horse racing dates from August 8, 2015 to October 11, 2015. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the request.

The Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and Belterra Park provided an update on the Belterra Park Horsemen's Agreement negotiations. The Parties once again represented stalemate on setting the O.R.C. § 3769.089, 9-11% revenue share lottery commission division. They set forth an estimated cost to Ohio Thoroughbred horsemen of \$20 to \$25 million over the next 10 years if they agree to lower revenue share than they have in their ThistleDown or Mahoning Valley Agreements. They set forth Commission or Legislative intervention as being necessary to breach the impasse because a legislative or administratively set rate would not trigger "most favored nations" clauses contained in those agreements, which requires those two contracts to match a lower rate set by any other later executed Agreement.

The OHHA provided an update on the Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway Agreement negotiations. Penn Gaming submitted a counter-proposal to the OHHA's redlined version on Friday, June 19, 2015. Representation was made further that Penn Gaming had extensive changes, which would necessitate a sit-down meeting. 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.

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 6 standardbred fatalities (Northfield-3, Miami Valley-2, Scioto Downs-1) so far in 2015.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission Hearing is to be determined for July and all hearings are scheduled for the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

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2015 Mid-Year Trainer Report

January 1st - June 15th

Ohio Trainers with 10 or More Wins

	Trainer First	Middle	Last	# of Wins
1	Virgil	V	Morgan, Jr	128
2	Jeffrey		Brewer	61
3	C	Brian	Loney	58
4	Christopher	Lee	Short	55
5	John	G	Kina	52
6	Ronald	J	Burke	45
7	Kayne	K	Kauffman	41
8	Dan	E	Ater	40
9	James		Dailey	39
10	James	Russell	Arledge	37
11	Samuel	J	Schillaci	36
12	Jeffrey	S	Nisonger	36
13	Jessica	E	Millner	35
14	Michael	J	Dowdall	35
15	Tyler	J	Nostadt	30
16	Andy	W	Rickert	27
17	Scot	R	Davidson	27
18	Brian	D	Brown	26
19	John	G	Wengerd	25
20	Barry	W	Langley	25
21	Keith	J	Kash, Jr	25
22	Kevin	L	Ehrhardt	23
23	Calvin	C	Hollar	23
24	Johnny	E	Yoder	23
25	Mike	J	Polhamus	22
26	Deborah	S	Swartz	22
27	Lamar	J	Moody	21
28	Harla	Rena	Loney	21
29	Randy	J	Cassavaugh	21
30	Roy	Jack	Murphy, Jr	20
31	Jim	J	Pollock, Jr	20
32	Brett	E	Landis	19
33	Terry	L	Deters	19
34	Kent	M	Sherman	19
35	Ronald	E	Steck	18
36	Aaron	R	Hamilton	18
37	Samuel	C	Coven	17
38	Steven	M	Carter	17

	Trainer First	Middle	Last	# of Wins
39	Sherif		Cunmulaj	17
40	Tye	R	Loy	17
41	Don	L	Pfister	17
42	John	Nelson	Perrin	16
43	Laura	L	Searway	15
44	Brandon	K	Piguet	15
45	Scott	L	Cox	15
46	Shane	A	Heasley	15
47	Thomas	O	Blankenship	15
48	Robert	J	Zink	14
49	Ryan	M	Angus	14
50	Patrick	A	Karcher	14
51	Randy	H	Massey	14
52	B	Clair	Umholtz	14
53	Billy	M	Farmer	14
54	Tyler	N	Tinch	14
55	Donald	J	Eash	13
56	Kris	M	Hinchcliff	13
57	Devan	S	Miller	13
58	K	Dean	Glispie	13
59	Larry	L	Clabaugh	13
60	Danny	R	Collins	12
61	Hugh	J	Beatty	12
62	Kimberly	L	Sloan	12
63	Bart	Hugh	Stimer	12
64	Frank	E	Harris	12
65	Cory	G	Deyermant	12
66	George	F	Anthrop	12
67	John	D	Wengerd	11
68	Crist	W	Hershberger	11
69	Diane	S	Hartsook	11
70	Jason	R	Beattie	11
71	Michael	J	DeRuntz	11
72	Timothy	E	Lane	10
73	Bradley	H	Hanners	10
74	Eddie	H	Poling	10
75	Sue		Stockwell	10
76	Elpidio		Bernardi, Jr	10
77	Jeff	L	Hochstetler	10

2015 Mid-Year Driver Report

January 1st - June 15th

Drivers who have made a start at an Ohio track 1/1/2015-6/15/2015

	Trainer First	Middle	Last	LTD Wins	LTD Money
1	David	S	Miller	11,412	\$189,712,334
2	Brian	J	Sears	9,203	\$162,800,548
3	Tim	A	Tetrick	8,686	\$155,777,961
4	Andy	Ray	Miller	8,170	\$103,188,455
5	Daniel		Dube	8,100	\$98,096,818
6	Aaron	Edward	Merriman	7,368	\$40,459,683
7	Jody	C	Jamieson	7,118	\$100,971,126
8	Donald		Irvine, Jr	6,959	\$34,696,078
9	W	Mike	Wilder	6,662	\$49,458,211
10	Carl	A	Putnam, Jr	6,657	\$24,632,802
11	James	R	Pantaleano	6,519	\$43,344,500
12	Greg	G	Grismore	6,508	\$43,947,632
13	Douglas	S	Snyder	6,413	\$29,552,289
14	Yannick		Gingras	5,565	\$120,372,250
15	Mark	J	MacDonald	5,511	\$72,966,225
16	Kenneth	R	Holliday	5,172	\$21,366,208
17	Randy	T	Tharps	4,888	\$21,691,479
18	Bradley	H	Hanners	4,868	\$41,307,246
19	Brent		Holland	4,777	\$49,051,455
20	Daniel	N	Noble	4,014	\$18,184,626
21	Ray	E	Fisher, Jr	3,690	\$15,052,864
22	Don	Logan	Mc Kirgan	3,610	\$10,359,113
23	Ryan	R	Stahl	3,478	\$11,679,083
24	Keith	H	Crawford	3,436	\$15,108,155
25	Matthew	Don	Kakaley	3,280	\$38,705,532
26	Michael	P	Wolfe	3,204	\$6,282,632
27	Jason	J	Brewer	3,123	\$25,212,216
28	Trace	A	Tetrick	3,049	\$29,110,135
29	Joshua		Sutton	3,022	\$17,578,886
30	Samuel	J	Schillaci	3,016	\$11,180,226
31	Mark	L	Headworth	3,015	\$6,383,919
32	Jeffrey	S	Nisonger	2,820	\$8,235,831
33	Jack	W	Dailey	2,796	\$7,123,823
34	Chris	L	Page	2,762	\$14,429,246
35	Kurt	D	Sugg	2,681	\$11,276,565
36	Ronnie	H	Wrenn, Jr.	2,560	\$10,736,224
37	Brian	William	Zendt	2,550	\$23,319,207
38	Neil	E	Coleman	2,538	\$13,091,179
39	Keith	J	Kash, Jr	2,306	\$9,290,510
40	Elliott	D	Deaton	2,290	\$7,831,496
41	Kayne	K	Kauffman	2,039	\$8,855,773
42	Skip	Jay	De Mull	1,966	\$7,765,769
43	Russell	E	Swartz	1,965	\$5,604,749
44	David	R	Lake	1,913	\$4,140,702
45	Robin	L	Miller	1,827	\$5,644,888
46	Jason	Russell	Merriman	1,727	\$7,640,326

	Trainer First	Middle	Last	LTD Wins	LTD Money
47	Tyler	Alan	Smith	1,724	\$12,539,747
48	Gregory	V	Bateson	1,721	\$4,684,846
49	Rocky	D	Stidham	1,709	\$6,528,554
50	John	A	Konesky, III	1,658	\$4,137,245
51	Wyatt	William	Irvine	1,647	\$5,465,291
52	Ronald	E	Steck	1,546	\$5,076,364
53	Rocco	A	Vinci	1,520	\$3,766,163
54	Hugh	J	Beatty	1,514	\$6,450,086
55	John	D	Wengerd	1,493	\$4,554,537
56	Kyle		Ater	1,450	\$8,066,822
57	Andy	R	Shetler	1,435	\$9,604,654
58	John	J	De Long	1,319	\$7,503,675
59	JAMES	A	MACDONALD	1,276	\$13,194,281
60	Lanny	E	Merriman	1,257	\$4,400,147
61	B	Clair	Umholtz	1,208	\$3,568,180
62	Philip	R	Peden	1,140	\$1,874,912
63	Tye	R	Loy	1,133	\$3,846,648
64	Robert	T	Lippiatt	1,122	\$3,261,267
65	Martin	E	Wollam	1,117	\$5,436,471
66	Jeremy	R	Smith	1,093	\$4,232,667
67	Thomas	A	Marts, Jr	1,085	\$1,914,250
68	Mark	E	Winters Sr	1,064	\$3,328,747
69	Jimmy		Smith	1,057	\$4,448,440
70	David	L	Myers	1,030	\$4,638,849
71	Jason	R	Thompson	1,012	\$3,653,740

Ohio Drivers with 100 or More Wins in 2015

	Trainer First	Middle	Last	# of Wins
1	Ronnie	H	Wrenn, Jr.	321
2	Aaron	Edward	Merriman	265
3	Joshua		Sutton	235
4	Chris	L	Page	174
5	Daniel	N	Noble	157
6	Kayne	K	Kauffman	150
7	Jason	Russell	Merriman	125
8	Greg	G	Grismore	114
9	Jeremy	R	Smith	111

Special Recognitions

Dan Noble hit his 4,000th win of his driving career at Scioto Downs on June 2nd.

Josh Sutton hit his 3,000th win at Scioto Downs on June 5th.

Congratulations, Dan & Josh!

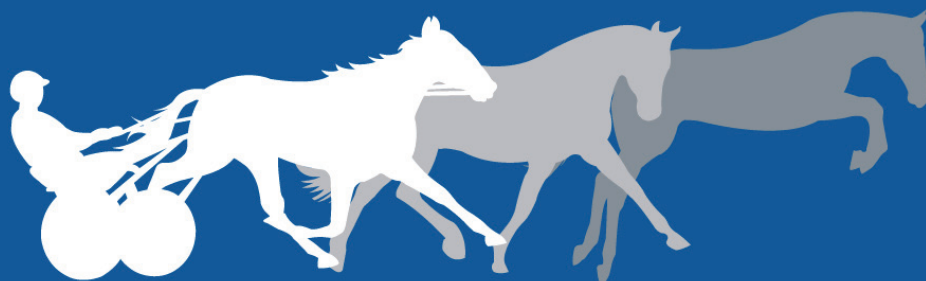
2015 Mid-Year Horse Report

January 1st - June 15th

Top Ohio Sired Horses

Horse	Sex	YOF	Race Yr	Age	Gait	Starts	Wins	2nds	3rds	Money Won	Record		Sire
DANCIN YANKEE	H	2008	2015	7	P	10	2	4	2	\$109,000.00	01:48.0	F	YANKEE CRUISER
DIAMONDKEEPER	G	2011	2015	4	P	15	10	1	2	\$81,570.00	01:52.1	F	PINE VALLEY
COUNT ME IN	G	2009	2015	6	T	9	4	1	1	\$68,450.00	01:53.4	F	FULL COUNT
CAN'TCUTTHATCHIP	G	2011	2015	4	T	20	4	4	5	\$53,536.00	01:54.1	F	CHIP CHIP HOORAY
FRISKIE'S ANGEL	M	2011	2015	4	P	15	8	1	0	\$50,825.00	01:54.4	F	FEELIN FRISKIE
HARE CRAFT	G	2008	2015	7	P	18	6	1	3	\$50,660.00	01:52.0	M	YANKEE CRUISER
LIKE OLD TIMES	M	2012	2015	3	T	6	5	1	0	\$47,000.00	01:56.1	H	CHIP CHIP HOORAY
DARK ROAST	M	2012	2015	3	T	4	2	1	1	\$44,560.00	01:57.3	H	FULL COUNT
MAN HE CAN SKOOT	G	2009	2015	6	P	18	6	3	1	\$43,799.00	01:51.1	H	MANTACULAR
SUN OF A VICTORY	G	2006	2015	9	T	14	5	1	5	\$43,245.00	01:56.4	H	VICTORY SAM
MUGSHOT JESS	G	2007	2015	8	T	15	1	3	1	\$43,235.00	01:56.2	H	JAILHOUSE JESSE
NEELY'S MESSENGER	G	2012	2015	3	T	3	2	1	0	\$43,000.00	01:55.3	F	NEELY DUNN
J'S SIX PAK ATTACK	G	2008	2015	7	P	17	3	4	2	\$40,566.00	01:50.1	F	ON THE ATTACK
FRISKIE LIL DEVIL	M	2012	2015	3	P	5	1	3	1	\$40,050.00	01:55.4	F	FEELIN FRISKIE
KARLEE SUE	M	2012	2015	3	P	6	3	0	2	\$39,626.00	01:53.2	F	FEELIN FRISKIE
I KNOW MY CHIP	G	2012	2015	3	T	5	3	2	0	\$39,000.00	01:55.4	F	DEEP CHIP
INDIAN SPIRIT	G	2012	2015	3	P	5	3	0	0	\$39,000.00	01:54.0	F	TYLER'S BIG MARK
STUDENT OF LIFE	M	2012	2015	3	T	5	3	1	0	\$38,900.00	01:56.4	F	FULL COUNT
STAR CHIP	G	2011	2015	4	T	20	4	7	4	\$37,858.00	01:57.1	H	CHIP CHIP HOORAY
NATIVE ART	G	2006	2015	9	P	17	5	5	2	\$37,094.00	01:52.0	F	YANKEE CRUISER
IGOTTA FEELINFRAN	M	2010	2015	5	P	17	3	2	1	\$35,067.00	01:52.4	F	FEELIN FRISKIE
VICTORY IS COMING	M	2007	2015	8	T	13	4	0	2	\$33,160.00	01:55.0	H	VICTORY SAM
TRAINER DUNN	M	2010	2015	5	T	18	2	3	4	\$32,933.00	01:57.0	F	NEELY DUNN
SOUL TRAIN	G	2011	2015	4	T	19	4	2	3	\$32,634.00	01:55.3	F	TRAINFORTHEFUTURE
SAMS TREASURE	G	2006	2015	9	P	20	5	1	2	\$31,420.00	01:52.0	F	NOBLELAND SAM

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NEW VOCATIONS RACEHORSE ADOPTION PROGRAM
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Communications Corner

Regina Mayhugh



This summer is shaping up to be a busy one. Fair season has begun and the horses are off and traveling the fair circuits. Northfield and Scioto are in full swing and busy with racing and various activities and promotions throughout the summer. There are a lot of horses filling the race cards, making it even more exciting than ever!

The OHHA has been busy planning upcoming summer events as well. A new activity for the OHHA to be involved with is hosting an interactive booth at the Ohio State Fair in the Land and Living building sponsored by Nationwide and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation from July 29th to August 9th. This is an opportunity that is geared more toward youth but will be educational and interactive for all ages. I have a variety of activities planned throughout the day to encourage involvement of the public. This is also an opportunity for horsemen to tell their story and explain the importance of harness racing as part of the agricultural industry. There are still time slots available for members to volunteer their time throughout the fair. Come tell your story; share career and opportunities that the industry provides; explain how harness racing is an important agricultural commodity and so much more. Contact me if you would like to sign up for a shift.

Charity Night at the races is on again this year. You are invited to come be a part of a special evening at Scioto Downs on Thursday, August 20th. There will be ten charities again this year. Each charity is invited to bring an informational table so be sure to stop by their table to learn about their organization and talk to them about harness

racing. The participants are always eager to watch the races and learn about the industry. The evening activities consist of interviews with the charities, watching races in the Clubhouse and later in the evening the charity race will be held and each charity will take prize money back to their organization. The next large promotional event will be hosting a tent at the Delaware County Fair. There will be some changes to the layout and the tent activity as we are looking to bring more people to the tent to learn about racing as well as relax and have a good afternoon. More details on the Delaware County Fair tent will be in the next publications.

Reminder, if you have stories to share, please send them my way. If there are press releases from the fairs in your local papers, please share them. I am always looking for photos that you or others have taken of races as well as fun non-racing photos of horses and horsemen. Youth photos are always fun to share too. Just be sure you have permission to send these type of photos in. My goal is to keep the albums on the Facebook page full! Social media is a great way to promote harness racing so keep the photos and information coming! Good Luck at the races and have a great summer!

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

OHHA Pacesetters *(in alphabetical order)*

Tony & Jo Anderson	Reuben Hershberger	Christopher Page
Keith R Balch	Don "Skip" Hoovler	Alvin Parkes
Philip Baldauf	Dr. John & Norma Hubbell	Fred Polk
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Randy Haines	Dr. John Mossbarger	
Benny & Margaret Haller	Linda Nance	
Jerry & Billie Haws	John Nixon	

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!

as of June 30, 2015

New Beginnings- What is the Future for a Racehorse When it is Finished Racing?

Winnie Morgan Nemeth

Many owners go to sales in Lexington, Harrisburg, Delaware and other places searching for a super star. Others breed with the same goal: that the offspring will be major winners! Some of these horses fulfill their owners' dreams, have fruitful careers and are retained as breeding stock. However, the majority race a few years, peak in form, drop in class and eventually the decision is made to quit with the horse. What options do owners have when their trainer calls and says it is time to move on? New Vocations has made it their mission to give these horses a new skill and a future!

For decades, the harness racing industry has fallen back on the Amish option for its retired racehorses. That is certainly a viable outlet for individuals that fit their criteria: the strong, sound geldings with decent driving manners. But what about those that are not as strong, the ones with lameness issues, the mares, and the bad actors? They, too, are being Amished, but in reality most of these less suitable ones may be headed for market.

Then there are the owners that want their horses to have an easier second career, and there are the horses that have raced long and hard that need an easier career. What is the option for these horses?

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program has been standing in the gap for these very horses for the past 23

years. The Program was founded on the premise that retired racehorses have the foundation to benefit the equestrian community but need an advocate to develop their skills and promote their versatility. New Vocations resolves this issue with a three pronged effort: educate the horses, educate the owners and trainers, and educate the equestrian public.

New Vocations educates the horses through breaking them to ride and getting them comfortable in the arena and on trails. Those with injuries receive the necessary healing time and care prior to retraining. All are carefully introduced to turnout and company to enhance their social skills. Most second careers are under saddle, but driving still has its enthusiasts. Once the horses have transitioned to equestrian expectations and their suitability for a particular discipline and rider skill level is determined, each is photographed, videoed, described in detail and offered for adoption.

Educating owners and trainers is also an important aspect of New Vocations' mission. Adoptability is contingent on soundness, whether retired sound or rehabilitated sound. It is imperative for owners and trainers to understand that a lack of soundness is the main impediment to horses finding a successful second career. Many times when a horse starts dropping in class, it ends up costing the owner less to retire the horse while it is still sound than to keep it racing in hopes that it will improve. A horse that is not performing well at the track can still be a blessing to someone else.

This is where educating the equestrian community is essential. Retired Standardbreds make terrific pleasure horses, but for decades that has been a best kept secret. Since 1992, New Vocations has worked tirelessly to develop the skills and display the versatility of off track Standardbreds to equestrians. Educational efforts include booths and breed demonstrations at equine trade shows, articles in pleasure horse publications, sponsorships of Standardbred themed activities and events, annual distribution of 10,000 newsletters, and offering adoption slogan apparel. New Vocations proclaims by action, word, and deed that The Finish Line is Just the Beginning!

These well-mannered, tolerant horses are now being recognized and filling the niche as all-around family horses. After just a few months under saddle most are suitable for even casual riders like a spouse, child, or friend. With their solid foundation in obedience and rich life experiences Standardbreds are also proving to be exceptional candidates for historical reenactment, mounted patrol, foxhunting, and competitive trail riding along with the arena sports.



Precious Potato p,1:51.2 \$151,817, pictured with New Vocations trainer Jennifer Daniels, raced at the Ohio fairs and Scioto Downs at 2 & 3. He then raced in California and later the East Coast tracks before retiring to New Vocations at age 9. The son of Precious Bunny was adopted in 2014 by Shelly Ellison of Columbus, Ohio, where he is now a 4-H horse for her daughter and winning in the show arena at local SPHO-Ohio shows!

Scioto to host 5th annual 'Back to the Track' Saturday, July 18th

Jason Roth

Scioto Downs will once again host a "Back to the Track" event on Saturday, July 18th starting at 5:00pm. Annually this event has become one of Scioto's biggest attended nights of racing with activities for the whole family.

Expert handicapper Steve Carpenito will host a handicapping seminar at 5:00pm, giving fans tips on wagering as well as giving out his picks for the evening. There will then be a driver meet and greet with some of Scioto's leading drivers, including Chris Page, Kayne Kauffman, Dan Noble, Kyle Ater, Josh Sutton and Jeremy Smith. The autograph session with these drivers will start at 5:45pm.

The Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Ohio (SPHO-OH) will once again be on-hand with retired Standardbreds for fans to pet and ask questions about the life after racing for racehorses. This great opportunity for the general public allows them to see how versatile the racehorse can be.

Once the races kick off at 6:30pm, drivers will arrive on the grandstand apron between races for dunk a driver. The dunk tank has been a fan favorite in years past as fans of all ages get to dunk drivers all night long.

Taking a look back...On Saturday, June 6th, Bee A Magician, 2013 horse of the year, became the second horse to win the \$200,000 Charlie Hill Memorial Trot. The 5-year-old won by a neck over DW's NY Yank in 1:53.3. The victory pushed the 2014 Horse of the Year to over \$3-million in lifetime earnings.

Brian Brown reached training victory 1,000 on Friday, June 26th at Scioto with 3-year-old filly Somewhere Sweet. So far in 2015, Brown has accumulated 62 victories in 215 starts and over \$890,000 in earnings.



Neely's Messenger, Ohio Breeders Stakes winner.

July News from Northfield Park

Ayers Ratliff

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. is our current leading driver, posting 296 wins over the Flying Turns. Following Ronnie is Aaron Merriman (258), Jason Merriman (130), Ryan Stahl (94) and Kurt Sugg (82). Wrenn and Aaron Merriman have each amassed over \$1.2M in purse earnings at Northfield Park so far in 2015.

Brian Loney (61) tops Northfield's training ranks by wins. He leads John Kina (48), Michael Dowdall (36), Sam Schillaci (36) and Jessica Millner (34).

The \$175,000 Battle of Lake Erie went to post on Friday, June 12 and drew a stellar field. Northfield fans watched as Foiled Again made a triumphant return to harness racing after a throat operation and became the first horse to win the Battle three times. Already the richest horse in the history of harness racing, Foiled Again pushed his bankroll in excess of \$7M.

The \$180,000 Cleveland Trotting Classic will go to post for its inaugural edition on Friday, July 3. An impressive slate of 22 are eligible to the Classic including millionaires Market Share and Daylon Magician.

July 3 will also host multiple divisions of Ohio Sires Stakes for freshman filly pacers and trotters. Numerous fan-friendly attractions will also be on tap, including a t-shirt toss from the winner's circle by the successful driver of each race, driver meet-and-greets and commemorative poster signings throughout the evening, Harness Racing Bingo offering over \$1,000 in cash and prizes, country band Six String Cowboy performing on the apron from 6:00 till 10:00 p.m., and spinning of the Northfield Park Prize Wheel for cash and prizes from 8:00 till 9:30 p.m. Lady Luck's Clubhouse Restaurant will be offering a \$19.95 picnic-themed buffet special.

July will also contain two more additional nights of exciting stakes action over the Flying Turns. Sophomore colt trotters and pacers will compete on Friday, July 17 and freshman colt trotters and pacers will be in action Friday, July 24.

Leading Drivers Remember Eddie Morgan Jr.

Winnie Morgan Nemeth, Standardbred Program Director

It is with great sadness that the Morgan Family announced the passing of Ed Morgan Jr. on June 14, 2015, in Lansing, Michigan. "Eddie" as he was known by many, was 75 years old. Morgan was a sixth generation harness horseman born in Piqua, Ohio and the son of Ed Morgan Sr. who was a leading driver in the 40's and 50's and a very successful trainer. Following in the family footsteps, Eddie was a leading driver at age 22 at Scioto Downs in the 60's and held numerous driving titles at tracks in Kentucky and Michigan. Audubon Raceway announcer Robin Burns dubbed Eddie "The Stunner" because he would get out late and win with longshots. The USTA shows Morgan with 4,724 wins and earnings of \$7,689,479, however he had been racing 21 years prior to those statistics being kept. He raced at tracks in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky and Ohio ultimately settling in Michigan in the early 90's.

Morgan was inducted into the Michigan Harness Horseman's Hall of Fame in 2008 for his tremendous achievements and dedication to the sport of harness racing. Morgan not only was a successful trainer and driver, but he was an incredible mentor and teacher to many current national leading drivers. Tim Tetrick, Ronnie Wrenn Jr., Tony Morgan and Drew Monti are a just a few drivers who were influenced by him. His son, Tony Morgan won five national dash titles between 1996 and 2008 and just won his 15,000th race in March. Tony recalls, "Some people thought Dad was setting horses up for those big wins, but that wasn't it at all. Dad always raced to get money. He'd put the horses on the fence and sit. He wanted a good trip every time, and he wanted the horses to race forever. Every horse in the barn would get 40 starts a year. That's the way he raced horses. That's how he taught me to race horses."

Tim Tetrick, also a national multiple winning dash driver, with 14 Breeders Crown Championship wins and winner of over 8,000 races said, "I was so sad to hear the passing of Eddie Morgan. From the time I was very little, Eddie always went out of his way to talk to me. He would listen and help me figure things out that I was struggling with and was never shy to tell me the truth. Most importantly, Eddie truly believed in me as a driver and because of him I learned to believe in myself. I consider Eddie and Tony Morgan to be family, and we send our condolences to them."

Driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr., who was North American Dash title holder in 2013 and 2014 said, "Eddie was a mentor to me when I first started catch driving. He gave me the opportunity to drive a couple of nice horses when I wasn't driving any power at the time. He stuck with me through good and bad drives and I always enjoyed our short talks in his truck before the races." Wrenn raced two well-known class horses for Morgan. Pearl's Johnny, 309 starts and pacing mare Quick Step; who still holds the track record at Hazel Park.



Eddie Morgan, Jr, right, pictured with his son Tony Morgan (left), the 3rd winningest driver in the history of the sport.

Eddie Morgan's latest protégé is up and coming Buffalo driver 20 year old Drew Monti. Morgan sent his last few horses to the Monti family to race for him the past few years. Monti and Morgan teamed up with an old class horse named Ophiucus N for 12 wins that brought them much satisfaction. Monti stated, "Eddie was not only a great horseman, but a great friend. He had an influence on my career that is everlasting, and it was an absolute privilege to know him. He will be missed greatly."

Famous track announcer Sam McKee recalled Morgan winning the US Pacing Derby for two-year-olds at Louisville Downs with a horse named Jake and Elwood. McKee stated, "Eddie always said he'd rather have a has been than a never would be. He was always good at patching together and racing old class horses."

Edward "Eddie" Morgan Jr was the son of Edward Sr. and Winifred (Davis) Morgan. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sharon (Palmer) of Leslie, MI and six children, Tony (Penny) of MD, Greg (Becky) of OH, Jenny and Joe of AL, Kathy Smith of MI, and Elizabeth (Robert) Morgan-Smith of WI along with brothers Charles (Dorothy) and Tom (Sue) of OH. Morgan is survived by his best friends Margaret Rousseau and Penny Howard and numerous cherished friends. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Kathleen Morgan Garrett. Memorial services were held in Swartz Creek, Michigan and at the Miami County Fairgrounds in Troy, Ohio where his ashes were spread at the finish line.

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Dean Gillette photo

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Ohio Fairs Corner

2015 Ohio Agricultural Fair Chronological Schedule ^{*}Harness Racing

WEEK OF JUNE 7

Paulding County Fair (Paulding)* Jun 8-13

WEEK OF JUNE 21

Pickaway County Fair (Circleville)* Jun 22-27
Putnam County Fair (Ottawa)* Jun 22-27

WEEK OF JUNE 28

Marion County Fair (Marion) Jun 29-Jul 4

WEEK OF JULY 5

Harrison County Fair (Cádiz)* Jul 6-11
Clinton County Fair (Wilmingon)* Jul 11-18
Madison County Fair (London)* Jul 11-18

WEEK OF JULY 12

Lawrence County Fair (Proctorville) Jul-12-18
Trumbull County Fair (Cortland) Jul 14-19
Logan County Fair (Bellefontaine)* Jul 13-18
Lucas County Fair (Maumee) Jul 14-19
Jackson County Fair (Wellston)* Jul 17-25
Franklin County Fair (Hilliard)* Jul 18-25
Adams County Fair (West Union) Jul 12-18

WEEK OF JULY 19

Crawford County Fair (Bucyrus)* Jul 19-25
Fayette County Fair (Washington C.H.)* Jul 20-25
Perry County Fair (New Lexington) Jul 20-25
Ottawa County Fair (Oak Harbor)* Jul 20-26
Warren County Fair (Lebanon)* Jul 20-25
Carroll County Fair (Carrollton)* Jul 21-26
Clark County Fair (Springfield) Jul 24-31
Knox County Fair (Mt. Vernon)* Jul 25-Aug 1

WEEK OF JULY 26

Butler County Fair (Hamilton) Jul 26-Aug 1
Clermont County Fair (Owensville) Jul 26-Aug 1
Shelby County Fair (Sidney)* Jul 26-Aug 1
Union County Fair (Marysville)* Jul 26-Aug 1
Seneca County Fair (Tiffin)* Jul 27-Aug 2
Vinton County Fair (McArthur) Jul 27-Aug 1
Summit County Fair (Tallmadge)* Jul 28-Aug 2
Ohio State Fair (Columbus) Jul 29-Aug 9
Pike County Fair (Piketon)* Jul 31-Aug 8
Preble County Fair (Eaton)* Aug 1-8

WEEK OF AUGUST 2

Auglaize County Fair (Wapakoneta)* Aug 2-8
Greene County Fair (Xenia)* Aug 2-8
Gallia County Fair (Gallipolis) Aug 3-8
Columbiana County Fair (Lisbon)* Aug 3-9
Medina County Fair (Medina) Aug 3-9
Wood County Fair (Bowling Green)* Aug 3-10
Hamilton County Fair (Carthage) Aug 5-9
Champaign County Fair (Urbana)* Aug 7-14
Athens County Fair (Athens)* Aug 7-15
Ross County Fair (Chillicothe)* Aug 8-15

WEEK OF AUGUST 9

Hartford Independent Fair (Licking Co.)* Aug 9-15
Richland County Fair (Mansfield)* Aug 9-15
Holmes County Fair (Millersburg) Aug 10-15
Scioto County Fair (Lucasville) Aug 10-15
Cuyahoga County Fair (Berea)* Aug 10-16

Attica Independent Fair (Seneca Co.)* Aug 11-15
Ashtabula County Fair (Jefferson)* Aug 11-16
Erie County Fair (Sandusky) Aug 11-16
Henry County Fair (Napoleon)* Aug 14-20
Mercer County Fair (Celina)* Aug 14-20
Miami County Fair (Troy)* Aug 14-20

WEEK OF AUGUST 16

Muskingum County Fair (Zanesville)* Aug 16-22
Huron County Fair (Norwalk) Aug 17-22
Meigs County Fair (Pomeroy)* Aug 17-22
Jefferson County Fair (Smithfield) Aug 18-23
Lake County Fair (Painesville)* Aug 18-23
Allen County Fair (Lima)* Aug 21-29
Darke County Fair (Greenville)* Aug 21-29
Defiance County Fair (Hicksville)* Aug 22-29

WEEK OF AUGUST 23

Monroe County Fair (Woodsfield)* Aug 24-29
Lorain County Fair (Wellington)* Aug 24-30
Portage County Fair (Randolph) Aug 25-30
Sandusky County Fair (Fremont) Aug 25-30

WEEK OF AUGUST 30

Noble County Fair (Caldwell)* Aug 31-Sept 5
Morrow County Fair (Mt. Gilead)* Aug 31-Sept 7
Stark County Fair (Canton)* Sept 1-7
Hancock County Fair (Findlay)* Sept 2-7
Mahoning County Fair (Canfield)* Sept 2-7
Montgomery County Fair (Dayton)* Sept 2-7
Richwood Independent Fair (Union Co.)* Sept 2-7
Van Wert County Fair (Van Wert)* Sept 2-7
Geauga County Fair (Burton)* Sept 3-7
Fulton County Fair (Wauseon)* Sept 4-10
Washington County Fair (Marietta)* Sept 5-8
Highland County Fair (Hillsboro) Sept 5-12

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6

Morgan County Fair (McConnelsville)* Sept 8-12
Belmont County Fair (St. Clairsville) Sept 8-13
Hardin County Fair (Kenton)* Sept 8-13
Albany Independent Fair (Athens Co.) Sept 9-13
Hocking County Fair (Logan) Sept 9-14
Wayne County Fair (Wooster)* Sept 12-17
Williams County Fair (Montpelier)* Sept 12-19

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13

Guernsey County Fair (Old Washington)* Sept 14-19
Wyandot County Fair (Upper Sandusky)* Sept 15-20
Bellville Independent Fair (Richland Co.) Sept 16-19
Delaware County Fair (Delaware)* Sept 19-26

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20

Ashland County Fair (Ashland)* Sept 20-26
Tuscarawas County Fair (Dover)* Sept 21-27
Barlow Independent Fair (Washington Co.) Sept 24-27

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27

Brown County Fair (Georgetown) Sept 28-Oct 3
Coshocton County Fair (Coshocton)* Oct 2-8

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4

Loudonville Independent Fair (Ashland Co.) Oct 6-10

WEEK OF OCTOBER 11

Fairfield County Fair (Lancaster)* Oct 11-17



Paulding County Fair

Photo by Emily Hay



Putnam County Fair

Photo by Mandy Jones



Pickaway County Fair

Photo by LaNita Gibbs

It's Fair Season in Ohio

Regina Mayhugh

That busy time of the summer has officially begun at the county fairs. Fair food, rides, livestock and the thundering of hooves on the county fairs' racetracks. This is the time of year when fans can get up close and personal to the sport of harness racing. This is an opportunity for horsemen to share their story, interact with fans and educate them as well as interest others to join in.

When you see someone walking past the barn, invite them to take a closer look at these animals. Introduce them to racing. Explain to them how harness racing affects agricultural and tell them the story of how the VLTs have helped strengthen the industry by bringing more horses to the track, creating more jobs all while being a part of making agriculture, Ohio's number 1 industry, stronger than ever! Take the opportunity at the fairs to tell the story of the Ohio harness horse industry!

What kind of promotions and fun are you seeing at the fairs to promote racing and make the day even more special for fans? Be sure to share your photos and stories with OHHA by sending items by email to rmayhugh@ohha.com so we can share your stories too!