



# Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal

Published for the members of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

Volume 15, Number 5

November/December 2004

## Welcome new DTHA board; Kudos to local Breeders' Cup Winners; Successful year for "Delaware Certified"!

**O**n October 19, 2004 we held our first meeting with the "new" DTHA board. The new officers elected at that meeting are: Scott Peck, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Barbara Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Donald Schmidt, Secretary and Madeline Locke, Treasurer.

The Jockey Health and Welfare Board was formed this year and Michael J. McCarthy will be our DTHA representative. We also appointed two members of our board to represent us on the Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund (DHAf). They are Jimmy Connor and Scott Peck. The search for a new Executive Director is well underway.

This year's Breeders' Cup held at Lone Star Park was full of local talent. Graham Motion, a prominent Mid-Atlantic trainer that has horses stabled at Fair Hill and Delaware Park had three starters. Graham pulled off the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest payoff in Breeders' Cup turf history when BETTER TALK NOW won the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Turf! Ramon Dominguez, Delaware Park's leading jockey was in the saddle as BETTER TALK NOW won convincingly with a powerful stretch drive. Owner, trainer, jockey and all the local fans that had supported the locals had to withstand an inquiry and two claims of foul before the stewards posted the "official" sign! Motion also had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish with his four-year-old filly FILM MAKER ridden by John Velasquez and his third entry, the two-year-old filly DANCE AWAY CAPOTE, finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile fillies. Dominguez also had a third place finish on owner Richard Englander's MY COUSIN MATT in the Breeders' Cup Sprint.

In the Breeders' Cup juvenile, more of our local stars performed admirably. Trainer, Tim Ritchey, jockey, Jeremy Rose and the two-year-old AFLEET ALEX owned by Cash Is King LLC almost pulled off a win in the juvenile. AFLEET ALEX sent off as third choice in the eight-horse field, suffered a bobbled start and a wide trip only to be denied a win getting beat 3/4 length to finish second. AFLEET ALEX now has four wins, two seconds and looks to be the "favorite" for the two-year-old Eclipse award and a very strong contender for next year's Triple Crown. Congratulations to all!

The final race at Delaware Park has been run for the 2004 meet and once again Scott Lake took leading trainer honors, Ramon Dominguez was leading rider and Michael Gill was

leading owner. Everyone is packing up and ready to head elsewhere. Some trainers are trying to get stalls at Philadelphia in preparation for slots and bigger purse money. Others are leaving for the warmer climates of Florida and Louisiana in hopes of finding some winter warmth and some good grass racing. Many others are heading just around the corner to the Fair Hill Training Center in hopes of winning some races in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York over the winter months.

Each winter we all face many challenges as we move our horses to new locations in hopes of finding the right formula to survive the winter. New challenges await us all when we return next spring to find new competition from the Pennsylvania slots. The DTHA, in our recently released vision statement, has expressed our desire to have year-round training facilities in Delaware and as much year-round racing as possible.

According to Delaware's Horse Racing Redevelopment Act, Delaware Park only has to provide 100 live days of racing, but has provided no less than 120 since 1988. This act was implemented in 1995 because of slots legislation and I am afraid if we start losing dates we will be facing a lot of the same issues that New Jersey has faced. If most of you recall, New Jersey used to house their horsemen and maintain year-round racing. The hardship of packing up and moving every winter is tough on all of us and puts many of us at competitive disadvantages as all of the other surrounding states provide year-round stabling with the exception of New Jersey. Delaware needs to continue to offer "our" horsemen a continued schedule to allow this to happen; otherwise the horsemen and horses will have to seek new venues. Delaware Park has and does offer one of the best backside environments on the East Coast. We will continue to work with management to improve the environment for our horsemen and horses.

Along with this our Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program



Bessie Gruwell  
DTHA President



Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

(DCTP) has grown and offers a reason for horsemen to house their horses on Delaware farmland. This program continues to expand and has been well received throughout the state. See the article in this newsletter for the great changes we have for 2005 and our year-end updates.

In answer to questions surrounding 2005 race dates, we will race at least 130 days, but we do not know what to expect in 2006.

Delaware residents, if you are in the area on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, we will be hosting our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Legislative Reception at Dover Downs. This event, which has always been previously well attended, allows our association to enhance its relationship with members of the State legislature.

Once again, our DTHA office will be open seven days a week until December 1, 2004. We will be open all winter with a reduced schedule. Please feel free to call our office at (302) 994-2521, ext. 7284, for our hours or for any needs you may have.

Happy Trails! Hope to see you in the spring!

*Bessie*

## Wellness Clinic Celebrates Eighth Year!

The Wellness Clinic has wrapped up its eighth year on the backstretch at Delaware Park in 2004. This season the Clinic had its most successful year. A combination of returning experienced staff and enthusiastic newcomers made for another great year.

Cathy Felt, Nurse Practitioner, finished her sixth meet at Delaware Park. Cathy has a special interest in women's health and helps arrange our annual mammogram van visit. Nancy Bearss is a Physician Assistant and has been with us for eight years, helping oversee the clinic as well as seeing patients. New this year, Otto Medinilla brought his Emergency Room experience and fluency in Spanish to complement the existing clinic staff. Dr. Glenn Hamilton is finishing his fifth season at Delaware Park. Holding everything together has been Brenda Ortiz, who greets patients and translates. She is a trained clinical medical assistant as well as our receptionist.

This year we continued our tradition of offering two "Health Fairs" to encourage people to check their blood pressure and cholesterol, quit smoking and avoid health hazards like drugs or excessive alcohol. We have treated everything from colds to ulcers to broken bones, and provided medications and advice about specialist care when needed.

As of October 30, 2004, clinic visits were up 25% over last year's record-breaking pace. We saw more patients this year than we did over the entire 2003 meet. This year we surpassed 1,000 visits. Every year we are seeing increased numbers of horsemen and their families as word gets around that we are here for everyone working on the backstretch at Delaware Park. Nothing has been more rewarding than serving the needs of these hard working people.

Thanks to all at the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and to the Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund for making the Clinic possible year after year.

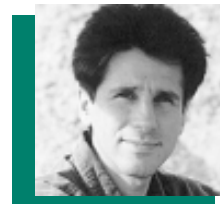
We look forward to seeing everyone when racing resumes in 2005!

## After Hours

*Play...Pray...Travel Away*

### Thanks for a memorable year!

It takes the efforts of many individuals to provide a nurturing and welcoming environment for our seasonal workforce here at Delaware Park. And so our gratitude goes out to those that made this year a memorable one:



Pete Lizarzaburu

**John Malatesta and The Backstretch Café** for all their help throughout the year including catering this year's DHAF Horsemen's Golf Classic.

**Pastor Tom Edwards, Brent Bartram, Lonnie Web** and the many volunteers from **St. Marks United Methodist Church** for their help with our Horsemen's Barbeques.

**Pastor Doug Perkins and All Nations Fellowship** for welcoming our workers to join in worship and fellowship every Sunday evening.

**Brother Chris and the Archdiocese of Wilmington** for the Wednesday evening celebration and support.

**The Latin American Community Center** for helping to educate our employees on a vast array of everyday subjects..

**The Wellness Clinic** staff for looking after our medical needs.

**Karen and Jim McCloskey** for their efforts in teaching our employees English.

**Chris Mulvena and Delaware Park** for the great job they do at the Paddock Party.

**The Stall Office** for making sure that our workers have proper housing.

**Dave Thomas and First Student Transportation** for the weekly shopping shuttles.

**Greg Petkiewicz** and all his crew for everything they do to support the Horsemen's programs and activities.

This list is not exhaustive and there are many more people behind the scenes that contribute to the quality of life for our horsemen.

As we go into the winter season I wish all of you God's blessings and I hope to see you all again next year.

*Pete*

### Editor's Note

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal is published monthly. Members are invited to submit suggestions for future articles and letters to the editor. Contact Kim Sprenger, at (302)994-2521, ext. 7284; Fax (302) 994-3392.



# Supersize...Your Delaware Earnings!!!

**The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program (DCTP) will offer purse enhancements of 15% for owners and 15% for certifiers beginning in 2005.**

**A**s we close our second year of Delaware Certified racing, the DTHA is happy to report that we had more runners, more winners and more bonus money paid out in 2004. Because the program has been so well received, the DTHA board of director's has unanimously voted to increase the enhancements for Delaware Certified thoroughbred horses. In 2005 the certifier of the horse will receive a 15% bonus for first, second, or third finish in any race at Delaware Park. (This is an increase from the initial 10%.) The certifier bonus will be calculated at the end of the meet and checks for all horses' earnings will be mailed to the certifier at that time. The owner will also receive a 15% bonus, which will be paid at the time the horse finishes first, second, or third in any race at Delaware Park. Awards will become part of the horse's official earnings.

Initially, all stakes were excluded from the DCTP. However, beginning in 2005 all stakes at Delaware Park will be included in this program. Awards for stakes will be capped at \$5,000 for

both certifier and owner per horse per race. We hope to add DCTP restricted stakes. The DTHA board is exploring a number of different methods of funding such a program.

Following the lead of the Pennsylvania breeding program, Delaware Certified thoroughbred horses will have preference for all entries. Finally, in 2005 the one time registration fee for weanlings will be dropped from \$75 to \$50 and the yearling fee will be dropped to from \$150 to \$100.



## 2004 DCTP Horses of Racing Age

**3 year olds 64**  
**2 year olds 142**

There were 56 starters during the 2004 meet. Out of 134 starts there were 20 wins, 19 seconds and 19 thirds. The 10% bonuses paid to owners totaled \$44,947.00 and 10% bonus to certifiers totaled \$44,947.00.

Currently there are 39 Delaware farms enrolled in the DCTP. These farms are able to care for the weanlings

and yearlings that have been sent to them from out-of-state owners and breeders. The program has helped many of our state's horse farms to look to the thoroughbred industry for support in maintaining their farms on a more profitable level.

For more information about the Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program or a list of Delaware farms, call Lynda Furlong at the DCTP office, (302) 994-2398 or (302) 994-2521, ext. 7289. You can also visit our website, [www.dtha.com](http://www.dtha.com) and click on the link for DCTP.

## Plan your retirement with the Horsemen's Defined Contribution Plan!

**D**elaware Horsemen's Defined Contribution Plan (retirement plan) that has been available for two years is an important program designed to help backstretch trainers and employees gain a long-term positive outlook for this industry and to give back to those who made the industry possible. We all know that the racing game is a very "up and down" business and many people find this to be a short-term career. But for those who have stayed the course and put many years of service into this industry, this is an excellent way to help provide for their future.

Please take the time to sign up in the Horsemen's Office next spring. You need to have your current license at Delaware Park and either your W2, 1099 or Tax Return in order to enroll. Remember, that in order to become vested in the retirement program you need to be signed up and participate in the program at Delaware Park for five years.

This program has grown substantially since it's inception, but there are so many more of you who are eligible to participate in this program.

## 2004 DELAWARE PARK LEADER BOARD

### Leading Jockey

Ramon Dominguez	198 wins
Roberto Alvarado, Jr.	135 wins
Mario Pino	104 wins

### Leading Trainer

Scott Lake	96 wins
Timothy Ritchey	68 wins
Michael Pino	63 wins

### Leading Owner

Michael Gill	40 wins
Nick Sanna Stables	17 wins
Raymond Makarovich, Jr.	15 wins





Delaware  
Thoroughbred  
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## Counselor's Corner

I would like to talk about some of the positive changes I have seen during this year's meet. About four months ago with the support of the Thoroughbred Charities of America we were able to open the first substance free housing bunkhouse on the backstretch. This has made it possible for people in recovery to have a safe environment free from drugs and alcohol.



G. Wesley Jones, MSW

I would also like to thank those who made the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DHAF Horsemen's Golf Classic such a huge success. With nearly 80 golfers and over 60 sponsors, the Horsemen's Classic was able to raise over \$6,000 to go toward services for the horsemen on the backstretch. This more than triples the amount raised from last year's event. Next year we hope that the success of this charity golf outing will continue to grow in this positive direction.

The Backstretch Café and John Malatesta graciously provided the catering for this event and everyone said the food was delicious.

Thanks again for everyone's support and I hope to see you next year.

*Wes*

*Happy Holidays*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DTHA Board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office. All owners and trainers are encouraged to attend.



## Applause!

**SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE!**

### Barn of the Month 2004

May	Randy Nunley Michael McCarthy	Large Barn Small Barn
June	Maria Pasquale Louis Albertrani	Large Barn Small Barn
July	Tim Ritchey Pete Palmer	Large Barn Small Barn
August	Graham Motion Paul Cimini	Large Barn Small Barn
September	Michael Matz Walter Magee	Large Barn Small Barn
October	Mike Rogers James Taglianetti	Large Barn Small Barn