



# NEWSLETTER NAMING Contest

See page 7

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

VOLUME 1, 2006

**New Jockeys,  
New Trainers,  
New Rules,  
New Stories,  
New Newsletter ...**

*These are some of the topics we will be covering in the PTHA newsletter this year. Issues that are important to you, information that you need to know, along with lots of pictures and personal stories about YOU.*

*Please keep the office informed of any items that you would like to see included, we want you to enjoy reading and using the information contained in your newsletter.*

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Larry Riviello, President*

**N**o one enjoys the passage of time, it's just a reality of life. I hope everyone had a nice holiday and may the New Year bring everyone good health and great racing.

Harry Vega, Philadelphia Park's leading rider for 2005, won his 3,000th race on Tuesday, September 13th. Quies was ridden to victory for trainer Barclay Tagg and owner Lael Stable. Congratulations.

On September 28th, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board held their monthly meeting at the Downtown Marriott in Philadelphia. Tad Decker chaired the meeting before the ninety attendees. Mike Ballezzi, Sal DeBunda and I attended. Special thanks go to board members Beth Ann Brown-Gambone, Mary Kernan, Guadalupe Preciado and his wife Wendy for taking time from their busy schedules and attending.

### *Congratulations to the following for their accomplishments:*

October 8th, the Pistol Packer Handicap, purse \$50,000 for Pennsylvania bred fillies and mares going 1-1/16 mile was won by David O'Neill's Valley of the Gods for trainer Keith LeBarron, ridden by Harry Vega.

The South Carolina Residency races for two-year-olds were held on November 5th, both \$40,000 added. The filly division was won by the Win and Place Stable's Smart and Fancy, trainer Anthony W. Dutrow, rider Eriluis Vaz. The colt division went to AZ Azalea Stable, LLC's Liqueureux, trainer Richard E. Dutrow, Jr. and ridden by Harry Vega.

The \$50,000 seven furlong Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes was held on November 19th. The winner, Escrow Account, is owned and bred by James E. Hess. This gelded son of Patton was ridden by Nick Santagata and trained by Timothy Kreiser.

November 5th saw the renewal of the \$50,000 added Blue Mountain Futurity contested at Penn National Race Course. A Philadelphia Park local horse named Hailie's Girl, owned by Secluded Stable and Hope Racing Stable, was ridden by Tony Black and trained by PTHA board member Guadalupe Preciado.

Saturday, December 10th Santa came to Philadelphia Park in a big way. Commission employee George Lobley filled in for Santa to the delight of more than 130 bright eyed children. Each child sat on Santa's lap, had their picture taken and received a personal gift. The Donald LeVine Recreation Hall was really rocking with Christmas carols, children's laughter and squeals of glee. Pizza and sodas were the treat of the day, along with homemade cookies, everyone left full. Thanks to Chaplain Cordell and his staff, everyone looks forward to the children's Christmas party every year.

December 14th the PTHA Board of Directors met. Time does go fast, it has been one year since this Board took office. I want to thank the full Board for working together in keeping our organization strong, united and progressive. Thanks also to the staff for doing a great job in our PTHA office.

*President's Message, continued on page 3*





## Congressional Honor

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# From the desk of the Executive Director

## Michael Ballezzi, Esq.



**T**he new year brings many changes to Philadelphia Park. Three important topics will be discussed in this issue: medication testing, slots, and PA bonus.

### Testing for EPO

We recently met with veterinarians from New Bolton Center regarding new tests for detecting the illegal use of EPO, a protein based human prescription drug. It has absolutely no place in racing – **no place**. It is not for equine use. Veterinarians and horsemen should not have it in their possession and it certainly should not be in any horse. To date we haven't had a definitive test to call a positive. This has led to horsemen claiming horses without ever knowing that the horse was administered EPO and which, in time, could become anemic and die before the cause was determined.

Drs. Lawrence Soma, Cornelius Uboh and Eric Birks, reported the contents of a paper presented in China that could alleviate this problem. There is now a test that can be administered pre-race, 10 days out, to detect EPO use. The contemplated solution at Philadelphia Park is random, unannounced testing. Four or five of these random tests would be performed periodically under controlled circumstances – blood would be drawn at the barn and taken to the lab.

Policies for dealing with these results are being determined. We sincerely believe these steps will not only lead to a more level playing field, but will also let the racing world know that Philadelphia Park will not allow the use of any illegal race enhancing substances. We take these matters extremely seriously and when polled at a recent meeting with trainers, 100% of those present definitely wanted something done and are in favor of the random off-race day testing.

### Philly Park Slots – Sooner Rather Than Later?

Plans are progressing from a gallop to a sprint and the finish line is in sight. All operators' applications were received by December 28, 2005 by the Pennsylvania Gaming Board. The Gaming Board now must determine slot company sales territories and issue vendor licenses before the process can proceed. Part of this process is determining whether these territories are statewide vs. regional. Ninety days after distribution of slot machine territories is decided, conditional licenses will be issued. Philadelphia Park could install 1200 temporary machines in the Grandstand as early as fall 2006, if a temporary license is issued this spring. Construction of a full casino will not begin until a conditional license is issued – construction will take approximately 15 months. Fourteen licenses will be awarded statewide. We will keep you informed of the details of how plans are moving ahead in future issues.

### PA Owner Bonus Rises

The good news – the PA owner bonus is now increased to 25%, up from 20%. This increase rewards those PA bred horses in the first three positions with an extra 5%. As stated above, when slots are in place, we plan to immediately reinstate the full 40%. ■

### LET'S GO RACING



- Friday at 2:30 p.m. on CN8 (replays at midnight)
- Hosted by the voice of Philadelphia Park - Keith Jones
- Meet local racing personalities and equine stars
- Weekly national review
- Discuss topics of local interest

### The President's Message, continued from cover

As stated earlier, Harry Vega was the leading jockey at Philadelphia Park in 2005. 845 mounts, 203 wins (24%), 134 seconds, 130 thirds for an in the money of 55%.

Congratulations to board member Scott Lake. He was leading trainer again at Philadelphia Park. He had 481 starts, 102 wins (21%), 101 seconds and 69 thirds for an in the money of 57%!

Scott also won his 3,000th career victory with Unaccounted Gift. He completed his fourth straight year as the leading trainer at Delaware Park with a record breaking 116 victories

Our organization worked hard in doing our share and getting the Gaming Bill passed. Now it's up to the politicians.

Some good news. Once the conditional license is issued, slots will be activated. The cha-ching cha-ching

sound of slots will be heard. Music to our ears. I have been waiting 12 years for that sound. The starting date should be in the fall 2006.

Mark your calendar: Wednesday March 8th, the 2005 Pennsylvania Horse of the Year Awards Dinner will be held at Celebrations Banquet Hall. Come honor your fellow horsemen and horsewomen and their horses. Come and enjoy hors d'oeuvres without equal, open bar and a delicious dinner. A fun night for everyone. ■

### Thought of the Day

*Don't let ego overcome good judgment.*



# Are you paying more taxes than you should be?



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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain Jack Cordell



## A GREAT RESOLUTION FOR 2006

One thing always grabs attention on the track – a loose horse. I was standing near the gap the other morning, and here came a horse, tail waving high and rushing toward the gap. After dropping his rider he had one goal – go home! He ignored the “one way” regulation. As he sailed through the gap it looked as though he was heading to barn 18 or 19, but he made an unusual move. That horse suddenly realized Barn 7 was home, and performed a U-turn on the horse path! Somebody yelled, “Let him go. He’s goin’ home.” True. Loose horses resolve to go back to their stall.

To think about it, loose horses can offer us a good lesson for 2006. If they can resolve to do one thing, surely we humans can. A recent issue of *U.S. News and World Report* magazine included an article, “50 Ways to Improve in 2006.” What a pleasant surprise to read, “Meditation may actually improve attention and memory.” Now there’s a fantastic goal—improved memory for this senior! In fact, meditating on God will point you toward the One who gives meaning and purpose for living as well as guidance for the coming year. A contemporary wording of Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track.” If an inner “voice” can guide a horse back to his barn, surely God’s “voice” can lead us

through 2006. Resolve at least one thing for the year ahead – to pay more attention to God’s voice. God will be pleased to make you a better person for it.

## 2005 Christmas Celebrations

Thanks to the kind generosity of the PTHA Board, President, Larry Riviello, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and many local churches; everyone had a fantastic time on Saturday, December 10, in the Rec Hall. The backstretch personnel and their children met Santa (a.k.a. George Lobley), received gifts, made crafts, won door prizes, ate pizza and cake, shopped at the free “Country Store,” had their picture taken with Santa, and listened to music provided by Walt and Gary. This year we registered 133 children. The Party is the highlight of the year for Chaplain Cordell, his Administrative Assistant, Molly Shallcross and the many volunteer staff.

Then, on December 19, we delivered nearly 200 bags of gifts and cans of cookies to the dorm residents. Thanks to the many people who packed the gifts and to the Security staff who helped deliver the presents. Again, without the PTHA and these churches, the gifts would not have been possible. ■







### Close Up

CAPOTE - VIDEO PIANO  
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### Believe In Saints

SAINT BALLADO - BELIEVE IN SUGAR  
BY GARTHORN

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Greenfields Farm  
Colts Neck, NJ



### Fastness (Ire)

ROUSILLON - CITY FORTRESS  
BY TROY

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C & R Horse Farm  
Milmay, NJ



### Flying Pidgeon

UPPER CASE - MISS MINNESOTA  
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C & R Horse Farm  
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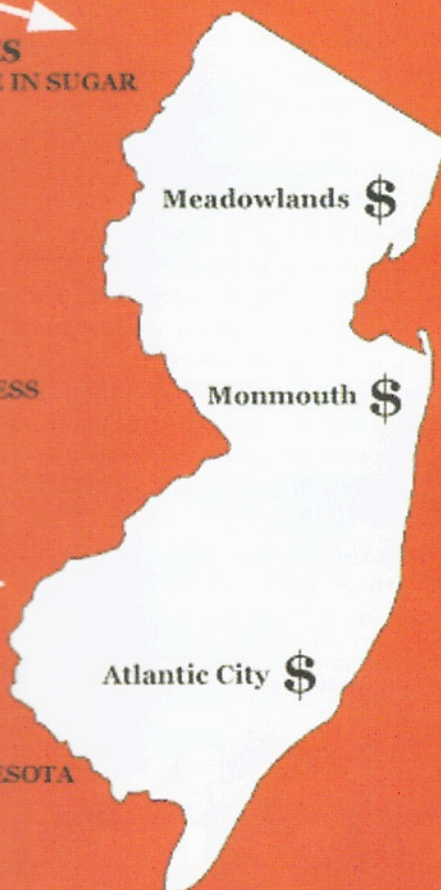
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Photo by Equi-Photo

## In the Spotlight

*An interview with Dr. Brian Rizen, Assistant Racetrack Physician*

Most days you can spot this energetic young physician (he claims he will be 65 this year, but he's such a kiddo) somewhere on the grounds of Philadelphia Park. On race days you will find him in the First Aid office in the Grandstand – helping track visitors with anything from removing a speck of something in their eye to resuscitating them with one of the defibrillators he helped arrange for the front and backsides; assisting a mutuals worker who has jammed his finger in the machine or treating a member of the wait staff with a sprained ankle. He also performs the jockey physicals.

Dr. Rizen, "Doc", to everyone at the track is an inspiring professional and proud family man. He and his wife, Alice, have five children and four grandchildren. One of his sons, Michael, has followed in Doc's footsteps. Mrs. Rizen is a schoolteacher in the Philadelphia system. Graduating from Johns Hopkins, he received his medical degree from Temple University Medical Center, completed his internship at a county hospital in Southern California and his residency at Penn. He served in the military from 1969-1971. Practicing General Medicine, Dr. Rizen set up his Bucks County office in 1971 and retired from private practice in 2001.

When asked how he came to work at Philadelphia Park, he responds with that ever-present glint in his eye and says, "That's an interesting story," and he has many of them. This particular one takes place at the old Liberty Bell track about 20 years ago. Dr. Joseph Tursi, track

physician, needed someone to cover for him while he was on vacation and this is when Doc's love affair with the track began. He started asking to work back at the track and eventually, after moving to the present location, Dr. Herman L. McGill, M.D., track physician, had an opening.

Shortly after starting to work in the First Aid office at Philadelphia Park, Dr. Rizen noticed a gaping need on the other side of the property. On his first trip to the backside he vowed that he would create a clinic to care for the medical needs of these workers who so conscientiously care for the horses. With the help of Chaplain Jack Cordell and his secretary, Sue Holland, they converted an old card room in the Rec Hall into the clinic. On August 18, 2001, the Donald LeVine Memorial Clinic was dedicated to the memory of Mr. LeVine, a chief steward before his death in 2000, survived by his wife, Liz. Doc fondly remembers many days seeing Mr. LeVine, an avid racing fan standing by the rail wearing his signature white hat and shiny shoes and is proud the clinic bears this great man's name.

The clinic is supplied with equipment from his closed medical

practice, and "The doctor is in" each Tuesday, but on call 24/7. Nurses from LaSalle University Hospital triage patients, give routine vaccinations and refer workers to Dr. Rizen as needed. Everyone on the backside knows his door and heart are always open to them. He even talks to the Spanish-speaking workers in what he calls "Rizen Spanglish" to make them feel more relaxed and comfortable.

This tireless physician, poet, writer, and friend to all ended our interview with what he calls his Rizen-Horizon – things coming up on his radar. After being nominated last year for the Dogwood Dominion Award for extraordinary work on the backside, he was elected to the Board of the Winners Federation, an organization dedicated to helping mandate drug and alcohol abuse programs at tracks. Its newly adopted motto, "Healthy workers for healthy horses," sounds like it came right out of Doc's mouth. Finally, he and his wife will travel to Tokyo, Japan, in October for a meeting of track physicians working together to organize and share ideas. The Irish Turf Club is organizing this event. ■

## NEWSLETTER NAMING Contest

Here's your chance to make the PTHA newsletter truly your own. As you read on the front page, this is a new year with a new newsletter. We need a name for our newsletter and want to make it a fun contest, complete with prizes.

Please submit your ideas no later than March 1, 2006, to the PTHA office, or by email to the Editor, gosspr@optonline.net. All submissions will be considered – the winner will be decided by a panel comprised of several PTHA members. The announcement will be made at the 2005 Pennsylvania Horse of the Year Awards Dinner on March 8th.

Get your creative juices flowing - enter early, enter often! Prize basket includes: PTHA Buying Center, a one-hour massage at Bensalem Muscle Therapy, a \$25 gift certificate from Giant Foods, and four appetizer coupons from TGI Fridays.



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## BACKSIDE *View*

Get well wishes go out to **Frank Shenski**, a fixture here for many years. Frank was severely injured when a horse that had dropped **Danny Velazquez** got loose and ran into the mount he was on. It was a dreadful accident. It will be several months before Frank will be able to go back to work. The backstretch personnel were concerned for Frank especially since the misfortune happened just before Christmas. A jar in the kitchen was filled and **Ms. April Whitley** donated a beautiful 36" tall Santa for the PTHA to raffle off. **Juan Carlos Guerrero** won the drawing on 12/23 just in time to take it home to his daughter. Frank called the PTHA office and asked that his gratitude be extended to the entire backstretch for thinking of him.



Trainer **Ned Allard** is back on his feet after hip surgery. Good to see him up and around.



Trainer **Steve Krebs** and his lovely wife, jockey **Tara Hemmings** teamed up on December 18th to win the \$100,000 Added G-3 Gravesend in Aqueduct with **Danny Limongelli's Banjo Picker**.



*Photos by Equi-Photo  
Harry Vega, Philadelphia Park's leading rider for 2005, winning his 3,000th race.*

## TROPHY LIST

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
7/9/2005	Knew Stable	Instantpersonality	John Dunn
7/16/2005	David O'Neill	Blondie's Tune	Keith LeBarron
7/30/2005	Jack J. Armstrong	Good Future	Robert Mosco
8/6/2005	Galena Springs Farm	Mercy's Spirit	Sharon Banford
9/3/2005	Raymond Vitolo	Supah Way	Ramon Preciado
9/10/2005	Steven Krebs	Miss Red Fox	Steven Krebs
9/17/2005	Dennis Beattie	Xtra Smooth	Dennis Beattie
9/24/2005	Lisa Allen	Lookslikeabullet	Randy Allen
10/1/2005	Michael Rea	Gaebel's Gamble	Michael Rea
10/8/2005	Fast Forward Racing Stable	Madison's Wish	Guadalupe Preciado
10/15/2005	Danny Limongelli	The Individualist	Steven Krebs
10/22/2005	Knew Stable	Heyharrywherestom	John Dunn
10/29/2005	Penny Pearce	Roaring Beauty	Kate DeMasi
11/5/2005	Robert Curcio	Mowdow	Robert Reid, Jr.
11/12/2005	Danny Limongelli	Tri Like the Devil	Steven Krebs
11/19/2005	Timber Creek Farm	Count On Pal	Cynthia Reese
11/25/2005	Angel Sanchez-Pinero	High Purr	Angel Sanchez-Pinero
12/3/2005	Harry Daut & Michael Hushen	Openly	Scott Lake
12/10/2005	Dun Roamin Farms & Rosemore Farms	Senorita Louisa	Edward Lehman
12/17/2005	Rory Huston	FJ Girl	Sharon Huston
12/24/2005	P & EC Stable	Jack's Diner	Uriah St Lewis
12/31/2005	Nick Sallusto & Antonio Nicastro	Nice Bridge	Randy Allen



# Winter Equine Care

Editor, Dian Goss talks with Dr. Steve McBride, DVM

As we enter into the coldest part of our racing season, I visited with Dr. Steve McBride of Eastern Thoroughbred Racing Associates, Inc. regarding some things we can do to make our horses more comfortable and safe.

**Q: Dr. McBride, what is the most important thing we can do to make sure our horses are ready for the cold, damp winter?**

**A:** Dian, having a horse healthy with good body weight is the best way to prevent problems during the winter months. This winter has been mild so far, but we are still getting some freezing and having a healthy horse helps them cope with cold nights and mornings.

**Q: What about changing feeding or supplementation?**

**A:** The main thing I tell trainers is to make sure they have a hot mash with bran. This helps get extra water into their system – keeps them from getting dehydrated.

**Q: Speaking of water, does it get cold enough in the barns for the water to freeze?**

**A:** Absolutely! We tend to have about two months each winter where the water freezes. When the grooms come in the morning, they have to take off a layer of ice – this is happening already even with the milder daytime temperatures. These horses need their water buckets topped off with warm water, ideally two to three times during the day. Before they are put to bed at night they should have a warm top off of their water buckets so they will drink during the night. Horses don't like very cold water and they must drink water – this can be more of a problem during the winter than the summer months. Dehydration is very dangerous and can be easily prevented by encouraging them to drink and making the water warmer for them.

**Q: Dr. McBride, are there any vaccinations that are needed during the winter months?**

**A:** Well, not really – the horses have been vaccinated for rhino, etc. The main thing we are watching right now is the neurological form of the EHV-1 herpesvirus that has been reported in Kentucky and Maryland. This is highly contagious as it is an upper respiratory infection with neurological problems following. At this time we are not accepting horses at Philadelphia Park from either of these areas.

**Q: What about blankets during the coldest months?**

**A:** Trainers are split regarding this – some clip and use blankets while others let the horses acquire a thick coat and don't use them. I want to remind everyone about the antifreeze that is on the track surface now. This is good to keep ice from forming but when horses run or work on the track, you must be mindful of getting it off their coats and out of their eyes. If the coat is especially thick and furry, it makes it more difficult to get down to the skin to remove these chemicals. Eyes must be carefully flushed as well. And while we are talking about winter coat care, we must also address hoof care. Hooves need to be moisturized during the winter, a dry hoof won't hold the farriers nails as well, we see many more quarter cracks during the winter.

**Q: Thank you Dr. McBride. Any final thoughts regarding training and running during the winter?**

**A:** Yes, one more reminder. Horses can bleed easier and more frequently in the cold – for a different reason than during the heat. While their tracheas are longer than humans, making it less likely to receive damage to the lungs from running in the cold, they will sustain trauma more easily. This is true about training, working and running in general in the winter months – the horses need a longer recovery time to heal.

Dr. McBride can be reached at Eastern Thoroughbred Racing Associates, Inc. (215) 639-4050. ■

## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Please set aside Wednesday, March 8, 2006 to attend the 2005 Pennsylvania Horse of the Year Awards Dinner to be held at our usual location, Celebrations on Galloway Road in Bensalem. Cocktails will commence at 6:30 PM then on to dinner at 7:30. Awards will be given out during dessert. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased in the PTHA office through March 3rd.

If you have any questions, call the PTHA office at (215) 638-2012.



# GRADE 1 POWER

*Two sires of recent  
G1 SWs move to  
Pennsylvania!*



BENJAMIN L. ASSOCIATES PHOTO

Coasting home by  $5\frac{3}{4}$  lengths to complete 7f  
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for PA-foaling mares



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ITAJARA—EBREA, BY KUBLAI KHAN

*Sire of*

## I'M THE TIGER

*Winner of Frank J. De Francis Memorial  
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\$6,500 LF or \$5,000  
for PA-foaling mares



LYDIA WILLIAMS PHOTO

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