

## PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

2015 Issue #4

## **New Racing Schedule**



Over the past few years, the Fall Festival at Parx Racing has been an overwhelming success. Increasing the purses of our signature Pennsylvania Derby (G2) and the G1 Cotillion Stakes, combined with altering the stakes schedule so that horsemen could use those races as preps for the Breeders' Cup, culminated last year when both winners of those races went on to defeat older horses in their respective Breeders' Cup events. Even California Chrome joined the PA Derby field!

This year is sure to be even more exciting, as we announced during a General Membership Meeting last month. An agreement was reached between the PTHA and Parx management that created a special eight-week racing meet that will begin on August 29, 2015 and run through October 20, 2015.

(cont'd on page 5)

"In Pennsylvania, the horsemen and management at Parx Racing obviously figured out that they...weren't exactly putting on the type of show the customer wants. Parx has terrific purses but it is also a racing factory. There, they grind away, 52 weeks a year, with the same generic horses, the same generic jockeys and with very high takeouts."

"So the PTHA became the driving force behind the \$20 Million Parx Racing Fall Festival... The consumer will still be discouraged by the high takeouts, but at least they will be paying for quality, what very well could be the best product in the sport for more than two months. Racing at Parx will go from humdrum to something most every bettor will enjoy and want to partake in."

"The PTHA gets it. None of this means that less money will go to its members; it will just be spread out differently in order to create a super meet with super purses that will benefit everyone."

-Bill Finley, From the Thoroughbreds, a Less-Is-More Idea Worth Stealing, July 24, 2015 Harness Racing Update "Parx is thrilled to work with the PTHA on this revitalizing plan to enhance our overall live racing product for our owners + trainers as well as racing fans."

-Joe Wilson, Parx Racing COO

"Parx is creating a separate meet with some buzz. I believe all slots tracks should've been doing this since forever."

-Pull the Pocket Blogspot

"I've been training horses since 1970 and the changes in this game have been so dramatic, it's scary. And I've often thought, what are we going to do to save our industry? I'm REALLY impressed because you guys at the PTHA have come up with some great ideas."

-Ned Allard, Trainer



## President's Message Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

This year, even more has been at stake for PA horsemen, so

we of the PTHA joined forces with Parx management to address problems that we saw starting to arise in Harrisburg. Racetrack operators in our state had very significant leaders in the Senate put in a bill that would basically lower the required racing days from the current 199 to 100 to keep their casino licenses. My biggest fear was that if this happened, the tracks would close whenever there was no live racing. I felt that if we didn't push for year-round training here, it would negatively affect our community. After all, our people live here with their families and their kids go to school here. What if they left and never came back? So my primary concern was to guarantee training here year-round.

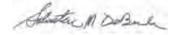
Also, how do we make ourselves more relevant to the bettor, both here and out-of-state? With the creation of the Fall Festival, we got rid of the legislation, we maintained year-round training and we were trying to create a schedule that would hopefully generate more interest in the outside community to bet on us.

In addition, because we didn't build all of the barns as part of our original agreement with Parx, we were entitled to a credit of \$2.2 million. We were able to double that to \$4.4 million in capital improvements to our track. Along with Sam Elliott's and Mike Ballezzi's efforts, we were able to get a total of 33 barns as we stressed we needed those for a full racing schedule.

As of right now, there is not an approved budget for the current fiscal year. Mike Ballezzi and I are continuing to work on keeping the impact on the Race Horse Development Fund as small as possible.

In recent weeks, the PTHA staff and board experienced highs and lows. A longtime board member, Randy Swisher, passed away in May. His contributions to the board will be greatly missed. And on a happier note, congratulations to our Marketing Director Nikki Sherman on her marriage!

We are quickly approaching our signature day of racing. This year's anticipation is even more thrilling, thanks to the hard work that Sam Elliott and Parx Racing have put in as they try to attract the connections of American Pharoah for the PA Derby, despite running in the Travers. We still hope that he will come to Parx before the Breeders' Cup. We are excited that yet again, we will have live coverage on Comcast SportsNet. Of course, we still hope to see you right here on Sept. 19!





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Live Racing Schedule 2015
Live Racing: 12:55 p.m. | Saturday - Tuesday
Friday: May 1, October 30, November 27 Fall Festival August 29 - October 20

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## Live Racing Schedule 2016 Live Racing: 12:55 p.m. | Saturday - Tuesday

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## **New Racing Schedule**

#### **Upcoming Events**



Saturday, August 29 (All Day)
SMARTY JONES DAY
\$300k G3 Smarty Jones S.
Smarty Jones Keychain Giveaway



Friday, September 4 (11:00 - 3:00 PM)

LABOR DAY PICNIC

Sponsored by the PTHA

Food by Ron's Backstretch Cafe

Music and games for the kids



Saturday, September 5 (All Day)
PA's DAY AT THE RACES

Five \$100k PA-Bred stakes races:

Banjo Picker Sprint • Roanoke S.

Marshall Jenney H. • Mrs. Penny S.

Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial



Monday, September 7 (All Day)

LABOR DAY AT PARX RACING
\$300k G3 Turf Monster H. • \$200k G3
Greenwood Cup • \$200k Turf Amazon H.
Parx Water Bottle Giveaway



Saturday, September 12 (All Day)
OWNERS APPRECIATION DAY
\$200k PTHA President's Cup
Owners luncheon in grandstand
sponsored by the PTHA



Saturday, September 19 (All Day)
PENNSYLVANIA DERBY DAY
\$1 million G1 Cotillion S. • \$1 mi

\$1 million G1 Cotillion S. • \$1 million G2 PA Derby • \$300k G3 Gallant Bob S. • \$150k Bayern • \$100k Alphabet Soup H. PA Derby Baseball Cap Giveaway



Saturday, September 26 (All Day)
HALL OF FAME DAY
\$150k Hall of Fame S.
Parx Racing Hall of Fame Inductions



ADDITIONAL FALL FESTIVAL STAKES

Oct. 3 - \$150k Valley Forge S. Oct. 10 - \$150k Bensalem S.

\$100k Plum Pretty S.

Oct. 17 - \$150k Roamin Rachel

(cont'd from cover)

During the 32 live racing days of the Fall Festival, all standard purses will be doubled, with the goal being to reward local horsemen as well as attract top equine talent and increase overall field size. Local trainers and Pennsylvania-breds will continue to receive top preference in all races. It is also hoped that the larger field sizes will boost betting interest as well as draw in new fans to Parx Racing.

In order to fund the increased purses, racing days have been dropped from the schedule in 2015 and 2016. There will be a three-week break in late summer as well as a seven-week closure during the winter months of December 27 until February 13. The winter break makes a lot of sense, as this year alone we lost 18 live cards due to poor weather. While the closures are in effect, the racetrack is expected to continuously stay open and remain in racing condition.

A summer break in August this year has also allowed track maintenance to address \$4.4 million in capital improvements that were agreed to be covered by Parx for its horsemen, as workers installed rubber pavers in the paddock, walking ring and winner's circle.

Additional improvements will include the construction of four new barns on the backside (bringing the final number of barns to 33), the installation of a new safety rail on the track, repaving and beautification of the entire backstretch and refurbishment of the administration building.

There were other reasons why the revised racing schedule was needed. There was serious discussion in Harrisburg that legislators wanted to reduce the number of racing days, so rather than sit back and wait for this to happen, the PTHA and Parx took action.

"Rather than have legislation that says we're going to race 100 days and we're going to get a certain amount of dollars in purses . . . and in essence, destroy all that we have accomplished over the past ten years, we jumped ahead," said PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi. "We maximize our live racing, we maximize our purses and I think it gives us an opportunity to maximize our handle."



## **PARX Fall Festival**

## **PA-Bred Mania - WOW!!!**

THE PA-BRED PREMIUM EARN MORE!

#### **OPEN RACES**

Includes Owner Bonus

RESTRICTED RACES

Mdn Sp Wt

- \$100,800

Mdn Sp Wt

- \$60,000

A1X

- \$103,200

A1X

- \$70,000

Clm 10 nw2

- \$48,000

A2X

- \$74,000

Clm 10

- \$60,000

Clm 12.5 nw2 - \$35,000

August 29, 2015 - October 20, 2015

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#### The PTHA

cordially invites all owners to attend our 7th annual Owners Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 12, 2015 First Post: 12:55 p.m. Parx Racetrack, Bensalem, PA

Complimentary gifts and luncheon

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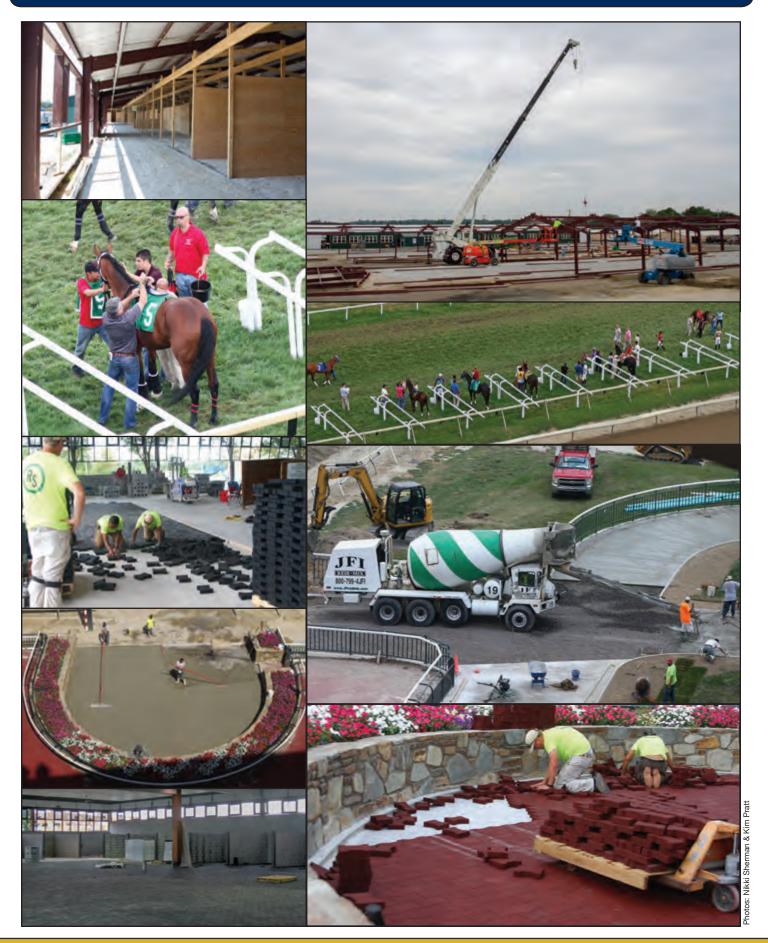
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## **Capital Improvements at Parx Racing**



## **Parx Racing Roundup**

# A. P. Indian

#### DONALD LEVINE MEMORIAL HANDICAP

A. P. Indian has competed sparingly since his six length debut victory at Delaware Park in October of 2012. Three starts at Churchill Downs in the fall of 2013 and one at Oaklawn Park in January 2014 were followed up by an unfortunate thirteen-month break. He finally returned to the races this spring at Tampa Bay Downs, where he took the lead right out of the starting gate and never looked back, en route to an easy allowance victory. A nose loss in his next race to Godolphin Racing's Transparent at Keeneland Race Course is the lone blip on his 2015 record.

At this point, it was clear that A. P. Indian was ready for stakes competition, not only from his immense talent but also his stellar pedigree. A son of the late Indian Charlie, he is out of multiple stakes winner Ender's Sister, who earned over half a million dollars on the racetrack. In his first stakes attempt

on May 9, the gelding won the Decathlon Stakes by an easy 2 3/4 lengths at Monmouth Park.

Just a few weeks later, A. P. Indian ran off with his second straight stakes victory at Parx Racing in the \$100,000 Donald LeVine Memorial Handicap. He was ridden by Daniel Centeno for trainer Arnaud Delacour, continuing to reward owner/breeder Green Lantern Stables LLC for their patience.

#### TURNING FOR HOME STAKES

Edge of Reality just loves the Parx Racing oval. He won four of five stars at Parx as a sophomore, including a victory in the Grade 3 Smarty Jones Stakes. The handsome bay colt was promptly crowned 2013 Parx Racing Champion Three-Year-Old Male and Pennsylvania-bred Champion Three-Year-Old Male.

Following that award-winning campaign, Edge of Reality traveled the country, running everywhere from Florida to California for owner/breeder The Elkstone Group LLC and trainer H. Graham Motion. Yet, his most successful races occurred upon three triumphant returns to his home state of Pennsylvania. He took two Pennsylvania-bred stakes races in 2014, and most recently returned to Parx Racing for the \$75,000 Turning for Home Stakes.

On a sealed dirt course that was saturated with rainwater from torrential downpours all day, the son of Lawyer Ron absolutely excelled. Edge of Reality sat off the pace while allowing fellow stakes winner Adirondack King to set the early lead, then swept wide around the turn before drawing off to win by 3 3/4 lengths under rider Frankie Pennington.



**Edge of Reality** 



#### DR. JAMES PENNY MEMORIAL (G3)

Without a doubt, the 2015 edition of the Dr. James Penny Memorial Handicap sported the deepest field in its history. French-bred Testa Rossi is a multiple graded stakes winner who finished second in the 2013 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1). Nellie Cashman won the same year's Grade 3 Virginia Oaks as well as this year's Dahlia Stakes at Pimlico in April. Florida Sunshine Millions Filly and Mare Turf Stakes heroine Pink Poppy and five-time listed stakes winner Baffle Me were also set to contest the 1 1/16 mile event.

Yet by far the best filly in the race was Grade 1 winner Coffee Clique. The pretty bay filly would cross an impressive milestone should she win the \$200,000 Grade 3 event - boosting her career earnings over the \$1 million-mark. She did not disappoint, drawing away in deep stretch under urging by jockey Manuel Franco, en route to an easy 1 1/4 length victory.

Mrs. Jerry Amerman bred her Royal Academy mare Miss Chapin to top stallion Medaglia d'Oro, and the family then kept the resultant foal, Coffee Clique, for their stable, Amerman Racing LLC. Trainer Brian Lynch has been at the helm since the start of Coffee Clique's career and was thrilled to see one of the best horses he has ever trained become a millionnaire.



#### PARX DASH (G3)

Tightend Touchdown has been a bridemaid in the past two Parx Dashes behind multimillionnaire and fan favorite Ben's Cat and is nearly always close at the wire, especially in the very common blanket finishes of his turf sprint division. He was even second in the 2013 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint.

Despite his accolades and the guidance of leading rider Frankie Pennington, Tightend Touchdown went off as the fifth choice in this year's \$200,000 Parx Dash (G3). Ahead of him in the odds were Ben's Cat as well as multiple stakes winners Power Alert (AUS), Bold Thunder and Amelia's Wild Ride.

Bold Thunder broke on top in the five furlong turf sprint and was pushed along throughout by a very rank Tightend Touchdown. The chestnut son of Pure Precision had given the gate crew a hard time loading into the starting gate and was continuing to be difficult even in the midst of a race. Luckily, it didn't matter for the connections of Tightend Touchdown, as he raced past a tiring Bold Thunder in very deep stretch and held off the late charge of 50-1 shot Mongolian Saturday to win by a hard-fought head.

Tightend Touchdown is owned by Mr. Amore Stable and trained by Jason Servis.



#### CROWD PLEASER & POWER BY FAR HANDICAPS

Pennsylvania-breds were given the opportunity to shine at Parx Racing on July 25 in two restricted turf stakes.



Frankie Pennington rode a perfect race aboard Saham in the \$75,000 Crowd Pleaser Handicap, sitting just off the pace before taking command at the top of the stretch and drawing off to win by an easy 2 1/4 lengths. Kentucky-based Brendan Walsh trains the Lemon Drop Kid colt for owner Chad Schumer.

In the \$75,000 Power by Far Handicap, Knew Stable's Kiss the Daddy overcame trouble after being forced to steady on the turn. Rider Hector Caballero urged the five-year-old daughter of Scat Daddy through a hole on the rail in midstretch and the duo quickly surged to the front in the final yards. Kiss the Daddy is trained by Parx-based John Dunn.

#### Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

June 20 - STANTON S.

Delaware Park, 1 1/16 miles

2nd - DUKIN' WITH DALE

O: Main Line Racing Stable & David Charlton Vintage Thoroughbred Farm

T: John C. Servis

J: Kendrick Carmouche

June 20 - **OBEAH S. (G3)** 

Delaware Park, 1 1/8 miles

2nd - JOINT RETURN

O: Main Line Racing Stable

T: John C. Servis

J: Kendrick Carmouche

June 27 - TURNING FOR HOME S.

Parx Racing, 1 mile 70 yards

2nd - ADIRONDACK KING

O: MarchFore Thoroughbreds

T: John C. Servis

J: John Bisono

3rd - GRASSHOPPIN

O: Michael W. Jester

T: Mario Serey, Jr.

J: Roberto Alvarado, Jr.

June 28 - MR. PROSPECTOR S.

Monmouth Park, 6 furlongs

2nd - UPTOWN BOY

O: Thomas G. McClav

T: Ramon Preciado

J: J D Acosta

July 5 - **SMILE SPRINT S.** 

Gulfstream Park, 6 furlongs

1st - FAVORITE TALE

O: PJG Stable

T: Guadalupe Preciado

J: Edgar Zavas

July 12 - KLASSY BRIEFCASE S.

Monmouth Park, 5 1/2 furlongs (T)

3rd - JOYA REAL

O: Pewter Stable

T: Kathleen A. DeMasi

J: Joe Bravo

July 25 - SANFORD S.

Saratoga, 6 furlongs

2nd - PERCOLATOR

O: Main Line Racing Stable

& John C. Servis

T: John C. Servis

J: Kendrick Carmouche

July 25 - POWER BY FAR H.

Parx Racing, 5 furlongs (T)

1st - KISS THE DADDY

O: Knew Stable

T: John J. Dunn

J: Hector Caballero

2nd - PREVIOUS HONOR

O: Donna Eaton

T: Roy D. Houghton

J: John Bisono

July 27 - LUCKY COIN S.

Saratoga, 5 1/2 furlongs (T)

3rd - AMELIA'S WILD RIDE

O: Dennis Tanchak

T: Ramon Preciado

J: Jose Lezcano

August 1 - ALFRED G. VANDERBILT H.

Saratoga, 6 furlongs

3rd - FAVORITE TALE

O: PJG Stable

T: Guadalupe Preciado

J: Irad Ortiz, Jr.



Saratoga, 5 1/2 furlongs (T)

3rd - DARLING SKY

O: Silcan Stables

& James Bonner

T: Robert E. Reid. Jr.

J: Jose L. Ortiz, Jr.

#### August 5 - STRIKE YOUR COLORS S.

Delaware Park, 5 1/2 furlongs

1st - NEVER GONE SOUTH

O: M M G Racing Stable

T: Cathal A. Lynch

J: Trevor McCarthy

August 15 - BLUE SPARKLER S.

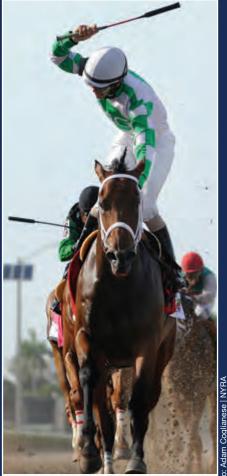
Monmouth Park, 5 1/2 furlongs (T)

1st - JOYA REAL

O: Pewter Stable

T: Kathleen A. DeMasi

J: Roberto Alvarado, Jr.





**Favorite Tale** 

## PTHA Board Member Randy Swisher Passes



Former longtime PTHA Board Member Randy Swisher passed away on May 1, 2015. A lovely service was held on July 24 in the recreation hall at Parx, where family and friends reminisced about the beloved man who had touched their hearts for so long. His wife Donna wrote a poignant piece that truly tells the story of his life, and we wanted to share it with you (below). We will truly miss Randy and want to express our deepest condolences to his family.

Randall Arne (Danish name) Swisher was born in Point Pleasant, WV on 9/9/1946. His parents moved back to NYC when he was three, but

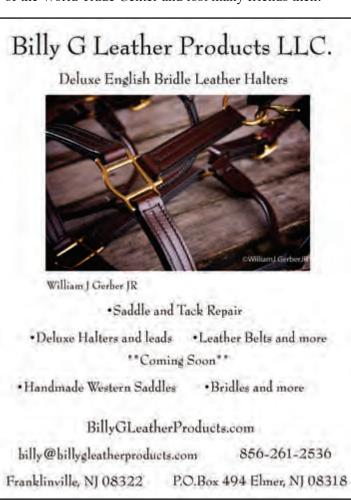
he visited WV with his parents every summer. From the time he learned how to drive a car, he would go off to the racetracks in New York to watch horse racing (and bet, of course). He enjoyed bowling in high school (once almost had a perfect game of 300 ((he made 289)) and that is where we met, in a bowling alley. My cousin brought him to meet my sister Sandi as he needed a date for his bowling dinner, but he and I ended up hitting it off.

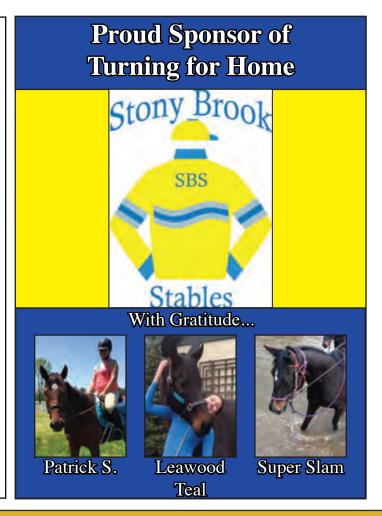
When we got married on 11/1/69 he was a cigarette salesman with a company car. His friends eventually got him into Wall Street firms. His last full time job was as a VP for Bank of America. He experienced the bombing of the World Trade Center and lost many friends then.

He was laid off from Goldman Sachs and during the time before he was hired by BOA he got very involved in his first love, horse racing, with his friend Mark Fusco. They were the owners of F & S Stable. Mark was like the brother Randy never had. They had many good times and even won a race at Aqueduct with Wild Amy (named after his niece).

He worked as a consultant for a couple of years, but his illness got the best of him and he decided to work locally. He found a new home with his "track father" Mike Ballezzi and his "tough love mother figure" Connie Youmans, and shared with them the growing of a beautiful new world known as PARX Casino & Racetrack. He was very proud to have been on the PTHA Board of Directors.

He was also very proud of his three nephews, Loren, John and William; niece Amy; two great-nieces, Emma and Maggie; and great nephew, Jake.





# Reflections on Our 2nd Annual Turning for Home Day Thoughts from Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery

Turning for Home, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to find homes for Parx Racing's retiring thoroughbreds.

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020

267-223-3418

www.turningforhome.org



"It was gratifying to watch our partner farm horse angels meet former racing connections. In this photo, After the Races Director **Bonnie Hutton** & employee **Jade Sevelow-Lee** were able to meet **Gina Brooks** of Stony Brook Stables and **Cheryl Nations**."



"Rich Ciavardone is an owner who really cares about his horses and immediately wanted to support us on Turning for Home Day. Also in this picture are some more horse angels: Kim Berg & Kate Goldenberg of Safe Haven Equine, Rene Lenzi of A Bit of Heaven Farm and Rachel Hess of Track to Tranquility Equestrian."



"One of the highlights of the day came when the many connections of Rod's Five Star met. It was so rewarding to listen as his old owner/breeder/trainer **Ed Lehman** talked with **Kelly** & **Gina Lupton** of Black Oak Farm and adopter **Hannah Parker**. It was clear how much every one of them loved Rod's Five Star as they shared their stories."



"Turning for Home and the **Parx Jockey Colony** presented a check to the **Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund** as a result of our joint efforts through last year's successful autograph and merchandise tables. TFH also donated a slushie machine for the jocks' room as a thank you for their continuous support. Our jockeys were the first in the nation to support racehorse retirement."



"Congratulations to Turning for Home Stakes winner Edge of Reality and his connections: owner The Elkstone Group LLC, trainer Graham Motion and jockey Frankie Pennington. Edge of Reality is a great Pennsylvania-bred racehorse!"



"When we needed a sponsor for the \$75,000 Turning for Home Stakes, **Glenn Brok** of Diamond B Farm and **Bob Hut**t of Fantasy Lane Stable stepped up to the plate!"



"Parx Racing was the very first racetrack in the country to have its own in-house racehorse retirement program and the second racetrack in the nation to institute a strict no-slaughter policy. Here, Director of Racing **Sam Elliott**, alongside PTHA Board Member **Phil Aristone**, presented TFH with a \$50,000 check."



"Thanks to the leadership of the PTHA, no horse has been turned away from a safe retirement with TFH - now over 1,600 horses! Supporters **Keith** & **Cheryl Nations**, with PTHA Board Member **Kate DeMasi**, were on-hand to present TFH with a \$50,000 check."



"Raising awareness for what we are doing for the horses of Parx Racing was the focus of the day. We were happy to have owner and PTHA Board Member **Nick Saponara** of Club Risque Stable and trainer **Randy Allen** support us on our big day for this mission."



"Leading the post parade for the Turning for Home Stakes was TFH graduate **Ready to Play** (a.k.a. "Batman"), ridden by his new mom **Amanda Eichfield**. Batman is an example of responsible horse ownership: when he clearly wasn't happy on the farm, his original adopter returned him to TFH and Batman is now thriving as a pony horse for the **Ed Coletti, Jr.** barn."



"Over 1/3 of Turning for Home horses are PA-Breds and the **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association** has supported us from our inception. On our big day, PHBA Executive Secretary **Brian Sanfratello** and his wife **Terry** presented TFH with a \$15,000 check."



"Although it was a rainy day, it remained bright inside thanks to the incredible vocal performances by **Scott & Debbie Gager**."



"Turning for Home is indebted to the vast network of shipping companies that act quickly when needed to get horses from the racetrack to the farms and eventually into their adopters' hands. The final race of the day was sponsored by shipper **Ron Bradford** of Cedarlane Farm."



"Claudia Day and Amanda Eichfeld both volunteered to help Parx the Horse throw t-shirts to fans between each race."



## Saving Archie's Echo

Every Monday at New Holland Auction in Pennsylvania, horses of all sizes, colors and condition are paraded through the sales ring. While some do find good homes, this sad, dreary place is all too often the stomping grounds of kill buyers, and despite our best efforts, sometimes the horses finding their way into the kill pens are Thoroughbreds. This past June, we received word from fellow OTTB advocate Kelsey Parisi that there were older racehorses at New Holland. We soon identified one horse that was in dire need of assistance - 26-year-old Archie's Echo.

It is astonishing how certain events are meant to happen, and Archie's story proves this fact. We first reached out to Lorita Lindemann after learning that Archie's sire was Palace Music, as Lorita used to work closely with the stallion's late owner Allen Paulson. We were all blown away to discover that Lorita actually used to groom Archie's Echo back at Rockingham Park.

Our new Parx Director of Racing, Sam Elliott, came from Suffolk Downs and felt an attachment to the gelding . . . an attachment that grew even stronger when Lorita sent over an old win photo. It turns out that Sam's roommate in Bensalem, Ambrose Pascucci, used to be the trainer of Archie's Echo!

It was a no-brainer: we had to "save" Archie. By that evening, he had arrived at A Bit of Heaven Farm in Newfield, N.J. for quarantine and rehab. There, Rene Lenzi gave Archie all the love he needed to recover from his ordeal. Once he was ready to travel, Archie shipped to his forever home in Lexington, Kentucky - Old Friends, current home of Silver Charm and Game On Dude.

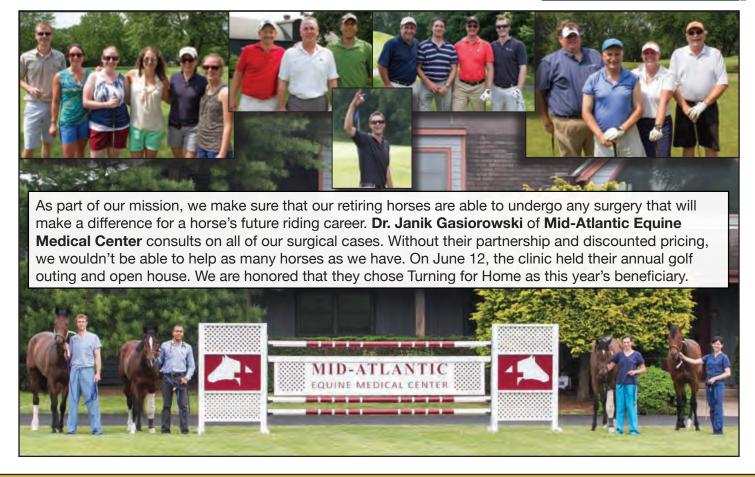
But on his way west, when Archie had to make a pit stop at Parx Racing, a few people from his past and present wanted to meet him again: Ambrose Pascucci and Sam Elliott.

We made sure that happened!



Danielle Montgomery, Kelsey Parisi, Rene Lenzi, Sam Elliott





#### Recent Adoptions

Thorin Any Cat in a Storm Quito Kid Bungalow Bill

## Available to Adopt

Dear Bo Suancesca Rose Swing Fa the Stars Napa's Phenom

## Remember Them?

Brian's Sneakers Kangaroo Kid Silver Express Brother Leo























International polo star **Will Tankard**, 31, died tragically alongside his dog Chewy and three of his horses in a horrific trailer accident on July 30. Also on the van were seven other horses, including TFH & After the Races graduate **Queen's Tali** (bay above). The entire polo community has rallied together to make sure that Will's horses are well cared for. The **American International Polo Federation** is collecting donations for the care of Will's horses: 12300 S. Shore Blvd., Suite 218, Wellington, FL 33414.

### **Special Notice:**

Effective during the entirety of the 2015 Fall Festival at Parx Racing (8/29 - 10/20), the \$10/start owner contribution for Turning for Home will double to \$20/start. Upon the conclusion of the Fall Festival, the contribution will revert back to \$10/start.

## Reminder to all Horsemen:

Any owner, member of an owner partnership, or trainer who is found responsible for sending a horse to auction where they could be purchased by dealers/kill buyers for slaughter, or for sending a horse to slaughter will have his/her backstretch privileges revoked, will be denied entry to race for all horses owned in whole or in partnership, and said horses must be removed immediately from the Parx Racing backstretch.

In the event that ownership of horse(s) is transferred, the transfer must be to a third party who is not family related to the original owner(s) and an affadavit must be signed by the third party attesting to that fact.

## Backstretch Views



William Klingbeil, 84, passed away on July 16, 2015. His daughter Karen and her husband Ed Bussinger are owners with trainer John Servis. The family loves the sport so much that they requested any memorial donations be made to Turning for Home. We are so sorry for their loss.



Duane George passed away on July 26, 2015 due to cardiac arrest. He was living on a farm in South Carolina and seemed to be doing well until the very end. His brother will be taking his ashes to Wilkes Barre, PA later on to be buried near family members.



Ronald Caesar passed away on July 10, 2015. His daughter Mary Pattershall is a trainer here at Parx and she was blown away by the amount of thoughts, prayers and support from her racetrack family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 1626 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.



We were saddened to learn of the death of **L. A. Thoroughbreds** member **Judy O'Brien** earlier this year.

We learned of her passing when Turning for Home began to receive memorial donations in her memory. We would like to express our condolences to her family and friends.



Herbert Sherman, beloved grandfather of PTHA Marketing Director **Nikki Sherman**, passed away suddenly on August 9, 2015. Visiting him in Florida often included trips to horse events in Wellington. Memorial donations may be made to Maccabi U.S.A. Sports for Israel, 1511 Walnut Street, Suite 401, Phila., PA 19102.

oto: Right Start Photography





Ali Montgomery, daughter of Turning for Home Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery, graduated from Delsea Regional High School on June 20, 2015. She will be attending Rutgers University-Camden this fall. Congratulations!



Tyrone Carter of
Pink Sky Stable had
a tumultuous month
in July. Just six days
before celebrating
his 28th wedding
anniversary with wife
Patricia, he was
seriously injured in a
riding accident. He
will be out of work
indefinitely. Best
wishes for a speedy
recovery!



"Slim" Robertson recently retired from the jocks' room after many, many years as a valet. Best wishes to Slim for a wonderful retirement!



Mike Farro: The "Real" American Farro?

noto: Thomas K

#### Do you have any news for Backstretch Views?

We're always on the lookout for backstretch views. Contact **Nikki Sherman**, Marketing & Publicity Director, in the Turning for Home office or send over an email to nsherman@patha.org.



## Chaplain's Corner Chaplain Rick Bunker

"But the righteous will live by his faith."

- Habakkuk 2:4 (NASB)

This verse above is a great promise from the Bible. Many translations have some mark next to faith and somewhere else on the page note that faith is more precisely faithfulness. Whose faithfulness? God's faithfulness – the "his faith" is God's faith, or God's faithfulness to the righteous. Now Scripture tells us in other places that no one is righteous but God, but those who in faith and humility pursue the righteousness and ways of God will live by the loving faithfulness of God.

This promise was made in the midst of great danger, distress, and dilemma for the writer in his time. We live in very similar times. Thankfully God does not change and is still faithfully loving and kind to those who also faithfully seek to follow after the righteousness of God.

I think it has been rightly said that everyone has faith in something. One would not lie down and go to sleep if they didn't have faith that the bed would hold them. Some have trouble getting out of bed because they don't have the faith that anywhere else is safe enough for them.

Jesus said more than once that if one had faith as a mustard seed they could move mountains. People have moved mountains. Jesus may have said this some of the times that he said it in view of two mountains; one was flat at the top and much shorter than the other because the shorter one had been moved and carried away and put on top of the other to make it higher and to have a palace built on it. You can still see them today in Israel.

What is faith as a mustard seed like? Well seeds

don't look too impressive to most people. Seeds sort of look all dried up and dead. But take that seed and put it somewhere and watch it grow!

Put it where? In the dark, dirty ground, maybe mixed with a lot of manure, maybe upside down; and it knows which way is up, it finds its way to the light, and grows! Grows, bears fruit a hundredfold, and fills the purpose and plan for which it was created.

You ever feel like you are in the dark? You ever feel like you are surrounded by a bunch of...manure? You ever feel like the life in you is all dried up?

That was how Habakkuk felt. Then a word came to him that he and many of his people would live. They would not only live but thrive because of the loving faithfulness of God.

God is the same today and always will be. As we are all wondering how the great changes that beset us will work out it is good to remember that as we humbly seek the ways of God we will live. Not just survive but live in the biblical sense of the word – thrive and be blessed with the fullness of God's goodness. David tells us that God prepares a banquet for us in the very presence of our enemies. With God we are safe in the very presence of our enemies, and thanks be to God, God wants to be with us!

God help us to seek you and receive the blessing that you have prepared for us. Help us to operate within your faithful ways and be blessed and be a blessing – Amen!

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." - James 4:8 (NKJU)

#### **Special Notice:**

Book bags and school supplies will be available for pickup in the recreation hall starting on Friday, August 28th.



# **Quality Products and Discount Prices**

Whether you're stabled right here at Parx Racing, or down for the day to saddle a horse, visit the HPA Store for all of your equine supplies!





Hours (every day except Wed.)
Tack Shop: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Feed/Shavings Trailers: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ice House: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### Horsemen's Purchasing Association

Vicky Mangini, HPA Manager 215.638.2012 | 2786 Galloway Road (shipping) P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 (mailing) Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association P.O. Box 300 Bensalem, PA 19020

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