

WHHA Quarterly Newsletter

June 2009

Wisconsin Harness News

Board of Directors

Gabe Wand, President
270 N Bonson #4
Platteville, WI 53818
608-574-5468
gabewand@yahoo.com

Rick Davis, Vice President
M221 Davis Lane
Marshfield, WI 54449
715-387-1083
radavis-1@charter.net

Susan Schroeder, Treasurer
2125 Oakdale Drive
Waukesha, WI 53189
414-379-2494
synchronize_2000@yahoo.com

Jeanne Marquis, Secretary
6651 Hyslop Road
Dane, WI 53529
608-849-7669
jmarquis@tds.net

Scott Gald, Director
430 E 12th St
Richland Center, WI 53581
608-647-4176
scottgald@yahoo.com

Sadie Gunnink, Director
W7239 Sweet Road
Delavan, WI 53115
262-203-3868
sadiegunnink@gmail.com

Rick Magee, Director
74 16th St
Clintonville, WI 54929
920-737-6920
rickmagee@hotmail.com

Becky Swinehart, Director
224 Lukas Lane
Milton, WI 53563
608-868-4874
bonfire@centurytel.net

Rick Tittsler, Director
12630 N Yvonne Dr
Mequon, WI 53092
262-242-9598
rtittslr@gmail.com

President's Message



Alas the racing season is here! It won't be long after you read this that we will begin racing at Elkhorn. The WHHA again has cosponsored two meets at Elkhorn -- both of which will be charted. This should help with those trying to qualify for Running Aces or Chicago. Speaking of Running Aces, Wisconsinites are again in full force up there. I urge everyone to make the trip to see the facility if they can. I've been there a few times and it is always enjoyable.

A hot topic this year is the whipping issue. As an Association, we are doing what we can to ensure that we are doing our part to curtail any excessive or indiscriminate use of the whip. I have outlined various whipping rules later in this issue. We will also strictly enforce these rules -- especially the rule pertaining to keeping a line in each hand until the top of the stretch finishing the race.

Just a reminder that all drivers must be current members in order to race in Wisconsin along with one owner or trainer for each horse. Also, be sure that you have a current USTA membership. You will need to be current since USTA rules govern our meets.

Good luck to everyone as we begin our racing season. As always, I welcome all comments and ideas on ways to make the WHHA stronger. Please feel free to write, email, call or track me down at the fairs.

Be safe,
Gabe

Big Dee's Tack Product Safety Notice

Regarding Half Cheek & Frisco June Snaffle Bits

Thursday, April 9, 2009 - from Big Dee's Tack

Streetsboro, OH --- There have been reported cases of snaffle bits similar to these breaking. In an attempt to keep all of our customers informed and safe we are doing a voluntary recall of these snaffle bits.

It is virtually impossible at this time to determine where these bits have come from. People have had them in their barns over the years and are uncertain of their age or origin.

We are asking that you please return the bits you purchased from us and for a nominal processing fee of \$5.00 each we will replace your bits with brand new bits.

We began purchasing the bits we currently stock in March of 2007. These bits are manufactured using a different process and are of superior quality to the broken bits we have seen.

Please be sure you check all the bits in your barn regularly. The pin that connects the

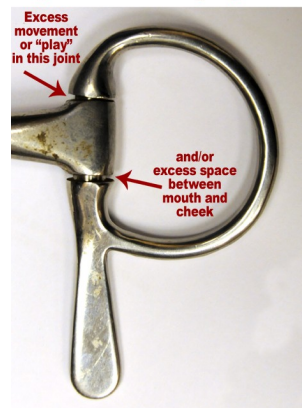
mouth piece to the cheek is what has broken in the bits we have seen. If you have "play" between this part of your bit please return it to us for replacement. Your safety is very important to us. Please check your bits immediately.

We are asking that you return them to us at: Big Dee's Tack, 9998 State Route 43, Streetsboro, OH 44241.

We will immediately ship you replacement bits.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please call our Customer Service Department at 1-800-321-2142.

Discontinue use and contact us if you find the following on your bit.



2009 Racing Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Post Time</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
6/20 (Sat)	Elkhorn	12:00 pm	Schooling at 9am, Charted Lines*, Pot luck to follow races
6/28 (Sun)	Mineral Point	1:00 pm	Schooling at 10am
7/12 (Sun)	Elkhorn	12:00 pm	Schooling at 9am, Charted Lines*, Pot luck to follow races
7/15 (Wed)	Rice Lake	7:00 pm	Barron County Fair
7/16 (Thu)	Rice Lake	7:00 pm	Barron County Fair
7/26 (Sun)	Monroe	10:30 am	Green County Fair, Free Grandstand, Pick-A-Winner
8/16 (Sun)	Wautoma	12:00 pm	Waushara County Fair
8/21 (Fri)	Ironwood, MI	1:00 pm	Gogebic County Fair
8/22 (Sat)	Ironwood, MI	1:00 pm	Gogebic County Fair
8/30 (Sun)	Weyauwega	12:00 pm	Waupaca County Fair, 19th Annual WHHA Picnic to follow races, please bring a dish to pass
9/5 (Sat)	Elkhorn	1:00 pm	Walworth County Fair, Charted Lines
9/6 (Sun)	Elkhorn	1:00 pm	Walworth County Fair, Charted Lines
9/6 (Sun)	Mineral Point	11:00 am	Iowa County Fair, Leg 1 of Wind-Up Circuit
9/7 (Mon)	Mineral Point	1:00 pm	Iowa County Fair, Leg 1 of Wind-Up Circuit Cont.
9/12 (Sat)	Richland Center	12:00 pm	Richland County Fair, Leg 2 of Wind-Up Circuit
9/19 (Sat)	Viroqua	1:00 pm	Vernon County Fair, Leg 3 of Wind-Up Circuit
9/20 (Sun)	Viroqua	1:00 pm	Vernon County Fair, Leg 3 of Wind-Up Circuit Cont.

* For those who are trying to qualify for Running Aces, please note the qualifying standards for Running Aces are: Pacers: 2:09 and Trotters: 2:11. Green horses aiming for qualifying times specifically should specify when entering to ensure they are grouped with horses of the same caliber and desires.

2009 Newsletter Advertising Rates

Black & White Ad Rates

	<u>Per Issue</u>	<u>Yearly</u>
Full Page	\$ 35.00	\$125.00
Half Page	\$ 25.00	\$ 90.00
Quarter Page	\$ 15.00	\$ 55.00
Eighth Page	\$ 10.00	\$ 35.00

4 Color Ad Rates

Full Page	\$ 55.00	\$200.00
Half Page	\$ 40.00	\$150.00

Ad Dimensions

All ad sizes are based on 8.5" x 11" with a 1/2" margin.

If you would like to advertise in the newsletter, please contact Sadie Gunnink at 262-203-3868 or email sadiegunnink@gmail.com.



FREE WHHA PROGRAM PEN!

Bring this coupon with you to the 2009 races and get your free WHHA Program pen. This stylish pen even has an attached lanyard so you can hang it around your neck between races!

Must have coupon on the day of the race to redeem your free pen. One free pen per coupon.

Additional pens are available for purchase for \$1 each.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

We need YOUR help making a good thing, even better!

There are four race dates in 2009 that give you and your friends a great opportunity to become more directly involved on race day. We need several volunteers to pitch-in for a few fun hours or a whole day of racing.

June 20 - Elkhorn

July 12 - Elkhorn

August 16 - Wautoma

August 30 - Weyauwega

Help is needed to:

- Sell programs or 50/50 raffle tickets
 - Open/close gates to the track
 - Time the races
 - Hold the winning horses for photos
- Be a "Harness Racing Ambassador" with our spectators

If you can help, or know someone who might be interested, please get in touch with Rick Tittsler (262) 242-9598, RTittsler@gmail.com or Gabe Wand (608) 574-5468, gabewand@yahoo.com

Industry News

Supreme Court decides to stay out of Racetrack-Casino dispute

Monday, June 08, 2009 - by Tom Kelley, publicity director, Balmoral Park

Crete, IL --- The Supreme Court has decided to steer clear of a dispute between Illinois' casinos and the state's horse racing tracks over a 2006 law that was passed, granting the Illinois horse industry a three percent share of revenues from Chicagoland area riverboats. The law was unanimously upheld by the state Supreme Court last year and the high court allowed that ruling to stand on Monday without comment.

The three percent share, which has generated more than \$76 million in capital over the past two years, will be earmarked for the general purse account, marketing and capital improvements at all Illinois race tracks. That aid could help rejuvenate an Illinois racing scene that has been decimated by the loss of horses and horsemen to

other states that are reaping the benefits of casino supported racing.

While quite happy with Monday's decision Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association President David McCaffrey cautioned that it is still not a "cure-all" for Illinois racing.

"This is a very happy day for everyone involved in the racing industry in Illinois," said McCaffrey. "It will really have a significant impact on the purse structure at our tracks over the next couple of years which everyone who has been racing here on a regular basis definitely needs. Hopefully, it will also halt the flow of people leaving to race in other states as well."

Industry News

Prairie Meadows' board votes to eliminate harness racing

Thursday, May 28, 2009 - by Paul Ramlow, USTA Internet News Manager

Columbus, OH -- Despite the objections of both Thoroughbred and Standardbred horsemen, Prairie Meadows' board voted on Wednesday (May 27) to adopt a new racing format for 2010.

The board voted 9-0 with three abstentions in favor of a season that would have a 56-day Thoroughbred meet followed by a 30-day quarter horse season, and no harness racing. This year, Prairie Meadows offers a 50-day Thoroughbred season, a 32-day mixed Thoroughbred-quarter horse meet and a 16-day harness meet.

The plan will be presented to the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission on June 4, and it must be approved by the Commission. That reportedly won't happen until October at the earliest.

"This is our best judgment of where we should go," Tom Whitney, chairman of the Racing Committee, told the *Des Moines Register*. "Are we guaranteeing it will work? Absolutely not. What we're guaranteeing is it's time to do something. We want a better quality of racing and we want better handles."

The *Register* reported that betting and horse breeding have decreased in Iowa over the past decade and Prairie Meadows paid out \$20 million in purses in 2008, while taking in \$4.8 million in pari-mutuel betting revenue. Including other expenses, the track reportedly had a total loss estimated between \$23 million and \$29 million.

USTA announces matching fair grants

Tuesday, May 05, 2009 - from the U.S. Trotting Association

Columbus, OH --- The U.S. Trotting Association will make \$10,000 in matching funds grants to fairs in the United States that will be used to leverage the promotion of their summer harness racing programs.

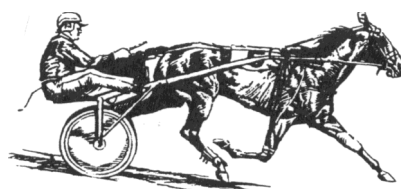
Local organizations were given the opportunity to submit marketing proposals and a detailed budget, and applications were judged on originality and need. The successful applications contained a number of ambitious and original marketing plans, all designed to increase attendance at the races, involve and educate fans, and work with the local and regional media to gain publicity.

"We again received some outstanding applications," T.C. Lane, the USTA's fair liaison officer, said. "Each of the fairs has great plans to spread the word about harness racing, and we hope the grants we've made will help their efforts."

The grants were awarded to the Afton Driving Park (N.Y.) Fair; the Canfield County (Ohio) Fair; the Crawford County (Ohio) Agricultural Society; The Edwards County (Ill.) Fair Association; the Elkhorn (Wis.) Trotting Club; the Erie County (Pa.) County Fair; the Fowlerville (Mich.) Harness Horsemen; the Greene County (Ohio) Agricultural Society; the Hardin County (Ohio) Trotting Club; the Harrison County (Ohio) Agricultural Society; the Illinois Department of Agriculture; the Macoupin County (Ill.) County Fair; the

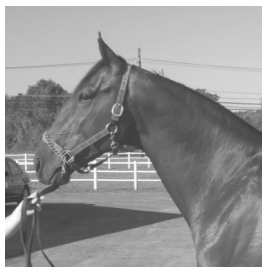
Meigs County (Ohio) Agricultural Society; the Menard County (Ill.) Fair; the Mercer County (Ohio) Agricultural Society; the Northwestern Ohio Colt Racing Association; the Orleans County (Vt.) Fair Association; the Ottawa County (Ohio) Harness Horsemen's Association; the Pennsylvania Fair Harness Horsemen's Association; the State Fair of West Virginia; the Tuscola County (Mich.) Fair; and the Wisconsin Harness Horse Association.

The successful applicants are required to submit post-race reports, used to gauge the effectiveness of the program. Applications came from individual counties, multiple-county organizations, colt circuits, and local horsemen's associations. The matching grants program began in 2006; it was mandated by the U.S. Trotting Association's Board of Directors that year. At first, \$5,000 was budgeted, but that was increased to a maximum of \$10,000 before the 2007 fair racing season.



Hidden Hope Farm 2009 Stallion Roster

New Trotter In Illinois



THUNDERCRACK

Valley Victor - Never MsStill by Seafood Special

T,2, 2:02.1 3, 1:56.0M (\$63,612)

Introductory Fee of \$1,250

Fastest son of Valley Victor standing at stud

Record of 3-1-1 in nine starts as a 3 yr old

Thundercrack's first race out he won - 2 yr old colts ICF in Springfield, IL

Following his first start of 2007, he never came a final quarter slower than :28.3, and posted final quarters of :27.1, :27.3, and three in :28 flat

He won (1:56.0) the \$50,000 **Illinois State Fair Final** for 3 yr old colts, coming from 6th at the top of the stretch, posting a :28 flat final quarter and defeating 2007 Horse of the Year, **Before He Cheats**

Thundercrack won the \$51,500 **Gumcorner Lad** despite being parked to the half, still posting a :28.3 flat final quarter

This impressive son of Valley Victor was just starting to realize his potential when he was injured on **Super Night**. In just a handful of starts, he won a pair of \$50K races, cutting one and coming from behind in the other.

Just five, he stands his first season at Hidden Hope Farm



LONGPORT

Dragon's Lair-For Your Eyes Only by Jade Prince

p,2, 1:57; 3, 1:50.4 (\$248,876)

2009 Fee \$1,250

Very limited crop of foals - they are built tough!

Saltea's Sanjay 1:52.3 Loganport 1:52.2

Hidden Hope Farm
Lisa & Shawn Fitzgerald
2122E 500N Rd
Wellington, IL 60973
815-889-5499

Don't pass up the best out cross in Illinois!!!

Hidden Hope Farm 2009 Stallion Roster



NOW IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS!!!!

IDEAL TOWNE

Ideal Society - Ms Indiana by Abercrombie
p,2, 1:52.1; 3, 1:51.4; 1:49.2 (\$753,937)

2009 Fee \$2,500

Sire of such standouts as:

Grandma Ann winner -

Townes Party Girl p,3,
1:51.3M

Track record holder at

Hawthorne -

Omaha Survivor p,2,
1:52.1M

Sweet As Rain p,3,
1:53.4M

Towne Nurse p,2, 1:54.4M

Offspring in training are
showing promise to follow in
the same hoof prints!

2 yr old **Ideal Towne** set a world record winning the **Cardinal** in 1:53.3. He won the **Sarah Myers Stake**, eliminations of both the **Cardinal** and the **Orange & Blue**. He was beaten by a head in the **Orange & Blue final**. As a 2 yr old he took his record of 1:52.1 at Balmoral and earned \$145,530

3yr old **Ideal Towne** won the \$300,000 **Berrys Creek** in 1:52 flat. He won the elimination of the **Cardinal** in 1:51.4 and earned \$258,812

After 3 yr old season he won nearly \$350,000
5 yr old record of 1:49.3 and 6 yr old record of 1:49.2

Ideal Towne is one of only two horses to successfully defend his title as **Dan Patch Champion on Super Night**.



ARIZONA JACK

Abercrombie-Concertina by French Chef
p,2, 1:54.2; 3, 1:50.2 (\$705,823)

2009 Fee \$1,500

Do you own an Arizona Jack yet? Why Not??

He is proven!!!

His babies are consistently nice and consistently racing.
Great build, athletic, and tough.

Arizona Jack has already produced many winners
that race daily from coast to coast!

Arizona Liar 1:50.2; **Bonn Scott** 1:51.0; **Arizona Cactus** 1:52.0; **Another Wave** 1:52.2; **Arizona Helen** 1:52.2;
Jack's Jill 1:52.3

Hidden Hope Farm
Lisa & Shawn Fitzgerald
2122E 500N Rd
Wellington, IL 60973
815-889-5499

General Interest

AAEP 2008: Tooth Characteristics and Feed Digestibility

March 16, 2009 - by Christy West, theHorse.com Webmaster, Article # 13787

Think floating a horse's teeth improves his feed digestion? Think again. At the 2008 American Association of Equine Practitioners convention, held Dec. 6-10 in San Diego, Calif., a study showing that floating doesn't improve feed digestion was presented by James Carmalt, MA, VetMB, MVetSc, Dipl. ABVP, ACVS, associate professor of large animal surgery at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Canada. However, an exam should be done to look for areas of dental pain.

The study of 17 Quarter Horse and Draft horses found no apparent correlation between oral pathology score (a measure of mouth abnormalities) and any measure of feed digestibility, including nutrient analysis and feed particle size in the stomach and feces. However, that doesn't mean that floating is a waste of time and money, said Carmalt; it is valuable for fixing painful dental problems.

"Digestibility is a software (soft tissue) problem, not a hardware (tooth) problem," he commented. "We're getting away from routinely floating teeth and looking at soft tissue problems such as cheek ulceration, endodontic (inner tooth/root) problems, etc."

This shift to an increased focus on soft tissues is supported by others in the dentistry field. Jack Easley, DVM, MS, Dipl. ABVP, a dental practitioner in Shelbyville, Ky., made the following comments during the question/answer session: "Years ago we would look at hooks, waves, ramps, and step mouth (various tooth wear patterns) and call it pathology. Now we think they're the result of pathology somewhere else, such as ulcers/oral pain causing changed mastication (chewing motion) and abnormal tooth wear. For example, weight loss in older horses isn't so much from tooth wear characteristics as from pain, which makes them take all day to eat (slow, reduced feed intake is the problem, rather than ineffective chewing). That's what we need to deal with--the cause of the pain, rather than the resulting abnormal tooth wear."

Thus, the take-home message of this presentation was that annual/biannual dental exams are still very much needed to identify and address problems in teeth and soft tissues, but floating the teeth should be done to reduce pain, not to improve digestion (because in most cases it won't).

~ In the Sale Ring ~

Classified Ads are FREE to current WHHA members!

* * * * *

For Sale: Good race bike, elbow boots, knee boots, scalpels
608-776-4638

For Sale: Metal 2-Seater quick-hitch jog cart in good condition \$300,
Lightly used Walsh synthetic quick-hitch harness/bridle set \$350
262-203-3868

Driving Violations and Penalties

According to USTA Rule 18, Section 9: "Drivers shall keep a line in each hand from the start of the race until the head of the stretch finishing the race."

WHHA Penalties will be as follows:

1st Offense: \$25.00 Fine

2nd Offense: \$100.00 Fine

3rd Offense: \$200.00 Fine

USTA Rule 18, Section 6

If in the opinion of the Judges a driver is for any reason unfit or incompetent to drive or refuses to comply with the directions of the Judges, or is reckless in his conduct and endangers the safety of horses or other drivers in the race, he may be removed and another driver substituted at any time after the positions have been assigned in a race, and the offending driver shall be fined, suspended, or expelled. The substitute driver shall be properly compensated.

USTA Rule 18, Section 8

Loud shouting or other improper conduct is forbidden in a race. After the starting gate is in motion, both feet must be kept in the stirrups until after the finish of the race, except that a driver shall be allowed to remove a foot from the stirrups temporarily for purpose of pulling earplugs.

USTA Rule 18, Section 9

Drivers will be allowed whips not to exceed 4 feet, plus a snapper not longer than 6 inches. Provided further that the following actions shall be considered excessive or indiscriminate use of the whip:

- a. Causing visible injury.
- b. Whipping a horse after the race.
- c. Whipping under the arch or shafts of the sulky.

The use of the whip shall be confined to an area above and between the sulky shafts, to include the sulky shafts and the outside wheel discs. Drivers shall keep a line in each hand from the start of the race until the head of the stretch finishing the race.

USTA Rule 18, Section 11 (effective May 1, 2009)

The brutal use of the whip or 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. . . At the county fairs, the first offense will draw a seven-day suspension and \$200 fine, and the second and third offenses will be met with 15 days and \$500 and 30 days and \$1,000, respectively. At both commercial and fair tracks, a fourth offense will result in license revocation.

Hill Equine Transport, LLC.



**Todd Hill
507 N. Arcade Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060
Cell: 563-542-4290**

Shipping from Coast to Coast!!

Oops!

The following people were not included in the last newsletter's thank you list for contributions to the WHHA Auction:

June Long
Mary Schmidtke

Please accept our apologies and sincerest thanks for your donation!

Harness Horse Youth Foundation

2009 Summer Schedule

For the last decade Harness Horse Youth Foundation has embarked annually on a series of week-long camps throughout the Midwest, East Coast and Canada. This summer, HHYF will once again conduct Harness Racing Youth League camps as well as participate in other notable events geared toward youth.

Harness Horse Youth Foundation would like to thank each of our generous sponsors who help make the Harness Racing Youth League and other quality program possible each year.

2009 Harness Horse Youth Foundation Schedule

June 19-23
Odds On Racing/Balmoral Park
Crete, Illinois

July 7-9
Freedom Fest at NJ Horse Park

July 13-16
Leadership Program at the
Goshen Historic Track

June 28 - July 2
Harrington Raceway
Harrington, Delaware

July 21-25
Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

July 28 - August 1
Vernon Downs
Vernon, New York

August 6-8
The Meadowlands
East Rutherford, New Jersey



Our Mission:

"To provide young people and their families information and experiences with harness horses in order to foster the next generation of fans and participants."

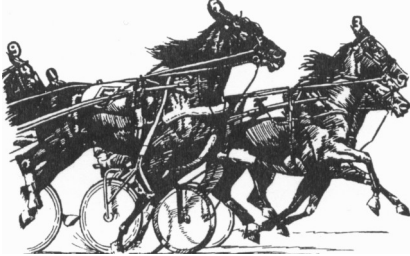


Harness Horse Youth Foundation
16575 Carey Road, Westfield, IN 46074
Phone: (317) 867-5877, Fax: (317) 867-5896
www.hhyf.org

Wisconsin Harness Horse Association

c/o Sadie Gunnink
W7239 Sweet Road
Delavan, WI 53115

Find us on the web at www.wiharnessracing.com!



Unique Opportunity

Race Calling Contest

Elkhorn, June 20th - 12:00 pm

Ever want to take your shot at being an announcer? Here's your chance!
Contest is open to the world - but you must sign up early!

Entries are limited to the first 8 people signed up!
Winner will receive choice of WHHA logo wear!

Contact Gabe Wand, 608-574-5468 or gabewand@yahoo.com to sign up.

Entries accepted immediately! Good Luck!