

# MQHRA NEWSLETTER

MINNESOTA QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION



## President's Report

By Rosemary Higgins

Let me welcome you to the 2016 season of live racing at Canterbury Park. We are looking forward to a full Quarter Horse barn area with 26 trainers being assigned stalls. There will be many familiar faces along with four or five new trainers who have never been here before. Please give them all a MN welcome!

You will notice a few changes at Canterbury Park this year. There will be two new starting gates that were purchased from Evangeline Downs. The 14-stall True Center gate is fully renovated and has more room in the stalls than the previous gates. Last fall a significant amount of work was done on renovating the main track. Under the guidance of Dr. Mick Peterson, Executive Director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory and the hard work of Track Superintendent George Moncrief, a road grader removed a large portion of the track's cushion. The base was fully examined and damaged areas were patched and rolled with a new layer of limestone. Following the repair of the base, the track was leveled and graded and the cushion mixed and reset at the proper grade prior to winterization. The new Racing Secretary is Robert Junk. He has 30 years of experience and works at Sunland Park in the winter. Andrew Offerman was promoted to Director of Racing Operations. Congratulations to Andrew!

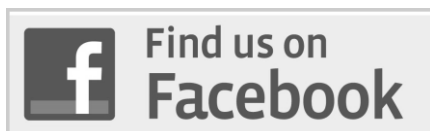
Nominations for all of the stakes races are up significantly for 2016. The Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity has 86 entries and the Canterbury Park Derby has 36 to name a couple. It will make for some exciting trial races! The current list of entries for all of the stakes races can be found on the Canterbury Park website.

Past President Kelvin Childers attended the AQHA Convention that was held in Las Vegas in early March. He was named Chairman of the AQHA Racing Committee for 2016. Be sure to congratulate him! MN was well represented in several other areas as well. Lainie De Boer who is a MN National Director received the Professional's Choice Professional Horsewoman of the Year award; our sister affiliate MQHA received a \$10,000 grant for 4H Bootcamp and the University of MN received over \$150,000 in grants for Equine Research projects.

(Continued on page 4)

\* \* \* \* \*

## Look for us on the Internet



Our Facebook page name is:  
Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing  
Association

[www.mqhra.com](http://www.mqhra.com)

## Inside this issue

- Youth Day at the Races page 2
- 2015 Award winners page 3
- MQHRA History page 4 & 6
- Calendar of events page 7

## 2016 MQHRA Board

- President-----  
Rosemary Higgins 763-389-0883  
[rosie\\_higgins@hotmail.com](mailto:rosie_higgins@hotmail.com)
- Vice President-----  
Bob Petersen 320-286-6269  
[faoranch@hotmail.com](mailto:faoranch@hotmail.com)
- Executive Secretary-----  
Cindy Besser 320-266-4558  
[roastedtoperfectionhorsefeed@gmail.com](mailto:roastedtoperfectionhorsefeed@gmail.com)
- Board Members-----  
Willa Dailey 507-340-7555  
[rosebuds@hickorytech.net](mailto:rosebuds@hickorytech.net)  
Ralph Haglund 320-979-2249  
[drhaglund5960@hotmail.com](mailto:drhaglund5960@hotmail.com)  
Steve Kane 612-205-5977  
[kaneracingstable@yahoo.com](mailto:kaneracingstable@yahoo.com)  
Brian Koplen 507-351-3854  
[jilllkoplen@eaton.com](mailto:jilllkoplen@eaton.com)  
Lori Locken 952-448-3617  
[mqhra@aol.com](mailto:mqhra@aol.com)  
Paul Luedemann 612-919-1521  
[paul@brushmasters.com](mailto:paul@brushmasters.com)  
Jims Murray 763-753-1909  
NA  
Jim Olson 763-753-5215  
[jolson2942@gmail.com](mailto:jolson2942@gmail.com)  
Jan Pouliot 612-270-6632  
[jpouliott@msn.com](mailto:jpouliott@msn.com)  
Tom Pouliot 612-270-7792  
[jpouliott@msn.com](mailto:jpouliott@msn.com)  
Ken Quade 651-460-6617  
NA  
Jodi Wilking 612-701-0056  
[jawilking@msn.com](mailto:jawilking@msn.com)

## 2016 Youth Day at the Races Opportunity



MINNESOTA QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MINNESOTA YOUTH \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

#### “YOUTH DAY AT THE RACES” JUNE 25, 2016

Take advantage of this opportunity to gain a first hand view of American Quarter Horse racing. Spend a full day at Canterbury Park experiencing the activities involved with preparing a Quarter Horse to run, then attending the races, hearing the call. Submit your essay!

A dozen participants will be chosen from entrants in an essay contest. Entries must be received on or before **June 12, 2016**

At the conclusion of “Youth Day At The Races,” the 12 participants will be given a test covering the day’s activities to determine the winner of the **\$1,000 scholarship**.

#### “Youth Day At The Races” contest rules:

1. Must be between the ages of 14 and 18 years of age as of January 1 2016.
2. Must be a Minnesota resident
3. Must submit a written essay of 500 words or less on: **“Why participation in “Youth Day at the Races” is important to me.”**
4. Entries must be received on or before June 12, 2016.

Submit entries to:

Doug Steiskal

24547 Tulip St. NW

Isanti, MN 55040

E-mail: [dougsteiskal@q.com](mailto:dougsteiskal@q.com)



Inquiries to: Doug Steiskal, MQHRA youth advisor at 763-227-2660

#### “Youth Day at the Races” Schedule of Events

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Canterbury Park stable gate

- Observe preparation for morning work
- Observe morning work and discuss with trainer
- Meet the gate crew and observe horses working from gates
- Meet with exercise rider or jockey and discuss riding racehorses

11:00 a.m. Watch the “draw” (entering horses in races, assigning jockeys, and drawing for post position) in the racing office

Noon Tour the front side of the racetrack:

- Visit the paddock, “jock’s room”, security office, photo lab, pari-mutuel windows etc.
- Meet with representatives from track management
- Talk with stewards, track officials, and the horsemen’s bookkeeper
- Attend live racing and have lunch with MQHRA representatives

Prior to the conclusion of “Youth Day At The Races,” attendees will take a short test covering the information presented during the day. The high scorer will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship to be presented at the time of entry into the school of his or her choice. In the event of a tie, the scholarship money will be divided equally among the winners. MQHRA will hold the money in escrow until the funds are requested for release and documentation of enrollment is presented.

MQHRA would like to thank our co-sponsors AQHA and Canterbury Park for their support. Please submit the following information along with the contest entry essay.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or guardian if under 18 years: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry to: Doug Steiskal, 24547 Tulip St. NW, Isanti, MN 55040 or E-mail to [dougsteiskal@q.com](mailto:dougsteiskal@q.com)

---

## President's Letter (Continued from page 1)

---

The MQHRA calendar is set for the summer with many activities scheduled. Please mark your calendars and attend as many of them as you can. Don't forget to pay in your 2016 MQHRA membership! Points for year-end awards don't start until your membership is paid! I hope you will join and support YOUR organization.

See you at the races!



Rosemary



---

## MQHRA 2015 Award Winners

---

Title	Points	Horse	Owner
<b>Two Year Olds</b>			
MN Bred Champion	23	Steak N Diamonds	Dale Haglund/ Chuck Kiam
MN Bred Reserve	13	Dashin Good Reason	Robert or Julie Petersen
Open Champion	26	Expensive Paint Job	Summer Run Inc.
<b>Three Year Olds</b>			
MN Champion	49	Beautifulish	Robert Or Julie Petersen
MN Bred Reserve	43	Cokato Cartel	Robert Or Julie Petersen
Open Champion	76	Fortune In A Wagon	Mary Louise and Terry Pursel
<b>Four Year Old and Up</b>			
MN Bred Champion	43	Irish Brew	Knapper/Olson
MN Bred Reserve	39	Dirt Road Queen	Robert or Julie Petersen
Open Champion	50	Likea Nightmare	Leonard Reed
<b>Distance</b>			
MN Bred Champion	25	Explosive Guns	Fred Pelzer
Open Champion	22	Jess A Casanova	Jeff Davis
<b>Hi Point</b>			
MN Bred Champion	49	Beautifulish	Robert or Julie Petersen
Open Champion	76	Fortune In a Wagon	Mary Louise and Terry Pursel

---

## Minnesota Racing Commission launches a new website; EHV-1 issue

---

- The Minnesota Racing Commission (MRC) recently launched a new website: [www.mrc.state.mn.us](http://www.mrc.state.mn.us). According to the MRC announcement, "it is another milestone in MRC's initiative to communicate more effectively with all our stakeholders—the racing industry both within and outside Minnesota, public officials to whom we're accountable, and fans of racing (both current and potential). We're confident that you will find the website attractive, easy to navigate, and topical. We hope you will use it as a portal to communicate with MRC staff, download license applications, and follow developments in the racing industry."
- Equine herpes virus (EHV-1) has become a health issue in several racetracks and training centers throughout the United States with horses showing signs of and /or dying from the neurological form of the disease. In order to safeguard the horses arriving and stabling at Canterbury Park, check the MRC website for the details on the Canterbury Park admission policy and any new developments on this issue.

# MQHRA loses a good friend and member

By Lori Locken



MQHRA member Curtis Knapper passed away Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Curtis was a longtime member and supporter of MQHRA. He is survived by his daughter Rita and his son, Paul. He was 85. He was a friend to many and he also had a profound impact on racing in Minnesota.

At his memorial service, Bobbi Morehouse describe him as our "secret weapon" when it came to "lobbying" to bring Quarter Horse Racing to Canterbury. His job in crop insurance took him to every county in Minnesota and he made friends no matter where he traveled. He got the message out statewide about Quarter Horse racing

resulting in the passage of law to allow pari-mutuel wagering. She also said "he also played an instrumental role in finally bringing a successful outcome to the struggle for a satisfactory resolution to the dilemma of the competition for entertainment dollar between the Minnesota pari-mutuel horse racing industry, and the Minnesota Mdewakanton Nation."

Curtis liked being a member of MQHRA and he wanted others to be a part of it. He even paid for memberships in order to make sure others didn't miss out on some great fun. He was involved in several racing partnerships and he tried to put together a partnership of friends whenever he wasn't in one.

Personally, he was a good friend to me and he treated me like another daughter. His daughters introduced me to horses and soon I was learning to ride one of their horses. I'm sure he played a role in the purchase of my first horse (from his daughter Andrene) which my dad bought me for my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. I spent a lot of time at the Knapper household and he made sure I did horse chores if I was sticking around for a while. I spent many holiday dinners at his house and at one of those gatherings I was persuaded to join my first horse racing partnership. In short, he played a strong role in cultivating my interest in horses and I am sure he did the same for countless other people.

You will be missed Curtis Knapper!

## 1973 Race Results from the Crow River News

- 1. Win A Center Bill Anderson, Austin, Mn. Terry Saunde
- 2. Grain Belt Toni M.C. & Kay Baker, Maple Plain, Mn. Chuck Miller
- 3. Chett Cody D. Bedker, Edgley, N.D. Gross Hecke

- Sponsor - Minnesota Thoroughbred Assoc.  
Race No. 5 (time 1:50.8) 1 mile open thoroughbred
- 1. Sir Gille R & W House, Cloquet, Mn. Larry Antu
  - 2. Patriotic Prince A. Kaiser, Mpls., Mn. Leona Dauphinia
  - 3. Duke's Prince Bill Hecker, Barnum, Minn. Gross Hecke

- Sponsor - 1st National Bank of Wadena  
Race No. 6 (time 16:0) 300 yard Quarter Horse (3-year-olds)
- 1. Top Moon Depth Bar Anthony Gasser, Wayzata, Mn. Chuck Miller
  - 2. Four Direct Terry Saunders, Canton, Ill. Terry Saunde
  - 3. Frosty Fairbars Roger Svebakken, Spring Valley, Mn. Bill Anderson

- Sponsor - Merickel's Lumber Mills  
Race No. 7 6 furlong feature thoroughbred
- 1. Lucky Poona R. & W. House, Cloquet, Mn. Larry Antu
  - 2. Golder Puppet Art Kaiser, Mpls., Minn. Leona Dauphinia
  - 3. Wine Ro Dean Finley, Cloquet, Mn.

- Race 4-Sponsor - Hock-A-Nieni Purse  
-5 1/2 Furlongs - time-1:09.
- 1. Check Again; Owner, D. Peters, Worthington, Mn.; Jockey, Chuck Miller.
  - 2. Grey Interval; Owner, M. Kelley, Cloquet, Mn.; Jockey, Dick Kelley.
  - 3. Miss Tonto Dude; Owner, Gaede's Racing Stables, Plainsfield, Ia.; Jockey, Annette Peterson
  - 4. Miss Jan C.; Owner, D & D Jotblad, Minneapolis, Mn.; Jockey, Kay Cosier.

- Race 5-Sponsor - Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association - 350 yards, Minnesota Owned or Bred Derby - time-18.7.
- 1. Top Moon Depth Bar; Owner, Anthony Gasser, Wayzata, Mn.; Jockey, Chuck Miller.
  - 2. Peace Train; Owners, M. Tillemans, Worthington, Mn.; Jockey, Annette Peterson.
  - 3. Frosty Fairbars; Owner, Mr. and Mrs. Svebakken, Spring Valley, Mn.; Jockey, Bill Anderson.
  - 4. Jo's Girl Josie; Owner, D. Peters, Worthington, Mn.; Jockey, Bill Bethke.
  - 5. Lasso's Cupid; Owner, Jan Anderson, Litchfield, Mn.; Jockey, Fred asche.

- Race 6-Sponsor - Monarch Ice Cream  
- 5 1/2 Furlong Open - time-1:09.
- 1. Jay Hose; Owner, D. Peters, Worthington, Mn.; Jockey, Chuck Miller.
  - 2. Doc Fristedt; Owner, Gaede's

# CASINO NIGHT

W I T H

HALL OF FAME JOCKEY

## CHRIS MCCARRON

Benefitting The Leg Up Fund

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26 • TRIPLE CROWN CLUB**

**VIP EVENT • \$100**  
**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Triple Crown Suite  
Chris McCarron Meet & Greet  
Includes appetizers, open bar  
(6-7 PM) and 6,000 in chips.

**CASINO NIGHT**  
**\$35 IN ADVANCE • \$45 DAY OF**  
**7:00 – 9:30 PM**

Triple Crown Restaurant  
Chris McCarron Presentation. Includes  
dinner, soda and 3,000 in chips. Cash bar.

**Play Casino Games - Win Prizes**

Re-buy in for additional 3,000 in chips at \$25.00

### ★ CASINO NIGHT PRIZES ★

- Golf with Chris McCarron at Hazeltine\*
- Day at the Races in Owner's Box
- Twins Game with Chris McCarron\*
- Ryder Cup Tickets & More

### ★ AUCTION ITEMS ★

- Golf with Chris McCarron at Hazeltine\*
- Day at the Races in a Suite
- Twins Game with Chris McCarron\*
- Ryder Cup Tickets & More

*\*Golf with Chris McCarron at Hazeltine April 27 at 11 AM, Twins Game with Chris McCarron April 27 at 7 PM*

Call 952-445-7224 to Purchase Tickets

**CANTERBURY PARK**

1100 Canterbury Road Shakopee, MN 55379 • canterburypark.com

## MQHRA history

By Lori Locken (with excerpts from newspaper articles and information from Mary Jean Estenson and Wayne Estenson)

In the last newsletter, we remembered Marlyn Estenson and learned a little bit about how MQHRA got it start thanks to a packet of information provided by Marlyn's brother Wayne Estenson and Marlyn's wife Mary Jean Estenson. It was fascinating reading consisting of MQHRA history including news clippings. The following are some highlights and excerpts from the packet.

According to the Estenson's "the MQHRA was formed at their kitchen table at Lake Sylvan Training Stable in Rogers, MN." The founding members at The Lake Sylvan Training Stable "were responsible for the first "AQHA Approved" races ever run in Minnesota for the years 1973 and 1974 at Wadena, MN with the fourth largest non-pari-mutuel purses in the nation. We had over 130 active members who all worked together to try to bring pari-mutuel racing to our state. Horses from 15 states participated in these races. In 1973, the \$15,000 Minnesota Futurity and Derby were held in East Moline, Illinois. The MQHRA arranged a "Minnesota Night" which drew 500 spectators, many who were from Minnesota. It was the first time Illinois had ever permitted pari-mutuel wagering on quarter horses in the state." It was such a big deal that Minneapolis Star staff writer, Ralph Thronton wrote about it in a 1973 newspaper article entitled "State 'honored' in Illinois race.

In 1974, Clystene Wilson of South Suburban Corridor wrote about horse racing in Wadena, Minnesota "located 160 miles northwest of the Twin Cities, with a population of 4,640 was the site for a five day quarter horse racing event governed by the strict rules of the American Quarter Horse Association." She said "Minnesota joined the ranked of 29 other states currently hold nationally sanctioned quarter horse races." She continued, "It drew 1200- 1500 spectators each of the five days." Furthermore, "not only were the seasoned followers in attendance, but a show of hands revealed that about one fourth of the audience was seeing their first "live" horse race. Few went away disappointed, as quarter horse racing proved to be an exciting sport to watch.

The event, staged by the Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association (MQHRA) was not held for financial reasons. According to Carrol Belfanz, the

association's executive secretary, it was held to prove to the state that people are interested in horse racing and that can be profitable both to the track and to the community in which it is held.

Not only did the association manage to pack the grandstands at the Wadena County fairgrounds, but horse racing entries traveled to Wadena from 15 other states—the furthest coming from Oklahoma. The increased number of people in town gave the Wadena business district an almost overdose short in the arm."

In July 18<sup>th</sup> 1973 edition of the Crow River News, they reported on the first annual running of the Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association races in Wadena. It also included the first running of the Uselman's Inc. Thoroughbred Mile Race for \$1,000. There were 28 races in four days with total purse money of \$13,000. The article said "race enthusiasts totaling 2,400 turned out to see the races." Photos and race results were published in the report. *(Thanks to Mary Jean Estenson and Wayne Estenson for providing info for this article.)*

**From the Crow River News**

Sunday, June 24

Sponsor - Dave's Mobile  
Race No. 1 (time 16.2) 300 yard quarter horse (non-winners in 73)  
1. Olympia Jr. Lake Sylvan Trng Stable, Rogers, Mn. Chuck Miller  
Town Tac Dean Findley, Castle Rock, Mn. Terry Saunders  
3. Double Glamour Vern Pouliot, Osseo, Mn. Fred Pasche

Sponsor - Miss Judy's Beauty Salon  
Race No. 2 5 furlong Thoroughbred (non-winners of 2 in 73)  
1. Grey Interval M. Kelley Dick Kelley  
2. Prinz Pasco Bill Gross, Cushing, Wis. Kathy Swanson  
3. Wheel of Fortune Dean Findley, Castle Rock, Mn. Larry Antus

Sponsor - Larry's Super Market  
Race No. 3 (time 20.2) 400 yard (Quarter Horse) non-winners of 2 in 73  
1. Lively Luke KJK Stable, Mpls., Mn. Chuck Miller  
2. Cease Fire Meryl Broihier, Colona, Ill. Bill Anderson  
3. Divette D. Bedker, Edgley, N.D. Gross Hecker

Sponsor - Weiher Construction  
Race No. 4 (time 18.8) 350 yard open quarter horse

## 2016 Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Description
April 26, 2016	Tuesday	Casino Night with Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron benefiting The Leg Up Fund
June 14, 2016	Tuesday	4-H Boot Camp and racing presentation
June 12, 2016	Sunday	Youth Day application deadline
June 25, 2016	Saturday	Youth Day at the Races
June 26, 2016	Sunday	Leg Up for Jockeys
July 10, 2016	Sunday	MQHRA celebrations
July 31, 2016	Sunday	Backside Appreciation Party
June 12, 2016	Sunday	Gopher State Derby
June 19, 2016	Sunday	Skip Zimmerman Stakes
June 26, 2016	Sunday	Bob Morehouse Stakes
July 10, 2016	Sunday	Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Derby
July 10, 2016	Sunday	Minnesota Stallion Breeders' Futurity
July 10, 2016	Sunday	Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity
July 16, 2016	Saturday	Dash In A Flash Stakes
July 17, 2016	Sunday	Merial Canterbury Park Distaff Challenge
July 31, 2016	Sunday	Cash Caravan Stakes
August 7, 2016	Sunday	North Central Quarter Horse Racing Association Futurity
August 21, 2016	Sunday	Minnesota Quarter Horse Derby
August 21, 2016	Sunday	Minnesota Quarter Horse Futurity

## 2016 North Dakota Quarter Horse Association race dates

Chippewa Downs: June 11 & 12      Belcourt, ND      June 18 & 19, 25 & 16, July 2 & 3  
 ND Horse Park:, Fargo, ND      July 16 & 17, July 23 & 24, 30 & 31

## Communication Team

The MQHRA Communication Team is working diligently to provide members with regular updates regarding issues and events concerning the Minnesota Quarter Horse racing industry via its newsletter, website ([www.mqhra.com](http://www.mqhra.com)) and Facebook page (Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association). While the information contained within these communication tools is believed to be accurate, we will not be responsible for errors. If we are notified about an error in writing, we will gladly publish a correction. All PAID members will receive the MQHRA Newsletter.

### Contributors to this edition of the newsletter:

- ⇒ Rosemary Higgins
- ⇒ Lori Locken
- ⇒ Mary Jean Estenson and Wayne Estenson

### Other credits to:

⇒ Various MQHRA Members



---

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
MINNESOTA QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION**

RENEW MEMBERSHIP  
 \$25 SINGLE

NEW MEMBER  
 \$40 FAMILY (does not include adult children over the age of 18)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Send membership dues to: Tom Pouliot, MQHRA Treasurer, 23425 County Rd. 117, Rogers, MN 55374**

---

**Tuesday, April 26, 2016  
Casino Night with Hall of Fame Jockey, Chris McCarron  
Benefiting The Leg Up Fund**

---



1100 Canterbury Road  
Shakopee, MN 55379

**YOUR NAME HERE**