

MQHRA

NEWSLETTER

MINNESOTA QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION



MQHRA Executive Director Report

By Jennifer Perkins

It's that time of year again – the live racing season will be here before we know it!

I hope everyone had wonderful and restorative holidays, that you are all in good health after this particularly nasty flu season, and that you are as ready as I am to see the snow melt and the horses enter the track for live racing in 2018.

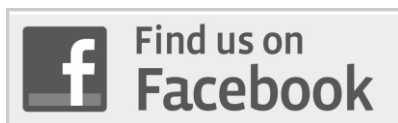
We have a lot to share in this issue. Canterbury Park released the 2018 Quarter Horse Stakes Schedule, our richest yet, with 16 stakes and an estimated \$665,000. The full stakes schedule, as well as trial dates and nomination forms, is available on MQHRA.com.

Canterbury has also made a few small changes in their racing schedule as they continue to make strategic decisions to increase handle. The track will open with Thoroughbred racing for Kentucky Derby weekend, as they did in 2017, with live racing starting Friday, May 4. The Quarter Horse meet will start a week earlier, on Saturday, May 19 – the same date as the Preakness Stakes. The Festival of Champions weekend, including two Quarter Horse stakes, will return to its former home on Labor Day weekend. Finally, look forward to more night racing, as Canterbury will join the successful efforts of tracks such as Woodbine and Albuquerque and give us racing on Wednesdays this August!

We have AQHA updates about the Bank of America Racing Challenge program, and we have updates of our own, also, after this year's MQHRA Annual Membership Meeting in January.

Many of you have already renewed your membership for 2018, so I thank you and welcome each of you back. We are looking forward to another successful year of racing here in Minnesota this summer! ☺

Look for us on the Internet



Our Facebook page name is:
Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing
Association

www.mqhra.com

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AQHA Challenge Program

Canterbury Park will host two regional qualifiers for the AQHA Bank of America Challenge Program: the Bank of America Canterbury Park Championship Challenge and the Boehringer Ingelheim Canterbury Park Distaff Challenge (formerly sponsored by Merial).

Canterbury Park applied for four regional races in 2018: the Championship and the Distaff as well as the Derby and the Distance regionals. However, the AQHA has made significant cuts to the Challenge Program.

AQHA has cut the number of regional races in half for 2018 and has slashed the purse money contributed to each race. Additionally, there will be no Maiden Challenge Races in 2018.

Canterbury has hosted the Championship and Distaff regionals for the last two years. Horsemen should expect that there may be trials for our races this year given the decreased number of these races across the country. However, there will be two berths to the final from our regional race.

The purse for the Canterbury Championship Challenge is listed as \$40,000 added due to the AQHA purse cuts.

While AQHA admits that the financial issues within the Challenge program are due to internal accounting practices and errors, they feel confident that one year of cutbacks and changes will be enough to correct the program.

The finals for both Canterbury regionals will again be held on July 4, with trials for the Challenge scheduled for Thursday, June 14 and trials for the Distaff scheduled on Saturday, June 15.

2017 MQHRA Award Winners

2-Year-Old Open Champion
Eagle Deluxe

4-Year-Olds and Up Open Champion
Divas Candy Girl

2-Year-Old Minnesota-Bred Champion
Itinkican Itinkican

4-Year-Olds and Up Minnesota-Bred
Champion
Blacks Cartel

2-Year-Old Minnesota-Bred Reserve
Champion
EOS Marie Leveau

4-Year-Olds and Up Minnesota-Bred Reserve
Champion
Gramma Ella

3-Year-Old Open Champion
La Mos Pyc

Distance Open Champion
Eye Can See

3-Year-Old Minnesota-Bred Champion
Pyc Jess Bite Mydust

High Point Open Champion
La Mos Pyc

3-Year-Old Minnesota-Bred Reserve
Champion
Givinitalittleeffort

High Point Minnesota-Bred Champion
Blacks Cartel



2018 Quarter Horse Stakes Schedule

MQHRA is excited to share the 2018 Quarter Horse Stakes schedule from Canterbury Park: this year, Canterbury will offer 16 stakes races worth over \$665,000!

There are several additions and changes to the stakes schedule from previous years.

Canterbury has added a new stakes race for older, Minnesota-bred Quarter Horses. The \$20,000 added, 300-yard North Star State Stakes for MN-bred 3-year-olds and up will be held for the first time on Sunday, June 3, 2018. Canterbury and the MQHRA would like to rename this race for future editions to honor a horse or individual that has significantly contributed to the sport of Quarter Horse racing in the state of Minnesota. Stay tuned for future requests for suggestions and nominations for a name for this new race.

This summer will also witness the return of an 870-yard stakes with the \$20,000-added Mean Competitor, to be held on Friday, August 10, 2018.

Additionally, the consolation race for the Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity, the \$20,000 guaranteed 350-yard Mystic Lake Northland Juvenile, has been officially included as a stakes race.

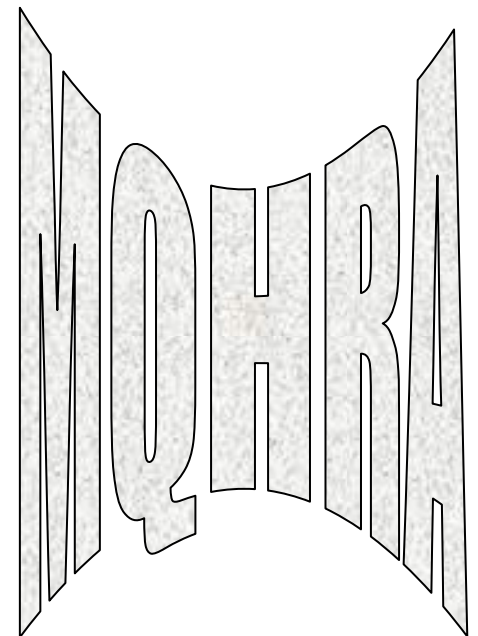
Purses for the Minnesota Futurity and Minnesota Derby have each been increased by \$5,000, bringing each purse to \$50,000 added. The Minnesota Futurity and Minnesota Derby will be held as usual on Festival of Champions Day, which has moved back to Labor Day weekend as in previous years.

There are two distance changes to note: the Bob Morehouse will now be run at 350 yards, and the Cash Caravan will be held at 400 yards. Purse money was also added to the Bob Morehouse and the Skip Zimmerman stakes.

The MQHRA Racing Committee and Canterbury Park management met to address these purse and distance changes, as well as to discuss the optimal stakes schedule for horsemen. Given the number of

futurities and the extended season, the Minnesota Breeders' Futurity will be held earlier in the summer. This year, trials will open our Quarter Horse meet on Saturday, May 26, with the final to be held on Sunday, June 3.

Please see the 2018 Canterbury Park Quarter Horse Stakes Schedule for all changes to scheduling, distances and purses, available in this newsletter and at MQHRA.com. For questions or concerns, please contact us at info@mqhra.com.



(Continued on page 4)

2018 Quarter Horse Stakes Schedule (continued from page 3)

Saturday, May 19

Trials: Minnesota Stallion Breeders' Futurity

Saturday, May 26

Trials: Gopher State Derby

Sunday, June 3

\$20,000 Added Minnesota Stallion Breeders' Futurity

2-year-olds

350 Yards

Sunday, June 3

\$20,000 Added North Star State Stakes

MN-Bred 3-year-olds and up

300 Yards

Saturday, June 9

\$20,000 Gopher State Derby

3-year-olds

400 Yards

Thursday, June 14

Trials: Bank of America Canterbury Park Championship Challenge

Friday, June 15

Trials: Boehringer Ingelheim Canterbury Park Distaff Challenge

Saturday, June 16

Trials: Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity

Sunday, June 24

Trials: Canterbury Park Derby

Wednesday, July 4

\$40,000 Added Bank of America Canterbury Park Championship Challenge

3-year-olds and up

440 Yards

Wednesday, July 4

\$25,000 Added Boehringer Ingelheim Canterbury Park Distaff Challenge

Fillies and Mares, 3-year-olds and up

400 Yards

Sunday, July 8

\$35,000 Added Bob Morehouse Stakes

MN-Bred 3-year-olds and up

350 Yards

Sunday, July 8

\$75,000 Estimated Canterbury Park Derby

3-year-olds

400 Yards

Sunday, July 8

\$165,000 Estimated Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity

2-year-olds

350 Yards

Sunday, July 8

\$20,000 Mystic Lake Northlands Juvenile

2-year-olds

350 Yards

Saturday, July 14

\$15,000 Added Dash in a Flash Stakes

3-year-olds and up

110 Yards

Sunday, July 22

Trials: NCQHRA Futurity

Friday, August 10

\$20,000 Added Mean Competitor Stakes

3-year-olds and up

870 Yards

Friday, August 10

\$25,000 Guaranteed Skip Zimmerman Stakes

3-year-olds and up

350 Yards

Saturday, August 11

\$50,000 Estimated NCQHRA Futurity

2-year-olds and up

350 Yards

Saturday, August 11

\$35,000 Added

3-year-olds and up

400 Yards

Sunday, September 2

\$50,000 Added Minnesota Quarter Horse Derby

3-year-olds

400 Yards

Sunday, September 2

\$50,000 Added Minnesota Quarter Horse Futurity

2-year-olds

350 Yards

Annual Membership Meeting Summary

By Jennifer Perkins

MQHRA hosted its annual membership meeting in January. Thank you to all who attended! We reviewed our 2017 racing summary, events, and stallion service auction results as well as previewed the changes and what is to come in 2018. In addition, we gave out year-end awards and elected new officers for the MQHRA Board of Directors.

We witnessed good membership growth last year, with 113 total members in 2017: 87 single memberships and 26 family memberships. This number is up 53% from 2016, when we had 74 members. This continues a trend of increasing members in recent years; we were just 48 strong in 2012.



MQHRA award winners (From left to right) Maren Luedemann with Jennifer Perkins, Corey Wilmes with Bob Petersen

We published six newsletters and increased our social media following on Facebook by 35% last year. We have also made many improvements to the website (with more still to come), making it easier to find the racing information you need as well as news, updates and history.

MQHRA hosted or shared in many events last year. In addition to our annual membership meeting and our Quarter Horse Celebration night, we co-hosted the Backside BBQ with the MTA and served over 650 of our friends and backside family. We sponsored barrel races, 4-H events, and participated in Leg Up Day to help our Canterbury jockeys; together, over \$60,000 was raised last year for our jockeys.

Our racing metrics were strong last year; in 2017, we hosted 105 Quarter Horse races at Canterbury Park, with 357 unique starters and an average field size of 8.2. We had a record purse in the Mystic Lake Northlands Futurity: \$167,600, and the Canterbury Park Derby purse was the highest it had been in nearly 30 years: \$81,125.

2016 was a record year for purse payouts; 2017 was the second-highest year with \$1,652,380 paid out to Quarter Horses at Canterbury. Handle followed a similar trend, down slightly from 2016 but still higher than previous years. People at Canterbury and across the country wagered over \$3 million on our races, with nearly \$30,000 per race on average. Our most successful races from a handle perspective were the AQHA Challenge races. Races on Thursday night were also popular among bettors.

Breeders' Awards increased 153% over 2016, as we paid out \$65,195 to our Minnesota Quarter Horse breeders. Registered foals increased from 31 in 2016 to 2017.

Canterbury Park Quarter Horse of the Meet Wins Challenge Championship at Prairie Meadows

Though Canterbury Park has participated in the AQHA Challenge program for many years, in 2016, the track hosted two regional races for the first time: the Bank of America Canterbury Park Championship Challenge (formerly held at Les Bois) and the Merial Canterbury Park Distaff Challenge.

In the first two years of hosting the Challenge regional race, Canterbury Park has sent the winners of our regional race to compete and win the Grade 1 AQHA Bank of America Challenge Championship final: AJs High at Los Alamitos in 2016, and The Fiscal Cliff at Prairie Meadows in 2017.

In addition to winning the Bank of America Challenge Championship final and regional qualifier at Canterbury, the colt also won the Skip Zimmerman at Canterbury and competed in the Grade 1 Champion of Champions Invitational at Los Alamitos.

The Fiscal Cliff was bred and owned by Tom Lopic, trained by Kasey Willis and ridden by Benito Baca. At the end of the 2017 racing season at Canterbury Park, he was honored as the 2017 Canterbury Park Quarter Horse of the Meet.

ADW FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

ADW has been a buzz word in Minnesota and at Canterbury Park recently; here is what that means and how it impacts our sport and track.

ADW stands for Advance Deposit Wagering. ADW companies allow people to make deposits into online accounts and legally wager on horse racing online, such as TVG and TwinSpires.

For many years, there were no regulatory provisions for ADW activity in the state. In 2016, the Minnesota Racing Commission addressed the activity and made ADWs legal to operate in the state provided each operator applied for a license and reached an agreement with Canterbury.

It is now legal to use online accounts for horse racing wagering as a resident of the state of Minnesota. Canterbury and each of the licensed ADWs has an agreement that ensures that a small percentage of what is wagered by Minnesota residents is returned to Canterbury to offset possible losses of people who may choose to wager online instead of at the track.

The revenue from ADW wagering in the state resulted in a share of \$76,000 for Minnesota Quarter Horses in the first year. Half of the money was earmarked for Breeders' Awards, and the other half was added to various Minnesota-bred stakes races, including purse increases in three stakes and a new stakes race for older MN-breds.

There are seven entities licensed in the state of Minnesota. If you wish to open an account online, please use an ADW that is licensed, as that is the only way Canterbury and MN Quarter Horses get a share of the handle. Minnesota residents are restricted from wagering on Canterbury races, however, and Canterbury and our MN Quarter Horses always get a larger share of the revenue from wagers that are placed on-site at the track.

Please visit our website for more information about available ADWs, with links to their websites. All ADWs offer wagering on computers or mobile devices, streaming video, and a variety of secure deposit methods and promotions. Licensed ADWs in Minnesota include:

TVG
BetAmerica

TwinSpires
WatchandWager

Xpressbet
Hollywood Races



Welcome New and Renewing MQHRA Members

Cesar and Victor Albino

Shelly Berkner

Cindy & Lorin Besser

Casey Black

Tracy Black

Eric Castro

Kim Christenson

Dennis Eckerman

Casey Foster

Ralph & Doreen Haglund

Victor & Theresa Hanson

Doug Hoseck

Diane Noble & Juan Argoitia

Steve Kane

Mackenzie Kane

Dan Kjorsvik

John Lawless

Lori Locken

Paul & Maren Luedemann

Lunderborg LLC

Jeff Maday

Darin & Jessica Meyers

James Murray

Andrew Offerman

James & Sandy Olson

Westley T. Oulton

Jerry Oxner

Fred C. Pelzer

Jennifer Perkins

Robert & Julie-Mohni Petersen

Tom & Janice Pouliot

Merritt & Barbara Pride

Ken Quade

Terry Reed

Brenda Reiswig

Mike and Clarinda Rohweder

John C. Schafer

Nathan Sommer

Ashley Swanson

Jodi Wilking

Art & Sharon Wilmes

Corey Wilmes

2018 Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Description
April 27, 28 & 29	Friday-Sunday	Minnesota Horse Expo
May 4	Friday	Opening Day at Canterbury Park
May 19	Saturday	Quarter Horse Meet Begins at Canterbury
May 27	Sunday	Leg Up Fund Day
June 2	Saturday	Youth Day at the Races
June 12, 13 & 14	Tuesday-Thursday	MQHA 4-H Boot Camp
June 23	Saturday	Jockeys and Jeans

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) 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:

- ⇒ Lori Locken
- ⇒ Jennifer Perkins



Photo and content credit to:

- ⇒ Lori Locken





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YOUR NAME HERE

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

RENEW MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBER

\$25 SINGLE

\$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: Jen Perkins, 382 Brickyard Dr, Chaska, MN 55318