

PTHA POST





PTHA POST

PRESENTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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PTHA Main Office
215-638-2012

SPECIAL THANK YOU

EQUI-PHOTO
PHRA

THIS MONTH

PTHA President's Corner, Robert Hutt
Update from Executive Director Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.
Around the Oval
Caretakers Day
Best Turned Out
Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinner
Attention Trainers
PTHA Christmas Party Invite
International Day at Parx
English Classes - PTHA Charities
From Race Track Chaplaincy-PA
PTHA Trophy Race Winners
TFH Update
TFH Adoption Updates
PA Horse Breeders Association
Heartbeat of the Backstretch
Congratulations!
HPA

RECOGNIZING SOME OF OUR MANY PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES



PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members,

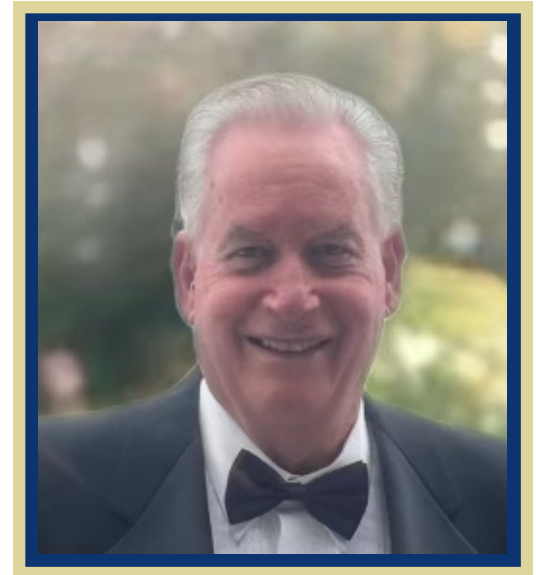
Happy Thanksgiving and warm holiday wishes to you and your loved ones. As the year winds down, I find myself marveling at how quickly 2024 has passed. Before we know it, we'll be talking about the Derby Trail and celebrating the promise of another exhilarating racing season.

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the hardworking men and women on the backside. Your tireless dedication ensures our equine athletes remain healthy, safe, and ready to compete. The heart of this industry beats because of your efforts, and your unwavering commitment does not go unnoticed.

Horse racing, as an industry, stands at a crossroads. We face immense challenges but also tremendous opportunities. To seize these opportunities, we must be willing to adapt to the demands of the modern world. This will require bold actions, fearless approaches, and a willingness to embrace change. Most importantly, we need to fundamentally shift how we manage our business. The PTHA represents 2,500 members through a collective bargaining agreement, and it is our duty to prioritize the interests of the many over those of the few. It is time to level the playing field and ensure fairness for all members.

I believe deeply in the potential of the PTHA and the strength of its membership. Together, we can build an organization that is transparent, inclusive, and focused on the future of horse racing. This effort is not without its challenges, but I will not waiver on the basic principles of fairness and honesty. This is a fight about the future of the everyday horsemen and making sure that we all have equal opportunity to thrive in an industry that we so passionately love.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.



Robert "Bob" Hutt
PTHA PRESIDENT

Update from Executive Director **JEFFREY A. MATTY, JR.**

HORSEMEN

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your families! As we approach the end of the year, let us reflect on an exciting year both on and off the track. Some of the highlights that are quick to come to mind; 2024 Pennsylvania Derby Day, Pennsylvania Caretakers Day, Turning For Home's Golf Outing, National Thoroughbred League Day, DelVal Day at The Races, PTHA Charities Scholarship Day, the list goes on and on. All of these events would not be possible without a full-team effort, an effort that spans from PTHA leadership, our PTHA team, horsemen, and all of our racing fans. Together, we make the days listed above not only possible, but interactive and fun for horsemen locally and throughout the region.

We very much look forward to seeing all of you at our annual PTHA Christmas Party on December 19th at Bensalem Country Club. As we turn the page to 2025, we look to build on the positive programs in place, while adding more for the benefit of all horsemen and members here. I can't encourage you enough to get involved, whether it's joining a committee or simply stopping by the office to share thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to get better. In order for us to best represent you, we need to hear from you and hear from you often. Starting January 1, 2025 – Parx Racing will go to 7-days-a-week for training. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be the Executive Director of the PTHA, it has been the honor and privilege of my life.

Merry Christmas,
Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.



Jeffrey A. Matty Jr.
PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AROUND THE OVAL

by Dani Gibson

THANKSGIVING EVE RACING FESTIVAL AT PARX RACING

\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes
2-year-old PA-Breds - 7 furlongs

Crab Daddy & jockey Ruben Silvera for trainer Linda Albert & owner Brian Schartz



\$75,000 Let's Give Thanks Stakes
6 1/2 furlongs

Spikezone & jockey Mychel Sanchez for trainer Jamie Ness, owners Troy Johnson, Charles Lo & Jagger Inc.



\$75,000 Turkey Trot Stakes
1 mile & 70 yards

Warrior Johny & jockey Jaime Torres won for trainer Philip Bauer & owner Rigney Racing LLC



\$75,000 Cornucopia Stakes
6 1/2 furlongs - Fillies & Mares

Beach Daze & jockey Adam Bowman for trainer Farrell Mann, owners All In Racing Stables & JPS Stable



JOCKEY FOOT RACE AT PARX RACING 11/29/24

Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund



TO DONATE VISIT
PDJF.ORG



Winner: Franklin Gonzalez, Jr.

CARETAKERS DAY



We recently joined the PHRA to host our third annual Caretakers Day at PARX Racing on November 20, 2024. Tracks across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania gave out this year's sweatshirt/hoodie and a pair of Caretakers Day socks. The PTHA is grateful to our members and the caretakers who work very hard everyday to keep horses fit and race ready. As we approach the winter we hope these items provide an extra layer of warmth and appreciation.



Thank you to the PTHA office staff and our membership for their participation in hosting a great day. A big thank you to the PHRA and you can always find more info from PHRA at pennhorseracing.com.



CARETAKERS DAY

BEST
TURNED OUT

PTHA



Javier Romero with Independent

Mario Villanueva with Hide the Ransom

Saviano Orantes with Paint Me Beautiful

Jose Gonzalez with Manolito

Andres Mendez with True Phenomenon



WE CELEBRATED OUR GROOMS OF THE BEST TURNED OUT HORSES IN EACH RACE ON CARETAKERS DAY CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!



Manny with Mayday Mayham

Bruce Howard with Ron Don Scorese

Sean Fittipaldi with Treble Clef

Danny Martinez with Captain Whiner

Esteban Solomon with Foil



THANKSGIVING - CHRISTMAS DINNER AT RON'S BACKSTRETCH CAFE

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thank you for celebrating Thanksgiving with us. We are thankful for the hardworking men and women in our community. You are the heart of our Backstretch and we appreciate you. Thank you to Ron's Backstretch Cafe team for an amazing service.



SPONSORED BY



PARX BACKSTRETCH COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS DINNER

AT RON'S BACKSTRETCH CAFE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
FROM 11 AM TO 2 PM

SPONSORED BY



PTHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

We will hold a PTHA General Membership meeting before the end of the year. We will let you know the date and time of the meeting soon. Stay tuned.



VISIT PATHA.ORG
FOR UPDATED
INFORMATION

YOU CAN ALSO
SIGN UP FOR
TEXT ALERTS ON
THE WEBSITE IF
YOU HAVEN'T
DONE SO



ATTENTION TRAINERS

THE END OF THE YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING, SO STOP BY THE PTHA OFFICE AND CHECK YOUR STARTS FOR INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE PTHA HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN GUIDELINES, PLEASE SEE JACLYN DESANCTIS.

DECEMBER RACING

IMPORTANT DATES

DEC24 LIVERACING

PARX Racing
First Post - 11:05AM

DEC30 LIVERACING

PARX Racing
First Post - 12:05PM

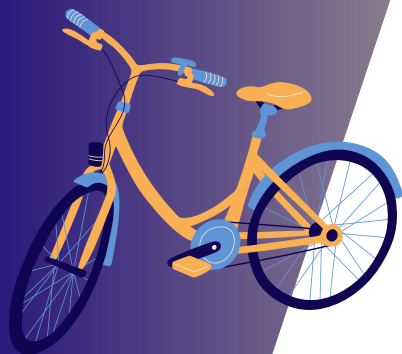
DEC28 LIVERACING

PARX Racing
First Post - 12:05PM

DEC31 LIVERACING

PARX Racing
First Post - 12:05PM

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO



WHEELS ON US

A NEW PTHA CHARITIES
PROGRAM IN COORDINATION
WITH BENSLEM TOWNSHIP
WILL BEGIN IN 2025.
MORE DETAILS SOON!



Christmas Party

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 19, 2024

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNTRY CLUB

2000 BROWN AVE. - BENSLEM, PA 19020

5:30PM - 8:30PM

RSVP BY DECEMBER 12TH

VMANGINI@PATHA.ORG / 215-638-2012

ADULTS \$20 / CHILDREN \$10

BUFFET DINNER & OPEN BAR FROM 6PM-8PM

DOOR PRIZES / UGLY SWEATER CONTEST / DJ MIKE





Parx Racing and the PTHA celebrated International Day on Friday, November 29. Trainers, owners, jockeys and members of our community shared short stories from their countries and cultures, showing that although we were born in different places, we all share with the same intensity and passion for thoroughbred horse racing.



“The Parthenon in Athens is one of the most majestic places to view in all of Greece!”

TRAINER - ILIAS TAPSAS FROM LARISA, GREECE

“The fans are different from here. When they turn for home. The grandstand feels like it lifts! We have a lot of pride and passion. Jamaicans love horse racing!”

GROOM - RICHARD THOMPSON FROM JAMAICA



“In Australia the first Tuesday in November is the Melbourne Cup. The race that stops the nation. When I say stops the nation, it’s a national holiday! 100,000 people. 2 miles. It’s quite the spectacle.”

JOCKEY - CRYSTAL CONNING FROM MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

ENGLISH CLASSES PTHA CHARITIES



About The Class

- Four-week ESL classes sponsored by PTHA Charities and Chester County Economic Development Council
- TEACHER - Katie Dotterer

Over the four week course students learned preposition vocabulary, forming sentences and questions, equine/barn specific vocabulary and so much more.



"I was trying to keep my emotions in check on Thursday as my students enjoyed the Snickerdoodles I made, while conversing about next steps to continue their learning of English and when I was coming back."

Katie Dotterer



"It was actually pretty emotional for me. To watch the students interact with their teacher (Katie Dotterer). Members of our backstretch communities will benefit from this experience. As will horsemen and women overall for the care of the horses racing here in Pennsylvania. I believe this will help the students greatly in their jobs and advancement in the horse racing industry. Great start!"

**Greg Newell,
President of PA Breeders Association**



MATILDE O.

"Teacher Katie has helped us a lot, I really liked the classes and I think this will help me at work. I hope to return to the next classes."

GINABEL P.

"With teacher Katie I was able to learn. I invite everyone to come to the next classes."





NOVEMBER 23 THANKSGIVING DAY CELEBRATION!

The Racetrack Chaplaincy distributed Thanksgiving meals to dozens of members of our backstretch and their families in the Rec Hall at PARX. Meals included the choice of a turkey, ham and all the fixings.



Happy Thanksgiving!



The RaceTrack Chaplaincy - PA has prepared Christmas Backpack Gifts for all racetrack dorm residents. These backpacks will be filled by Chaplaincy volunteers and include toiletries, sweatshirts, beanies, socks, and t-shirts. They are planned to be delivered to dorms on December 23 to 24.



ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE	TIME	VENUE
21 December, 2024	1:00 PM 3:30 PM	PARX RACING GRANDSTAND FIRST FLOOR

Parents **MUST** sign-up their children to receive their gift bag before **DECEMBER 6th!** To Register:

CALL: 267-223-3513
EMAIL: RBUNKER@RTCA-PA.ORG
OR VISIT THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE!

Merry Christmas



PTHA TROPHY WINNERS

NOVEMBER 2024

NOVEMBER 5 Group Ticket



Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Jockey</u>
Silvino Ramirez	Silvino Ramirez	Dexter Haddock

NOVEMBER 12 Rabbit



Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Jockey</u>
Just In Time Racing LLC	Michael Pino	Mychel Sanchez

NOVEMBER 19 Grace Reformed



Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Jockey</u>
Ten Strike Racing	Juan Carlos Guerrero	Christopher Elliott

NOVEMBER 26 Smoke Wagon



Photo Credit: PTHA

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Jockey</u>
Jacinto Solis	Jacinto Solis	Frankie Pennington

Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



Our horses' winter coats have been forecasting that colder weather is inevitably on the way, and here it comes as we celebrate the holidays and, hopefully, reflect on all we can be thankful for. The leaves were beautiful at the first All Thoroughbred Showdown we hosted on the first weekend of November with Second Call. It looks like Thanksgiving is right around the corner! When I think about the holiday, many things come to mind: good food, spending time with those you care about, and being thankful. I know I'm grateful for everyone at the PTHA's Turning for Home, from our team at the PTHA, our incredible Partner Farms, and all the many contributors that make aftercare work for our horses, from shippers to veterinarians and everyone who helps hold a horse or cares to donate. We have helped a lot of horses. Over 4,300 of them have benefitted from the program set up to ensure they land safely upon leaving the racing. That is so much to be thankful for! Happy Thanksgiving! Here's a recipe for Pumpkin Oatmeal Crunchy Cookies if you have the time and are in the mood to prepare a special Thanksgiving treat for your horse:

Oatmeal Pumpkin Crunchies

- 1 cup dry oatmeal
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1 cup chopped pumpkin
 - One teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon sugar
 - 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
 - ¼ cup molasses
 - Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - 2. Mix the oatmeal, salt flour and sugar in a bowl.
 - 3. Stir in the chopped pumpkin.
 - 4. Stir in the vegetable oil and the molasses.
 - 7. Form into small balls and place on a greased cookie sheet.
 - 8. Put in the oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown.
- Recipe from EquiMed-

Little Man - Alexa Gallagher



Reba Merrit and Chocolate Delight



Samantha Mattia - Paloma Gris



Yorio and Sibling Rivalry



Turning for Home

HORSE UPDATES



Moon Gate Warrior (KY)
B, G, foaled February 20, 2013
(Bernardini - J Z Warrior, by Harlan's Holiday)
Trainer: Felix L. Flores-Coba
Owner: FF Racing Stables
Breeder: Grousemont Farm



"Moon Gate Warrior is a Great horse with an awesome record. He is competing Novice level Eventing and is ready to move to Training level. He could go up the levels no problem since he is an awesome jumper, and a sound sound war horse!" - Lara Anderson of Full Gallop Farm



Barroombouncer (FL)
DK B/, G, foaled April 27, 2014
(Put It Back - Annies Fuse, by Lite the Fuse)
Trainer: Richard Vega
Owner: The Hakim's Stable LLC
Breeder: Mike Anderson & Barbara Anderson



Upon retirement, Barroombouncer ended up with a case of pneumonia that was treated with the help of Mid-Atlantic Equine Center. Thanks to quick treatment, he recovered with no limitations! Barroom is currently thriving as a jumper, under the ownership of Lauren in Georgia.



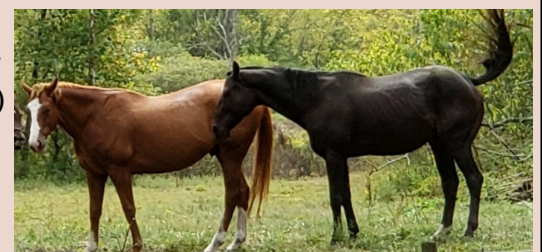
Grit'n'grind (PA)
TB, B, G, foaled March 4, 2013
(Jump Start - See the Forest, by Forestry)
Trainer: J. Guadalupe Guerrero
Owner: J. Guadalupe Guerrero
Breeder: Marshall K. Gramm & Clay Sanders



Ace, as he is now known, has been receiving additional training with Partner Farm and Megan Meader at Optimum Time Equestrian. The duo is currently competing in Eventing at the Beginner Novice level while Ace waits to find his perfect adopter. This resilient gelding has raced an impressive 84 times and has earned nearly half a million dollars before retiring into his new career.



Don't Recall (KY)
TB, DK B/, G, foaled March 17, 2017
(Flatter - Illegal Search, by Officer)
Trainer: Janet Polachek
Owner: Juan Polanco
Breeder: Susan King



Don't Recall was adopted in late 2023 by a family in Kentucky. He is affectionately known as October, or Toby for short. His adopter, Mary says that he is loveable, sweet, and calm, which makes him a great "husband horse" for her husband Kenny, and any other family members who want to ride.



Coming in 2025
**PENNSYLVANIA
YEARLING SHOW!**

WHERE:

Brandywine Polo Club
232 Polo Road,
Toughkenamon, PA 19374

WHEN:

Saturday, June 21st 2025,
from 10:00am to 3:00pm

.....

Four classes featuring
PA-Sired males and fillies and
Non-PA-Sired males and fillies

**Prizes and trophies
available in each class!**

\$50 entry fee before June 1st,
\$75 late entry fee after June 1st

*Stay tuned for more details
and sponsorship opportunities!*



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

Please contact our office at

Visit pabred.com for more information | #PABred on social media



610.444.1050

with any questions

Heartbeat Backstretch of the

By : Nikki Guzman



The current notion of the winter holiday season is typically associated with frivolity, excess, and a lot of splendor. Everyone, regardless of country or background, participates in Christmas in some manner, whether attending the annual holiday party, exchanging gifts with friends, or going all out and throwing a special meal. Even though the holidays are a time for celebration, many individuals still have to work at this time of year, particularly those who work in important sectors like healthcare, police enforcement, transportation, and even the racing industry.

So, why do so many diligent men and women choose careers as hotwalkers, grooms, exercise riders, jockeys, farriers, trainers, outriders, pony riders, and so on? It is because of the horses, who are the true Heartbeat of the Backstretch. To quote an unknown author, "Taking care of a horse is not just a duty, it's a heartfelt responsibility." Without these magnificent creatures, none of us would be here at PARX.

Horses are particularly socially savvy. They are the first non-human creatures to be able to evaluate, respond to, and remember human emotions. Horses, like people, can express themselves and communicate. They are relatable to people since they may express a variety of attitudes and emotions. Horses may express a broad range of emotions with people, including joy, nervousness, trust, concern, and many others. Working with horses teaches individuals love, tolerance, compassion, humanity, and joy. Both are capable of producing intricate facial expressions that appear to strengthen the connection between them.

And this is what the holiday season is all about: mindfulness, love, and true connection. Sometimes the best gifts are simple enjoyable experiences, real feelings, and genuine emotions. Because joy can be discovered in even the most mundane moments of life such as mucking a stall —if you look for it. So whether someone says "Happy Yule!", "Happy Chanukah", "Feliz Navidad", "Happy Holidays", "Happy Kwanzaa" or any variation, does it matter? They are offering kindness, tolerance, compassion, humanity, and joy. They mean well and wish well upon you. Accept it, give it back – the details are irrelevant.



CONGRATULATIONS

**Peek at this gorgeous face but be warned—
you might never fall in love like this again!**



CRUZ COLLAZO



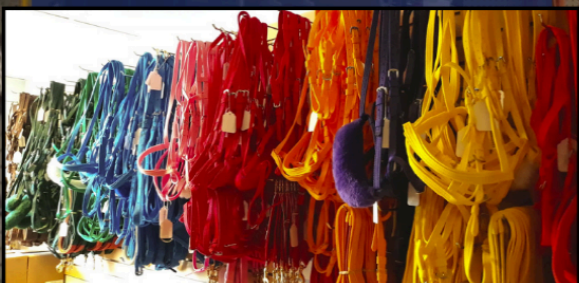
Drumroll, please! It's a bouncing baby boy! We are delighted to announce Cruz Ellis Collazo, born on November 5, 2024, to Courtney and Victor Collazo, PTHA's Director of Finance and Accounting. Weighing 8 lbs. 8 oz and 21 inches long, he's already melting hearts with his adorable smile and charming personality.

Congratulations on the arrival of your little one! The PTHA expresses its love and wishes you both the best as you begin this wonderful chapter of parenthood.

**DON'T FORGET IF YOU HAVE AN ACHIEVEMENT OR SPECIAL OCCASION YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED.
PLEASE EMAIL PRODUCTIONS@PATHA.ORG OR STOP BY THE PTHA OFFICE.**

HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

HPA



FOR ALL YOUR RACING NEEDS AT PARX RACING, INCLUDING BEDDING, FEED, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLEMENTS, SUPPLIES AND MORE!

STORE HOURS

Race Days	8 am to 4:30 pm
Th.-Fr.	8 am to 4 pm
Sat.	8 am to 2:30 pm

**Feed trailers open until 1 pm
Ice House open until 2 pm on Race Days**

CONTACT US:

Diane Day
HPA Manager

267-223-3140
dday@patha.org





MERRY CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAY SALE
10% Off
Equipment,
Supplies and
Supplements
Excludes Feed
and Shavings

MONDAY
DECEMBER 23, 2024



Want to see your ad in our next newsletter?
Call or email us today to find out how easy it is to
advertise with us and get extra coverage online!

215-638-2012 or email: productions@patha.org



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's
Association

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020

Office: 215-638-2012 Fax: 215-638-2919

Hours: Mon - Wed, 8 am - 5 pm

Thur, 8 am - 4 pm

Fri, 8 am - 1 pm

www.patha.org

**SEE YOU IN THE
WINNER'S CIRCLE!**

