

# Committee on Horse Race Dates

August 13, 2010, Meeting

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## Agenda Packet Material

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Section III. Stakeholder comments received.

8/4/2010

2010 AUG -6 PM 1:16

Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P. O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Pablos:

I am writing this letter because I was not able to attend the meeting in which the Texas Racing Commission was involved.

I am an Owner that has 15 horses at the track. I want to run all of my horses in Texas, my home for over 55 years. I can't afford to run in Texas due to the lack of purse money. It cost over \$3,000 per month per horse for training, veterinarian, hauling, etc. That is over \$45,000 per month in cost to me. I still run a few of them in Texas to support Texas Racing and the enjoyment of seeing my horses run locally.

I also own a Stallion that is standing in Oklahoma instead of Texas due to the Texas racing economy. All of this is hurting the Texas economy in the form of lack of jobs to the farming industry, training tracks, haulers, feed mills, etc.

I am also a past Board Member and President of the Texas Thoroughbred HBPA. When I was active on the Board, I spoke quality over quantity was what is needed to build our Industry or it would go the wrong way. I understand that the Board represents all horsemen in Texas and must make decisions on what is best for our horsemen and industry.

I attended the first horsemen's meeting at Lone Star Park and listened to the horsemen that want quantity and not quality. They want to run a lot of races for a little bit of money. They want status quo! We will not have any horse racing in Texas if it stays like it is today.

I believe the problem is that the average horsemen do NOT understand where our money comes from that goes into the purses for the races. It is directly proportional to the amount of money that is bet on our races. Look at the statistics of money bet on Texas races in recent years. Texas racing is some of the worst racing in the US and is getting worse every day. The amount being bet on Texas races is in a huge decline, thus smaller purses every day.

***We MUST make changes and run fewer days with larger purses to draw in better horses to get the gambler to bet on our races which directly adds money to the purses. This is the only option we have now to try to turn our industry back in the right direction. Hopefully we can get some legislation for slots in the future, but we must act NOW or there is no future.***

111. 10

***I am in support of consolidating race dates to Lone Star Park and transferring money from Sam Houston to Lone Star Park to increase purses which will directly improve the quality of racing and handle.***

As you know, the Texas racing industry is in decline. The current situation is far-reaching and has only perpetuated itself over the past few years.

Wagering handle is down across the state, the purse structure is in decline, the quality of racing has diminished and the foal crop in the state continues to decrease, affecting numerous industry jobs. It is imperative that the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Horsemen's Partnership, all breed organizations and the Class 1 tracks work together and act quickly to reverse this trend. We cannot depend on the uncertainty of legislative relief and must build a foundation for racing in Texas that is self-sustaining and beneficial to the industry as a whole.

I ask that you support the plan presented by the Class 1 tracks to run a 60-day Thoroughbred race meet at Lone Star Park in 2011 and allow Sam Houston to transfer purse money in order to make Lone Star's purses more competitive with other tracks in our region.

Failure to support such a plan will cause further deterioration in our racing industry. Without this change, it is likely that one or more tracks will not be able to host a meet at all; therefore, shutting them down. Others will be forced to run fewer days in order to enhance their purses; however, this option will not necessarily improve the long-term racing product in Texas, or increase the overall handle.

We can no longer sit back and wait on additional revenue streams to make us competitive in this industry. We must rely on ourselves to improve the current situation through bold and dramatic change. It is the only way to save racing in our State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Moore

cc: Ms. Charla Ann King, Executive Director

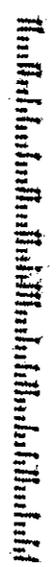
FORT WORTH TX 76104

04 AUG 2018 PM 1 T



Chairman Roberto Ráblos  
Texas Racing Commission  
PO Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

78711+2080



111.1e

ITRON PRODUCTIONS  
6510 LBJ Freeway, Suite 200  
Dallas, Texas 75240  
2010-08-03 PM 1:17  
RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION  
(972) 387-8716

August 3, 2010

Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P.O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

Mr. Pablos,

I love racing in Texas - Lone Star, Retama, Houston. I have 40 horses in training. Since we don't have other forms of income for the tracks, I am in favor of the consolidation program and letting Lone Star have the live racing and the possibility of better purses.

This will keep me in Texas.

Sincerely,



David Albert

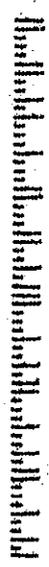
**ITRON**  
PRODUCTIONS  
6510 IBI Freeway, Suite 200, Dallas, TX 75240

DALLAS TX 752  
04 AUG 2000 PM 2 L



Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P. O. Box 12080  
Austin TX 78711-2080

7871132080



Barb & B J Nichols  
539 Kessler Street  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

2010 AUG -4 PM 2:

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

August 1, 2010

Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P. O. Box 12080  
Austin, Texas 78711-2080

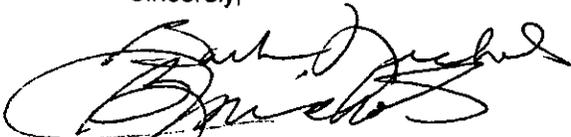
Dear Chairman Pablos:

As fans of horse racing, we were so excited when Texas approved pari-mutual wagering and Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. It was the ultimate thrill to see Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie host the Breeders' Cup. We have, in small partnerships, owned a horse or two for several seasons at Lone Star and have experienced the highs and lows of winning and losing. However, it is sad to see the state of our industry today.

We are writing to request that you support consolidation of the spring Thoroughbred race meet with purse supplements from other tracks to Lone Star Park. This is necessary to retain our best trainers and their owners. The quality of Texas racing depends on the purses being competitive with the tracks in surrounding states.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barb & B J Nichols



2010 AUG -2 PM 1:50

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

July 26, 2010

Texas Racing Commission

P O Box 12080

Austin, Tx 78754

Gentlemen:

We are Jockey Club member #109442 at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie Texas. We understand that the wagering handle is down which effects the purses. We support the plan submitted by the Class 1 tracks- the 60 day spring Thoroughbred race meet at Lone Star Park and the condensed mixed breed meets at Sam Houston & Retama and the purse supplements. We have thoroughly enjoyed horse racing at Lone Star Park and would be devastated to learn that the Dallas metroplex can not support our track.

Yours truly,

Taylor Farms Texas Inc

Rebecca E. Freeman

111.4

Taylor Farms Texas, Inc. 1001 N. Cockrell Hill Rd. • Dallas, TX 75211

214-421-1947 • Fax 214-421-8536

C.R. Querbes

July 27, 2010

TV

Texas Racing Commission

2010 JUL 33 PM 1:48 2010 AUG -2 PM 1:48

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

As the general partner of Homestead  
Associates, I am writing in support  
of the plan offered by Lane Stoeck  
and the Class I tracks whereby L.S.Park  
would run a 60 day spring throughbred  
meet while Sam Hunston and Retama  
run condensed mixed bred meets and  
include a purse supplement from Sam  
Hunston to L.S.Park.

I am very pessimistic about the  
future of Texas racing. Please carefully  
consider my request.

Sincerely  
C.R. Querbes

8235 Douglas Avenue  
Suite 300, LB-60  
Dallas, Texas 75225  
214-265-9297 Office  
214-239-2837 Fax

111.5

Walter B. Penn  
1203E Sandy Lake Road, Apt 1123  
Coppell, TX 75019

2010 AUG -2 PM 1:50  
RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

July 27, 2010

Mr. Rolando Pablos, Chairman  
Texas Racing Commission  
P.O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX. 78711

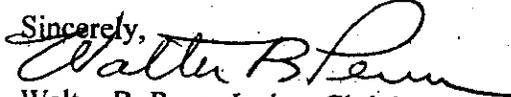
Dear Mr. Pablos:

I am writing in regard to the proposed plan to consolidate Texas Thoroughbred Racing at Lone Star Park. The plan will help save this type of racing in Texas and is necessary to help us compete within the adjoining states which have larger purses than Texas. You are well aware that better purses attract more horses and better quality horses.

I urge you to give this plan your influential strong support to help get it approved and in effect for the 2011 season.

Governor Perry should be told to support a vote of the people to determine their wishes in the "slot machine" issue that has been proposed for horse race tracks. Adjoining States have that income thus they are offering larger purses and more horses are going to those tracks. A large number of Texans go to the adjoining states and those states enjoy the income which Texas should be getting. Standing against this issue makes no moral or economic sense in my opinion.

Thanks for your support as the above plan will save Thoroughbred racing and the Thoroughbred breeding in our great state of Texas. The plan may be a temporary solution but is absolutely necessary at this time.

Sincerely,  
  
Walter B. Penn, Jockey Club Member  
Lone Star Park

111.6

2010 AUG -2 PM 1:51

TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

7/28/2010

Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P. O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

Dear Chairman Pablos:

As you know, the Texas racing industry is in decline. The current situation is far-reaching and has only perpetuated itself over the past few years.

Wagering handle is down across the state, the purse structure is in decline, the quality of racing has diminished and the foal crop in the state continues to decrease, affecting numerous industry jobs. It is imperative that the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Horsemen's Partnership, all breed organizations and the Class 1 tracks work together and act quickly to reverse this trend. We cannot depend on the uncertainty of legislative relief and must build a foundation for racing in Texas that is self-sustaining and beneficial to the industry as a whole.

I ask that you support the plan presented by the Class 1 tracks to run a 60-day Thoroughbred race meet at Lone Star Park in 2011 and allow Sam Houston to transfer purse money in order to make Lone Star's purses more competitive with other tracks in our region.

Failure to support such a plan will cause further deterioration in our racing industry. Without this change, it is likely that one or more tracks will not be able to host a meet at all; therefore, shutting them down. Others will be forced to run fewer days in order to enhance their purses; however, this option will not necessarily improve the long-term racing product in Texas, or increase the overall handle.

We can no longer sit back and wait on additional revenue streams to make us competitive in this industry. We must rely on ourselves to improve the current situation through bold and dramatic change. It is the only way to save racing in our State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bret Calhoun  
2309 Westfield  
Grand Prairie, TX  
75050

cc: Ms. Charla Ann King, Executive Director

111.7

2010 AUG -2 PM 1:51

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

7/28/2010

Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P. O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

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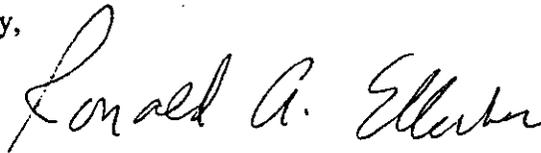
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



cc: Ms. Charla Ann King, Executive Director

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Ronald A. Ellerbee  
1961 Springer Rd  
Midlothian, TX 76065

7/22/2010

2010 AUG -2 PM 1: 52

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P. O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

Dear Chairman Pablos:

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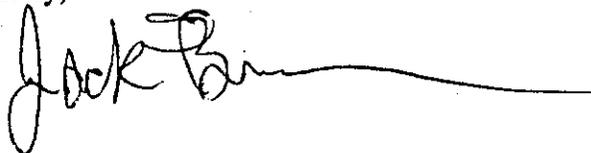
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We can no longer sit back and wait on additional revenue streams to make us competitive in this industry. We must rely on ourselves to improve the current situation through bold and dramatic change. It is the only way to save racing in our State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JACK Bruner  
3801 S. FM 113  
MILLSAP, TX  
76066

cc: Ms. Charla Ann King, Executive Director

111.9

W.P. Spaeth Jr. OMS  
3728 Northaven Road  
Dallas, Texas 75229-2752

July 28, 2010

Texas Racing Commission  
P.O.Box 12080  
Austin, Texas 78711

To Whom It May Concern:

I am enclosing a copy of correspondence I received from Mr. Drew Shubeck, President and General Manager at Lone Star Race Track. I have been a box holder at Lone Star since it's beginning. My love for the sport of horse racing has been a lifetime love. I have owned thoroughbreds over the years and have 4 thoroughbreds at this time. Please support Mr. Shubeck's request.

Sincerely,

  
W.P. Spaeth Jr. OMS  
Spaeth Machine Shop, Inc

III. 10a

  
**LONE STAR PARK**  
at Grand Prairie  
A MAGNA ENTERTAINMENT VENUE  
Our Mission:  
Create Winning Experiences.

July 22, 2010

2010 AUG -2 PM 1:52

W.P. Spaeth, Jr. OMS  
Spaeth Machine Shop, Inc.  
3728 Northaven Rd  
Dallas, TX 75229-2752

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

Dear Bill:

All Texas race tracks have been asked to submit their 2011 live race date applications to the Texas Racing Commission no later than Wednesday, August 18. While Lone Star Park's dates request will be the same as in years past, the overall racing picture in the state of Texas will likely change.

Currently, wagering handle is down across the state, the purse structure is in decline, and the foal crop in the state continues to decrease, affecting numerous industry jobs. It is imperative that the Texas Racing Commission, the Texas Horsemen's Partnership, all breed organizations and the Class I tracks work together and act quickly to reverse this trend.

Therefore, the Class I tracks have submitted a plan whereby Lone Star Park would run a 60-day spring Thoroughbred race meet, while Sam Houston and Retama Park would run condensed mixed breed race meets. This plan would also include a \$5 million purse supplement from Sam Houston in order to make Lone Star Park's purses more competitive with other tracks in our region. Without the purse supplement, Lone Star Park will be forced to run fewer days in order to keep purse levels at an acceptable level.

We feel failure to support such a plan will cause further deterioration to racing in Texas. There is simply not enough money to go around and, without this change, it is likely that one or more tracks will not be able to host a meet at all; therefore, shutting them down.

As a Lone Star Park Box Seat Holder, we respectfully ask you to consider this proposal and write to the Texas Racing Commission in support of this plan. We can no longer wait on additional revenue streams to make us competitive in this industry. We must find ways to improve the current situation in order to save racing in Texas.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (972) 237-1112.

Sincerely,



Drew M. Shubeck  
President and General Manager

DMS:sa

HOST SITE OF THE  
2004 BREEDERS' CUP  
WORLD THOROUGHBRED CHAMPIONSHIPS

1000 Lone Star Parkway  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050  
(972) 263-7223  
lonestarpark.com

111.106

July 27, 2010

Dear Chairman Pablos:

2010 AUG -2 PM 1: 50

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

Because purses in Texas are significantly lower than in the surrounding states of Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico, the Texas Racing Industry is in decline. As a result the racing industry is moving to neighboring states. These lower purses have had a significant negative impact on the quality of our racing and the breeding industry causing many horsemen to leave the state and go to other states with higher purses and to breed their horses in states that have more lucrative breeding program incentives.

As a result of this Texas is losing a large number of jobs and the very existence of our racetracks is being threatened. This has resulted in smaller fields of lower quality horses racing in Texas tracks and a diminishing annual foal crop. Since there is no certainty of legislative relief to provide additional revenue to the racing industry, Texas must build a foundation that is self-sustaining and beneficial to the industry as a whole.

One of the ways to do this is to consolidate racing dates with increased purses to attract horsemen to the state while creating attractive racing circuits in the Southwest. A great example of this type of consolidation is New Jersey where tracks were consolidated so that Monmouth Park was able to present much larger purses and thereby larger fields and better horses to race. The betting public likes this and if you will check the Monmouth record you will see that their attendance and handle is up considerably over what it was in the past. This should be a great model to use in Texas to preserve our racing industry. Please refer to the attached article concerning Monmouth that appeared in the July 24 *BloodHorse* magazine.

I'm not a horse owner but enjoy the races. I attend as many days as possible during the live racing season and also bet on the other races simulcast from other tracks

In simulcasting, it is interesting to note that the signal from Lone Star is not being used by bettors in other states. Because of the poor quality of horses, they are losing interest in wagering on Texas racing.

Lone Star Park has consistently had the highest purses handled in the state, so it makes sense to transfer purse money from a track like Sam Houston Racepark to Lone Star so we can offer purses that are competitive with other tracks in our region and bring first-class racing back to Texas.

We hope the commission will consider all the factors I have mentioned above and support a plan presented by the Class 1 tracks to run a 60 day thoroughbred race meet at Lone Star Park in 2011 and allow Sam Houston to transfer purse money in order to make Lone Star's purses more competitive with all the other tracks surrounding us.

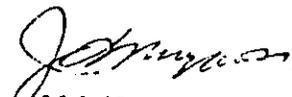
III. 11a

Unfortunately, it appears the legislature is not going to give the race track industry of Texas any help and therefore we can't sit back and wait on any additional income stream to make us competitive.

Let's use the New Jersey Monmouth track model as one we can follow because it has certainly helped the operation of racing in that state and that particular park.

With all due respect, we ask that you make the decision to consolidate and make purses larger at Lone Star Park.

Sincerely,



J.M. Haggar, Jr.

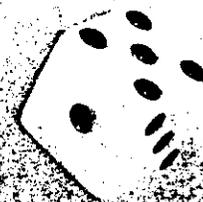
Chairman Rolando Pablos  
Texas Racing Commission  
P.O. Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711-2080

Cc: Ms. Charla Ann King, Executive Director

J.M. Haggar, Jr.  
7428 Glenshannon Cir.  
Dallas, TX 75225

111. 116

# Rolling



# the Di



BY TOM LAMARRA

**A**s trainer John Forbes watched his horses train from the viewing stand on the backstretch at Monmouth Park on a sunny, unusually warm June morning, he had a lot to say about New Jersey horse racing and the industry as a whole.

Such conversations aren't unusual for Forbes, a longtime local horseman who enjoys holding court and dissecting everything racing. But his tone is different these days, and with good reason.

At the halfway point of a meet some have called a game changer, Monmouth has caught just about everyone by surprise. Some claim the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority-owned track will still lose some money by the end of 2010, but even those who aren't happy unless they have something negative to say can't argue with the numbers.

After 24 days of the 50-day "million-dollar-a-day meet," total handle on Monmouth races was \$184,134,129, a gain of almost \$100 million over the same 24 days in 2009. Average daily ontrack handle was up more than \$200,000 a day, and attendance was up about 1,200 patrons per day.

With three days a week of live racing this year instead of the customary five, about 20 fewer programs have been run so far in 2010. Based on last year's average daily handle of \$3.5 million, Monmouth is running about \$30 million in handle ahead of the same period in 2009.

And the heart of its summer meet has just begun.

"People are encouraged," said Forbes, the president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association who shares a barn with Pat McBurney at the central Jersey track located not far from the Atlantic Ocean. "The crowds have been good and morale is up. Everybody is up."

"Employees, owners, fans—everybody is positive," Monmouth vice president and general manager Bob Kulina said. "Everything is strong. There's energy in the building. Right now everybody is pleased with the results. The way the industry embraced this experiment has been very positive."

On 12 of the first 24 days, attendance—Monmouth charges admission and uses turnstiles—topped 10,000, and a Father's Day record of 24,262 was set. The average through July 11 was 10,572, up 13% from 9,354 last year.

On five occasions, total handle cracked the \$9 million mark, setting records for Haskell Invitational (gr. I) day wagering. The average of \$7.67 million through July 11 was up 117.87% from \$3.52 million in 2009.

Average daily ontrack handle through 24 days was \$752,718, up 42.72% from \$527,415. The figure doesn't include the sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars wagered on full-card simulcasts each day.

Purses so far are meeting projections.

## At the mid-point of Monmouth's 'million-dollar-a-day meet,' the New Jersey experiment may be a game changer

Though the meet was advertised at \$1 million a day, money for related programs comes from that total (see page 2158).

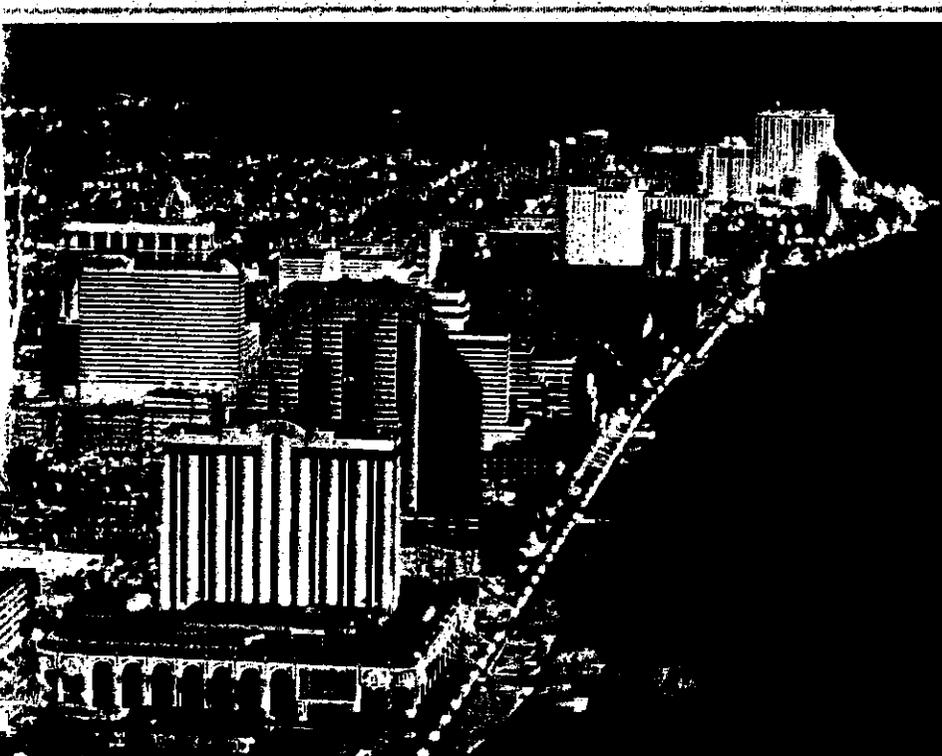
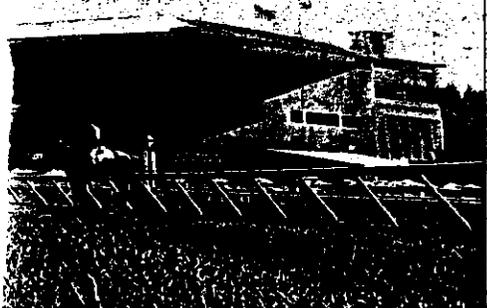
The objective here is simple: preserve and improve New Jersey racing, and in the process set an example by trying to create a new model for Thoroughbred racing nationally.

But there are many complicated moving parts. And the fact it even got off the ground this year is a minor miracle.

### Something Had To Be Done

New Jersey, regularly among the top three states nationally in the 1960s in quality of Thoroughbred racing and pari-mutuel handle, has taken a beating the past 20 years. Problems began in the 1970s, when

Horses break from the gate on the turf at Monmouth Park; five-figure crowds are now commonplace; below, the casinos of Atlantic City



New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware began overlapping race meets and watering down the product. The year-round racing and training circuit is gone. The foal crop, at one time more than 1,000 a year, was less than 300 in 2008—and is still dropping. Farms and open space have been lost.

About 10 years ago, when Garden State Park closed and Atlantic City Race Course became a betting parlor with a few days of live racing a year, total handle in New Jersey was still close to \$1 billion a year in a state with casino gambling. In 2008 the New Jersey Racing Commission reported total handle was more than \$930 million, a strong number given intense regional competition for gambling dollars.

The casino industry, which launched in Atlantic City in the late 1970s, has gained immense political clout while paying a tax rate of only 8%. In 2004 the casinos began paying purse supplements to horse racing in exchange for racetracks not pursuing ontrack gaming.

At the end of 2010, more than \$170 million in supplements will have been paid to racing. The Casino Association of New Jersey has said it will not continue the program and won't drop its opposition to race-track gaming.

One of the first actions by Republican Gov. Chris Christie, elected in November 2009, was to form committees to look at various revenue-drivers. One committee looking at horse racing, casino gambling, and entertainment set the wheels in motion for the radical changes in 2010.

Kulina and Dennis Drazin, formerly president of the New Jersey THA and now chairman of the NJRC, had discussed the "fewer days, more money" strategy for a few years. Along with former NJSEA official Robert Mulcahy, a member of the Christie commission, they worked to get the plan in place for this year.

"It was a little scary," Kulina said. "It was either be a hero or be gone."

Christie, who showed up opening day May 22 at Monmouth to sign legislation that authorized a reduction in Thoroughbred dates—including dropping the Meadowlands meet—for this year only, wanted it done, according to sources. The commission's report is due to Christie Aug. 1, Haskell day at Monmouth.

"Dennis thought we needed to increase purses, handle, and attendance with our last year of casino funding," Forbes said. "From that standpoint it has been a big success. If we're able to demonstrate a successful business model, we'll have a better chance of securing funding in the future."

"I think the prospects are good."

# Rolling the Dice

## Horsemen Generally Supportive

Because the experiment was put together quickly, there was discussion of perhaps waiting another year to try it. Officials decided that wasn't the best option, so they set about writing a condition book and promoting the meet to horsemen.

The average daily purse payout of \$785,992 through 24 days is quite a lure, but it's still remarkable the meet got off to such a good start.

"Horsemen didn't have a lot of time to get ready for this, so it could have had a different look," Kulina said. "We hope to do this again, but there are things we'd do differently, like maybe revisit the overnight stakes program. If I could get a condition book out really early, guys could get horses (that may better fit the meet)."

Trainer Kelly Breen, who has 36 horses at Monmouth, agreed planning for the meet is important. He said with racing three days a week, it's hard to get horses into races at times.

"What's Plan B?" he said. "Do we sit and wait for good purses or go out of town? It has happened a couple of times—having a horse sitting on 'go' only to wait to see if we'll be able to get in a race."

Breen isn't necessarily a fan of the new practice of paying all starters at least \$1,500 but said he understands why it was implemented. There had been concerns that, given how quickly the meet came together, trainers might not have fit horses.

"I don't run horses to finish last for \$1,500, but it's a nice incentive that helps people pay the bills," Breen said. "It's all part of trying to get people to run horses and get bigger fields."

Through July 11, Monmouth was averaging nine horses per race. Some of the higher-level claiming races have had shorter fields, but that's not unexpected in a region with seven tracks with good purses operating at the same time.

"This is what racing is coming to—less

days and bigger fields," trainer Mary Hartmann said. "I haven't won a lot yet, but June is usually a quiet month. (If we didn't make changes) it was going to turn Monmouth into a cheap track, and it deserves better than that."

"I'm happy to see the quality of the product go up. Nobody is dominating; even the little guys are winning races. Stuff like that makes it exciting."

Trainer Frank Costa, who won the title at the Meadowlands fall meet a few years ago, has some issues with the new schedule, as do other trainers who were planning on 141 days of racing this year at Monmouth and Meadowlands. Costa said he hopes the fall meet at Meadowlands eventually returns.

"It's really good money, and the racing is better, but three days a week is no good for me," said Costa, who has mostly claimers and New Jersey-bred horses.

## \$50 Million Over 50 Days

At meet's end Monmouth Park will pay out about \$50 million, but not all of it is purse money for overnight races and non-graded stakes. Here's a breakdown of where the money goes. All figures are estimates:

- \$5 million for graded stakes
- \$4 million for each horse that races is paid at least \$1,500 a start
- \$2.2 million for the Thoroughbred breeding fund
- \$2 million for workers' compensation
- \$1.7 million for the horsemen's group

Based on those numbers, about \$35 million remains for the bulk of purses, or about \$700,000 a day. Through the first 24 days of its meet, Monmouth, which has raced only a handful of graded stakes thus far, is on target at about \$776,000 a day.

"We need more days."

Monmouth will race another 21 days on a weekends-only schedule from mid-September through late November with average daily purses of \$250,000-\$300,000, still among the best in the region.

But getting horsemen on board with a drastic cut in racing opportunities wasn't easy; it took a handful of people to bite the bullet and get the deal done despite opposition.

Forbes said Drazin convinced the New Jersey THA board the plan had to move forward in 2010. The board then took action, which didn't sit well with all members.

"There was a 'wanted' poster for me posted out on a farm near here," Forbes said. "It was a matter of a good board of directors having to lead. We didn't do any convincing. We just went ahead with it."

"Nobody had time to prepare. We didn't want the little guy to get hurt, but I think he's doing OK right now. Even guys that haven't won are getting something (from the per-start supplement)."

## New Life for Jersey-Breds?

Breeders were the most apprehensive when the news broke about the experimental meet, with concerns about racing opportunities and creating value for New Jersey-breds. Thus far, the state-bred program has been well represented at Monmouth.

Of the \$18.8 million in purses paid through July 11, \$4 million has gone to restricted races. Traditionally, New Jersey-breds have been frowned upon by those who support open-company races, but the betting public doesn't seem to mind.

On a Saturday in June, a \$75,000 maiden special weight event for state-breds attracted a total win-place-show pool of about \$350,000 and a total pool in excess of \$500,000. Mike Campbell, executive director of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, closely tracks the figures and reported encouraging numbers.

"I haven't heard anybody complain about a lack of opportunity," Campbell said. "The average field size for restricted races through June 27 was 10.9 (horses per race). People are definitely running in these races, and the public seems to be wagering on them."

The TBANJ is working closely with the NJSEA and New Jersey THA to monitor developments this year and devise a plan for the future. At some point soon, however, horsemen will need answers on whether there will be purse supplements or race-track VLTs.

"Right now it's hard for people to make firm commitments to breed horses in New Jersey," Campbell said. "Nobody knows what the purses will be like even a year from now, let alone four or five years from now. We're hoping for a new revenue stream long-term."

TBANJ president Tom Swales said the



Monmouth Park is averaging nine horses per race

## Atlantic City Race Course: Player or Not?

Healthy double-digit gains in wagering and attendance this spring at Atlantic City Race Course fueled more questions about the southern New Jersey track. Will it continue to race only six days a year? Will it expand its meet to complement Monmouth Park? Or will it shut down?

ACRC is more of a political football than a racetrack. Its simulcast and off-track betting licenses are tied to live racing, but the New Jersey Racing Commission hasn't yet laid down the hammer and dictated a racing schedule that would suit the state's needs.

In the latest development, Penn National Gaming Inc., a partner with ACRC owner Greenwood Racing in Freehold Raceway, a New Jersey harness track, sued Greenwood over allegedly stalling construction of an off-track betting parlor in Camden County. Greenwood operates two betting parlors just across the Delaware River in Pennsylvania; PNGI claims the company is protecting its Pennsylvania interests.

Horsemen don't necessarily oppose more dates at ACRC, but major capital improvements would be required. Greenwood has expressed unwillingness publicly to restore the dirt surface or build new barns.

"We're disappointed Atlantic City hasn't been able to offer any more than 36 races a year," said trainer John Forbes, president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "We continue to question whether they have a legitimate reason to run that kind of a meet."

In May ACRC president Maureen Gallagher-Bugdod said \$1.5-\$2 million in additional purse money would be necessary to fund 20 days of racing a year, perhaps 10 days in the spring and 10 in the fall. She said the track is committed to live racing.

"The purse money could, of course, be put together in any number of ways," Gallagher-Bugdod said. "The key, though, is that ACRC needs purse money in order to do this, just like the other New Jersey tracks. We want to be a racetrack, not an (off-track betting parlor)."

It remains to be seen whether a state commission examining the future of racing in New Jersey will include the privately owned tracks in its plans. In the meantime, Forbes said horsemen are looking at upgrading and utilizing training centers and perhaps offering some financial compensation to them so horsemen have a place to stay year-round.

Suggestions ACRC become a year-round training center haven't developed into a firm plan.

By Tom LaMarra

first eight weeks of the meet should boost racing's position.

"So far it seems to be a huge success," Swales said. "I hope the state will continue to support it for years to come."

Swales noted the large purses for New Jersey-breds should lead to renewed interest in the breeding program, but there must be committed funding to make it work.

"I don't think any other state has purses that high for state-breds," he said. "We're racing for far more than the bluebloods in other states. The key to getting the breeding program back up is to make a funding commitment for years to come. How could you not want to run for that kind of money?"

### Battle Over Gaming Continues

The New Jersey General Assembly is on summer break, but numerous bills involving the racing and gaming industries are floating around the statehouse. Under consideration are a state-operated betting exchange, online sports betting, and race-track VLTs.

Recommendations by the Christie commission also figure in the mix, given the fact legislation authorizing the Monmouth experiment is for one year.

Republican Sen. Jennifer Beck, whose district includes Monmouth, sponsored the bill calling for the NJSEA to solicit bids for operation of a casino at Meadowlands no later than January 2012. According to the legislation, 12% of gross revenue would be used to supplement purses and 3% for breed development pro-

grams in New Jersey.

The plan would be subject to a statewide referendum.

Beck said gambling competition from other states such as Pennsylvania has altered the landscape. She said there are estimates the table games that recently opened at Pennsylvania racetracks could dent comparable revenue at Atlantic City casinos by 25%.

"Convenience gaming is the new business model, and New Jersey is not adapting," Beck said. "We really need new options. It's my sense we've reached a critical point in the state."

The casino industry has fired back. In a commentary in the Newark *Star-Ledger*, Joe Corbo, president of the casino association, said racetracks with gaming machines in other states have seen wagering

on horse racing decline.

"More and more states around the country are realizing that slot machines at racetracks don't produce the economic benefits of casinos and don't increase attendance or live wagering on horse races," Corbo said. "They are merely a means of providing a public subsidy to a dying industry."

The issue is divisive.

"We have a casino industry in New Jersey that is vicious and greedy," said Forbes.

Racing supporters take offense to claims horse racing isn't worth sustaining in a state that needs economic development drivers and covets its diminishing open space. They also said the 2010 Monmouth meet so far is an indication racing is not only worth saving but fostering.

Kulina would like to take things a step or two further. He said if the Monmouth meet is a success, other tracks may follow suit. Monmouth is open seven days a week for simulcasts, and having quality racing every day at other tracks would "give consumers the right product" and hopefully elevate handle at all facilities.

Also, with 1,500 horses on the grounds, Monmouth, when it races only two days a week in the fall, could strengthen other tracks in the region by offering a horse population from which to draw.

Time will tell if New Jersey leads the way in reinventing Thoroughbred racing regionally and perhaps nationally. But this year something had to give.

"We needed the impact," Kulina said. "We needed to make a statement. That's what racing needs to do."

"This is not a dying game—that's a fallacy. We just need to be smart enough to figure out how to change with the times." □



### At the Halfway Point

Business levels for the first 24 days of the 50-day Monmouth Park meet have greatly exceeded expectations. Following are day-to-day comparisons between 2009 and this year. The statistics were provided by the racetrack.

	2010	2009	% change
Average daily total handle	\$7,672,255	\$3,521,434	+117.87%
Average daily ontrack handle	\$752,718	\$527,415	+42.72%
Average daily attendance	10,572	9,354	+13.02%
Highest daily total handle so far in 2010: \$9,787,620 (Sat., July 3)			
Highest daily attendance so far in 2010: 24,262 (Sun., June 20)			

111.11A

## **caking**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, August 06, 2010 4:29 PM  
**To:** caking@txrc.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** RACING AND BREEDING IN TEXAS

Executive Director King,

In a previous e-mail I expressed our support of the consolidation of racing dates in Texas. Racing will slowly die a very painful and expensive death if the status quo is allowed to stay in place.

Daily we see postings on the web site pedigree query about secret meetings by the different associations along with the tracks to support certain agenda's The conspiracy between the racing commission and the breed associations to hurt the small breeder.

Director King much of the blame for the state of the industry lies within the industry itself. Our live foal rate in Texas is terrible at about 45%. Take into effect that this means that 55 people out of every 100 every year are not satisfied with the result of their breeding season. Out of these 45 foals, about 60% make it to the track or about 27. Out of that about 60% are winners or roughly 16 out of 100. No business of any kind can survive with these kinds of numbers.

Several years ago we changed the breed back rule in Texas. The rule was changed after a long and detailed educational process. Many very experienced and long time reps in different states were consulted. The same thing seems to come forward in every situation This being that the future of racing would be in simulcast money. Texas needs to be competitive in this area to generate revenue. The breeders were going to have to produce a strong quality product in order for the tracks to market it. Changing the rule should of increased the quality of the racing product. This did not happen to the degree that it would strengthen the signal and make Texas tracks more competitive.

Mr. Kerby of Key Ranch needs to provide proof of the secret meetings between the race tracks and the different associations and the Racing Commission to carry out a certain agenda. In my opinion these are very serious accusations. It is in legal terms torturous interference to make a living by people in positions to do such things.

As manager of Lanes end Texas we can't survive if the status quo continues to stay in place. We were headed in the direction we are now all along but the economy has put us in the fast lane ,it's just a couple of years early.

Thank You  
Dan Shifflett  
Manager Lanes End Texas

111.12a

**caking**

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:17 AM  
**To:** caking@txrc.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** racing dates

Executive Director King

As manager of Lanes End Texas I support the tracks efforts to consolidate the racing dates in Texas. It is important to make the simulcast signal in Texas marketable and competitive.

Lanes End has been one of the leading farms in the southwest and in Texas for the past 25 years. Lanes End has also been prominent on the national scene in racing and breeding and in the sales ring.

Racing is no longer a local issue with 85% of revenue coming from the signal it is important to keep pace with other tracks in purse structure.

Thank You,  
Dan Shifflett

11.12 b

## caking

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**From:** William Shelton [onthemarkracing@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2010 1:19 AM  
**To:** caking@txrc.state.tx.us; David Hooper; mrountree@texashorsemen.com  
**Cc:** jack shelton  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Date cuts

Charla Ann:

Since I will be unable to attend the Race Meet Working Group this Friday I just wanted to drop you a note on my views towards the SH date cuts and the loss of purse money the Texas horsemen will stand to lose if we allow dates to be cut at SH. I have forwarded you an email I have sent to both Executive Directors of the TTA and THP. I race several Texas bred horses in Texas currently and have had horses race and / or that I have bred in partnership run at SH, Retema, LS and Manor Downs. In addition we have several young Tx breds in training who have yet to start. I have been an active TB owner since 2002 with the majority of our horses running on the Texas circuit with Texas bred stakes runners Favorite Jazz and Dyna's Diva being several of our better runners. I have recently left the breeding side of the business due to the poor economic climate in that respect. All our partners reside in Texas, although I have recently relocated to Naples, Florida where I currently reside and work.

I believe it essential that the TRC, TTA and THP promote and market the Texas Racing Industry and the Texas breeders and owners in order to have a vibrant racing product. Sure we are at a competitive disadvantage with the surrounding states of NM, LA, OK and Ark. That is why we need to find additional funds and ways to improve the Texas breed programs and promote our local TB market and race tracks. Allowing SH to not run at all will only cause many local Texas trainers, breeders and owners to move out of state, further eroding our product and fulfilling the tracks desire to ultimately run fewer and fewer dates.

I look forward to perhaps speaking to you in the near future and wish to thank the TRC Commissioner's for the taking note of the varying viewpoints I am sure will surface at the Race Date Working groups. I would also like to thank Mr. Sammy Jackson who was especially helpful in providing me some much needed information in regards to the SH meet totals.

Thank you.

Jack Shelton  
On the Mark Racing

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** William Shelton <onthemarkracing@yahoo.com>  
**To:** mrountree@texashorsemen.com; David Hooper <davidh@texasthoroughbred.com>; jr@ctwa.com  
**Sent:** Sat, July 3, 2010 4:39:09 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed Dates cuts

Marsha:

I was unable to attend the recent owner meeting held at Lone Star Park and SH. I would first just state that I am 100% not in agreement with any such cuts as proposed by the tracks which entirely eliminates Sam Houston's TB dates. Sam Houston holds a Class 1 license and as

such should be expected to uphold their obligation to hold a credible TB meet. Holding only a 60 date race meet

at LS and 20-25 dates at Retama will wreck our breeding industry in Texas, cause additional trainers and owners to leave the state permanently, and weaken the already declining handle. Does your support of the dates cuts as proposed go against the mission of the THP to support the racing industry in Texas? I cannot see how they do not.

My expectation of both the TTA and the THP Boards; is for them to watch out for my interests as an owner and breeder here in Texas along with others such as myself. This expectation has clearly not been fulfilled by the actions of the THP in support of the proposed cuts and represents a failed attempt to support a slots agenda for the tracks.

What happens to the dates and purses levels if slots do not pass? We have failed in this push before and I expect we will fail again in a slots initiative. At that point SH will have lost additional ground and we will be in worse shape than before. I have asked for the amount of purse money that the horseman are losing with the lost dates at SH and how that will be replaced. Can you supply me with an answer to that question?

I also would ask the THP to ask for a vote from its membership on the proposed dates cuts or present alternative date proposals to the TRC in the July meeting. As I currently understand the date proposals; I am not in agreement nor in support of the proposal which eliminates SH dates.

We have been left with little time to address a plan that has been in works for some time and SH has not committed to even racing this year. How much latitude should they be shown in any date proposals? We also have not even seen a legislative agenda put forth by any of the current Boards in support of ADW or OTB in addition to slots. When can we expect to see a legislative agenda because it would be helpful to have this before we lose 48% of our dates?

Some in the industry have suggested running approximately 40 dates at SH as an alternative. I support having SH run a compressed meet. I think the answer lies in the purse account dollars we stand to lose if SH does not run at all. If we do lose dates at SH, I have suggested we allocate a significant portion of the SH purse dollars to Texas Bred Races as means to support our Texas breeders and owners who support the industry. Surely the THP would support this measure. Without owners and a viable breeding industry in Texas the tracks will claim they cannot fill races as they are already claiming currently. I have also suggested a penalty be assessed SH if they are not going to hold a live TB meet in 2010 / 2011. We need to push for what supports the Texas owners not the tracks agenda.

Jack Shelton  
On the Mark Racing

copy - Sammy

July 13, 2010

Dear Ms King,

Please let me introduce myself, my name is Jim Ethridge, my TXRC license number is 169, and I have been around since day one. They say that hindsight is 20/20 and I've seen it all. For the life of me I've wondered why in the world Texas can't model horse racing after California. They have their big thoroughbred tracks, Santa Anita and Hollywood Park and their quarter horse track Los Alamitos is within driving distance of most of the quarter horses. Typically the California quarter horse and fair meets are literally mixed meets.

If you check more than 90% of your quarter horse owners and trainers are from south of Austin and most are south of San Antonio making Retama Park the perfect place to run cheap thoroughbreds \$5000.00 claimers or less (or that's what the thoroughbred people call them), quarter horses and quarter horse stakes and paints. Simply, the way they do it in California and New Mexico. It takes race horses and race people to make horse racing a go in Texas not bureaucrats.

With Retama Park being the south most decent track in Texas it would make it more difficult for the surrounding states, owners, trainers and horses to come down here and take the little man's money. It would also lessen the burden of the smaller farms to get to the races.

Please consider my proposal as a lot of us don't have that much more time left.

Sincerely,

Jim Ethridge

Jim Ethridge  
8841 Co. Rd. 2411  
Sinton, Tx 78387

RECEIVED  
TEXAS RACING  
COMMISSION

2010 JUL 15 PM 2:13

CORPUS CHRISTI TX 78401 TEXAS  
RIO GRANDE DISTRICT  
13 JUL 2010 PM 1:11  
Mail It Back

111. 14

Texas Racing Commission  
Attn: Ms Charlotte King  
P.O. Box 1208  
Austin, TX

July 13,2010

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Please let me introduce myself, my name is Jim Ethridge, my TXRC license number is 169, and I have been around since day one. They say that hindsight is 20/20 and I've seen it all. For the life of me I've wondered why in the world Texas can't model horse racing after California. They have their big thoroughbred tracks, Santa Anita and Hollywood Park and their quarter horse track Los Alamitos is within driving distance of most of the quarter horses. Typically the California quarter horse and fair meets are literally mixed meets.

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Sincerely,

Jim Ethridge

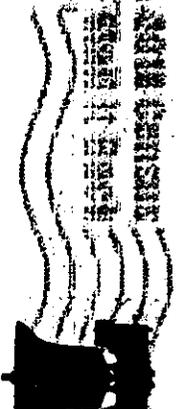
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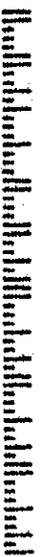
Shirley Ethelwood  
8841 Co. Rd. 2411  
Dunbar, Mo. 78387

CORRELS CHRISTI TX 78711  
RIO GRANDE DISTRICT  
13 JUN 2010 PM 1



James Racing Commission  
Attn: Tommy Jackson  
P.O. Box 12080  
Austin, Mo. 78711-2080

787112080



## **caking**

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**From:** Amy Capuccio [morincapuccio@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 16, 2010 9:54 PM  
**To:** 'caking'  
**Subject:** RE: Retama Racing Dates

Dear Ms. King,

Thank you for responding. We have been able to modify our travel arrangements, and we will attend the Gillespie County Fair on Sunday 8/29, and Retama's opening day on Friday 9/3. And we will enjoy San Antonio in between.

Wish us luck!

Salvatore Capuccio

**From:** caking [mailto:caking@txrc.state.tx.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 6:59 PM  
**To:** Amy Capuccio  
**Subject:** RE: Retama Racing Dates

Dear Mr. and Ms. Capuccio,

Thank you for writing to me regarding your concern about the opening date for Retama Park's Fall Thoroughbred Meet. What a terrific hobby!

I wanted to let you know that following much discussion, the Commission granted Retama Park's request to modify their fall Thoroughbred Meet - it will now be opening on Friday, September 3. I'm not sure whether you have followed Texas racing through the years, but it is continuing to decline sharply. In addition to the pressure from the national economic downturn, the racetracks are facing stiff competition from surrounding states. Although the horsemen voiced support for Retama Park's requested change, it was still a very difficult decision for the Commission.

I spoke with the commissioner representative for the horse industry. The Commissioner, of course, shares your disappointment, as do all the Commissioners and staff. I will be happy to provide documentation of the Commission's action if that will assist you in making travel changes. However, another option for that same weekend will be available should you be interested.

Gillespie County Fair and Festivals in Fredericksburg, only about 75 miles from San Antonio, is hosting their last weekend of racing on Saturday, August 28, and Sunday, August 29. This is a non-profit county fair operation that is the oldest, continuously running county fair in Texas! In addition to both Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred racing, the main county fair is held that weekend. A couple of years ago, the New York Times did a travel write-up on it and it received high marks! I do believe visiting Gillespie County may turn out to be a most memorable addition to the list of tracks you have visited.

Please let us know how things work out for you.

Sincerely,

Charla Ann King  
Executive Director

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111.16A

**Fw: Retama Racing Dates**

Charla Ann King [caking@txrc.state.tx.us]

To Sammy Jackson [sammy@txrc.state.tx.us]

Date Tue 7/6/2010 9:16 PM

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CA King

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**From:** "Amy Capuccio"

**Date:** Tue, 6 Jul 2010 21:29:29 -0400

**To:** <caking@txrc.state.tx.us>

**Subject:** Retama Racing Dates

Dear Ms. King,

I recently found out that there's a possibility that Retama may shorten it's meet. I hope that doesn't happen. At least that the original opening date remains the same. I live in Maryland, and have planned a trip to San Antonio to attend Retama opening day. I have already purchased my airline tickets, and paid for my hotel room. The only reason I am coming to SA is because of Retama. Just to let you know, I have an unusual hobby. I travel around the country going to horse race tracks. I have been to every thoroughbred track east of the Mississippi, and many west of the Mississippi. I have been to over 80 thoroughbred tracks, and almost 30 harness tracks. Both my wife and I work, and so coordinating trips is difficult. I don't know if or when I'll ever get back. And we're not wealthy, so I don't want to lose the \$ I've already spent. So if there's any way to keep the opening date the same, this huge race fan would really appreciate it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Salvatore Capuccio

111.16B

## **caking**

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**From:** George, Brian K CTR USAF AFCESA AFCESA/A7CRT [brian.george.ctr@TYNDALL.AF.MIL]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 8:21 AM  
**To:** caking@txrc.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** Proposed Race Day Cuts

Ms King,

As a new owner to the state of Texas (just moved here last year and started racing horses here), I wanted to voice my concerns over the reported race day proposals for next year, specifically limiting racing to only 65 days at Lone Star, having no racing at Sam Houston, and/or limiting Retama to just 16 days. These amounts of racing will absolutely cripple the TX racing industry from an owner's perspective. First and foremost, owners like to go to the track and watch their horses run. That's why we breed and raise our babies, then pay the training rates to get them to the starting gate. With so few days, and so few race opportunities in TX, there will be very limited opportunity to do this, unless I choose to boost the racing industry in surrounding states, by running in LA, AR or OK. The end result is trainers will have to relocate to these out of state tracks in order to run, and owners will have to ship and travel to see their horses run, both killers of the ownership base in TX. I haven't even touched on how it will further erode the limited fan base we have, but there I believe the race tracks have a responsibility to market the sport just as other industries market their activities to draw public interest.

We have a farm, breed and race, buy feed and supplies, employ farm labor, training labor, and ultimately racetrack labor, and are willingly doing it for a very small return on our investment, but at least we can see our horses run and get the true enjoyment out of being an owner. Taking away the main reason we stay in this business will drive us, like so many others, out of the business completely. Please don't let that happen in our great state!

Brian George

Athens, TX

111.17

## **caking**

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**From:** Travis Church [tvegas40@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:25 PM  
**To:** caking@txrc.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** Texas Horsemen need help

Dear Ms. Charla Ann King,

Texas racing and Texas Horseman need help. Let me ask a question. What if we don't get slots? That's it for Texas racing? All the hard work everyone has put in is for nothing? While it's a great dream and "what if" we get slots now is not the time to mortgage our present for the future. While I'm sure when/if the slots get passed many tracks and their owners will be chomping at the bit to make any concessions possible for the horsemen. Now is not the case. Why I agree I have not attended any meeting or seen any articles on the following subject matter, I believe after talking to my local THP contact, I have an idea of what is upcoming for us. I am hearing Retama wants to shorten the 2010 meet and Sam Houston and Retama do not want to run any dates at all in 2011. There is no way to describe this but as a total lack of respect for the Texas Horsemen. How are we going to survive? An extra 5 days at Lonestar in 2011? While I'm sure that would benefit the super trainers how will it affect the rest of us? That would bring only a total of 65 days of live racing in Texas. Where do we go the rest of the year? Trainers, owners, jockeys, and more will be forced to leave the state or worst, out of business for good.

The time is now to keep live racing going as long as we can in Texas. We shouldn't be fooled by the "let us just keep simulcasting going and things will be great when slots come" routine. I've got news for everyone, by the time or if ever slots do go to a vote they will not even need the tracks. Think about it. If you were a legislator and I came to you from any Texas town convention center team and presented how much money would be poured into saving racing or how that money would benefit a business that already stands on their own and that already runs profitable, who would you choose? Wouldn't one of the first things I could show that racetracks aren't a good choice for slot investment is the fact they cant even hold a live meet? That's an actual horseracing business with no horseracing. This is already happening in Iowa, Colorado, and even New Jersey too name a few (Whelan and Sweeney call for end to casinos' \$30 million subsidy of state horse racing tracks-pressofatlanticcity.com, 2010. - Instead of diverting \$12 million a year in slot revenue to supplement the prize money divided up among dog owners and breeders, Iowa's two casinos with greyhound tracks want to pay the state \$10 million a year-lasvegassun.com, 2010). These are some of the reasons we just can't count on 'slot dreams.'

First, I believe the Texas Racing Commission needs to clamp down on the tracks and have them answer some tough questions. How is it that Sam Houston (Maxxam) and the Austin Jockey Club (ownership ties to Retama) are putting up money on projects that frankly are so far away (i.e. "slot dreams") but cant even uphold their agreements to run live dates? (Golf Course to become Horse Racing Track -Laredo sun.com May 24, 2010....."Bryan Brown with the Austin Jockey Club. We're pleased to announce that we'll be closing on an approximately 150-acre site on May 3rd. It's a cash closing. I think that demonstrates our group's commitment to the site and to bringing racing to Travis County...." Texas Racing Commission Meeting, April 20, 2010). The Texas Racing Act Sec. 6.04 states two main factors in approving a track license include 1) the applicant's financial stability; (2) the applicant's resources for supplementing the purses for races for various breeds, etc. How do these new tracks plan to supplement purses when they have already failed at keeping any purse structure viable now? Tom Hicks has just ran the Texas Rangers into the ground and recently declared bankruptcy. I guess since we're in Texas they'll just award him another major league baseball team next week. Now I'm sure these track have loopholes and have received money from other avenues to help fund these projects but it does make one wonder what is actually going on.

Second, the Texas Horsemen should commence an independent audit of all Texas tracks. The horseman should get a honest read on where all money is going. Ask the horsemen if they want this. I haven't found many who disagree. Most said it would be well worth the cost.

My third suggestion is for the horseman and tracks to renew simulcast contracts. Many of the horseman cant even remember when they were done or what the percentages are but all recall them as being very low. By the tracks basically asking to stay open as simulcast facilities and not run live, one could reasonably assume that the monies received from simulating cant be all that bad. For example, Sam Houston can't afford to run any live days but can afford to keep the lights on, pay taxes, lawn care, pay employees, advertise, run a bar/restaurant, employ a security force that rivals a small town police force, decorate the employee kitchen twice (which I mention because I saw the 4 employees working on it) and etc, for 365 days but can't at least fit 30 or 40 live days in somewhere?

If the tracks do run shortened meets they should be done in a compacted time. Two days a week do not do the horsemen any favors. While I did hear the excuse that the tracks need the weekend shippers since a shortened meet would mean less on site trainers, this is a farce also. The Texas barns have no where else to go. Louisiana Downs, New Mexico racing, Colorado racing are all running their meets already. Sure Oklahoma starts but lets be honest. How many stall does Mark Whitton get there? Jimmy Ray, Ronnie Cravens, Charlotte Bronstad, Robert Hammond or a Sharon Barker (too name just a few)? Add up how many stall AND starts they have. Trainers like them plus others will have enough horses for a 5 to 8 week meet on the grounds. If we shorten the meet and spread it out over several months it will not be economical for most of the above trainers, owners or racetracks. After Remington Park gives the above trainers maybe a total of 10 stalls all together it will force Texas owners and trainers out of the business for good. Let's see, two days a week over 12 weeks or three days over five weeks. Couldn't a racetrack like Retama save a lot of money by running 3-5 weeks less? Isn't this what all the tracks have been complaining about? Too much overhead?

I understand that everyone needs to sacrifice if this is going to work. The horsemen will once again except fewer dates, the commission will have to get tougher, and the tracks will all have to find away to put more than 65 live days on the schedule. It wont be easy but I do know no actual live horseracing will make it out of site and out of mind. It will just fade away. Owners, trainers, jockeys, track personal, and even state employess will lose their jobs.

Thank you for your time.

Travis Church

Jockey Agent

Texas worker and Texas licensed for 8 years

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The New Busy think 9 to 5 is a cute idea. Combine multiple calendars with Hotmail. Get busy.



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August 9, 2010

Texas Racing Commission  
PO Box 12080  
Austin, TX 78711

Commissioners;

I support Sharon and Joe Kerby's positions upon not having a great reduction of racing dates. We certainly need expanded gaming such as Advanced Deposit Wagering and/or "Oaklawn type betting", in addition to working for passage of slots at the tracks. We cannot as an industry afford to simply abandon a large portion of our live racing dates.

Thanks,

Joe Carothers, Attorney  
TTA Life Member

cc: Sharon and Joe Kerby

cc: TTA