

# THOROUGHBRED RACING ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

## TRAO BOARD MEMBER OF THE MONTH

### *Randy Oberlander*

It seems as though I have always loved horses. It all started when I was a young boy growing up on a farm in North Dakota. I married Dianne Hendrickson on August 29, 1981. I farmed for a few years until beginning my career change in 1985 to train race horses. I started out racing both Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds. I raced at tracks in MT, ND, SD, and Assiniboia Down, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1987 I added the NE track to my circuit of tracks. In December of 1990 I had a daughter brought into the world named Kellie. In 1991 I began racing in Shakopee, MN. I had horses that really did good



on the turf there, which lead me to look for some other tracks where I could run these horses on the turf. In the fall of 1992 my wife, daughter, and I went to Oklahoma to run the horses on the turf. I enjoyed the area and the access options that were available at the different tracks to run at, so we decided to settle down here. In July of 1995 I had a son brought into the world named Jesse. I bought a house with 10 acres of land in the year 1997. From that time, I eventually raced in 12 different states, to name a few more: Hot Springs, Sam Houston Race Park, Retama Park, and also Lone Star Park. I have been blessed to have some great Owners and Horses in my many years of training. Aside from my enjoyment of the horses, my son also began to take a strong enjoyment in horses as well. He has helped with the horses on many occasions and is now studying at Northwestern/OSU in Alva and even partakes on the rodeo team. My daughter was married in September of 2013 and is expecting our 1st grandchild in September.

### AS OF JUNE 30

All maintenance requests at Remington Park must be submitted with a Work Order Request Form. These forms will be available at the TRAO office. The forms must be returned to the Stall Superintendent or the Racing Office. You may also return the form to a TRAO employee and the TRAO will submit the form for you.

**BENEVOLENCE CHANGES**  
*EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY*

**ELIGIBILITY:**

TRAO Members (Owners, Trainers that meet the start requirement).

TRAO Members Employees' (Full-Time Employees' include the following; Assistant Trainers, Exercise Personnel, Foreman, Grooms, Hotwalkers. (Full-Time Employees' must be continuously employed by the TRAO Member Trainer for no less than (30) consecutive days) (TRAO Benevolence Committee has the right to inspect payroll verification to insure that employment guidelines have properly been met).

- **To become eligible for benevolence assistance during the current calendar year, the TRAO Member must have a minimum of (10) starts from the previous calendar year or a minimum of (5) starts in the current calendar year.**

Free Lance Exercise Personnel and Pony Personnel are NOT eligible for benevolence assistance.

ALL requesting benevolence assistance **MUST** fill out a benefits request form and provide a current OHRC license. Benevolence benefits will be denied until these steps have been completed. All TRAO Members' Employees' requesting benevolence assistance must have their employer (Trainer/Assistant Trainer) sign the benevolence request prior to the issue of benevolence assistance.

Owner, Trainer and Assistant Trainers dependents under the age of 18 are eligible:

**BENEFIT LEVELS**

- MEDICAL \$2,500 PER CALENDAR YEAR
- DENTAL \$1,000 PER CALENDAR YEAR
- VISION \$250 PER CALENDAR YEAR
- EMERGENCY APPROVED ON INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS
- DEATH APPROVED ON INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS
- MAXIMUM FAMILY BENEFIT PER CALENDAR YEAR IS \$4,500

When using the TRAO's Providers for medical, dental or optical visits, Members will not have an out of pocket expense until the maximum benefit assistance level is met.

After the benevolence maximum is exhausted the TRAO member or the TRAO Member's Employee is solely responsible for the remaining balance. **If you meet your maximum benefit and have a remaining balance with a TRAO Provider, you will NOT be able to use the TRAO Provider until your balance is paid in full.**

If you use the service(s) of your own private medical, dental or optical Provider, you must submit original receipt(s) for re-imburement.

When submitting re-imburement for prescriptions, the original paid receipt must accompany the request, in addition to the prescription stub that provides a description of the medication's intended use.

TRAO will supply copies to the benevolence requester of the original receipt, if requested.

**NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BENEVOLENCE ASSISTANCE:**

- INJURY/ILLNESS DERIVED FROM AN EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (ANYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH A WORK RELATED INJURY) (INCLUDES RX)
- DRUG/ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE (INCLUDES RX)
- COSMETIC SURGERY (INCLUDES RX)
- SEXUAL ENHANCEMENT (INCLUDES RX)

For more information, contact:

Heather Lawson-Benevolence Coordinator:

1 Remington Place

Oklahoma City, OK 73111

O: 405.427.8753 F: 405.427.7099

Hlawson@traoracing.com

A LETTER FROM JOHN LOWDER, THE  
RECIPIENT OF THE INDUSTRY SERVICE  
AWARD.

TRAO Members and all Horsemen,

I would like to take a minute to THANK the TRAO and all horsemen for the Industry Service Award I was presented at the annual banquet on May 9. I got my first license 45 years ago in L.A. For the next 45 years I was licensed as “nearly everything or anything” and spent my entire life involved in the horse racing world. I have been lucky, blessed, and fortunate to make my vocation the same as my passion. I have tried to be a positive force for racing, and in doing so, have made many friends, and I am sure a few worthy adversaries as well. Once more, I would like to THANK YOU! I hope that I will be able to continue another 45 years or more and be a positive member of the racing world.

Sincerely, John M. Lowder



OKC SUMMER SALE

The OKC Summer Sale... Setting records in 2013! The trend continues *August 18, 2014!* Entry fee of \$650 after June 10, 2014 (includes prepurchase 32 views digital x-ray and endoscopic exam to be scheduled with Oklahoma Equine Hospital (405) 288-6460 within 30 days prior to sale.) Commission: 5% of accepted bid, with \$500 minimum. Jockey Club Registration must accompany all entries. For a registration form, please contact Carter Sales, Co at (405) 288-6460

U.S. WAGERING UP LESS THAN 1%  
FOR MAY

Though boosted by major racing days May 2-3 and a fifth Saturday in the month, worldwide commingled wagering on United States Thoroughbred races increased only 0.92% for May versus the same month in 2013.

According to the Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators issued June 4 by Equibase, pari-mutuel handle totaled \$1,211,786,462 in May versus \$1,200,784,323 last year. The figures for both years include the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands and Kentucky Oaks (both gr. I) programs; in May 2013 there were four Saturdays.

U.S. purses for Thoroughbred racing jumped 8.02% to \$112,355,667 versus \$104,009,718 last year, while the number of race days—individual programs at each track—increased 2.54% from 511 in May 2013 to 524 this year.

Purses in May were 9.27% of total handle, though prize money includes substantial non-pari-mutuel revenue from gaming.

For the first five months of 2014, wagering on U.S. races is down 2.05% from \$4,677,831,556 last year to \$4,582,091,932. Purses are up 0.68% (\$406,983,347 versus \$404,244,768 in 2013) and race days are down 0.70% (1,866 in 2013 compared with 1,853 in 2014).

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/85479/us-wagering-up-less-than-1-for-may#ixzz33s6ZdhHI>

DATES TO REMEMBER

*Fair Meadows Race Dates, July:*

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26
- 12-13 July:* Set up Stall - Bedding only (9 A.M.-4 P.M.)
- 14 July:* Backside of Remington Park opens
- 16 July:* Training Begins  
(6:00 – 10:00 a.m., except Sundays)  
(Break: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.)
- 24 July:* TRAO Board of Directors Meeting

## 4-DAY OBS JUNE SALE ENDS ON SUCCESSFUL NOTE

The final session of Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s June 2-year-olds in training and horses of racing age sale June 20 successfully brought the curtain down on this year's juvenile auction season.

For the entire four-day auction, 706 head generated a June sale record \$22,498,300 in total receipts, surpassing the previous standard set during last year's two-day venue when 439 horses sold for \$14,596,700.

The average price was \$31,867, down slightly from last year's two-day sale average of \$33,250. The \$20,000 median price equaled last year's sale record figure. The buy-back percentage was 20.7% compared to 21.6% in 2013.

"After four days I think the sale held up very well," said OBS president Tom Ventura. "With the large catalog we expected gross sales to be up, but for average to be right there compared to last year, the median price equaling last year's number and slightly fewer buy-backs, we're very pleased with the results."

A total of 144 head changed hands on the last day, registering total sales of \$4,724,300. The average price for the session was \$32,808 and median price was \$16,000. The buy-back percentage was 27.3%. There was no corresponding session in 2013.

Read more on BloodHorse.com:

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/85777/4-day-obs-june-sale-ends-on-successful-note#ixzz35UbZrv36>



Hip No. 1121, a colt by Quality Road, topped the final session at \$390,000.

Photo: Photo: Joseph DiOrio

## BELMONT STAKES MOST-WATCHED WEEKEND SPORTING EVENT SINCE SOCHI

California Chrome's run for history, which concluded in a dead-heat tie for fourth place as Tonalist won the race, averaged 20.6 million viewers – the second-highest Belmont Stakes viewership on record, trailing only the 21.9 million viewers for NBC's telecast of Smarty Jones' Triple Crown attempt in 2004 (People Meter viewership dates to 1988).

The 2014 Belmont Stakes was the most-watched weekend sporting event since NBC's primetime telecast of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics on Sunday, February 16 (21.3 million). It topped by 57% the average viewership for the last Belmont in which a Triple Crown was at stake (13.1 million on ABC in 2008 for Big Brown).

The Belmont registered a 12.0/27 household rating – a 46% increase over the 8.2/20 for ABC's Big Brown telecast in 2008, and ranking as the third-highest rated Belmont since Seattle Slew won the Triple Crown in 1977. NBC's telecast of Smarty Jones' bid in 2004 registered a 13.1/29, and CBS' coverage of Pleasant Colony's Triple Crown attempt in 1981 posted a 12.6/36.

NBC's 4.0 rating among Adults 18-49 ranked as the highest in the demographic since the 2004 Belmont Stakes, and tied the 2003 Belmont as the second-highest in People Meter history.

Belmont viewership and rating increased by 194% and 167% respectively over the 2013 race won by Palace Malice (7.0 million viewers and 4.5/11 HH rating).

Fans live streamed 6,798,019 million minutes of the Belmont Stakes on NBC Sports Live Extra — the NBC Sports Group's live streaming product for desktops, mobile devices, and tablets – a record for any horse race streamed by NBC Sports Digital. Coverage included an isolation camera on California Chrome, bonus analysis from NBC Sports commentators, and replays and footage from the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes. The Belmont Stakes was watched by 389,680 unique viewers.

<http://www.paulickreport.com/news/triple-crown/belmont-stakes-most-watched-weekend-sporting-event-since-sochi/>

SOUTHERN RACEHORSE TAKES TOP  
HONOR AT AMERICAN HORSE  
PUBLICATIONS AWARDS

Southern Racehorse magazine was honored as the winner of the general excellence award in the state or regional publication category at the American Horse Publications Annual Awards on June 21 at the historic Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. AHP is a non-profit association promoting excellence in equine publishing media. Its members include equine-related print publications as well as digital media, professionals, students, organizations and businesses which share an interest in equine publishing.

The judges' critique of the magazine noted, "Southern Racehorse outshined the other entries in this category with strong layout and a visually appealing flow throughout the magazine. Ad space did not diminish the content. A spectacular work of art."

This marked the first national award for Southern Racehorse, although its predecessor, The Texas Thoroughbred, won numerous AHP awards including the same general excellence award on multiple occasions.

"I couldn't be more pleased to see Southern Racehorse win this award in only its second year of existence," said publisher and editor Denis Blake. "It wouldn't have been possible without the incredible design by Amie Rittler and the support of our advertisers and state associations."

<http://southernracehorse.com/southern-racehorse-takes-top-honor-at-american-horse-publications-awards/>

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

The TRAO has provided a computer and printer for all Horsemen to use when needed. The computer and printer are located at the TRAO office.

WELCOME BACK PARTY

The TRAO will sponsor a Welcome Back luncheon August 23 at 11:30 a.m. by the Cafeteria.

GRADE 3 OKLAHOMA DERBY TOPS  
REMINGTON PARK STAKES  
SCHEDULE

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Grade 3, \$400,000 Oklahoma Derby headlines a schedule of 35 stakes races for the upcoming 2014 Thoroughbred Season at Remington Park. The purse total for the complete stakes schedule is worth more than \$3.5 million.

The 26th Oklahoma Derby, at 1-1/8 miles, is the lead event on a special Sunday afternoon of racing at Remington Park on Sept. 28. The program also features: the \$200,000 Remington Park Oaks; the \$150,000 Remington Park Sprint Cup; the \$100,000 Remington Green Stakes; the \$75,000 Kip Deville Stakes; the \$50,000 Flashy Lady Stakes and the \$50,000 Ladies on the Lawn Stakes.

The seven Oklahoma Derby Day stakes races boast \$1,025,000 in total purses with six races for open company. The Ladies on the Lawn for Oklahoma-bred fillies and mares is the lone exception.

The stakes schedule is underway on the second night of the season, Saturday, Aug. 16 with the \$175,000 Governor's Cup at 1-1/8 miles and the \$75,000 David M. Vance Stakes at six furlongs. The Governor's Cup serves as the final leg of the Global Gaming Triple which began with the Texas Mile and the Lone Star Park Handicap this spring at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas.

The initial open-company turf stakes is the \$75,000 Edward J. DeBartolo Memorial Handicap at 1-1/16 miles on Saturday, Aug. 23

The \$100,000 Trapeze Stakes offers 2-year-old fillies a final stakes event on the season. The mile race on Dec. 14, serves as a companion race to the Springboard Mile.

The season's final afternoon will also feature a new race to the schedule at Remington Park. The \$100,000 She's All In Stakes, for older fillies and mares at 1 mile-70 yards, offers older distaff runners a two-turn stakes over the main track. The race is named in honor of the recently retired Oklahoma-bred mare who was a graded winner that accumulated over \$1.1 million in career earnings. She's All In won a record four consecutive Oklahoma Classics Distaff events, part of her 11 career triumphs at Remington Park.



## HARTMAN COLLECTS CAREER WIN

1,000

ALTOONA, Iowa – Trainer Chris A. Hartman collected career win 1,000 Sunday afternoon when Silver Rock Star (\$2.80) rallied under stable jockey Ken Tohill to take a conditioned claiming event.

Hartman, 40, who hails from a family of horse trainers that includes father Stan, brothers Alex and Phil, and wife Hillary, has had great success in his native Southwest, Arkansas, and Iowa, winning at a 22 percent clip.

He cited hard-knocking runners such as Maxregal and Wind Water, winners of more than 20 races each, along with stakes winners Ducky Drake, Etoile de Dome, Key Mood, One Lucky Buck, Red Lead, Schramberg, and Tempting Date as his all-time favorites.

Hartman's current stable star, the 5-year-old crack sprinter, Alsviid, is being pointed at Friday's \$125,000 Iowa Sprint Handicap.

<http://www.drfr.com/news/hartman-collects-career-win-1000>



Jack Coady/Coady Photography

Trainer Chris Hartman earned his 1,000th career victory Sunday with Silver Rock Star in a conditioned claiming event at Prairie Meadows.

## ROCKPORT LOVER FINDS NEW HOME IN GEORGIA

Some people look at 1 horse when they are looking for a horse to buy, others look at 20-50 and still don't end up with the right horse. There was never a question in my mind that Roxie, JC registered as "Rockport Lover" was definitely the horse for me. In the 12 years I've been riding, I've seen a lot of first time horse buyers make plenty of mistakes. I, however, still like to let everyone laugh at the fact that I knew Roxie was the horse for me by looking at one picture-and no, it wasn't a confirmation picture. Just a picture of her face. Yes, I know, worst horse buyer ever. However, I did have a pre-purchase exam, and rode her... For 15 minutes before having her shipped from Thoroughbred Athletes Inc., in Guthrie, Oklahoma, to the suburb outside of Atlanta, Georgia that I live in.

I thought Roxie was special because of how kind and personable she is. However, I've found out that she's special for more than just that. Roxie is a Rockport Harbor baby. He only lived to be 11 years old sadly and that limited his offspring.

I had another OTTB mare, registered as Berkley's Gold, we called her Carmen. I leased her for several months. When she was sold I lost touch, and when I started looking for my own horse, I thought about her and knew I wanted an OTTB. When I found Roxie, I can't explain the feeling. I knew that this was the one. And so far? She's proven to be everything I wanted. From her attitude every day when she greets me, to how hard she's tried from day one, she's proven that even though she didn't have the heart to race, she has the heart to please. I have no doubts that she will shine in the arena when we start showing later this year that she will receive wonderful scores in the dressage arena. My hopes for her dressage career is for us to gain our bronze medal together. Aside from that, I want her to live a long, happy life, and be around well into her 30's. At 6 years old, I see nothing but bright things ahead of her and me. And I hope to see many more OTTBs follow the same path that she is.



Rockport Lover with new owner, Jessica Lorenson

## OKLAHOMA-BREEDING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- ***What is the Oklahoma Breeding and Development Fund Special Account?***

The OBDFA is an incentive fund which increases income for Oklahoma horse racing and breeding enterprises. Purse supplements, stallion and broodmare awards are paid to owners and breeders of qualifying accredited Oklahoma-Bred horses through a system of restricted and open company races at Oklahoma racetracks. The OBDFA is funded by unclaimed tickets, breakage and a percentage of the exotic handle. Payouts are based on the handle at each track and vary slightly according to the track and the racing breed. The Program was established by the Legislature in 1983 and, as is required by law, administered by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission.

- ***What is an accredited Oklahoma-Bred horse?***

An accredited Oklahoma-Bred horse is one that is foaled in Oklahoma, is out of a permanently domiciled, accredited Oklahoma-Bred broodmare and is sired by an accredited Oklahoma-Bred stallion. Additionally, in alternating years, for Quarter Horses, Paints, and Appaloosas, foals by non-accredited stallions may be registered as accredited Oklahoma-Bred, providing all other requirements are met (refer to Chapter 75, Oklahoma-Bred Rules). Beginning with foals of 2001, a Thoroughbred foal out of an accredited Oklahoma-Bred Thoroughbred broodmare may be registered as accredited Oklahoma-Bred, regardless of standing location and accreditation status of the stallion, providing all other requirements are met. More than 70,168 horses have been registered as accredited Oklahoma-Bred racing stock, broodmares, and stallions through December 31, 2005. Please refer to Chapter 75, Oklahoma-Bred Program, in the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission *Rules of Racing* or contact the OHRC home office at (405) 943-6472.

- ***What opportunities are there to earn Oklahoma-Bred money?***

Each Commission-licensed racetrack in Oklahoma is required to offer as race conditions no less than two Oklahoma-Bred restricted races per day. In addition, tracks offer Oklahoma-Bred money in open company races on an "if eligible" basis when funds allow, and each track offers at least two stakes races restricted to accredited Oklahoma-Bred horses. Some open stakes races offer Oklahoma-Bred purse supplements if eligible. Each time an accredited Oklahoma-Bred earns a purse supplement, the breeder and stallion owner earn Oklahoma-Bred awards.

- ***How much can an accredited Oklahoma-Bred earn?***

As much as \$3.2 million has been paid in one year to owners, breeders and stallion owners of accredited Oklahoma-Bred horses. Oklahoma state law provides for the incentive funds and prescribes the purposes for which the money will be paid out by the Commission. Owners, breeders and stallion owners have earned in excess of \$38 million from the inception of the Program in 1984. For complete information regarding Program rules and requirements please refer to Chapter 75, Oklahoma-Bred Program, in the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission *Rules of Racing* or contact the OHRC home office at (405) 943-6472.

For any questions about the Oklahoma Bred Program, please contact the TRAO office at 405.427.8753 or the OHRC at 405.943.6472.

Remember to recertify your Stallion every year with the Yearly Recertification form.

Before February 1-\$25

Before June 30-\$50

After June 30-\$400

## OHRC RACING RULE OF THE MONTH

### ***325:30-1-19. Rescission of Claim***

The Stewards may set aside and order rescission of a claim for any horse from a claiming race run at a Commission-licensed racetrack upon a showing that any party to the claim committed any prohibited action with respect to the claim, or that the Owner of the horse at the time of entry in the claiming race failed to comply with any requirement of this Chapter regarding entry of a horse into a claiming race. Should the Stewards order a rescission of a claim, they may also, in their discretion, make a further order for the costs of maintenance and care of the horse as the Stewards may deem appropriate.

## TRAO TO HOST NATIONAL HBPA CONVENTION

The National HBPA's Summer Convention is set for August 14-17 in Oklahoma City, and online registration is now available. Hosted by the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma (TRAO), the convention will include a night at Remington Park for the opening of the track's Thoroughbred meet. The host hotel is the historic Skirvin Hilton in downtown Oklahoma City, which was built in 1911 and is the city's oldest and most acclaimed hotel.

### **Schedule of Events:**

*Thursday, 8/14-Registration and Welcome Cocktail*

#### **Reception**

-Registration open 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

*Friday, 8/15-Meetings and Evening at Remington Park*

-Registration open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Saturday, 8/16-Meetings*

-Registration open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday, 8/17-AM Meetings, End of Function*

## HAZEL PARK RACEWAY BECOMES FIRST CONVERTED RACE TRACK IN MICHIGAN

Thoroughbred horse racing has returned to Oakland County.

Hazel Park Raceway will be the first converted race track in Michigan with new surfaces, new railings, rehabilitated barns, improved facilities and infrastructure.

Horses began moving into the stalls and exercise areas this past Monday, June 16. The horses will begin their race meet on Friday and Saturday nights starting June 27 and June 28 with a Grand Reintroduction planned for Friday, July 4. Every Friday and Saturday evening (16 weekends) until Oct. 11 will have a 7:30 p.m. post time. "I began working and negotiating with all three racetracks in southeast Michigan in 2010," explained George Kutlenios, president of the Michigan Horsemen's Protective and Benevolent Association (Michigan HBPA) for two years and board member for five. "After this long-sought agreement was in place in January of 2014, the Michigan Gaming Control Board issued executive orders that allow for Thoroughbred racing to return to the Metropolitan Detroit Area."

Kutlenios and his wife, Chrissy, are very familiar with operating a business and they understand the cycle of economics in Oakland County as they are successful owners of the Holly Hotel. They live on a 60 acre horse farm in Holly where they have raised race horses and have also kept retired racehorses for the past 12 years.

"The MiHBPA organizes each racing meet, coordinates the availability of Thoroughbred horses to race at Michigan race tracks and generally oversees each race meet every year," added Kutlenios. "We also provide benevolent services to our members like health and dental care."

Kutlenios believes that it doesn't matter if a horseman has one horse or a stable of horses, he sees the Michigan Horsemen's Protective and Benevolent Association as being the voice of thoroughbred owners, breeders and trainers that race in Michigan and throughout the country.