

# THOROUGHBRED RACING ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

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## **TRAO Board Member of the Month** **Robert Zoellner**

Robert Zoellner grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Doctorate in Optometry from Northeastern State University, he opened his first successful eye care practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1991. Subsequently he has opened up 5 other thriving businesses in the Tulsa area.

One of those businesses and passions is the Rockin' Z Ranch. Robert Zoellner has been a Thoroughbred owner since 1998 and currently owns over 50 thoroughbreds. After buying his first horse with his trainer Joe Flemings, who later became the Rockin Z Ranch manager, Robert Zoellner won his first race a year later. A few years down the road he purchased over a 200 acre spread on the west side of South Highway 75 in Beggs, Oklahoma, and it became the Rockin Z Ranch in 2006. One of his early broodmare purchases was Georgia OK, a full sister to Voladora and earned nearly \$550,000. She was the building block for his new ranch. The mare lived up to his motto "big dreams, big goals, big results" after breeding her to Milwaukee Brew, she produced Zoellner's first graded stakes winner Peach Brew. Her next foal was She's All In, by Include. She's All In, champion thoroughbred racemare in the Sooner State, added graded stakes winner to her already remarkable record when she won the 2012 Sixty Sails Handicap (gr. III). The triumph in the Oklahoma Distaff was her final start, as well as her fourth consecutive victory in the race. Other great thoroughbreds that grew up on the Rockin Z Ranch team includes Eye Love Jeanie, Z Rockstar, Alpha and Omega, Scissortail G, just to name a few.

Named 2012 Breeder of the Year by the TRAO, this optometrist can see his future in racing clearly. Alongside Zoellner's rapidly growing broodmare band is a stallion roster that presently consists of Omega Code, Kennedy and Notional. Before his premature death in 2013, grade II winner Don't Get Mad also stood at Rockin' Z. Graded stakes winner Omega Code, whom Clark O. Brewster co-owns with Zoellner, was also purchased with an eye to breeding Quarter Horses. Zoellner partnered with John James to buy Kennedy, a three-quarter brother to Bernardini. And the newest stud at the Rockin Z Ranch is Notional, #1 Second Crop OK Sire by 2013 earnings, whom Clark O. Brewster also co-owns with Zoellner.

He plans to build his stallion and broodmare bands at Rockin' Z Ranch and campaign more stellar Oklahoma-breds.



Coming soon you will be able to  
use  
the FREE RPBet service at  
Remington Park to place wagers at  
your convenience.

When you are at the races, you will  
be able to use your smart phone,  
tablet or laptop to place wagers on  
live and simulcast races.  
More information continued on  
page 2.

## HOW TO USE RPBET

### -HOW TO SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT

Visit racing information on Track Level South near the paddock or other designated areas at Remington Park (look for the RPBet icon).

### -HOW TO DEPOSIT/WITHDRAW MONEY

1. Look for the RPBet marked teller windows.
2. Present your valid Drivers License.
3. Make your cash deposit; minimum of \$20.
4. Return to this window or any similarly marked windows and withdraw your winnings. Accounts must be "emptied" prior to the end of Remington Park's Racing/Simulcast hours.

### -RPBet Q&A

#### 1. Can I use this from home?

No, this can only be used on Remington Park Grounds.

#### 2. How will I get my money back if a horse scratches?

Once the pool is official, the system will credit your account for the proportional amount.

#### 3. Do I have to withdraw all of my money each day or have a balance to keep in my account?

All monies must be withdrawn at the end of RP's Racing/Simulcast hours each day. There is no balance requirement to keep your account active.

#### 4. If I have an IRS win and my mobile device is displaying the "Please go to a designated RPBet teller window to release IRS Escrow," do I have to release it right then?

No! You can release the IRS win whenever you would like. Please note that your IRS winnings will not be available for use until you process the release.

## Will Rogers Downs to Manage Fair Meadows Meet



According to an article in the *Tulsa World*, the live racing meet at Fair Meadows in Tulsa will be managed this year by Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Oklahoma.

The arrangement was approved during a meeting of the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority and calls for Will Rogers to receive \$149,750 and to provide video and photo-finish services for the meet, as well as a manager and director of racing. The longtime director of racing at Fair Meadows, Ron Shotts, retired in December. [You can get your Stall Application on the TRAO website. **They are due May 15<sup>th</sup>.**]

The Fair Meadows meet is scheduled for June 5 to July 26.

<http://southernracehorse.com/will-rogers-downs-to-manage-fair-meadows-meet/>

### THE TRAO OFFICE HAS MOVED!!!!

OUR NEW OFFICE IS ON THE BACKSIDE OF REMINGTON PARK. WE ARE NOW UP AND RUNNING. THE TRAO IS EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO HELP OUR HORSEMAN MORE EFFECTIVELY!

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS 1 REMINGTON PLACE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111.

### 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.

<http://www.ohrc.org/okb.html>

## Bobbie Steenbergen's Story, One Year Later

Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> started out to be a beautiful day. I had three of my Sunday school ladies over for lunch and they enjoyed taking pictures and petting the horses. Of course, their favorite was a 3 month old foal picking on his mother. About 4 P.M., my daughter called and said "Mom, are you watching the weather?" My company left and I headed out to feed the horses. I had 11 head here at the farm. Little did I know what to expect that night and the next morning after an EF5 twister destroyed my home, barn, fences and horse shelters, as well as the lives of 6 horses.

My daughter, granddaughter, and great grandbaby and I went to the neighbors about 5:15 to their basement. We had only been there about 15 minutes when the power went out and no longer after that we could hear the awful wind noise, then a silence, then it was even louder than the first time. I prayed for the horses because I know with the strength of the wind that it was going to be serious for the horses and my property.

The next morning, I saw one horse dead in the pasture and Mika's Top Gun in the field standing about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from where he was the night before. I drove on my road and there stood Sugarcreekdancer also about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from his paddock. Many friends came to help with their trailers. The horses were all so cut up and scared. They were all taken to EMA, there the vets said they looked like they had been sandblasted. 4 had to be put down, including Mika's Top Gun and one of the Mares lost her foal.

Sugarcreekdancer was at EMA for 3 weeks, I then rented a paddock for him and a yearling that still needed doctoring. Getting the debris removed so fencing and shelters could be rebuilt was my first priority.

So many people were gracious enough to help in this time of need. Nelda and Larry fostered and doctored 2 mares and a foal for 2 months. Express Ranch was gracious enough to let me stay at their apartment for 2 months while rebuilding my fence.

After I was able to bring all my horses home, I bought a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel to put on my property. Tammi and I plan on putting Sugar back in training the first of May to get ready for Remington. He still has a few knots and scars, but the vet thinks he is sound enough to run.

I appreciate so much the support that came from the horse industry, my family, and friends, as well as strangers who seemed to appear out of the nowhere to help clear the debris. Juan and Charlie Padilla was so helpful, not only coming to pick up the horses and taking them to the vet, they also doctored and cared for a retired race horse for several months.

It is wonderful being able to move into a house with a safe room and saying goodbye to the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. I was certainly nervous when the high winds and storms came. The horses were not the only ones spooked. I have rebuilt my barn, fences, and shelters. Things are somewhat back to normal. Just praying we have a calm Spring.

By: Bobbie Steenbergen

## Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission Rule of the Month

### **325:20-1-21. Duties of the official Veterinarian**

The Official Veterinarian must be a graduate Veterinarian and licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma. He or she shall recommend to the Stewards any horse that is deemed unsafe to be raced, or a horse that it would be inhumane to allow to race. He or she shall supervise the taking of all specimens for testing according to procedures approved by the Commission except in those cases provided for in Rule 325:20-1-22. He or she shall provide proper safeguards in the handling of all laboratory specimens to prevent tampering, confusion, or contamination. All specimens collected shall be sent in locked and sealed cases to the laboratory. He or she shall have the authority and jurisdiction to supervise the practicing licensed Veterinarians within the enclosure. He or she shall report to the Commission the names of all horses humanely destroyed or which otherwise expire at the meeting and the reasons therefore. No Official Veterinarian shall directly treat or prescribe for any horse scheduled to participate during his/her term of appointment at any recognized meeting except in an emergency or for the administration of a diuretic to facilitate the collection of a urine sample either case of which shall be immediately reported to the Stewards. The Official Veterinarian shall place horses in the Veterinarian's List and **may remove from the List those horses which, in his or her opinions, can satisfactorily compete in a race.**

## ***Congratulations to the 2014 TRAO Scholarship Winners!!!!***

Samuel Charlton  
Lindsey Castor  
Jessica Buehrer  
Jesse Oberlander

**Keep up the good work, guys!**

Don't forget to apply for your TRAO scholarship!

Contact Tammy Wright at (405) 427-8753 for more information.

## Sport of Kings Challenge at Remington Park



Horses of all breeds are invited to participate in The Sport of Kings Challenge at Remington Park on June 21 and 22, with competitions scheduled in barrel racing, dressage and hunter-jumper. The Sport of Kings Challenge is a two-day event open to all retrained racehorses of any breed.



On Saturday, June 21, the barrel racing portion of the Sport of Kings Challenge will take place, starting at 7:30 a.m. Also on Saturday, the Barn Party and silent auction will take place beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Track North, located inside Remington Park.

Sunday's events include hunter-jumper classes and dressage starting at 8 a.m., with the Remington Park Food Truck Derby starting at 11 a.m. on the plaza. Starting at noon, the Oklahoma City Zoo, Science Museum Oklahoma and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will be on the plaza with animals, crafts and activities for the children.

Sport of Kings Challenge is open to all ages and is a family-friendly event. At Remington Park, entry to events is always free. Donations will be accepted and benefit [Thoroughbred Athletes, Inc.](#)

For more information about the Sport of Kings Challenge and the Remington Park Food Truck Derby, visit <http://www.sportofkingschallenge.com/>.

For more information, Contact **Lynn Sullivan**

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