

# INTERNATIONAL TROT TO RETURN OCTOBER 10, 2015

The storied International Trot, the worldwide trotting event rich in history and champion trotting performances, returns to Yonkers Raceway October 10, 2015.

And this year's edition will feature a \$1 million purse!

The International was last held at Yonkers 20 years ago, when Sweden's *His Majesty* captured the 1995 edition over the American trotter *SJ's Photo*.

The race will be held at a mile and one quarter distance and hopes to attract worldwide participation with the top trotters from all around the globe descending upon Yonkers Raceway this Fall.

The International Trot Preview was held at Yonkers in October of 2014 as a precursor to this 2015 return. Indiana's *Natural Herbie* defeated the European star and eventual Breeders Crown winner *Commander Crowe* in a thrilling stretch battle.

*Natural Herbie* could return to defend his title, along with *Preview* 3rd place finisher *Bee A Magician*, the 2013 Horse of the Year. Top American trotters *Creatine*, *Maven* and *Nuncio* are currently campaigning in Sweden but might also return to the States later this year. Though it's too early to predict what European stars might travel to New York for the big event, the connections of *Timoko*, 3rd place finisher in the Prix d'Amerique, have expressed interest in coming to the States.



*Natural Herbie - Photo Mike Lizzi*

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# STRONG START TO YONKERS INTERNATIONAL SIMULCASTING IN 2015

Yonkers Raceway continues to lead the North American harness racing industry in international simulcasting and is off to a fast start in 2015.

Through the first three months of this year, more than \$6 million Australian dollars have been wagered on Yonkers races Down Under. France's PMU has collected European wagers of just under \$4.6 million Euros on selected Yonkers trotting races.

The Australian handle converts to about \$4.6 million US dollars and the PMU handle converts to about \$4.9 million, so combined international handle is just short of \$10 million US dollars on Yonkers races through three months.

The Australian market has shown particularly strong results on the Monday night Yonkers cards, which arrive in Australia on Tuesday mornings. Those cards have attracted an average of \$310,000 Australian dollars wagered per card. The Thursday cards are also gaining momentum, with the last three cards in

March generating at least \$280,000 in wagers.

As impressive as the Australian figures are, the European totals were amassed on just 41 races in those 3 months. While the Australian market accepts both trotting and pacing races and generally takes the full Yonkers card for simulcasting, the European market is exclusively trotting races and only offers 5-7 races on the 2-3 days per month that Yonkers is offered.

"We've made great strides in 2015 in expanding the global distribution of the Yonkers signal," said SOA of NY President Joe Faraldo. "Reaching these new markets is of utmost importance to grow global interest in our product and ultimately strengthen our industry domestically."

The remainder of 2015 will see 23 Yonkers cards simulcast to Europe. The Australian market generally simulcasts the Yonkers Monday, Thursday and Saturday cards, which will allow for 100 more cards through the end of this year.

## BARTLETT & BURKE WIN 2014 YONKERS TITLES

Jason Bartlett ran away with the Yonkers driving title with 485 victories in 2014, securing his fourth driving title at the Hilltop Oval. Brian Sears was second with 402 wins. George Brennan (401 wins), Eric Carlson (213 wins) and Daniel Dube (213 wins) rounded out the top five.

Bartlett also led all drivers in earnings, with nearly \$7.6 million at Yonkers last meet.

Trainer Ron Burke won his second consecutive trainer and owner title at Yonkers. Burke had 144 winners from 704 starters and also led all trainers with \$4.6 million in earnings.



Jason Bartlett - Leading Driver 2014. Photo Mike Lizzi

## BARBARA MALLAR RETIRES

Long time SOA of NY employee, Barbara Mallar retired at the end of 2014, after more than 34 years of service.

Known to all members for her firm but fair approach, Barbara was there for the many changes at the organization, from the early days at Roosevelt to the later years at Yonkers.

Barbara is enjoying her retirement and is especially pleased to no longer have to fight the traffic every day to get to the office! We all wish her the best of luck!



## UPDATES FROM ALBANY

The political fight to protect the horsemen in New York never slows down. Here are some updates on the recent efforts:

- A bill was introduced to allow for horsemen's associations at New York State racetracks to continue making health insurance payments from money they accrued in the purse account during a contract dispute. Under the current law, only 1% of purse payments are withheld for health insurance when there is no contract between the track and horsemen, and that amount is inadequate with today's rising healthcare costs. The Empire State Harness Horse Alliance saw the need to advance such a legislative change after the horrific experience at Monticello and the impending expiration of contracts at both Saratoga and Vernon. It seems that monies still held in the purse account after the expiration of a contract – horsemen's money – should not be held by the track after the expiration of a contract which prevents horsemen from funding health insurance for their families.
- A bill was introduced that protects the horsemen if a racino is able to get their tax rate lowered or their vendor's fee raised. Should the racino receive financial relief from the legislature, the bill would require an equal percentage of relief to go to the horsemen for purses. Current law provides for a sharing in VLT revenues at venues not awarded a casino. Any increased benefit that the legislature deems necessary because of any anticipated adverse effects on those venues from casinos would also hurt the horsemen's revenue stream for purses. Seems only fair and logical.
- A bill was introduced creating a due process structure at the New York Gaming Commission for horsemen that have been barred or ejected by a licensed racetrack. Currently racetrack owners can arbitrarily decide to exclude licensed horsemen for no reason. The bill would allow the Gaming Commission to conduct an independent review to insure that the exclusion was justified. The horseman, if a licensee in good standing, would have to request a hearing if he felt the exclusion was totally arbitrary. In some other jurisdictions, licensees already have this right.
- The New York Gaming Commission was asked to amend its qualifying rules when it comes to horses adding or removing hobbles. The requested change would allow for a horse to make a hobble change without having to qualify. The Empire State Harness Horse Alliance is in unanimous support of this initiative which New York may enact very shortly with the caveat that the entry reflects whether the horse will or will not race with hobbles. The USTA will be asked to modify its online entry system to show any changes the entrant will indicate such as hobbles on or off.

## IN MEMORIAM OF MARVIN KAUFMAN (1934-2015)

Marvin Kaufman was born in The Bronx, NY. The lovable curmudgeon was a Yonkers harness racing fixture for decades, a diehard NY Yankee fan and Civil War aficionado. He was a lifelong native of the Bronx though the ritzy residence of Riverdale, NY, disguised where his heart always resided.

Marvin served in the US military and served two years in Korea. He loved, and owned standardbred harness horses and enjoyed going to the races, especially Yonkers Raceway watching his son who campaigns a stable at the Hilltop Oval. Marvin and Sandra travelled with their horses on the NY Sire Stakes Circuit and to other states where they competed. No trip was too long for this veteran and his family.

Marvin, before and after his retirement, enjoyed American History, especially the Civil War era, and spent his vacations traveling to almost every one of battleground sites of the War. He adored general Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during the Civil War. Chamberlain later became the Governor of Maine. Marvin would get angry when he visited General Chamberlain's home in Maine and people would not know who Chamberlain was and how he served his country. Marvin also loved his Bronx based Yankees and especially his favorite - Mickey Mantle. Many times Marv would insist on visiting and revisiting Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY and the Mickey Mantle Museum, family in tow.

Marvin was always interested in the affairs of the SOA of NY and the only annual meeting he missed was the last one in December. Marvin also volunteered at the Yonkers Fairs, the Westchester Food Bank, distributing USTA information pieces for prospective owners and handing out handicapping aides on site. Marvin has already been, and will continue to be, greatly missed by his family, all his friends, the SOA Board members and those fans at the track who have noticed his absence already and shared their condolences.

Marv was 81 years old when he passed on January 17th, 2015. He is survived by his beloved wife Sandra, his constant companion of 50 + years. Sandra serves on the Board of Directors of the SOA. Marvin left three children, two daughters Melissa, Michele and son Ian, who is a trainer/driver.

Marvin Kaufman served his country, was a devoted family man, civil war buff and a crazy, crazy NY Yankee fanatic. Most of all he loved harness racing. Marvin was a true friend to all with the exception of NY Mets fans and anyone unfamiliar with General Chamberlain.

Rest in peace our dear friend.

## KENNETH G. DILLMAN, 48, DIES

Kenneth G. ("Captain Kenny") Dillman, 48, passed away on January 14, 2015 after a brief illness.

A native of Hempstead, Long Island, Dillman was a professional caretaker at Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceways for his entire adult life, first for trainer John Brennan, and later for trainer Mike Sorrentino, Jr. Such was his level of competence and work ethic that he was named the Standardbred Owners Association's Caretaker of the Year in 1992.

He was well liked by everyone he came in contact with, both on and off the track. In the 1990s, SOA President Joe Faraldo named a horse "Captain Kenny" in his honor.

He was predeceased by his wife Petra in 2004. He is survived by his daughter, Amelia Faithe (Amy).

## SOA BOARD MEETING AND ELECTION RESULTS

The SOA's December 6, 2014 annual membership meeting saw the Board of Directors elections results certified.

In the driver/trainer category, Michael Forte and Jordan Stratton were unopposed in their election to three year terms. In the owner category, Ed Fucci, Sandra Kaufman and Stanley Noga were all re-elected to three year terms, also unopposed.

Additionally, the following officers and trustees of the Welfare and Retirement Funds were elected to serve during 2015:

### Officers:

President: Joseph Faraldo  
1st Vice President: Peter Venaglia  
2nd Vice President: Irv Atherton  
3rd Vice President: John Brennan  
Treasurer: Irv Atherton  
Secretary: John Brennan

### Trustees:

Irv Atherton  
John Brennan  
Joseph Faraldo  
Jordan Stratton  
Peter Venaglia  
1st alternate: Ray Schnitker  
2nd alternate: Henry Gargiulo  
3rd alternate: Chris Wittstruck

## DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT SOA OF NY BOARD MEETINGS

	6/14	9/14	12/14	3/15		6/14	9/14	12/14	3/15
Atherton, I	P	P	P	A	MacDougall, R.	P	A	P	P
Brennan, J.	P	P	P	P	Noga, S.	P	P	P	P
Faraldo, J.	P	P	P	P	Schnitker, R.	A	P	P	P
Forte, M.	P	P	A	P	Stratton, J.	P	A	P	P
Fucci, E.	A	P	A	A	Venaglia, P.	P	P	P	P
Gargiulo, H.	P	A*	P	P	Wittstruck, C.	P	P	P	P
Kaufman, S.	P	P	P	P	Younger, P.	P	P	P	P
Kimelman, M.	A	P	P	A					

P=Present A=Absent \*=Excused Absence



March Awareness winner of the YR/SOA Bonus Trotting Series Final, April 28, 2015.  
 Photo by Sean Hamrock



Domethatagain winner of the George Morton Levy Final April 25, 2015. Photo by Mike Lizzi.



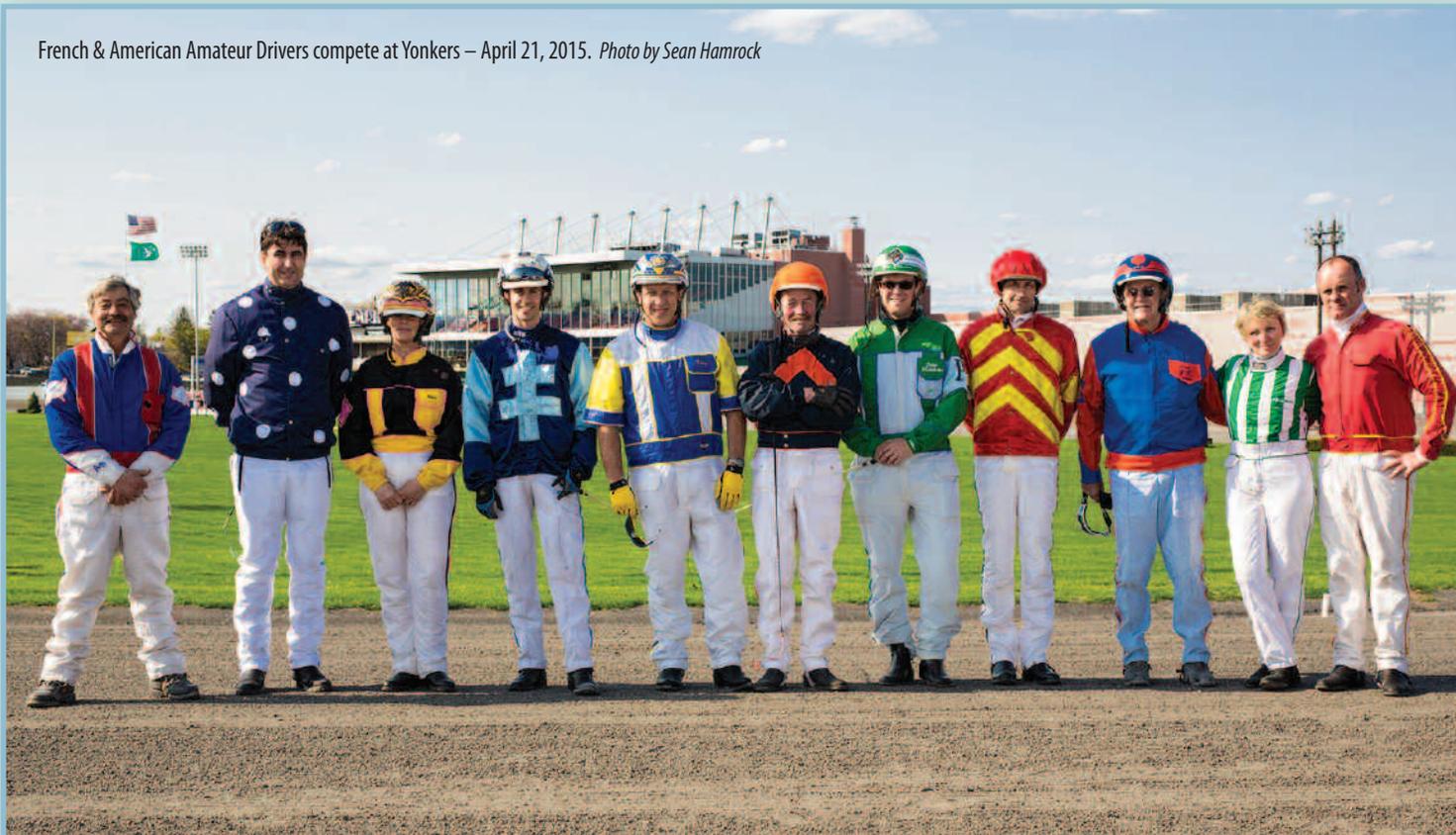
Dan Dube 8,000th win – February 26, 2015. Photo by Sean Hamrock



Brian Sears 9000th win - October 28th, 2014. Photo by Tom Berg.

SOA  
 PHOTO  
 GALLERY

French & American Amateur Drivers compete at Yonkers – April 21, 2015. Photo by Sean Hamrock



# SOA PHOTO GALLERY



Lt. James Pace - Awarded Retirement Plaque - December 14, 2014. Photo by Mike Lizzi.



Venus Delight Winner Blue Chip Matchmaker - April 25, 2015. Photo by Mike Lizzi.