

# ***Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association***

## **Let's Go Racing**

On June 5<sup>th</sup> Colonial Downs begins its 40 day summer meet that runs through July 28<sup>th</sup>. Racing is five days a week, with a 5 p.m. post on Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m. on Friday, and 12:55 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Jacobs Investments, Colonial's owner, is again sponsoring the Grand Slam of Grass. The series offers a bonus worth \$5 million to the three year old winner of four turf races: the \$500,000 Colonial Turf Cup (Gr. II) on June 20<sup>th</sup>; the \$750,000 Virginia Derby (Gr. II) on July 18<sup>th</sup>; the \$400,000 Secretariat Stakes (Gr. I) at Arlington Park on August 8<sup>th</sup>; and, the \$3 million Emirates Airlines Breeders' Cup Turf (Gr. I) on November 7<sup>th</sup> at Santa Anita.

Colonial is also carding the \$150,000 All Along (Gr. III) for fillies and mares on June 20<sup>th</sup> as well as the \$150,000 Virginia Oaks (Gr. III) for three year old fillies on July 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition there are twelve \$50,000 stakes races, with six restricted to Virginia bred/sired horses.

Steeplechase races run on alternate Sundays, including the \$50,000 Zeke Ferguson Memorial Hurdle (Gr. III) on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The 100% owners' bonus for Virginia bred/sired horses running in open races returns in 2009. But this season the bonus applies to winners only. Paying it through sixth place is too costly in a declining economy. Last season the newly inaugurated bonus attracted about twice the number of Virginia bred/sired horses that usually compete at Colonial.

During the meet the VHBPA is providing its usual services and benefits, some of which are described below. Horsemen needing assistance of any sort, including problems with track security, the Virginia Racing Commission, or the stewards, should feel free to contact the VHBPA staff by phone (804-966-1234) or in the VHBPA building across from the VRC Licensing Office.

### Medical and Dental Care

Urgent medical care for horsemen and back stretch workers is available at MedExpress, 120 Monticello Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185 (757-564-3627). Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Appointments are not necessary.

Dental care by Dr. Randall S. Rosemond is just south of the race track entrance at 3521 N. Courthouse Road, Providence Forge, VA. Appointments are necessary (804-966-7202).

Arrangements for payment and transportation for both medical and dental care may be made at the VHBPA office.

### Benevolent Services

The Reverend Marjorie Bevans, our VHBPA chaplain and a former jockey, will be at the track regularly for services and counseling. One evening a week she leads a bible study session during supper at a local restaurant. This year Reverend Bevans' will have working with her an assistant chaplain who speaks Spanish.

The meeting room in the VHBPA building is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. It has a large screen TV with simulcasting, a DVD, and card tables. Computers, printers, scanners, and fax machines likewise may be used by horsemen. For those with personal laptops the building is a WiFi hot spot for internet access. After normal building hours internet access is available on the outside terrace.

The VHBPA also has a ten passenger van for regular transportation from the dormitories to shopping and recreation areas. Soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and horse shoe equipment are on site.

On race days all grooms are eligible for \$20 "best turned out" awards given in the paddock before each race. One hundred dollar "best kept barn" awards are made weekly.

Groom meal tickets redeemable for lunch or dinner in the track kitchen are available from the VHBPA for daily shippers and backstretch residents.

During the meet the VHBPA will accept applications for its scholarship program that provides grants for college, vocational school, or other formal courses of study. Last year fifteen \$1000 scholarships were awarded. To qualify an applicant must be: (1) a Virginia resident; and, (2) a race track or thoroughbred horse farm employee, or child of the same. Applications are available in the VHBPA office and on-line at [www.vhbpa.org](http://www.vhbpa.org).

For interested trainers, the VHBPA will pay half the \$550 cost of large mobile containers that can be used for tack and feed storage. Delivery and lease arrangements are through A-Box Containers, (804) 550-9966.

### Social Events

On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, the VHBPA hosts Owners' Day, which starts with a noon reception in the VHBPA building. Food, drinks, and gifts for owners and their quests are complimentary. Ceremonies honoring owners continue throughout the afternoon race card featuring the Colonial Turf Cup and the All Along Stakes.

During the entire eight week meet, except for the July 18<sup>th</sup> Virginia Derby, the VHBPA has facilities on the fourth floor in the grandstand for complimentary use by horsemen. On Monday, Tuesday, and Friday we have a sky suite. On the weekend the VHBPA has two tables in the Turf Club. Track management requires appropriate attire (no jeans and tee shirts) at both locations.

On a yet to be scheduled date in July the VHBPA will again sponsor a golf tournament benefiting Shannon Campbell and the Disabled Jockeys' Fund. Tee time is noon at the Royal New Kent Golf Club near the track. Golfers should check with the VHBPA for details (804-966-1234).

### Useful Information

Horsemen stabled at the track who need a veterinarian on a dark day may contact: Newmarket Equine Clinic (804-633-3816); Deer Creek Veterinary Services (804-598-3759); Dover Equine (804-769-1196) Woodside Equine (804-798-3281); and, Virginia Equine (804-270-1327).

Traffic to Colonial Downs is often heavy on I-95 and I-64. To avoid traffic north of Richmond on I-95 take Exit 98 (Rt. 30 East) to West Point, then proceed on Rt. 33 south to I-64 west. On I-64 go west to exit 214 (Colonial Downs).

To avoid beach traffic on I-64 east at the exit ramp from I-295, take I-64 west (toward Richmond) and stay left for Rt. 60 east. Go east on Rt. 60 to Rt. 155 (Providence Forge). Turn left on 155 and go north to the track entrance on the right.

Handy telephone extension numbers for Colonial's main number (804-966-7223) include: racing secretary (1056); racing office (1050, 1153); racing office fax (804-966-5110); stewards (1023, 1024, 1025); horsemen's bookkeeper (1065, 1101); track kitchen (1079); security (1045, 1054); receiving barn (2211); test barn (1067); maintenance (1085); track photographer (1038) and televue video (1028).

The Virginia Racing Commission number is (804) 966-7400. Dr. Rich Harden, the VRC state veterinarian, is at (804) 966-7409.