

TOMS RIVER BECOMES 3RD OTW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Favorites at Toms River, the third off track wagering facility in New Jersey, opened on April 29, 2008.



Artist's rendering of Favorites at Toms River.

The 28,000 square foot site, a former Grand Union Supermarket, offers 20 teller operated totes, 22 self-bet machines and 32 hand-held Tiny Tims. Seating features 164 individual hand-capping desks, 141 spots in the sports bar plus an exclusive VIP Lounge. There are 326 flat screen monitors for viewing the races.

"We think the demographics of the area are perfectly suited for an OTW," said Don Codey, the general manager of Freehold Raceway whose parent company, Pennwood Racing, a partnership of Penn National Gaming and Greenwood Racing, own and operate the facility. "We save the residents of the area a half hour drive to Freehold or Monmouth Park and that especially means a lot in foul weather to the many senior citizens in the area."

The Toms River area in Ocean County is an enclave for retirement communities and that played into the decision to acquire the site. The new facility is located at the intersection of Route 37 and Bananier Drive.

"We'll gauge the interest but if it is there, we may offer shuttle service to the retirement communities," Codey noted.

It was on August 5, 2001 that the Off-Track and Account Wagering Act was approved, permitting up to 15 off-track wagering facilities in New Jersey

The first OTW was a converted car dealership that be-

came 13,500 square foot Favorites at Vineland, owned by Greenwood, which opened on March 30, 2007.

Next up was Favorites at Woodbridge which debuted on October 16, 2007 and includes a fine dining restaurant called McLoone's at Favorites that seats 150.

The New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority constructed the 23,000 square foot Favorites at Woodbridge on the site of a shuttered supermarket at the intersection of Route 1 and Fords Avenue.

"Woodbridge is handling approximately \$2 million per week and is on pace for \$100 million in annual handle," said Alex Dadoyan, the NJSEA's assistant vice president for racing development & distribution. "We handled just short of \$25 million in the first quarter of 2008."



View inside Favorites at Woodbridge.

The NJSEA's research indicates that Favorites at Woodbridge is the nation's leading off track betting facility.

The next target for the NJSEA will be Bayonne in Hudson County on a six-acre tract on Route 440 North.

"I think OTWs have an important place for racing," Dadoyan added. "Today more than ever, our world is about convenience. People want to be able to do things as quickly and efficiently as possible."



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From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

We never thought we'd be saying this, but we think the New Jersey legislature may be ready to review the entire gambling picture in the state.

If so, it is an important opportunity for us. Any package will need to include other forms of gaming to support the racing and breeding industries.

With no easy solutions to the state's well known budgetary problems, some of the more enlightened legislators have raised the issue of sports gambling, expansion of the lotteries, VLTs or slots at the tracks, even a casino at the Meadowlands. Virtually nothing seems to be off the table at this point of the discussion.

In mid-April, state senator Ray Lesniak told the *Star-Ledger* that maybe the cure for the state's budgetary ills would be more gambling, "to be aggressive about finding new revenues that are falling through the cracks."

Tapping into gaming revenues has proven to be an effective way for state governments to raise cash. Combined with the appeal of protecting Green Acres in our densely populated state, there may be a warmer reception for our call for video lottery terminals or slots at the racetracks. We have even pushed to include the tracks in any sports gambling operations, should the federal obstacles be overcome.

The first step was to address the immediate need with funding from the casinos. We are pleased to report that our successful campaign produced the legislation that provides for a three-year, \$90 million purse supplement in New Jersey. We should be sitting down with the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority quite soon to review the contract that will designate how the funds will be allocated.

The efforts of this group's leadership, membership and lobbyist made it possible for us to reach this point. Working in

partnership with the thoroughbred industry, the equine community at Rutgers and the legislators who lead the charge, including Senators Richard Codey and Jennifer Beck, Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, Assemblyman Joe Malone and others too numerous to mention, we were able to provide an infusion of cash to maintain quality racing at Meadowlands and lift the purses at Freehold.

We are grateful to Governor Corzine for signing the legislation that got us to this point.

But before that ink dried, we knew the battle was far from over. We will need to remain engaged in efforts to put in place a permanent funding mechanism so we do not have to go back to the casinos again with our hat in our hands.

It is a good sign that the NJSEA's off track wagering facility in Woodbridge is thriving and that another "Favorites" has been opened by Freehold Raceway in Toms River. All of these contribute to our economic health.

The SBOA directors will be meeting with the Meadowlands management in the next few weeks to negotiate a multi-year contract with a mission to improve our position and seek the best possible financial outcome for the membership.

In the scheme of things, however, our future requires a change in the mindset of all the players, one that acknowledges that our tracks can not only accommodate the best in horse racing but are also the ideal settings for other forms of gaming.

While we're wary, we're also realists. With slots-enriched programs in Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware, it is increasingly evident that New Jersey horse racing cannot support itself. But it can thrive with the right mix of gaming revenue dedicated to support our purses and breeding industry.

In this race, we need another winning move.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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Harness Horsemen

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609-747-1000

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NJ Racing Commission**

Trenton—609-292-0613

Freehold — 732-462-3800

Meadowlands—201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban—NJTP

800-336-5875

GOLF OUTING ON JULY 14 AT GAMBLER RIDGE

The 13th Annual SBOANJ Golf Outing will take place on Monday, July 14 at a new location in 2008.

Gambler Ridge Golf Club in Cream Ridge, NJ, will be the site of this summer's event which combines fun with fund raising. Proceeds benefit the Horsemen's Benevolent Fund.

Raffle tickets are available for \$10 each for a chance to win a Pennsbury Sport Trainer jogcart [\$1,595 value] kindly donated by Allen Eggert of Pennsbury [www.pennsburyenterprises.com/jogcarts/sporttrainer.html].



The player's fee of \$135 remains the same as last year. Those wishing to partake of the dinner only may do so for \$50.

Registration for the event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon will be offered from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and the shotgun start will be at 1 p.m.

Sponsorships, which subsidize the SBOANJ's Horsemen's Benevolent Fund, range from \$2,000 Platinum Sponsor to patrons for \$100.

Gambler Ridge is located at 121 Burlington Path Road, not far from the intersection of Routes 537 and 539. Directions are available on the golf club's website: www.gamblerridge.com. The course is a 6,339-yard, par 71 layout and does not permit-metal spikes.

The deadline for entries is July 7, 2008. For additional information on the golf outing, visit www.sboanj.com to download the golf outing brochure or contact the SBOANJ office at 732-462-2357/ sboanj@optonline.net.

SBOANJ.COM OFFERS BANNER ADS FOR SALE

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey will be rolling out a newly modified website homepage in the next few weeks that will include limited opportunities for advertising locations that reach the more than 7,500 unique viewers who visit www.sboanj.com each month.

"This is a market that we feel the breeders, tack shops, veterinarians and others who serve the New Jersey racing community will want to target at rates that are within the reach of any area business," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "Over the last several months, sboanj.com has become a key daily destination for those racing in New Jersey. In February, we set a record with more than 120,000 hits for the month.

"Not only is sboanj.com the place to find applications, forms and information on the breeding and stakes programs in the state but also where news is posted on nearly a daily basis to keep our mem-

bership up-to-date on the matters that affect racing in New Jersey," Luchento added. "This is a targeted audience that any savvy advertiser will want to reach."

Three of the ad banners are 60x200 pixels and located in the left navigation bar. The charge for one of them is \$300 per month with a three-month minimum. The larger 70x500 pixel banners are inserted in the news section of the page and are \$600 per month with a three-month minimum. New Jersey-based farms and vendors who are members of the SBOANJ may request an "in-state" discount.

Production costs are billed by the website designer, Lambeth Desktop, based on an hourly rate of \$75.

For more information, contact Leo McNamara at the SBOANJ office by phone 732-462-2357 or e-mail leosboanj@optonline.net.

SPRING 2008 NEW JERSEY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

May 13	SBOANJ Board Meeting	June 10	SBOANJ Board Meeting
	NJSS Meeting, Trenton NJHC Board Meeting 10 a.m. Rutgers	June 18	New Jersey Racing Commission At Monmouth Park
May 27	SBOANJ Insurance Comm. Meeting	June 24	SBOANJ Insurance Comm. Meeting
		June 26	NJ Horse Council Open Meeting 6-9 p.m. 470 Stagecoach Rd, Millstone

THREE HONORED WITH EMERITUS STATUS BY DIRECTORS

A former president and two others were honored with a presentation of director emeritus plaques by Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey President Tom Luchento at the monthly meeting on March 11, 2008 at Favorites in Woodbridge.

Anthony Parenti, SBOANJ president from 1991 through 2005, as well as Taylor Palmer Jr. and Thomas A. D'Altrui, were awarded director emeritus



SBOANJ President Tom Luchento presents award to Tony Parenti.

status "in recognition of years of outstanding service."

Parenti, a horse owner since 1975, served on the SBOANJ board of directors for nearly 20 years, beginning in 1986. During his presidency, he initiated Go to Help, a substance abuse counseling program for New Jersey horsemen.

He also worked to remove the hub rail, bring in the slanted

Starting gate, develop leg races, provide Workers Compensation, eliminate partnership fees, purchase the SBOA's building and ban bent shaft sulkies.

The "Chief" - Parenti was police chief in Fanwood, NJ until 1997 - also pressed for higher purses and negotiated with the racetracks to bring in more than \$5 million to the Health and Welfare Fund. After 41 years with the Fanwood Police Department, Parenti was director of the John H. Stamler Police Academy until 2007 when he ran for and was elected to the council in Fanwood.

D'Altrui was on the SBOANJ board for 15 years, the last two as vice president. He also has served on the New Jersey Sire Stakes Board for six years and is starting his second term as chairman. He has been associated with the family's breeding farm, DI Farms in Hillsborough, NJ, since 1972 and is now its president.

Palmer's Boxwood Farm, a 145-acre facility in central-western Manalapan, NJ, became the 1000th farm in New Jersey to be enrolled in New Jersey's Planning Incentive Grant program for

farmland preservation in 2004. Since 1953, Palmer has owned the farm which has been in his family for five generations. Boxwood engages in boarding, breeding and sales prep.



SBOANJ President Tom Luchento presents an emeritus award to Taylor Palmer. Photos by Carol Hodes

Palmer was a board member from 1982 to 2007. He chaired the Breeders and

Finance Committees and served as treasurer for many years.

MAJOR STAKES FOR MAY & JUNE

Fri	5/2/2008	\$100,000	E	Su Mac Lad
Fri	5/9/2008	\$110,000	E	Lady Suffolk
Sat	5/10/2008	\$145,000	E	Helen Dancer
Sat	5/10/2008	\$160,000	E	Dexter Cup
Sat	5/10/2008	\$225,000	E	Berry's Creek
Sat	5/17/2008	\$180,000	E	A.J. Cutler Memorial
Sat	5/17/2008	\$225,000	E	Graduate
Fri	5/23/2008	\$20,000	G	Miss New Jersey
Sat	5/24/2008	\$25,000	G	New Jersey Classic
Sat	5/31/2008	\$200,000	E	Miss New Jersey
Sat	5/31/2008	\$500,000	G	New Jersey Classic
Fri	6/13/2008	\$200,000	E	Lady Liberty
Wed	6/25/2008	\$78,000	E	Acorn (Historic)
Wed	6/25/2008	\$93,000	E	Debutante (Historic)
Thu	6/26/2008	\$81,000	E	Harriman Cup (Historic)
Thu	6/26/2008	\$86,000	E	Goshen Cup (Historic)
Fri	6/27/2008	\$88,000	E	Coaching Club (Historic)
Fri	6/27/2008	\$85,000	E	Dickerson Cup (Historic)
Fri	6/27/2008	\$56,000	E	Ladyship (Historic)
Sat	6/28/2008	\$62,000	E	Jersey Cup (Historic)
Sat	6/28/2008	\$200,000	E	Titan Cup

Stakes at **Freehold** in red; all others at the Meadowlands.

Those in **green** sponsored by the SBOANJ

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TWO-LEGGED MISS NEW JERSEY SET TO MEET STAKES WINNER

Amy Nicole Polumbo, Miss New Jersey for 2007-2008, will present the trophy to the winner of the \$200,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey on May 31, 2008 at the Meadowlands.



Amy Nicole Polumbo

The Miss New Jersey for New Jersey-sired three-year-old pacing fillies shares the racing spotlight with the companion event for colts and geldings, the \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic.

The Miss New Jersey and New Jersey Classic are both sponsored by the SBOANJ.

Polumbo, a 23-year-old performing arts major, is a senior at Wagner College on Staten Island. Her career goal is to perform on Broadway.

The Howell, NJ resident will sing the National Anthem in the Meadowlands winner's circle before the races on May 31.

For Polumbo, who starred as Ariel in Walt Disney's *Voyage of the Little Mermaid* in Florida, it was her performance of "Astonishing" from the Broadway show *Little Women* that impressed the

judges of the Miss New Jersey pageant. She also received a non-finalist talent award in the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas in January.

A personal experience with the loss of online privacy inspired Polumbo to become the national spokesperson for the internet safety program i-SAFE, making the protection of children from online dangers her pageant platform.

"By incorporating stories, videos, and songs, I have taught thousands of children how to respond appropriately and responsibly to dangerous situations online," she said. "This way, they are better prepared to face the dangers of online predators."

For more information on Amy Polumbo and her platform, visit: www.amynicolepolumbo.com.

FINISHING LINES...NEWS & NOTES

It took the fight to save the Department of Agriculture to get former trainer and current Assemblyman **Ron Dancer** back into his driving colors [see page 1] on April 1 when he spoke at a rally in Trenton. Thus far, the Department of Agriculture appears to have been saved.

The next meeting of the Monmouth County **Save the Horse Committee** is scheduled for 1 p.m. May 9 in the second-floor conference room at the Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold.

"We are fast approaching the critical point where once we begin losing horse farms there will be no turning it around," said Monmouth County Freeholder Director Lillian G. Burry, who created a blue ribbon panel to lobby the governor and legislature to enact measures that would help the industry. "The quality of life in New Jersey is the most important contribution the horse industry makes – in every county."

The Save the Horse Committee has endorsed S-1481, a bill by Sen. Sean T. Kean [R-Monmouth] that would allow race-tracks to install video lottery terminals.

SBOANJ President **Tom Luchento** is a committee member

Tom Durkin, the former race caller at the Meadowlands and the current voice of the New York Racing Association tracks,

has joined with trainer **Joe Spadaro** to buy standardbreds, including a Cam's Card Shark filly they named Lady Is A Trump, who is scheduled to ship to **Kelvin Harrison's** barn at Magical Acres in Chesterfield, NJ.

Casie Coleman, Canada's Trainer of the Year and the conditioner of American Ideal and Moving Pictures, is setting up a New Jersey stable at Showplace Farms in Englishtown, NJ.

Coleman, based at Classy Lane Farm in Cambridge, Ontario, employs six assistant trainers and will start with **Andrew Harris** as her New Jersey assistant but plans to rotate her staff.

Charles Leerhsen's book *Crazy Good: The True Story of Dan Patch*, is expected to hit the stores on May 20 and will be featured with a 6,000-word excerpt in *Sports Illustrated* in the May 19 issue.

Leerhsen, currently executive editor at *Sports Illustrated*, worked as a harness racing writer and publicist in the 1970s. The 335-page book will retail for \$29.99.

The SBOANJ is purchasing copies of *Crazy Good* to donate to several libraries in New Jersey.

DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT: KELVIN HARRISON

Five years ago trainer Kelvin Harrison decided to be part of the solution and not just complain about the state of racing in New Jersey.

That is when he became a member of the board of directors of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey. He is in his first term as a vice president.



Trainer & SBOANJ Director Kelvin Harrison

Photo by Carol Hodes

Sometimes the problems can seem daunting to Harrison, who oversees a stable of 30 horses at Magical Acres in Chesterfield, NJ.

"I'm very proud and happy with the direction the SBOA has gone in the last few years," he said. "It's done a lot for racing in New Jersey. It was a big contributor to our getting a new contract with the casinos [for a \$90 million purse supplement]."

"Lot of people complain and moan in this business and don't want to do anything about it," he added. "I feel and I say this, even though I'm vice president, I don't contribute enough because I'm too busy training."

"But I think the SBOA management is very strong," he noted. "I think it will continue to be a major force. [SBOANJ President] Tom Luchento has done an outstanding job. I'm very impressed."

As someone in the day-to-day training trenches, Harrison, 58, has firsthand knowledge of the issues that concern horsemen as well as the ability to speak directly to his colleagues and share their feedback.

Harrison, known as Red, was born in Methuen, New Zealand and came to the United States 36 years ago. He still makes a return trip each year to visit his parents, who are in their 80s.

With his wife, Joan, a Long Islander, he resides in Clarksburg and has raised four children – 30-year-old Tom, 27-year-old Greg [who works for trainer Virgil Morgan], 22-year-old Jen and 20-year-old Bill [who works for his father].

Harrison, who followed his father into racing, is coming off his most lucrative year in 2007, sending out 363 starters who finished-in-the money 146 times and banked \$925,218.

Some of his past stakes stars have included Dare You To, Direct Flight, Frightening P, Falcons Icon, Sam Francisco Ben and Alanis M. Currently the stable headliner is free for all pacer Gold Dust Beach.

Harrison enjoys both golf and tennis and recently made his third pilgrimage to Augusta, Georgia to watch some of the Masters in person as well as play at some of the area courses.



THE CHIEF IS HONORED BY HHI

Former SBOANJ president Tony Parneti was honored as Harness Horsemen's International Man of the Year in March in Deerfield Beach, FL.

Attending the ceremonies from the SBOANJ were [left to right] Leon Zimmerman, Tom Luchento, Parenti and his wife, Ed Razzetti, Tony Romano, Dennis Lane and Leo McNamara.



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TOP FIVE PAYOUTS IN 2008

- \$53,196.90 – 1/24/08
- \$16,387.60 – 3/26/08
- \$12,981.40 – 3/12/08
- \$12,512.70 – 2/1/08
- \$11,679.30 – 2/6/08



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For a foal resulting from a registered New Jersey stallion's fresh semen which was transported to a mare OUTSIDE the State of New Jersey, the registration fee is \$250 with a copy of the certificate; \$275 without it.

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