



# Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

## NSA's summer racing program adds five Saturdays at Colonial

The National Steeplechase Association's expanded summer season begins this month with a visit to Monmouth Park on June 21 and continues through Labor Day week with racing programs at Saratoga Race Course and Colonial Downs in Virginia.

In all, the 16 racing dates encompass at least 22 scheduled races and will offer \$1,165,000 in purses to NSA horsemen.

The Colonial Downs dates, new with the reopening of the New Kent race course in August, will spotlight jump racing with 10 races on the meet's five Saturday programs.

The summer begins at the New Jersey Shore at beautiful, historic Monmouth Park, which has been revitalized with the addition of sports gaming. The Friday afternoon program on June 21 will feature a \$30,000 maiden hurdle and a \$35,000 ratings handicap for horses ranked at 125 or lower.

Parx Racing will host a \$25,000 flat race for hurdlers on Monday, July 1.

Saratoga, the epicenter of Thoroughbred racing each summer, will open earlier this year to accommodate construction adjacent to Belmont Park on Long Island. The first steeplechase race at the Saratoga Springs, N.Y., landmark will be a \$65,000 allowance hurdle on Wednesday, July 17.

The following week will feature two stakes races. The \$75,000 Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes will be run on Wednesday, July 24, and the \$150,000 A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) will be the following afternoon. Both races will be at 2 1/16 miles.

Jump racing will be in the Saratoga spotlight each Wednesday in August, with the Mrs. Ogden

### 2019 NSA Summer Racing Schedule

RACE COURSE	LOCATION	DATE
MONMOUTH PARK	Oceanport, NJ	Friday, June 21
PARX RACING	Bensalem, PA	Monday, July 1
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, July 17
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, July 24
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, July 25
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, July 31
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, August 7
COLONIAL DOWNS	New Kent, VA	Saturday, August 10
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, August 14
COLONIAL DOWNS	New Kent, VA	Saturday, August 17
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, August 21
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, August 22
COLONIAL DOWNS	New Kent, VA	Saturday, August 24
SARATOGA	Saratoga Springs, NY	Wednesday, August 28
COLONIAL DOWNS	New Kent, VA	Saturday, August 31
COLONIAL DOWNS	New Kent, VA	Saturday, September 7

Phipps for fillies and mares on Aug. 7 and the Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes on Aug. 21.

The next afternoon will feature Saratoga's signature steeplechase race, the \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1). Both the Walsh and the New York Turf Writers will be run at 2 3/8 miles.

Colonial Downs, awakening from a six-year slumber, will offer 15 racing dates in August and September, with racing on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays in most weeks. A Labor Day program will be held on Monday, Sept. 2.

The steeplechase action begins on Saturday, Aug. 10, with a \$30,000 maiden hurdle and a \$25,000 ratings handicap hurdle.

Two races each Saturday will offer a variety of conditions and will place emphasis on providing opportunities for newcomers to jump racing.

Each program will feature a maiden hurdle with the exception of Aug. 17, which will have a \$30,000 maiden hurdle for fillies and mares.

The Saturday program on Aug. 31 will feature the Virginia Derby and the Virginia Oaks.

The steeplechase racing program at Colonial concludes with the \$50,000 Randolph D. Rouse Stakes for fillies and mares on Sept. 7, which is closing day for the 2019 season. Colonial Downs will have a 5 p.m. first post time with the exception of Labor Day, when the first race will go off at 1 p.m.



Go Jump Racing!





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Skip Crawford's Senior Senator won the 123rd Maryland Hunt Cup and retired the trophy with his third victory.

DOUGLAS LEES PHOTO

## A good year to be nine

Two nine-year-olds, Skip Crawford's Senior Senator and Ballybristol Farm's Andi'amu won the spring's two richest timber classics, the \$100,000 Maryland Hunt Cup and the \$100,000 Virginia Gold Cup, respectively.

Senior Senator won the Hunt Cup for a third time and allowed Crawford to take permanent possession of the trophy. Senior Senator won the four-mile test in 2016 and 2018 before his April 27 victory. Trainer Joe Davies won the Hunt Cup for the fourth straight year.

Andi'amu, who had been running in Grade 1 hurdle races two years earlier, used his speed to triumph in the Virginia Gold Cup on May 4. Leslie Young trains the French-bred.



Andi'amu pulled away from Le Chevalier to win the 94th Virginia Gold Cup.

TOD MARKS PHOTO

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