

Chasing

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

A successful Saratoga jumps meet

American Steeplechasing concluded a successful six-week Saratoga Race Course season with increases in starters, highly competitive racing, and an improved safety record.

In all, nine jump races were run at Saratoga between July 27 and Sept. 1. Despite one less race this year, the number of starters increased 9% to 73 starters. The larger number of starters drove the average field size upward to 8.1 starters per race, compared with 6.7 starters per race in 2015.

National Steeplechase Association President Guy J. Torsilieri praised the work of NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo Jr. in putting together a successful Saratoga racing program. "I congratulate Bill Gallo on doing an excellent job this summer in Saratoga. It is never an easy task, but he did a fabulous job balancing a very light inventory and carding some very nice competitive racing," Torsilieri said.

"We are very grateful for the support of our owners and trainers for the vitally important Saratoga meet," Gallo said. "With their support, we were able to offer races with large betting fields, and the races were very competitive."

Indeed, four of the nine races were settled by a length or less at the finish line, compared with one race in 2015 with as close a finish. The \$70,000 overnight handicap on Aug. 3 featured a stretch-long battle between Dr. Skip and Top Striker, with Clorevia Farm's Dr. Skip prevailing by a nose on a head bob at the finish line.

With the fence at the furlong pole removed for the final run down Saratoga Race Course's stretch, only one racing incident, a lost rider, occurred in all of the 2016 season. A year earlier, nine racing incidents had occurred. Only two horses failed to finish the course in the current season, compared with 14 in 2015.

Dr. Scott Palmer, the New York State Gaming Commission's equine director, recommended removal of the final stretch fence, and his suggestion was adopted by the New York Racing Association



The Fields Stable's Portrade and jockey Gus Dahl jumped a fence in the New York Turf Writers Cup. TOD MARKS PHOTO

and the NSA.

"The results speak for themselves and confirm the wisdom of Dr. Palmer's recommendation," Gallo said. "We had several close finishes with the three-furlong flat run to the finish, and more horses completed the course."

The Fields Stable and Elizabeth Voss were the leading owner and trainer by purses after winning both Grade 1 races at Saratoga, the \$125,000 A. P. Smithwick Memorial and New York Turf Writers Cup. The Smithwick Memorial was won by ill-

fated Bob Le Beau, and Portrade wired the New York Turf Writers in a driving finish.

Virginia Lazenby and trainer Doug Fout also notched two allowance hurdle victories with Help From Heaven and Hardrock Eleven.

The second Go Jump Racing Saratoga Hospitality Tent, staged by the NSA's Promotion and Growth Committee on New York Turf Writers day, highlighted the many advantages of steeplechase racing and attracted approximately 80 guests from jump and flat racing.



Go Jump Racing!





Far Hills ads hit the roads and the rails

The Far Hills Race Association has launched an innovative marketing campaign for its Oct. 15 meet that literally puts steeplechase racing on wheels and rails.

Ads touting the upcoming meet fill the sides of New Jersey Transit buses in central and northern New Jersey.

To highlight its relocated Chairman's Pavilion, Far Hills ads also appear in New Jersey Transit subway stations for trains that link New Jersey and Manhattan.

The Chairman's Pavilion, a top-level venue, has been relocated to trackside for the 2016 meet, which will feature a total of \$700,000 in purses, up \$100,000 from last year. The \$350,000 Grand National (Gr. 1) is expected to attract international competitors.



Far Hills is marketing its relocated Chairman's Pavilion in New Jersey Transit stations.

FAR HILLS PHOTO

Steeplechasing featured in Weekend

American Steeplechasing is one of the featured topics in the September issue of Thoroughbred Daily News' Weekend magazine, an elegantly designed online monthly publication.

The magazine can be accessed at:

<http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/weekend/2016/september/>

Written by Eclipse Award winner Bill Finley, the article focuses on the fall meets while providing a panoramic view of the sport. In particular, Finley notes that steeplechase race meets typically attract some of the largest crowds in all of Thoroughbred racing, and fans turn out for an afternoon of racing and enjoyment at all times of the year.

The eight-page spread also provides in-depth profiles of four fall race meets: Far Hills, the International Gold Cup, the Montpelier Hunt Races, and the Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup.

The Thoroughbred industry's most widely distributed daily online publication worldwide, Thoroughbred Daily News has been a focus of National Steeplechase Association marketing through the summer and fall.

Ads in TDN's International section have informed overseas trainers of the rich opportunities on the fall NSA schedule, and ads in the U.S. pages of TDN have highlighted the growth occurring in American Steeplechasing.



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