

# Chasing

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

## NSA season heads for finish line with four November race meets

The mornings have grown misty and chilly, sure signs that another season of National Steeplechase Association racing is nearing a conclusion. But plenty of action remains on the NSA calendar for November, with race meets that could have a bearing on year-end championships.

The month begins with a triple header on the weekend of Nov. 3 and 4.

The Montpelier Hunt Races in Virginia will be run on Saturday, Nov. 3, for the 84th time on the grounds of Montpelier, the restored home of President James Madison and his wife, Dolley.

Montpelier, one of the last race courses to maintain natural brush fences, will stage the \$40,000 Noel Laing over its brush course. The 2 1/2-mile Noel Laing is a handicap, with weights determined by an expert evaluation of each horse's racing record.

The race honors the stable jockey of former Montpelier owner Marion duPont Scott. Born in Doncaster, England, of Irish parents, Laing died in 1936.

Also on the program is the \$25,000 Montpelier Cup for fillies and mares at 2 3/8 miles.

The 34th Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga., kicks off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3, with a program highlighted by the \$75,000 Aflac Supreme Hurdle for novices, or horses in their first seasons of racing over fences.

Last year, Zanjabeel won his first race for new owners Rosbrian Farm and Wendy and Ben Griswold in the 2 1/4-mile Aflac Supreme Hurdle and capped a breakout season for new trainer Ricky Hendriks. In his U.S. debut, Zanjabeel had won Far Hills Races' Foxbrook Champion Hurdle for his former owners and Irish trainer Gordon Elliott.



*Irv Naylor's Ebanour scored his second straight win in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup last November, both times with Darren Nagle in the saddle for trainer Cyril Murphy.*

TOD MARKS PHOTO

Going into this year's Far Hills meet, Zanjabeel topped the 2018 standings by earnings after victories in the Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1) and the Lonesome Glory Handicap (Gr. 1), while Hendriks led the NSA trainer standings by wins and earnings.

The Callaway meet also will feature the \$30,000 Crown Royal, a Sport of Kings maiden hurdle.

The following day, the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup will be run for the 84th time in Unionville

on Sunday, Nov. 4. The four-mile timber classic carries a \$40,000 purse this year and often attracts leading contenders for the timber championship.

Steeplechase racing returns to South Carolina on Sunday, Nov. 11, for the Steeplechase at Charleston at Stono Ferry as the curtain comes down on the 2018 NSA season. The season-ending meet in the Charleston area will feature a \$30,000 ratings handicap for horses with NSA ratings of 125 and lower and a \$25,000 hurdle race for three-year-olds.



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## NSA TV goes on the air, providing high-definition video of fall meets

NSA TV, the National Steeplechase Association's entry into high-definition television broadcasting, made its ground-breaking debut at two September race meets, and the innovation was an immediate hit with online viewers.

Headed by Steve Hankin with front-line assistance from Piper Klemm, NSA TV kicked off under difficult conditions at the High Hope Steeplechase on Sept. 23, after several inches of rain fell on the Lexington region.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, the high-definition video worked well, delivering top-quality images to the High Hope stewards. The video, archived on the NSA website [www.nationalsteeplechase.com](http://www.nationalsteeplechase.com), captured the wet conditions on the Kentucky Horse Park course.

High Hope officials, in particular Director of Racing Michelle Primm, received high praise from the stewards for their course preparations. Despite the adverse conditions, the High Hope races "were run as scheduled without significant incident. Careful course preparation was evident during the course walk the day before the races," Senior Steward Gregg Morris wrote in his report.

NSA TV traveled to Maryland the following Saturday, Sept. 29, for the 18th annual Shawan Downs race meet in Hunt Valley.

Shawan provided streaming video of the seven-race program that was available from the Shawan Downs and NSA websites. The Shawan broadcast provided a glimpse of high-def video's potential. Until now, the high-def signals and live streaming had been available only for the Far Hills Races and the Iroquois Steeplechase.

In addition to broadcasting the races, the Shawan show featured commentary by Megan Connolly and color commentary by Kevin Tobin.



*Doc Cebu, continuing the defense of his 2017 timber-racing championship, drew clear to a 3 1/2-length victory in the \$25,000 Brown Advisory Legacy Chase, the featured race of the 18th annual Shawan Downs meet on Sept. 29. Hadden Frost was in the saddle for trainer Jack Fisher.*

DOUGLAS LEES PHOTO

Klemm went on-camera to provide interviews with key sponsors of the event and other notable race participants.

"We are very encouraged by the efforts of Steve Hankin's team to provide top-quality video and sports entertainment for all of our race meets,"

said NSA President Guy J. Torsilieri. "Our principal purpose is to provide the race stewards with all the tools they need to assure fair and safe racing. At the same time, broadcast-quality video images and live streaming offer the promise of reaching a new audience for our exciting sport."

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