

ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN TO BE HONORED AS NJ HORSE OF THE YEAR

Rock N Roll Heaven, the Three-Year-Old Pacer of the Year, has been selected New Jersey Standardbred Horse of the Year for 2010.

The son of Rocknroll Hanover will be honored at the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board's 54th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at Charley's Other Brother Restaurant in Eastampton Township, NJ at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2011.



Rock N Roll Heaven driven by Daniel Dube

Rock N Roll Heaven, the betting choice for national Horse of the Year, completed his racing career in November with his 16th victory of the year and a 10-race winning streak that included the Little Brown Jug, Breeders Crown, Bluegrass, Tattersalls, Messenger and Matron.

In May, and for the second consecutive year, Rock N Roll Heaven captured the \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship at the Meadowlands.

He began his 2010 stakes campaign on May 8 with a victory in the \$220,000 Berry's Creek. One of his few disappointments was getting nipped at the wire by One More Laugh in the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace in a 1:47.4 mile, a week after he paced a record 1:47.3 in his elimination race.

Rock N Roll Heaven earned \$2,156,192 toward a career total of \$2,748,818 for Frank J. Bellino of Bronxville, NY, who purchased the colt for \$57,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale.

He was bred by Charles, Julie and Francene Nash, he is out of their stakes winning mare Artistic Vision [by Artsplace] and was sired by Rocknroll Hanover, who stands at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, NJ.

Rock N Roll Heaven was trained by Bruce Saunders and driven in most of his starts by Daniel Dube.

The colt's 2010 record included 16 wins, two seconds and one third from 21 starts for career totals of 20 wins, six seconds and two thirds from 30 starts.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$27.50 each and should be ordered from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets & Development – Horse Industry, PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625 no later than January 19. Call 609-984-4389 for further information.

MARE RESIDENCY FORMS DUE BY FEBRUARY 15

Applications for the 2011 New Jersey Mare Residency Program should be submitted in the next few weeks.

The deadline for the forms, which are available on sboanj.com or by contacting the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, is February 15, 2011.

The New Jersey Mare Residency Program, which began in 2003, promotes the breeding, boarding and racing of standardbreds in New Jersey. This program makes awards to breeders whose horses have won monies in the New Jersey Sires Stakes, including Premier and Green Acres divisions.

The breeder is recognized as the registered owner of the mare at the time of mating.

In order for a horse's earnings to be eligible for the residency award, the mare must meet three conditions: The mare must reside in New Jersey 270 days or more in the year of conception, the mare must have been registered with the SBOANJ as a resident mare and the mare must be bred to a registered New Jersey stallion.

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

This new year brings new hope and new challenges to the horsemen of New Jersey.

A few weeks ago, we literally came to the brink with the Governor's office on the future of the Meadowlands.

That sound of a door slamming we would have all heard would have been the Meadowlands Racetrack shutting down on December 31.

In the eleventh hour, we had the persistence of a financial white knight riding to the rescue in the form of Jeff Gural and a plan from the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey to guarantee the operating costs for three months so that we could open on January 7.

This arrangement gives the SBOANJ, working with Mr. Gural and other potential investors, the time they need to review the operations at the Meadowlands, prepare a strategy to make the track financial viable and, if they decided to move forward, sign a lease.

Thanks to our Executive Administrator Leo McNamara, we were able to use his idea to back the state's "loan" for the first three months with our simulcasting income and overcome the obstacles that were being imposed by the Governor's office to open the Meadowlands in 2011. They were, in no uncertain terms, not going to absorb one dime of cost. This assures that they will get their "advance" back.

Jeff Gural's experience as a racetrack owner [Tioga

and Vernon] and his position in the business world made him an ideal candidate to take on this task.

We can only hope that at the end of the three months that he is willing to accept the challenge and assure the future of harness racing's flagship racetrack.

In this newsletter, you will see the letter he issued, which expands on the negotiations and the issues we face. Additionally, there is a page devoted to the statement from the Governor.

We cannot emphasize how important it is for all our members to step up and support New Jersey racing, filling the entry box at both the Meadowlands and Freehold. If you do not demonstrate your commitment, you cannot expect Mr. Gural and others to invest in New Jersey racing.

We will continue the battle, continue our daily conversations and meetings with the Governor and legislators, and we attempt to forge the best possible options for our racing and breeding industry in New Jersey.

We do not want to be in the same position on March 31, 2011 as we were in December, facing the eviction notice that will come if we do not have a lease.

So while we are delighted to be racing this winter and are hopeful that there is a future for the Meadowlands, there are many hurdles ahead of us.

Each of you must contribute to the solution and not sit back and wait for the other guy.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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Harness Horsemen

International

609-747-1000

License/Fingerprint

NJ Racing Commission

Trenton—609-292-0613

Freehold—732-462-3800

Meadowlands—201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban—NJTP

800-336-5875

WHAT GOVERNER CHRISTIE SAID ABOUT THE AGREEMENT

Governor Chris Christie [on December 17, 2010] announced a break-through agreement to keep live standardbred racing at the Meadowlands beginning in January via a secured short-term financing plan to bridge the gap to a potential long-term solution that will make the Meadowlands racetrack a privately run, self-sustaining venture without taxpayer subsidies.



Gov. Chris Christie

The agreement meets the Governor's foremost requirement that operating and purse subsidies for standardbred racing come to an end. To ensure that racing at the Meadowlands can continue uninterrupted on its January schedule, the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) will extend operations, secured by simulcast racing revenues, through only March 31, with no costs being absorbed by state taxpayers.

In the meantime, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association (SBOA) or its designee will be guaranteed exclusive rights to negotiate a \$1 per-year lease for the Meadowlands racetrack for up to five years, with a renewal option. If, at the end of March a lease agreement and self-sustaining operating plan is not in place, all parties agree that the NJSEA will suspend standardbred racing at the Meadowlands Racetrack, with the possible exception of the Hambletonian Meet in August 2011.

"It has been my goal all along to keep horse racing alive in New Jersey and at the Meadowlands with a renewed, financially-sound business model that meets the fiscal realities faced today by both the horse racing industry and the state," Governor Christie said. "Given the economic realities, my first interest and priority lies with taxpayers of New Jersey and ensuring the future of the sport is no longer reliant on millions of dollars in subsidies year after year. Today, we have reached a mutually beneficial agreement for the near term, and a framework for a long-term solution to move the industry forward on an independent and self-sustaining financial foundation."

"I am excited to find a way to operate the Meadowlands and several off-track wagering facilities in the private sector," said Jeff Gural, a New York racetrack owner-operator and real estate developer. "I think the structure that is being proposed will be well received by our customers, as we intend to produce the highest quality horse racing product in the standardbred industry. I've been successful in Upstate New York at Tioga Downs, where we have been able to attract new and younger customers. We will use the same marketing strategies for the Meadowlands and hope for the same results."

"We are thankful real estate entrepreneur and harness racing enthusiast Jeff Gural came to our aid during the final stretch of discussions with the Christie Administration," Tom Luchento, president of the SBOA, said. "The deal with the Governor to save standardbred racing at Meadowlands will provide our industry a lifeline and give us time to implement innovative changes that will foster self-sufficiency. The time is now for the State of New Jersey and Meadowlands Racetrack to regain their status as the world's premiere standardbred racing venue."

All parties involved have agreed that the state will no longer subsidize harness racing at the Meadowlands. If a long-term lease agreement and operating plan for self-sufficiency is not reached by March 31, 2011, all parties agree that a good faith effort will have been made by the standardbred industry and the Christie Administration to reach an agreement and avoid closure of the Meadowlands Racetrack.

The state's short-term funding for the first quarter of 2011 operations will be guaranteed by the SBOA's pledge of its right to simulcasting revenue at the Meadowlands from April 1, 2011, until the state recoups its costs.

Among the lease parameters agreed to today:

- ◆ The NJSEA will assign up to four off-track-wagering (OTW) locations, including Bayonne (but not Woodbridge), all of which would operate contingent on private operation of the Meadowlands Racetrack.
- ◆ The OTW locations would pay the NJSEA 10 percent of net OTW earnings.
- ◆ There will be no ongoing subsidies for purses or racing operations.

—Press Release from Governor Christie's Office

PERRETTI FARMS SELECTED 2010 BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Perretti Farms, home to two of harness racing's premier stallions as well as the 2010 Trotting Broodmare of the Year, was selected New Jersey Breeder of the Year by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

Owners William and Anthony Perretti will be honored at the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board's 54th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at Charley's Other Brother Restaurant in Eastampton Township, NJ at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2011.



Anthony Perretti will pick up the farm's second New Jersey Breeder of the Year award at the NJ Equine Advisory Board's luncheon on January 30

Perretti Farms, home to some of the sport's leading stallions and broodmares and nursery for many champions each year, is more than 1,000 acres of rolling hills and pastures in Upper Freehold Township's Cream Ridge section. It was founded in the late 1980s by automotive dealer and restaurateur William J. Perretti.

In 2010, Perretti Farms ranks third nationally with 245 winners and \$13.3 million in earnings, with a third of the starters of Hanover Shoe and Winbak.

Two of this year's divisional champions, Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year Lucky Chucky [by the late Perretti stallion, Windsong's Legacy] and Older Male Trotter of the Year Enough Talk were bred by Perretti Farms.

Both of 2010's three-year-old pacing champions are by the Rocknroll Hanover, who stands at Perretti Farms – the Little Brown Jug and Breeders Crown Colt Pace winner Rock N Roll Heaven and Miss New Jersey and Breeders Crown Filly Pace winner Put On A Show.

While Perretti's stallions are industry leaders on the pace – Rocknroll Hanover – and the trot – Muscles Yankee, the farm is also home to some of the premier broodmares in the country.

Graceful Touch produced two offspring who were prominent on the trotting stage in 2010. Her three-year-old son Muscle Massive won the Hambletonian at the Meadowlands in August. On the same program, her two-year-old daughter, Thatsnotmyname, won the Merrie Annabelle. The accomplishments of these two youngsters earned Graceful Touch the United States Harness Writers Association's Trotting Broodmare of the Year honors.

Graceful Touch, by Pine Chip and out of Act Of Grace, is the dam of three who have reached the races, including \$229,000 earner Muscle Mass, a \$100,000 yearling. Muscle Massive, who sold for \$425,000, has banked in excess of \$1.2 million and Thatsnotmyname, a \$250,000 yearling, earned \$335,250. .

"It was a wonderful achievement for Graceful Touch to win Broodmare of the Year – and have a Hambletonian and Merrie Annabelle winner on the same day," said Anthony Perretti, who holds a trifecta of directorships with the SBOANJ, New Jersey Sire Stakes and Hambletonian Society.

"Even in this difficult time, Perretti Farms is proud to support New Jersey racing," Perretti added. "We have a renewed enthusiasm and feel that with the leadership of Jeff Gural and the SBOANJ we will prevail. We thank everyone for their support of New Jersey-bred horses. We hope that everyone in racing will wish us luck in New Jersey. The standardbred industry needs the Meadowlands."

Perretti Farms won the inaugural New Jersey Breeder of the Year Award in 2003. Other winners have included White Birch Farm, Valley High Stables, Southwind Farms, Kentuckiana Farms, Fair Winds Farm and Heritage Hill Farms.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$27.50 each and should be ordered from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets & Development – Horse Industry, PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625 no later than January 19. Call 609-984-4389 for further information.

PUT ON A SHOW TOPS 2010 NEW JERSEY SIRE STAKES CHAMPIONS

Put On A Show, who won the \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship Final and \$175,000 Thomas N. D'Altrui Miss New Jersey Pace at the Meadowlands, will be honored as New Jersey Sire Stakes Horse of the Year for 2010 at the New Jersey Breeders Awards luncheon at 1 p.m. on January 30, 2010 at Charley's Other Brother in Easthampton, NJ.

The award, which is voted annually by the Sire Stakes Board of Trustees, is based only on performances in races for New Jersey-sired horses, including New Jersey Sire Stakes events and other major stakes and futurities for New Jersey-sired horses. In addition to the top honor, Put On A Show, a daughter of Rocknroll Hanover, was chosen New Jersey Sire Stakes Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year.



NJSS Horse of the Year Put On A Show with Tim Tetrick

Rocknroll Hanover sired all of the 2010 New Jersey Sire Stakes pacing divisional winners: Rock N Roll Heaven, three-year-old colt pacer; Lookinforadventure, two-year-old colt pacer, and Myluvmylife, two-year-old filly pacer.

The 2010 New Jersey Sire Stakes trotting divisional winners are: Glide Power [Yankee Glide], three-year-old filly trotter; Chapter Seven [Windsong's Legacy], two-year-old colt trotter; Flex The Muscle [Muscles Yankee], three-year-old colt trotter, and Thatsnotmyname [Windsong's Legacy], two-year-old filly trotter.

Put On A Show, trained by Chris Ryder and driven by Tim Tetrick, earned \$205,900 in New Jersey-sired competition and \$1,161,167 overall for owners Craig Henderson

of Chicago, IL, and Richard and Joanne Young of Coconut Creek, FL.

Rock N Roll Heaven, who has earned \$2,156,192 in purse money in 2010, raced only twice in New Jersey-sired competition, earning \$113,200 by winning a leg and \$200,000 final of the New Jersey Sire Stakes series at the Meadowlands. The bulk of his purse earnings came in winning the \$500,000 Breeders Crown, \$500,000 Battle of Brandywine, \$437,100 Messenger, \$410,789 Little Brown Jug, and \$220,000 Berry's Creek.

Glide Power was the only horse to win New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship Finals at both the Meadowlands and Freehold Raceway. The three-year-old trotting filly earned \$130,250 in New Jersey Sire Stakes competition with three wins and a third-place finish. She earned \$350,898 overall for the year.

Flex The Muscle, with four wins and two thirds in seven New Jersey Sire Stakes starts, earned \$176,154 in New Jersey-sired racing. The trotter won two legs and the final of the New Jersey Sire Stakes series and the \$80,000 Charles I. Smith Trot, all at Freehold. His overall \$321,129 purse earnings included wins in the \$156,000 Dexter Cup at Freehold and \$73,500 Old Oaken Bucket at Delaware, OH.

Among New Jersey Sire Stakes two-year-old divisional winners, Thatsnotmyname won the \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship Final at the Meadowlands. The freshman trotting filly also won the \$437,000 Merrie Annabelle at the Meadowlands.

Two other two-year-old divisional award winners, who each won two legs and their respective \$100,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship Finals at Freehold, were the pacing colt Lookinforadventure and the trotting colt Chapter Seven. Lookinforadventure won all three of his starts, while Chapter Seven had four wins and a third in five New Jersey-sired starts.

Myluvmylife took honors in the two-year-old pacing division with three wins, a second and two thirds, earning \$102,400 that included the \$61,800 Lou Babic Filly Final. She earned \$131,290 overall for the year.

Six of the eight award winners also topped their divisions in New Jersey-sired purse earnings. They were: Put On A Show, Glide Power, Flex The Muscle, Lookinforadventure, Chapter Seven and Thatsnotmyname.

All racing photos this issue courtesy of Lisa Photo Inc.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

January 17	Board Meeting	February 7	Board Meeting
January 25	Insurance Meeting	February 22	Insurance Meeting

GURAL CLARIFIES AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNOR CHRISTIE

Jeff Gural provided the following statement on December 20, 2010, a few days after the meeting with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and reaching an agreement for opening the Meadowlands in January 2011.

I think by now, everyone knows that the Governor has given me, in conjunction with the SBOANJ, until March 31, 2011 to negotiate a long term lease for the Meadowlands. What most people don't know is how close we came to having the plug pulled and the 2011 Meadowlands meet cancelled.



Jeff Gural

I, like most of you, just assumed that the Meadowlands would open in January as our whole industry in New Jersey, and to a lesser extent, the East Coast and Canada, would have been severely harmed if we had no Meadowlands. When I learned that a good friend and business partner was a close friend of Governor Christie's, I called Tom Luchento last week to see if I could help in any way.

Tommy asked me to call Craig Domalewski at the Governor's office, who politely explained that in order for the Meadowlands to race in 2011, the Governor was insisting on a letter of credit or a security bond for \$8 million to cover the anticipated operating losses for the year.

He said he needed this by the end of the day last Wednesday (Dec. 15), which was obviously impossible. Subsequently, the deadline was extended until Friday (Dec. 17), but at the last minute on a conference call with the Governor's office Thursday (Dec. 16), we were told that unless we were prepared to put up a significant amount of money, it was a waste of time to come down to Trenton on Friday.

Fortunately, Tommy has some friends in the legislature who persuaded the Governor's staff to keep the meeting in an effort to find a solution that would allow the Meadowlands to open in January. With input from Leo McNamara, Mike Gulotta, and Anthony Perretti, we were able to come up with a temporary solution that gives us until March 31 to come up with a plan to lease the facility.

In discussions directly with the Governor, he made it perfectly clear that he would veto any legislation that has a purse subsidy or allows slots at the Meadowlands. It is still possible that we will get a purse subsidy as the Democrats are pushing hard to include that in legislation to help Atlantic City.

At the present, we have to assume no purse subsidy. So, the question is, can a new facility be built on the

opposite side of the track and be paid for and can purses be high enough to keep the Meadowlands product worth wagering?

The reason I share this with all of you in the industry is simply because if the Meadowlands is to survive, it will take all of us in the industry working together to make it happen. Obviously, down the road, it is possible a casino will be built, but we can't count on it and even if it did happen, who knows if Governor Christie would allow money to go to supplement purses as other states currently allow.

I, along with Mike Gulotta, who will be working closely with me and Tommy Luchento, will be reaching out to all of you for help in making the changes that I believe are necessary to keep our existing customers while attracting new and younger customers the way we have been able to do at Tioga.

Clearly, in order to succeed, we will have to improve our product, reduce race dates and tackle the integrity issues that plague our sport.

I think if we all pull together, we can make this happen, but if we don't, I think it is a virtual certainty the Meadowlands will close for good in April 2011.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Tommy Luchento, Leo McNamara, Mike Gulotta and Anthony Perretti, who have been working overtime to avoid closure. But, the reality is the Governor is not going to subsidize harness racing and we have to accept that.

I look forward to discussing the issues with many of you and hopefully we will come up with a long-term solution.

As the holidays approach, let me wish everyone in the industry a happy holiday and let's hope 2011 is the beginning of a new era at the Meadowlands as we are given an opportunity to control our own destiny.

TROPAC STILL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We have made tremendous progress in getting our message out to state legislators but the work continues, and we need your financial support so that we can open new doors and keep old friends.

Please send your donations for TrotPAC to 64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Election laws require occupation and employer information.

Maximum permitted donation is \$7,200 per person.



LIVE HARNESS RACING RETURNS

Friday, January 7, 2011 • Post time 7:00 pm

EVENTS

Friday, January 7 • 8 for \$18 Vodka Sampling
Saturday, January 22 • Craft Beer Dinner
Saturday, January 29 • NHHC Qualifier
Saturday, February 12 • Valentine's Dinner/Champagne Tasting
Saturday, February 19 • NHHC Qualifier
Saturday, March 5 • Fat Saturday Mardi Gras Buffet
Saturday, March 26 • NHHC Qualifier

WINTER STAKES

Thursday, January 27 • Super Bowl, White Ruffles
Saturday, January 29 • Presidential, The Complex, Clyde Hirt Stake
Friday, February 18 • Tender Loving Care, Cape & Cutter
Saturday, February 19 • Junior Trendsetter, Aquarius, Exit 16W
Thursday, March 17 • The Horse & Groom
Friday, March 18 • Overbid
Saturday, March 19 • Four Leaf Clover
Thursday, March 24 • Night Styles

We WANT you to win!

MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK 

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER

SIX OF 12 DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS IN 2010 ARE NEW JERSEY-SIRED



Hambletonian Oaks winner Bar Slide with Tim Tetrick

Six champions are by New Jersey-based stallions and two New Jersey breeding farms each produced a pair of post season honorees when the 2010 Dan Patch Award divisional winners were announced on Tuesday, December 28, 2010.

Voted by the United States Harness Writers Association, the awards will be presented on February 27, 2011 at the Marriott in Fort Lauderdale, FL at which time Trotter of the Year, Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year will also be announced.

Six of the 12 divisional winners, divided by age, gait and gender, were sired by New Jersey stallions.

Three are trotters: Enough Talk by Enjoy Lavec [Older Male Trotter] and the three-year-olds Lucky Chucky by Windsong's Legacy [Colt] and Bar Slide by Yankee Glide [Filly].

Three-year-old pacing honors for both colts – Rock N Roll Heaven – and fillies – Put On A Show – went to offspring of New Jersey's Rocknroll Hanover. Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year is New Jersey-sired Big Jim by Western Ideal.

Two Cream Ridge, NJ farms each sent out a pair of award winners. Enough Talk and Lucky Chucky were bred by Perretti Farms. Fair Winds Farm is the breeder of both Bar Slide and the Older Male Pacer of the Year, Won The West.

Jimmy Takter, whose base of operations is Millenium Farm of East Windsor, NJ, trained two of the two-year-old champions. The pacing filly, See You At Peelers, was bred by and is co-owned by Takter's wife, Christina, who also shares in the ownership of the trotting colt winner Pastor Stephen.



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