



NY Racing & Wagering: New Year . . . New Rule

Effective January 1, 2009 the NY Racing and Wagering Board instituted a new regulation concerning the cashing of winning tickets. If the ticket was purchased at any pari-mutuel facility in New York State, is worth more than \$300, and is more than 10 days old, it has to be cashed at a specially designated cashier window. You'll also have to provide the cashier with your name, home address, date of birth and social security number in order to redeem the bet slip.

The Racing and Wagering Board claims the new regulation was designed to protect the wagering public, and while it was passed despite even objections from the New York Racing Association, Suffolk OTB promises to make compliance with the new regulation as easy as possible for our winning bettors. Signs have been posted to designate the appropriate cashiers at each SROTB branch and posters are also up in all branches for additional information.

2008 Eclipse Awards

Voter ballots for the 2008 Eclipse awards were due back on January 5th and for the first time responses were accepted by e-mail balloting. Now we're waiting for the results to be announced at this year's ceremony which moves across the country from Beverly Hills, CA to the Fontainebleau Miami Beach on January 26th.

This will be the 38th year that the awards, named for the undefeated 18th century racehorse *Eclipse*, will be presented to horse racing's best breeder, owner, trainer, jockey, apprentice jockey, male and female 2 year old, 3 year old, turf, sprinter, steeplechaser, and the coveted Horse of the Year. A match up between *Curlin* and *Big Brown* in the BC Classic might have made a significant difference in the outcome of the Horse of the Year title. Without that it just might turn into a repeat for *Curlin* to take the top honors again this year - and it'd be hard to argue against that considering his wins in the Dubai World Cup, Stephen Foster, Woodward and Jockey Club Gold Cup which pushed him over the \$10 million earning record.

Suffolk OTB congratulates all the winners even if they, and we, don't know who they are yet. All of the horses and their principals have given us a great year of exciting racing. Whether they win or not, Suffolk OTB thanks them all for giving us our reason for being able to bring you horse racing.

A Feisty New Mexican Pepper

The New Mexico bred filly, *Peppers Pride*, has made horse racing history by running up an unprecedented lifetime record of 19 consecutive wins in 19 starts. At the 16 win point she was on par with former Triple Crown winner *Citation* and two time horse of the year, *Cigar*. The six year old, who also surpassed the one million dollar earning mark, is going out on top with a well deserved retirement.

Through November, Suffolk OTB generated over \$2 million dollars
in non-tax revenue for Suffolk County in 2008.
Suffolk OTB makes all Suffolk residents winners!

January 2009



From the President's desk

I hope that each of you were able to end 2008 with the opportunity to share whichever seasonal holiday you celebrate with your family and friends.

For 2009 Suffolk OTB pledges to continue to work diligently with all of our elected New York State and Suffolk County officials with regards to both new regulations imposed and new legislation we'd like to see enacted. We're committed to maintaining our purpose by supporting horsemen, the tracks and the entire racing industry while still providing a substantial revenue stream to Suffolk County in the form of non-taxpayer dollars.

I, and all of the staff at Suffolk OTB, extend our best wishes to you for a New Year filled with health, happiness and wealth in your betting picks.

Jeffrey A. Casale
President/CEO

And the Winner Is

Following our Customer Appreciation day on December 13th, all of our branches were visited by the SROTB elves to judge their participation in our holiday decorations contest. We'd like to thank each branch and all of our staff for helping to spread holiday cheer by enthusiastically making sure that each branch was a holiday showcase.

Centereach branch was our first place decorating contest winner with the Telephone Center and Sunrise branch coming in close second and third. Special kudos go to the Centereach staff for involving their customers in collecting over \$400 which was spent on toys, clothes and warm holiday wishes for the family of four whom they "adopted" for the holidays.

A great big "Thank You" goes to each branch for participating in making the holidays just a little brighter and more festive.

LEAVING A LEGACY

The stallion *George Washington* had a fateful if not very successful career. George raced but he wasn't a great racer and after the 2006 Breeders' Cup he was retired to stud. After one season, George proved not to be good at stud either since he was "subfertile". George returned to training and ran in the 2007 Breeder's Cup Classic where, unfortunately, he broke down and was euthanized on the track.

This has all the makings of a really sad story.

However, four months after George's demise, his only known foal was born out of his only stud season. The bay filly sold in November for about \$350,000 and we wish her well.

Good Luck in Vegas

Suffolk OTB's 2008 Handicap Contest winners will be in Las Vegas in February for the Coast Casino Horse Player World Series. Good Luck wishes go to Frank Auriemma, John O'Neil and Joe Como.

You can be one of our next set of winners when the 2009 contest begins in March.

Check our website for details & entry form.

Horse Anatomy 101

How many visible toes does a horse have?

In modern horses, one toe has developed into the entire hoof. The remaining toes are mere vestigial bumps higher up on the leg.

The horses' knee joint is comparable to a human wrist so effectively a horse walks on the equivalent of the tip of a human middle finger.

The DRF, NY Daily News, msn.foxsports.com, www.bloodhorse.com and www.ntra.com were sources for some material contained in this newsletter

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