

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Scarborough Downs to honor retiring Standardbreds with special ceremony on Dec. 19th**

**Scarborough, Maine – Dec. 18, 2009:** Scarborough Downs is teaming up once again with the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine to honor the racing careers of 12 Standardbred race horses who are retiring from harness racing this season with a special ceremony after Race 6 on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. First post is 12:05 pm.

Scarborough Downs will celebrate these grand veterans who will be embarking on new careers and greener pastures with fanfare and ceremony. This is the third annual event, designed to honor those fourteen-year-old trotters and pacers who had raced at Scarborough Downs at any time during their career. Retirement is mandatory for all Standardbred race horses at the end of their 14th year, as mandated by the US Trotting Association.

The horses, who will don special retirement blankets bearing their names and best race times, will be walked from the paddock by their owners and trainers and paraded one final time in front of the grandstands as *Auld Lang Sine* is played over the public address system. The horses will then be introduced and their career accomplishments will be detailed by the track announcer as they visit the Winner's Circle for the last time in their careers. Members of the SPHO will then present each retiree with an embroidered saddle pad signifying their transition from racing to pleasure horse and walk them off the track to their new destinations.

The horses scheduled to participate are: TIME LINE (1:50.2), VENUS OF MILO (2:01), CAROLINA STAR (1:52.4), ARMBRO REPUBLICAN (1:51), HIGH SPEED MODEM (1:59.3), SURF CITY N (2:02.1), ANOTHER LINDY (1:56), NUMBERONEFAN (1:56.2), GRAEME JOHN N (1:57.3), CADFAEL (1:54.4), AM I NEXT A (1:50.4), and LAURAS TAZ (1:56).

The Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine retrain Standardbred horses to become pleasure -- or riding -- horses, after their racing careers are over.

“There won’t be a dry eye in the house,” said SPHO representative, Jill Flaherty. “It is a very touching ceremony. But the most exciting part of the day comes in the realization that these fine animals will now embark on new and exciting careers as pleasure horses now that their racing days are through.”

In addition to marshalling the ceremonies, the SPHO will also be on hand in the Grandstand with an information booth on the program. In addition, the public will have access to the horses used for marshaling.

For more information, contact Susan Higgins at 207-883-4331 x1002 or Mike Sweeney at x1037.

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