



March 15, 2007

Charla Ann King  
Executive Secretary  
Texas Racing Commission  
8505 Cross Park Drive  
Suite 110  
Austin, Texas 78754

Received TxRC  
MAR 16 2007

Dear Ms. King,

Sam Houston Race Park respectfully requests that the application by Retama Park for Thoroughbred race dates in January, February and March of 2008 be declined by the Texas Racing Commission.

During the year 2007 Retama Park declined to run a Thoroughbred meet, and transferred 12 dates to Sam Houston Race Park. Much discussion took place about a possible reallocation of race dates in future years, with Retama running Thoroughbreds in January, February and March, and Sam Houston Race Park running in the fall. SHRP consistently and repeatedly stated that this was an option to be considered but that it could not be agreed upon without in-depth study of all factors. I believe a review of the transcripts of the September 2006 commission meeting will back that up.

SHRP has completed our study of the situation and has determined that any reallocation of race dates at this time would be a bad business decision and contrary to the best interest of the Texas Racing Industry. The following summarizes some of the reasons behind our decision.

1. For the year 2007 our fall Thoroughbred season was scheduled to start on Thanksgiving weekend. It would continue through the end of the year, and then traditionally has ended the first weekend of April. At the request of the horsemen the schedule was amended and SHRP added 12 additional days at the beginning of our fall season. (See schedule A attached)
2. Traditionally Retama's Thoroughbred meet begins in early August, shortly after the end of the Lone Star season, and continues until shortly before the start of the season at SHRP in November.

**Houston's Best Bet!**

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SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK, LTD.

7575 NORTH SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY WEST, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77064-3417, (281) 807-8700

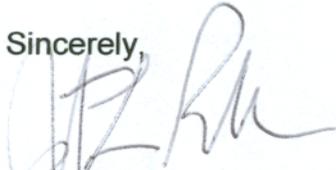
3. Due to the fact that Retama is not conducting a Thoroughbred racing season in 2007, many of the horsemen who would have raced there are stranded. Consequently they have to make plans to go to other tracks in Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico or elsewhere.
4. That exodus is problematic for SHRP regarding their return for our fall meet starting in November. Many of the horsemen have expressed the opinion that they would be reluctant to leave another track to come to SHRP for only a very short season of November and December.
5. Our survey of the horsemen currently on the grounds of SHRP is very clear – maintain the current traditional schedule of November to April. (See schedule B attached)
6. The shortage of horses would be perpetuated year after year if we switched dates, since we would never be able to start before October, and the horses would be committed to other states racetracks.
7. SHRP has increased the daily purses over 10% this year. If we maintain our traditional dates in 2008 we anticipate another increase approaching 10%.
8. Forcing SHRP into a short fall meet in 2007, not only could jeopardize any purse increase; it could actually create a loss in future years due to decreased handle and field sizes.
9. The possibility also exists that the shortage would be so severe that we could not conduct the meet.
10. SHRP has frequently stated that January racing dates are not desirable. However we understand the needs of the horsemen and conduct racing that month to act as a bridge between late November, December and February, March. We would not want horsemen to be without racing opportunities in January.
11. Our decision is an economic and business decision. Our best months are December, February and March. Replacing these months with fall dates would create a financial loss, a decrease in purses and ultimately the failure of a successful racing program.
12. With our two outstanding racing surfaces and consistently large fields, SHRP has developed a nice national following of our races, and frequently have daily simulcast handle over \$2,000,000.00 per day. History shows a \$1,000,000.00 per day decrease if faced with short fields in the fall of the 2008 year. (See schedule C)

13. Maintaining the quality of the Connally Breeders' Cup and its Graded status could be jeopardized by moving our traditional racing schedule.

In conclusion, the horsemen stabled on the track at SHRP want the traditional dates for SHRP. Economically the traditional dates are best for the horsemen and SHRP, and since SHRP has developed that time of the year we feel a change at this time is inappropriate.

As promised we did consider the change, but have determined that any change at this time would be inappropriate.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Bork  
President & General Manager

RLB/jlc

cc: Jesse R. Adams  
Ernest Angelo, Jr.  
Treva J. Boyd  
David G. Cabrales  
G. Kent Carter, DVM  
Susan Combs  
R. Dyke Rogers  
Michael G. Rutherford  
Charles L. Sowell

# Racing Calendar

## TRADITIONAL 2007

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Thoroughbred Racing Jan. 5 - Apr. 7 (46 days)			Closed Apr. 8 - Jun. 28			Quarter Horse Racing Jun. 29 - Sep. 8 (38 days)			Closed Sep. 9 - Nov. 22 Thoroughbred Racing Nov. 23 - Dec. 31 (23 days)		

## 2007 AMENDED

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Thoroughbred Racing Jan. 5 - Apr. 7 (46 days)			Closed Apr. 8 - Jun. 28			Quarter Horse Racing Jun. 29 - Sep. 8 (38 days)			Closed Sep. 9 - Oct. 27 Thoroughbred Racing Oct. 28 - Dec. 30 (35 days)		

## TRADITIONAL 2008

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Thoroughbred Racing Jan. 4 - Apr. 5 (44 days)			Closed Apr. 6 - Jun. 27			Quarter Horse Racing Jun. 28 - Sep. 6 (38 days)			Closed Sep. 7 - Nov. 27 Thoroughbred Racing Nov. 28 - Dec. 31 (17 days)		

## OPTION #1

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Closed Jan. 1 - Jun. 27			Quarter Horse Racing Jun. 28 - Sep. 6 (38 days)			Closed Sep. 7 - Sep. 26			Thoroughbred Racing Sep. 27 - Dec. 31 (53 days)		

We, the undersigned horsemen, would like to see the racing schedule remain the same as it has been in the past (Sam Houston running November through April).

Signature	Name	TXRC #
1 <i>Jim Bausch</i>		20851
2 <i>Val Rayford</i>		122956
3 <i>Richard Biel</i>		96125
4 <i>Gullent Cough</i>		126853
5 <i>Charles Hubill</i>		24096
6 <i>Lay Strumpf</i>		31602
7 <i>[Signature]</i>		125498
8 <i>[Signature]</i>		87177
9 <i>William Pettit</i>		26382
10 <i>Melba Nelson</i>		21674
11 <i>Shirley Herdige</i>		126222
12 <i>B. St. Duh</i>		126018
13 <i>Rigo Rosas ASST. TR. M. Stidham</i>		71855
14 <i>Alan Love</i>		80450
15 <i>Ronald J. Podraga</i>		13025
16 <i>Jim McWaters</i>		
17 <i>Jimmy McWaters</i>		113315
18		
19		
20		

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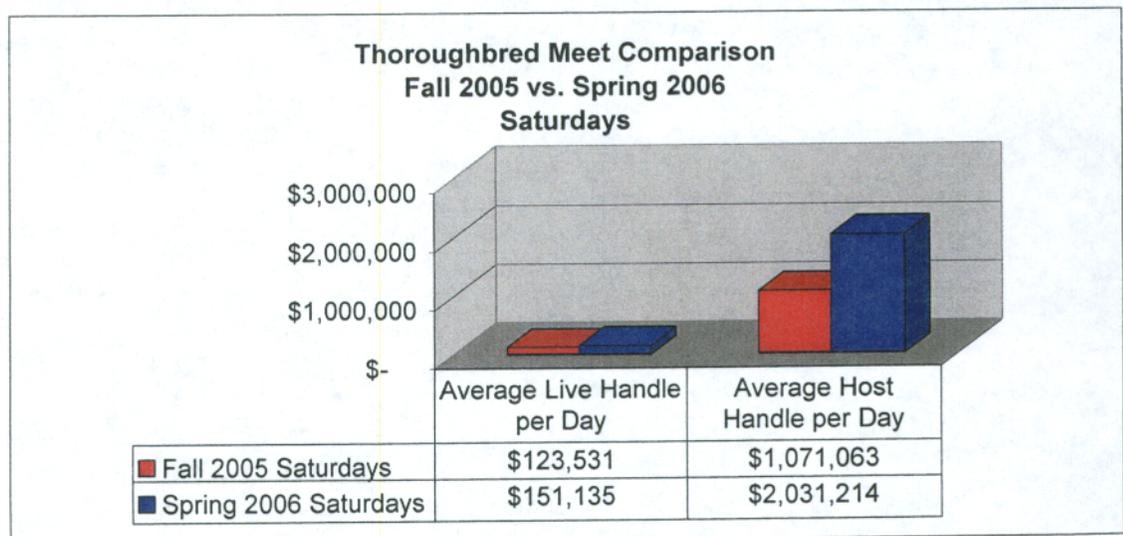
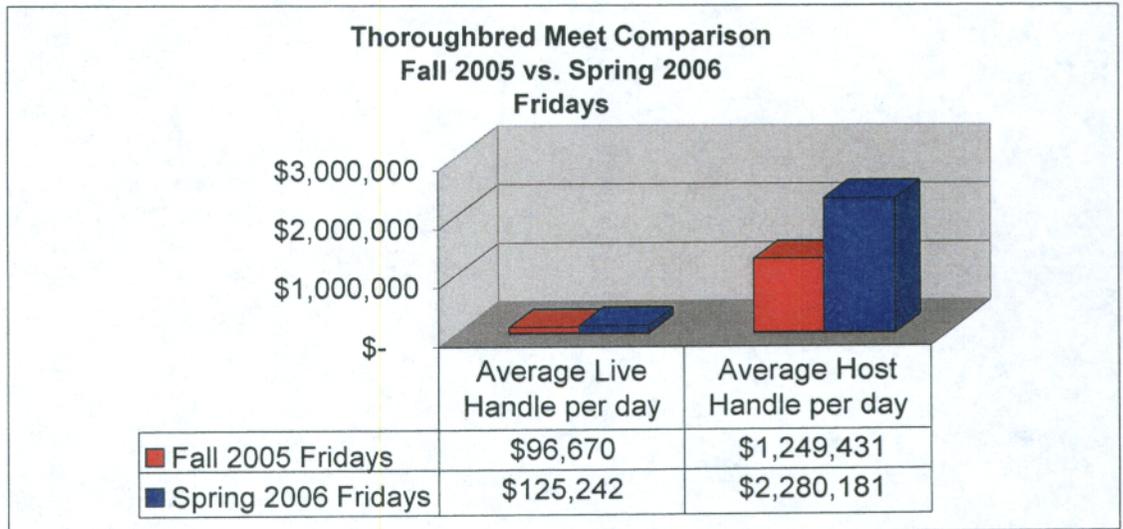
Signature	Name	TXRC #
1 Ed Arroyo	111673	
2 [Signature]	47317	ASST JR
3 BRANDON CLARK	120847	
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# Free Dates

1	Jon Shaffer		"OLD" SHARP JAN - APR
2	James Knight		
3	DR Sandra Montgomery		OLD DATES - WILL NOT GO TO RETAMP FOR JAN FEB MAR
4	Jim Bausch	20851	OLD DATES
5	Brian Clark	20847	OLD SHARP JAN - APR
6	Marilyn White	90609	OLD DATES
7	Richard Bird		OLD DATES
8	Trust Brown	85240	Old dates NOV - APR
9	Art St. John	121567	OLD DATES
10	Ronnie Cornett		OLD DATES
11	Susan Diller	127130	OLD DATES
12	Jimmy Kay	32730	old dates
13	Mark Baker	69797	old dates
14	Sh. Hartley	125332	Old Dates
15	Andrea Cumpson		OLD DATES
16	Wipe Beck	Horse Sheds	old Dates
17	Joanna McCullough		old dates
18	H. Diamant A.	Official	OLD DATES
19	Russelle Archer	O/T	OLD DATES
20	Colleen Davidson	O/T	old Dates
21	Bob	O/T	" "
22	Walter	O/T	" "
23	Chris Jones	owner	Old dates
24	Chris Jones	owner/Tran	old dates
25	Ashley Davidson	owner	old dates
26	Michael Davidson	owner	old dates
27	Virginia	Owner	Old dates

**Thoroughbred Meet Comparison  
Fall 2005 vs. Spring 2006**  
(omitted TX Champions Day)

	Fall 2005 Friday	Spring 2006 Friday	% Variance	Fall 2005 Saturday	Spring 2006 Saturday	% Variance
<b>Average Attendance</b>	2,590	3,255	-25.7%	3,476	3,845	-10.6%
<b>Average Live Handle</b>	\$ 96,670	\$ 125,242	-29.6%	\$ 123,531	\$ 151,135	-22.3%
<b>Average Host Handle</b>	\$ 1,249,431	\$ 2,280,181	-82.5%	\$ 1,071,063	\$ 2,031,214	-89.6%



Note: Date range for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 are 11/2/05-11/30/05 and 1/1/06 - 2/26/06 respectively.