

Monticello's Passover Pace slated for April 22

by John Manzi, publicity director, Monticello Raceway

Monticello, NY --- The Kentucky Derby has its "Run for the Roses"; the Preakness runs for the Black-Eyed Susans; and on Tuesday afternoon (April 22), Monticello Raceway will have its annual "Race for the Matzohs" when the Catskill Mountains oval presents its 16th edition of the Passover Pace, a race strictly for drivers of Jewish heritage.

The event will be part of the track's year-long Heritage Drivers Series, which will be followed later this season by other races for different ethnicities.

Last year, Bobby Krivelin won the event with Isn't She Lovely in a time of 2:04.1 and it marked the second time in the last three years that Krivelin has been victorious in the Race for The Matzohs.

Despite having won again last year, Krivelin still trails both Mike Kimelman (1999-2003-2007) and Alan Schwartz (2002-2004-2006), each of whom have won the Passover Pace three times.

Alan Charles, who's expected to be among the drivers in this year's race, joins Krivelin as a two-time winner (2010-2012) of the Passover Pace.

Other recent winners include PJ Lutman III (2009) and Bob Heckkoff (2008).

The fastest of all the Passover Paces was a 1:59 mile when Jack Rice won the event with Wildfire King in 2001.

"This race may be a little unusual, but believe it or not those who compete annually in our Passover Pace have been calling to make sure that we are doing it again this year," said Mighty M general manager Shawn Wiles.

The Passover Pace is open to any licensed harness driver of Jewish heritage who holds a full (A) or a provisional (P) license from the United States Trotting Association.

Director of Racing Eric Warner is currently seeking drivers who are interested in participating in this year's contest. For further information, or to enter the event, contact Warner in the racing office at 845.794.4100, ext. 557; or call the track's publicity office at ext. 455.