

## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Kerogen sets new State of Maine Trotting Record**

**Scarborough, Maine (May 9, 2008)** – Kerogen, 2007 Trotter of the Year in the State of Maine, circles continues to amass honors and titles with every race and every stride with the latest accolade pinned to his stall-guard proclaiming him State of Maine Record Holder.

Kerogen raced into the record books on Friday (May 9) evening at Scarborough Downs tracking the early speed of the Meadowlands invader, Financial Glider (Kevin Switzer) through panels of 28.1, 58.2 and 1:28.2 before the pair came together at that point with Kerogen joining the leader in an epoch battle through the storied Scarborough stretch.

As the dust settled and the cheering faded the crowd focused trackside as the tele-timer told the tale – Kerogen had won the battle once again and set a new state of Maine standard for aged trotting stallions timed in 1:58.3.

“The filly (Financial Glide) did a lot of the work today,” said winning driver Kim Ireland “That was one heck of a mile considering the cool temperatures at this early point in the season, but they’re just two nice horses – that’s all.”

Ireland’s nice horse claimed his fourth top-class win in a row at the Downs and in the process remained undefeated on the season.

“My horse is just so comfortable on a half-mile track” Ireland continued “For such a big horse he’s very athletic. I think he actually enjoys racing at Scarborough Downs. He handles this track well – he really likes this course.”

Kerogen supplanted three fabled trotters in the record books today erasing marks for his age, gait and sex that had stood the test of time for many years. He replaced Lenny Joy (1998) as the state’s top half-mile-track performer and equaled Nibble Hanover’s overall mark taken on the figure-eight at the Old Orchard Beach Kite Track back in 1941.

Kerogen also became the top-rated aged stallion at Scarborough Downs by overtaking Current Cast’s previous best that had stood since May of 2000.

“Current Cast was a really good horse – a Meadowlands kind of horse” a beaming Ireland remarked “I raced against him for years and he was competitive wherever he went. Sometimes they leave the state and they’re not quite what you think – Current Cast left and was very good. It’s an honor to have my horse mentioned in his company.”

It’s also generally acknowledged that it’s an honor to have Kerogen racing on the seaside oval at Scarborough Downs.

“He won 13 races last season – most of them right here at the Downs” said Ireland “There’s no sense shipping – with today’s fuel prices it makes little sense. Scarborough’s purse structure is sound enough that it lets us keep good horses racing right here locally.”

Ireland’s eyes light up as he envisions the great rivalry that might develop between Kerogen and Financial Glider as the summer season progresses at Scarborough Downs.

“Kevin Switzer is such a gentleman” said Ireland “He knew his mare had just gone a monster trip but he was the first one to congratulate me just past the wire. This matchup between his horse and mine could help generate excitement in the fan-base and hopefully help bring people back to the track this year. Imagine the storylines – Boy verses Girl – that’s just one angle. Folks love to take sides in a racetrack rivalry.”

Kerogen is owned by Lew Hayden of Pleasanton, Texas and trained in the family stable by Kim’s wife Wendy. The Ireland Stable has enjoyed phenomenal success at this early point in the year – winning 9 races from only 12 seasonal starts.

“There’s no doubt that our owners buy good horses for us to train” concludes Ireland “But we work really hard too. It was a pretty tough winter here in Maine, but just because it’s a cold day in February doesn’t mean we take a day off. We don’t miss much.”

The formula of hard work, good horses and dedicated owners has paid handsome dividends for the Ireland Stable indeed -- look no further than the latest state of Maine record holder for proof.

Kerogen will wear the title with pride.

Scarborough Downs proudly features live harness action every Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon with first post slated for 4:15 pm (EDT). The popular Sunday matinee performance rolls in behind the gate at 1:30 pm.