



WHAT THE HILL

Bay, C, 3 by Muscle Hill – K T Cha Cha by Angus Hall

OWNER: Burke Racing Stable, PA; Our Horse Cents Stables & J & T Silva Stables, NY; Deo Volente Farms, NJ
BREEDER: Stan Klemencic, ON
SALE INFO: \$65,000 Lexington Selected
TRAINER: Ron Burke
DRIVER: David Miller

YEAR	STARTS	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2017	6	4	1	1	\$101,550	1:52.1 M
2016	14	3	5	0	\$315,686	1:54.4 M
LIFETIME	20	7	6	1	\$417,236	3, 1:52.1 M

What The Hill is a son of 2009 Hambletonian winner and Horse of the Year Muscle Hill out of the mare K T Cha Cha. His family includes Canada's 2006 Horse of the Year winner Majestic Son.

What The Hill is from the stable of trainer Ron Burke, who has finished second in the past two Hambletonians. What The Hill has won four of six races this year and heads to the Hambletonian off a career-best 1:52.1 win in the Reynolds Memorial last weekend at the Meadowlands.

For his career, What The Hill has won seven of 20 races and earned \$417,236. His wins include the 2016 Peter Haughton Memorial for 2-year-old male trotters on last year's Hambletonian Day. The most recent Haughton winner to return and win the Hambletonian was Muscle Hill in 2009.

"What The Hill is a legitimate contender," Burke said. "He's going to be able to race either way (from the front or behind) and puts himself in play and tends to always finish right on the wire with everybody else.

"I think two heats is an advantage for him. He's a big, strong horse. If anything, he'll go better the second heat than the first. So that doesn't bother me at all."

What The Hill is owned by Burke Racing, Our Horse Cents Stables, J&T Silva Stables, and Mike Gulotta's Deo Volente Farms.

J&T Silva Stables is Jerry and Theresa Silva. Jerry Silva has been a partner on four Hambletonian winners: Continentalvictory (1996), Self Possessed (1999), Deweycheatumnhowe (2008) and Muscle Hill (2009).

He shares the record for Hambletonian owner wins with Guy “Sonny” Antonacci.

Our Horse Cents Stables is Marcia Gingold, Gene Kurzrok, Scott Kurzrok, Stephen Springer, and Richard Taylor.

RON BURKE (Canonsburg, PA)

Ron Burke, 47, took over the family’s training stable from father Mickey, the 2006 Trainer of the Year, in late 2008 and pushed the operation’s success to record-setting heights.

Burke is in the process of leading all trainers in wins for the ninth consecutive year. He has won no fewer than 762 races a year since 2009 and twice topped 1,000 victories, with 1,090 in 2013 and 1,093 in 2014. He is the only trainer in history to win 1,000 times in a season.

Already the sport’s all-time leader in training wins, Burke in July surpassed 8,000 career victories.

Burke also is in the process of leading all trainers in purses for the ninth straight season. His \$177 million in lifetime earnings leads all trainers in history. He has topped \$20 million each of the past four years, including a record \$28.4 million in 2014. He is the only trainer in history to reach \$20 million in a season.

He was named Trainer of the Year in 2011 and 2013.

In addition to Burke’s success as a trainer, his Burke Racing was named Owner of the Year (with partners Mark Weaver and Mike Brussemi) in 2013.

Burke is seeking his first win in the Hambletonian after finishing twice the past two years. Last year, Burke’s Southwind Frank was nipped by a nose by Marion Marauder, who went on to capture the Trotting Triple Crown.

In 2015, Burke entered filly Mission Brief to take on the boys in the Hambletonian. Mission Brief, a world-record-holder at ages 2 and 3, won her elimination before finishing second to Pinkman in the final.

Burke’s other stars have included 2014 Pacer of the Year Sweet Lou and 2011 Pacer of the Year Foiled Again, who is the richest harness racing horse in history, with \$7.52 million in lifetime earnings.

DAVID MILLER (Cream Ridge, NJ)

David Miller, 52, won the 2012 Hambletonian Oaks with Personal Style.

The Hall of Fame driver ranks No. 2 all time in purses, with nearly \$217 million, and is No. 5 in wins, with more than 12,200. He was the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s Driver of the Year in 2016, 2015 and 2003.

In 2003, Miller led the sport in purses and drove No Pan Intended to the Pacing Triple Crown and Horse of the Year honors.

Last year, Miller was the driver of Horse of the Year Award winner Always B Miki, who paced the fastest mile in harness racing history when he won in 1:46 at Lexington's Red Mile. In 2015, Miller set a record with five Breeders Crown wins in a single year.

Miller, who received the 1993 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association, was already a standout in his native Ohio when he headed to the East Coast in the late 1990s. He captured multiple driving titles at the Meadowlands Racetrack in the early 2000s and has been a force on the Grand Circuit ever since he made the move.

He was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y., in 2014.