

Developments

Industry News • Announcements • People & Events

CARMA Equine Retirement Update

At its December board meeting, the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approved a TOC proposed rule change that will earmark 0.3 percent of purses earned by Thoroughbred racehorse owners for a new program to help fund equine retirement facilities in California. As structured, participation in the charitable program is completely voluntary, providing owners with the ability to “opt out” should they not desire to support the program. The CHRB’s action was the culmination of months of research, study, and work by the TOC Equine Retirement Committee aimed at finding an innovative means to address the problem of unwanted horses whose racing careers have ended in California.

TOC conducted research which indicated approximately 2,000 Thoroughbred racehorses make their final start – or end their racing careers – each year in California. While the vast majority of those horses go on to second careers in the breeding shed or in the performance and pleasure horse industries, existing equine retirement facilities in the State are caring for approximately 300 unwanted former racehorses.

The program dubbed “CARMA” – California Retirement Management Account –, will be set up as a 501(c)(3) charity, and will administer the program, process grant requests, and disburse funds to qualified retirement facilities located within the State. Accordingly, deductions will qualify as charitable contributions, and will be tax deductible.

“If owners don’t take on this task, who will?” asked TOC Vice Chair Madeline Auerbach. Her passion for the health, welfare, and long-term care of these equine athletes has been the driving force behind the development of CARMA. “Everyone in the industry should participate,” she continued, noting that other groups in racing including jockeys, trainers, and race-tracks will similarly be asked to financially support these horses.

California Connections Stand Out in Breeders’ Cup

Held for the first time at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, New Jersey, the 2007 Breeders’ Cup was conducted over two days, Friday and Saturday, October 26-27.

Congratulations to TOC director Jess Jackson for Curlin’s impressive 4-1/2 length victory in the Breeders’ Cup Classic. Curlin is owned by Jackson’s Stonestreet Stables in partnership with Padua Stables, George Bolton and Midnight Cry Stables.



Curlin, outside, Robby Albarado up, draws past Hard Spun en route to a 4-1/2 length victory in the Breeders’ Cup Classic at Monmouth Park.

Another TOC director, Bob Baffert, conditioned runners to victories in two Breeders’ Cup races – Indian Blessing in the Juvenile Fillies and Midnight Lute in the Sprint. Midnight Lute is owned by Mike Pegram, Karl Watson, and Paul Weitman. Indian Blessing is owned and bred by Hal and Patti Earnhard, who also bred and raced her sire, Indian Charlie, California Champion Three-Year-Old Male of 1998.

California trainer Doug O’Neill kicked off the two-day event with a win by Marysfield for owner Mark Gorman in the Filly & Mare Sprint. Hearty Congratulations to all California connections!

Funds Transfer Now Available to Horsemen

The latest funds transfer capability from InCompass Financial Services (IFS) enables horsemen to transfer money from the Horseman’s Bookkeeper accounts electronically between participating tracks or from a participating track to their bank account. The funds transfer service is the newest component of IFS, which was launched in October 2004 with the Account Access feature that provides horsemen with secure, anytime access to their horseman’s accounts at participating racetracks through a secure Internet connection. By logging on to IFS Account Access with their user ID and password, horsemen are able to view their account balances, view and print detailed account statements and tax forms, and request checks – all without the need to call or visit the paymaster’s office.

IFS Funds Transfer is currently available in California at Del Mar, Fairplex, Hollywood Park, Oak Tree Racing Association, and Santa Anita. The service will soon be available at Golden Gate Fields and the racing fairs.

To utilize the service, horsemen simply log on to IFS at <http://www.incompass-solutions.com>, select IFS Funds Transfer on their account page, and complete a brief funds transfer form. Transferred funds are generally available to horsemen on the next banking business morning. A fee of \$7.50 is assessed for each such transaction.

For more information about IFS Funds Transfer, visit the paymaster's office at your local racetrack or contact InCompass at (800) 467-7385.

37th Annual Eclipse Awards

This year's annual Eclipse Awards Dinner, honoring the champion Thoroughbreds of 2007 and individuals of outstanding achievement, returns to the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills on Monday evening, January 21.

Named after the great 18th Century racehorse and sire, Eclipse, who was undefeated in 18 starts, the Eclipse Awards are presented annually to recognize Thoroughbred horses and individuals whose achievements have earned them the title of Champion in their respective categories, and to members of the media for outstanding coverage of Thoroughbred racing. For inquiries call NTRA Customer & Event Services at (800) 722-3287.



Every Horse Counts! Participate in the 2007 Census of Agriculture

The American Horse Council (AHC) is calling on all members of the horse owning community to participate in the 2007 Census of Agriculture conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA census, taken every five years, is a count of U.S. farms, ranches and the people who operate them. The census will help to measure land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and many other areas.

"The Census of Agriculture is our chance to stand and be counted," said AHC President Jay Hickey. According to an AHC report, the American horse industry has a \$102 billion dollar impact on the US economy and supports 1.4 million US jobs.

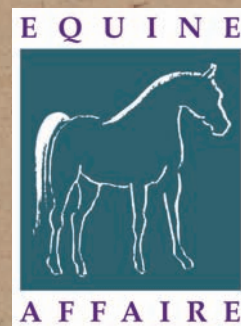
Census forms were mailed in late December and must be completed by February 2, 2008. If your farm received a survey for the 2002 census, you will be mailed a survey that you can fill in and mail back. If your farm was not a part of the 2002 census, you can

fill out a basic USDA census registration form by following the link from the AHC's web site: www.horsecouncil.org. Once this form is submitted online a survey will be mailed to you.

"Equine Affaire" Returns to Pomona

Equine Affaire, the premier horse exposition in North America, will return to Fairplex for the eighth time from January 31 through February 3, 2008. The program will include more than 150 different clinics, seminars, and demonstrations by renowned national and international trainers, competitors, and coaches. Additional event highlights include a Youth Pavilion, more than 350 trade show exhibitors, and a Breed Pavilion showcasing a wide variety of breeds from around the world.

Hours are Thursday-Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$15/day or \$55 for a 4-day pass for adults, \$10/day or \$35 for a 4-day pass for children 7-12 (children under 6 free). For additional information, call (740) 845-0085, or visit www.equineaffaire.com.



New Jockey Insurance Program

At its December meeting, the CHRB ensured that California jockeys and their eligible dependents will continue to have health and welfare benefits in 2008 by approving an agreement between TOC and the Jockeys' Guild creating a non-profit corporation – the Jockeys' Welfare Corporation (JWC) – to distribute approximately \$1 million annually for this purpose from un-cashed refunds in pari-mutuel wagering. The program resulted from a review begun by the CHRB three years ago to make certain the fund authorized by California Horse Racing Law was being used properly to benefit California jockeys.

Under the new agreement, the JWC will hold the funds authorized by statute and distribute them to the insurers providing health, vision, dental, life, and disability benefits to active jockeys who qualify by riding in at least 100 races a year in California, and to certain qualified retired riders and their families. The program will be overseen by a Board appointed by TOC, the Guild, and the CHRB.

Check it Out!

TOC has a Lending Library at the Santa Anita office, where you can borrow books pertinent to horse racing – both fiction and non-fiction. There is no charge to check out books.

Have books you would like to donate? We'd be happy to add them to our library! Just drop them by, or mail them, to TOC at 285 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.