

News from the **North**

By Richard Scheidt



The Salute: Closing Day at Bay Meadows.

Racing News

Bay Meadows Goes Official; Golden Gate Set for Long Run

After 75 years, Bay Meadows conducted its final race on August 16 – the aptly named Last Dance Stakes at the San Mateo County Fair meet. With more than 10,000 fans in attendance the Jerry Hollendorfer-trained You Lift Me Up, with jockey Frank Alvarado up, posted the win for owners George Todaro and Hollendorfer.

Many fans and employees gathered to listen to track President, Jack Liebau, deliver a brief farewell in the winners' circle – a winners' circle that saw the likes of horses John Henry, Cigar, Seabiscuit and Lost in the Fog; and jockeys Russell Baze, Laffit Pincay Jr. and Bill Shoemaker.

Bay Meadows will surely be missed, but racing fans will not be without a location to play and watch the races. The San Mateo County Fair (adjacent to Bay Meadows) opened a temporary satellite wagering facility following the track closure. The grand opening of a new permanent facility is scheduled for October 15.

Golden Gate Fields now remains as the only major racetrack in Northern California. Its current race meet runs through December 21 and, after a short holiday break, reopens December 26, to run until at least mid-June. In preparation for eight straight months of racing, Golden Gate has made several improvements to the facility.

The paddock has been remodeled to include a new and much safer roof. The paddock stalls have been repainted and include new redwood accents. A long awaited Owner/Trainer Lounge is currently under construction (scheduled to open November 1) on the lower level close to the paddock. The Turf Club received a face lift, and the Horse Wizard room in the clubhouse is flush with flat screens and new bar.

Stop by the TOC office, we'd be happy to give you a quick tour.

Seminar Update

TOC's Continuing Education Seminars Hit the California Fairs

TOC seminars don't stop just because racing is not happening at a major track. In early August, the Sonoma County Fair in Santa Rosa hosted "Ownership 101" with track announcer and owner Vic Stauffer and owner/trainer Steve Sherman. A crowd of over 200 were treated to the basics of Thoroughbred ownership including what it takes to own your own "sports



Vic Stauffer, Steve Sherman, and Gordon Jones at Santa Rosa seminar.

franchise," the basics of claiming, and the importance of building a strong relationship with your trainer.

The Big Fresno Fair played host in October to the popular Conformation Clinic. The seminar was moderated by track announcer Frank Mirahmadi with special guest and leading California owner/breeder John Harris. Participants gathered at the paddock while trainer John Martin pointed out what to look for in a fast horse and conversely what flaws might slow them down. Those in attendance were able to interact with both Martin and Harris.

The Seminar Series continues with "Financial Planning and Your Stable" on November 15 at Golden Gate Fields. That seminar will also cover the formation of business entities and the importance of a proper business plan. Visit www.toconline.com for the entire schedule of educational events.

Stabling Update

With the closure of Bay Meadows, the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton becomes the primary offsite stabling facility for Golden Gate Fields. With the support of stakeholders in Northern California, the Fair is working to make the necessary improvements to become a top notch training facility. As a matter of consistency, the stable area will be overseen by the Golden Gate Fields racing office. Horses shipping in with approved vaning companies to run at Golden Gate will have their shipping paid automatically.