



TOC TIMES

FEBRUARY 2008

THOROUGHBRED OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

VOLUME 9

UPCOMING TOC EVENTS

"Ownership 101"
Saturday, February 23
Santa Anita Park
Clocker's Corner
8:30 a.m.
Call (626) 574-6620 for details

"Ownership 101"
Saturday, February 23
Bay Meadows
Owner-Trainer Lounge
8:30 a.m.
Call (650) 571-0459 for details

TOC Owner Awards
Saturday, March 15
Santa Anita Park
Call (800) 994-9909 for details

New Format for 2007 Owner Awards!

By Mary Forney

TOC is updating its annual Owner of the Year awards! In previous years, voting for the owner awards was part of the annual election process – with members voting in May for owner and rookie of the year, at the same time they voted for TOC's board of directors. Awards were then presented at the annual meeting in August at Del Mar. This year, in an effort to make the awards more timely, the 2007 Owner of the Year awards will be presented in the Spring – with the awards presentations to take place in the winners' circle between races at Santa Anita on Saturday, March 15th and at Bay Meadows on Saturday, April 12th.

The selection process has also been revamped, starting with a new media selection committee which was formed to provide a list of nominees in four categories: Owner of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and two brand new categories – Horse of the Year, and Moment or Story of the Year. The media selection committee consists of representatives from Northern and Southern California, including track publicity, print media, television, and local handicappers.

As in the past, awards will also be presented for winners in several statistical categories, including most purse money won in California, most races won in California, and most stakes races won in California. In addition, the TOC Chair will present the annual Ed Friendly Industry Service Award.

TOC NOTES: Board Members Madeline Auerbach, Mace Siegel with President Drew J. Couto and Executive Director Guy Lamothe met with NTRA and Breeders' Cup representatives on Jan. 21 for a strategic planning update. TOC President Drew J. Couto attended an academic research meeting on track surfaces at UC Davis on Jan. 18. TOC staff member Richard Scheidt accompanied TEAM TOC (Wayne Davis, Alan Mindell and Gene Duguay) at the NTRA/DRF National Handicapping Championships in Las Vegas on Jan. 24-26.

THE QUARTER POLL

What is your favorite "2007 Moment or Story of the Year" in California? (An example for 2006 might have been the Lava Man story or Russell Baze topping Laffit Pincay's record.)

Let us know how you feel. Email us at toc@toconline.com

TOC DIRECTOR'S NOTES: An Exciting First Two Months

By Tom Bachman

At the urging of the TOC's Racing Affairs Committee, Bay Meadows will offer a unique three-race event for \$10,000 claiming horses. The first leg, to be run Sunday, March 16, will be an open \$10,000 claiming race at the distance of one mile and one-sixteenth with a "super-charged" purse projected at \$18,000. (A one time entry fee of \$300, due at time of entry of the first leg, will be added to the final leg. Entries fees will be refunded if entire three-race series is not completed) Horses claimed out of the first leg will remain eligible for the second leg.

The second leg is scheduled for Sunday, April 13 and will be run as a Starter Allowance race at a distance of one mile and one-eighth with an estimated purse of \$20,000. The first two legs may be split provided there is a sufficient number of entries as determined by the Racing Secretary. The third and final leg will be run as a Starter/Overnight stakes on Saturday, May 10th. The purse for the final leg, to be run at one mile and one-quarter, is estimated to be over \$60,000! All races will be run on the main track and only those starters in legs one and two are eligible for the finals.

Entries for the first leg will be taken on March 13 – contact the Bay Meadows racing office for details. The success of this series – and similar unique racing events in the future – relies on participation from owners. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this exciting event. Get your horses ready and let's have some fun!

JANUARY LEADING OWNERS

Northern California Races Won		Southern California Races Won	
Jerry Hollendorfer or George Todaro	5	Barber & Barber	4
Joseph P. Morey, Jr. Rev. Tr.	4	Hollendorfer, J and Todaro, G	3
Robert & Victoria Gilker	4	Patti & Hal J. Earnhardt	3
Northern California Earnings		Southern California Earnings	
Kjell H. Qvale	\$ 114,518	Peter Vegso	\$ 500,000
Jerry Hollendorfer or George Todaro	\$ 94,844	Haras Santa Maria de Araras, Inc.	\$ 275,000
Harlequin, Bienstock, Duggan, Winner	\$ 90,000	K.K. Sangara	\$ 206,040

TOC DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Shustek Joins TOC Board

By Mary Forney

Owner Michael Shustek was appointed to the Board of Directors of TOC effective January 10, 2008, to fill a vacant board position that expires June 30, 2008. Shustek owns more than 20 horses racing in California, either solely or in partnership, including Boutrous and PSU Grad.

Shustek, CEO of The Vestin Group, a Las Vegas-based publicly traded company, met with the TOC board at its January meeting. "A common thread that my business world and Thoroughbred horse racing have is that they are both regulated," he said. "I believe that the experience I have gained in the business world will help me to promote Thoroughbred horse racing."

TOC OWNER PROFILE: Gina Peters

Gina Peters became a licensed owner in 2004 but her interest in Thoroughbred racing dates back ten years earlier. In 1994 her then boyfriend Shawn asked her on a date to the horse races. Having never been, she said why not? Little did she know he was taking her to Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Derby. Go For Gin won that year and since that day she's had an insatiable appetite for the game. Gina and Shawn were married six years later with Southern California bugler Jay Cohen playing the "Call to the Post" as she walked down the aisle.

Gina owns horses as a part of Starburst Racing Stables and currently has three horses in training. Gina and Starburst started seven different horses over the past year – primarily in the claiming ranks. One of her favorite runners was Snolly Goster, winner of 4 races and in the money 13 times in a row in 2007. Snolly Goster was co-owned by Carl Van Burger, a frequent investor with Starburst.

Gina's horses and passion for the game are why she gets up in the morning. She can be seen at the track frequently when her horses run in both Northern and Southern California. She credits the game for making true lifetime friends and lives by the saying, "A bad day at the track is better than a good day anywhere else!"



Contact us at www.toconline.com or call 800-994-9909