



TOC TIMES

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THOROUGHBRED OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

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TOC Enhances 2008 Calendar; Additional Owner Events, Racing Club Planned

By Richard Scheidt

2008 promises to be an exciting year in California with new synthetic racing surfaces, the return of the Breeders' Cup to Oak Tree at Santa Anita and a new rotation for the Northern racing fairs. TOC intends to stay ahead of the curve with several changes planned to improve events for Owners.

Traditionally TOC has held its annual business meeting, owner awards and cocktail reception on one day during the Del Mar race meet. In 2008 we plan to hold each of those events as well as our handicapping contest - the TOC Owners Challenge - on separate days at different race meets. By splitting one day into several events, we hope to present additional opportunities for owners to participate and meet and mingle with the TOC Board of Directors.

Our owner awards, including Owner of the Year and the Ed Friendly Industry Service Award, will be presented to the winners during the Santa Anita Park race meet in late March or early April. TOC Board members will participate in winners' circle presentations of the awards, which will include new categories to be announced early in 2008.

The TOC Owners Challenge takes on a new look in its second year. The owner-only handicapping contest will take place at the Hollywood Park spring-summer meet with an additional twist. The top two finishers at the Hollywood Park contest will make up two-thirds of Team TOC that will participate in the DRF/NTRA National Handicapping Championships the following January. The final spot will be awarded to the winner of a second contest to be held in conjunction with our Northern California Annual meeting later in the year.

Del Mar will be represented well as we have planned a cocktail reception and annual business meeting during the meet. A cocktail reception for TOC members will take place on opening weekend with an opportunity to meet your Board of Directors in an informal setting. The annual business meeting moves back to a brunch meeting later in the meet.

For the third year in a row, Northern California will host an annual meeting. In 2008 we have added owner awards and a handicapping contest to the event. A date is forthcoming.

With hopes of bringing new owners into our game, TOC will introduce a new Racing Fan Club. Modeled after some of the popular racing clubs in England, the concept of the fan club is to give non-owners access to some real owner perks. Fan club members will be able to follow a stable of horses in training and on race day come to the track, go to the paddock, and hopefully the winners' circle.

Dates and details for all of our events in 2008 will be available soon on our Web site at www.toconline.com. **TOC Notes:** Board Members Marsha Naify (Chair), Tom Bachman, Martin Bach, Phil Oviedo, and Dr. Kim Kuhlmann, as well as President Drew J. Couto and staff members Wayne Atwell, Mary Forney, Guy Lamothe, and Richard Scheidt, attended the TOC Northern California Annual meeting on September 29 at Bay Meadows. TOC President Drew J. Couto and board members Marsha Naify, Tom Bachman and staff Wayne Atwell and Richard Scheidt participated at Bay Meadows at the 2008 Northern California race date planning meeting. TOC Board Chair Marsha Naify with President Drew J. Couto and Executive Director Guy Lamothe participated in the Southern California strategic planning meeting on September 27 at Santa Anita.

TOC OWNER PROFILE: Marla Shontere

Marla Shontere has always had a love affair with horses. Her interest in owning racehorses started in early 2000 when she attended a TOC Horse Course for New Owners at Santa Anita Park. After attending more than a year's worth of seminars - from Conformation Clinics to Advanced Horse Courses to Veterinary Seminars - Marla felt ready to take the plunge. She selected Jenine Sahadi as her trainer and together they spent the first part of 2001 shopping the two-year-olds in training sales in California. She purchased her first horse, an un-named bay colt by Sandpit (BRZ), at the Barretts 2YO sale. In typical Marla fashion she named him Brazil Nut!

Anyone who knows Marla, and many around the track do, know she loves the morning workouts and spending time at the barn feeding carrots to her horses. Her effervescent personality has made her a favorite among owners, trainers, and bettors alike. Marla's stable has grown since 2001. She now has broodmares and babies on the farm and a horse at the track!



UPCOMING TOC EVENTS

TOC Open House
Saturday, November 10
Golden Gate Fields
TOC Owners Lounge
12:30 p.m.

TOC Open House
Saturday, November 10
Hollywood Park
Owner/Trainer Lounge
12:30 p.m.

Continuing Education Seminars
Saturday, November 17
Hollywood Park & Golden Gate Fields
Call (800) 994-9909 for

THE QUARTER POLL

Should claiming levels be adjusted periodically to keep track with inflation?

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

TOC DIRECTOR'S NOTES: New Racing Surfaces a "Win-Win"

By Dr. Kim Kuhlmann

While you will never eliminate racing injuries completely, the new synthetic racing surfaces dramatically reduce the number of career threatening injuries we see in Thoroughbred racing. In California we are seeing a reduced number of injuries and that in turn should extend our horses' racing careers. These new racing surfaces create a "win-win" situation for both horse and owner. A race horse, like any other athlete, is subject to various injuries that are unavoidable at times; however with the new racing surfaces these injuries are much more manageable and require much less convalescence and veterinary care. The new synthetic surfaces will greatly reduce the number of "off" tracks, again helping to further reduce the number of injuries. The horses should be fitter than in the past as a result of fewer missed training days due to weather conditions. With fewer missed workouts a fitter horse tends to make a sounder horse. Horses that are less injured tend to have overall better health, and that leads to additional starts.

The consensus among trainers and veterinarians in California since the opening of the new synthetic track, Tapeta Footings at Golden Gate Fields, is that horses are training sounder and fewer problems are being noted with the horses' legs. The Oak Tree meet at Santa Anita is already producing larger fields than a year ago (9.4 compared to 8.01) while racing on their new Cushion Track. While only time will tell how the synthetic surfaces hold up through the various weather conditions, people remain optimistic that this is a step in the right direction for California.

With fewer orthopedic problems, the horse will tend to have fewer veterinarian charges not only related to injuries but also relating to general health care. In turn horses in California have the potential to stay on the track, increasing field size, increasing purses, and increasing your earning power as an owner.

Dr. Kim Kuhlmann is a practicing veterinarian on the Northern California racetrack circuit and a recently elected TOC Board member.

SEPTEMBER LEADING OWNERS

Northern California Races Won		Southern California Races Won	
Jerry Hollendorfer or George Todaro	6	Barber & Barber	5
Robert D. Bone	5	Benjamin C. Warner	4
Kerry & Lisa Lawson	3	Everest Stables, Inc.	4
Northern California Earnings		Southern California Earnings	
Jerry Hollendorfer or George Todaro	\$ 114,640	Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Moss	\$ 335,760
Harris Farms, Inc. & Per Antonsen	\$ 90,000	Warren B. Williamson	\$ 240,000
Robert D. Bone	\$ 74,010	Herrick Racing, LLC	\$ 240,000

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