

News from the North

By Richard Scheidt

Northern California Annual Meeting and Handicapping Contest

TOC's Northern California Annual Meeting took place at Golden Gate Fields in October. More than 40 licensed owners participated in a lively question and answer session following the business portion of the meeting. TOC Board Members heard loud and clear some of the concerns from the North including full card simulcasting, equity in Cal-bred programs, horse population issues, and the types of races currently offered. Following the meeting a buffet lunch was served giving owners additional time to

after Cal State Fair for three weeks before racing returns to Pleasanton the last two weeks of August. Golden Gate will run the rest of the year with the exception of the Big Fresno Fair running its traditional dates in October. The Humboldt County Fair will run overlapped for two weeks in August.

For a final approved list of race dates in 2010 visit the CHRB Web site at chrb.ca.gov.

Seminar Update

Fresno Conformation Clinic

For the third year in a row the Big Fresno Fair hosted a TOC seminar. This year more than 35 participants were treated to the ever popular conformation clinic. Track announcer Frank Mirahmadi emceed the event in the paddock area, fielding questions from veteran and perspective owners. Thanks to trainer John Martin and Harris Farm's resident veterinarian, Dr. Jeanne Bowers, those in attendance learned what to look for in a sound horse as well as how to spot conformational flaws. With a live horse walking the paddock, Martin and Bowers were able to pinpoint specific areas of concern for those interested in purchasing Thoroughbreds, or simply handicapping races.

The seminar was sponsored by the *Daily Racing Form* and the California Authority of Racing Fairs. Those attending were treated to free DRF logo wear and other giveaway items.

For the entire schedule of events including the 2010 Educational Seminar Schedule visit our new and improved Web site at toconline.com.



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Owners and guests at the annual meeting at Golden Gate.

meet with board members in a more casual setting.

The third annual TOC Owners Challenge Handicapping Contest began at post time with the third and final spot on Team TOC up for grabs. Tom Ellis of San Mateo won the contest, edging out second-place finisher, Jim Fallon from Santa Rosa, by 80 cents.

2010 Race Dates

2010 looks a lot like 2009, with Golden Gate Fields running the majority of the calendar. Stakeholders have labored over the dates for many months. However, as of this writing, the final calendar has not yet been approved by the CHRB but will more than likely flow as follows: Golden Gate Fields will run through June 13 followed by one week at the San Joaquin Fair in Stockton. Pleasanton will again run three weeks at the Alameda County Fair. From there the circuit makes a new move to the Cal State Fair at Cal Expo for two weeks in July. The Solano County Fair in Vallejo will not run in 2010. Santa Rosa picks up



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TOC conformation clinic at the Big Fresno Fair.