

News from the **North**

Change is in the Air

As the season changes from Summer to Fall, so too will TOC in Northern California. Northern California horsemen asked for a greater voice within the organization, and TOC listened. Needed Bylaw changes are underway, which are aimed at addressing the points that concerned Northerners raised (see page 14).

Northern California Seminar Program Re-energized

A revitalized educational seminar schedule kicked off August 4 in Santa Rosa at the Sonoma County Fair, moderated by track announcer Vic Stauffer, with guest trainer Billy Morey. More



Seminar participants at the Sonoma County Fair.

than 100 race fans were treated to an insider's view of the basics of claiming horse ownership.

September 23 at Golden Gate Fields,



TOC's Richard Scheidt and Wayne Atwell welcomed attendees to the seminar at Golden Gate Fields on Sept. 23.

prominent Northern California Owners Harry Aleo, Bob Bone, and Kjell Qvale entertained and informed a group of nearly 35 who attended the "Horse Ownership 101" Course. Following a lively question and answer session, focused mainly on means to acquire a racehorse, choosing a trainer, and the cost of ownership, guests broke into small groups for barn tours hosted by trainers Jim Hilling, Ellen Jackson, and Aggie Ordonez. The seminar concluded with a private tour of the state-of-the-art equine hospital at Golden Gate Fields.

TOC Annual Meeting – "Northern California Style"

September 30 marked the beginning of a new TOC tradition: The 1st Annual Northern California TOC General Meeting. Following the brief business overview required by our bylaws and open question and answer

session, members enjoyed music, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres in the spectacular Bayview room at Golden Gate Fields. TOC board members and staff mingled among members, making new acquaintances, sharing experiences as owners and Bay Area residents, and learning firsthand each other's thoughts and ideas (see page 19).

TOC Office Spaces Updated

Visitors to the TOC office at Golden Gate Fields have enjoyed watching the races in improved comfort. The office, located adjacent to the paddock, has been remodeled – with new furniture, fresh paint, and a new TV.

At Bay Meadows, our office has moved to a more convenient location in the Clubhouse. Located on the second floor across the lobby from the Horsemen's Lounge, this office opened for business when racing resumed on October 18th. Both offices have all the current TOC information for members and prospective members.

Stop by and say "hello" next time you're at the track for some thrilling live racing.

As part of an effort to address concerns raised by several Northern California members, TOC held an "Open Forum" at Golden Gate Fields Friday, July 28. More than 50 people attended, enjoyed a buffet luncheon in the Bayview Lounge, and participated in a casual, open microphone dialogue with TOC Northern California board members and staff. TOC Northern California board member Marty Bach opened the meeting, saying, "We're here for one simple reason: we're here to listen."



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