

Developments

INDUSTRY NEWS,
& ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PEOPLE & EVENTS

“Racing With Heart” for Katrina Victims

The “Racing With Heart” fund-raising campaign in support of victims of Hurricane Katrina was launched Sept. 2 throughout California and will continue indefinitely at various racetracks and wagering locations throughout the state. Spearheaded by California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) Commissioner Richard Shapiro, who was quickly joined by racetracks, horsemen, jockeys, and other industry members, the effort has raised more than \$250,000 to date.



of goods.

TOC recognizes and offers thanks to all those who volunteered to bring this effort together... and a very special thanks to everyone who donated for those in need!

Kerrie Cargill, president of KC Horse Transport, conceived and organized a drive to collect donated clothes and goods at California racetracks for the victims. On Friday, Sept. 16, a KC “big rig” commercial truck rolled into Lake Charles, Louisiana with a full load

California Cup XVI Makes Move to Sunday, November 6

For the first time in its rich 16-year history, California Cup Day will move to a Sunday – a switch from the traditional Saturday slot – and take place on Closing Day, Nov. 6. Co-hosted by California Thoroughbred Breeders Association and Oak Tree Racing Association, this year’s event will honor California’s farms and feature \$1.3 million in purses over ten races designed for the top California-breds.

The racetrack’s picturesque infield once again will be the site of a festive party, where more than 2,500 supporters of the California Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry



filled the area last year. TOC utilizes Cal Cup Day to invite members of the State Legislature and Governor’s office as a means to showcase our great sport and raise the awareness of this important agribusiness. For more information about Cal Cup or party reservations, contact the CTBA at (626) 445-7800.

Willman Named Director of Publicity at Santa Anita

Long-time California owner and breeder Mike Willman was recently appointed Director of Publicity for Santa Anita Park. Willman has worked in many facets of the racing industry, including publicity, pari-mutuels, as a racing official, a jockey agent and television anchor/analyst.



He hosts a year-round show on ESPN Radio in Los Angeles and most recently served as broadcast coordinator for Hollywood Park. Willman has a B.A. in Communications from California State University Fullerton.

“I’m looking forward to working with our employees and all media covering Santa Anita,” Willman said. “We have a tremendous facility here and we have a truly great game to promote.”

Online Paymaster Service Launched

This summer, TOC and Del Mar Thoroughbred Club announced the launch of a free, online link to horsemen’s bookkeeper accounts at all Southern California Thoroughbred racetracks. The “Online Paymaster” allows owners and

trainers secure Internet access to their horseman's account activity. Accounts are accessible any time of day or night, and are updated daily. Horsemen can print detailed statements – either for individual tracks or consolidated statements from multiple tracks.

“Online Paymaster” is the first step towards a totally integrated, centralized bookkeeping system for California tracks, an ongoing development spearheaded by Del Mar and TOC. To sign up for the service, go to www.oaktreeracing.com and follow the links for “Horsemen,” then “Horsemen's Bookkeeper.” Complete printed instructions are also available at the paymaster's offices at all Southern California tracks.



Moore, who said, “This was a really exciting meet for Wine Country Racing. We took a legitimate risk building the new turf track,” he continued, “but it looks as if it may have paid off.” Moore cited full race cards, an increase in horses and trainers attracted to Santa Rosa, and increases in racing handle and revenue.

The turf track is seven furlongs, approximately 60 feet wide, and built upon a base of sand. It is planted with fescue – a longer grass than that used on turf courses in Southern California.

TOC thanks all who invested their time and money to make the new turf course a reality – including the Sonoma County Fair Board, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, and California Authority of Racing Fairs.

Dreamer Opens Nationwide

Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story, a film produced by DreamWorks, opens at theatres nationwide on Oct. 21. Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning and Kris Kristofferson star in the story about a father who, for the love of his daughter, sacrifices almost everything to save the life of an injured racehorse and bring the promising filly back to her former glory.

“This movie is about dreams,” says writer/director John Gatins. “It is about the dreams of a young girl who idolizes her father, the dreams of a family that has fallen on hard times, and the dream they all share for a remarkable horse that brings them together.” The movie is rated PG.

Turf Racing Debuts at Sonoma County Fair

Some of the biggest news this summer from Northern California came from Santa Rosa. A brand new turf course attracted fans from far and wide to get a glimpse of what some dubbed “little Saratoga.” The historic running of the first turf race at the Sonoma County Fair on Opening Day, July 27th, saw a handle increase of 27% from last year's biggest opening day race. Fair manager Corey Oakley had a very simple explanation: “Green gets green – people love to bet on turf!”

Also pleased with the results was Director of Racing Jim

Santa Anita Turf Club Restoration

Newcomers as well as those who recall the “good old days” in Santa Anita's prestigious Turf Club are in for a treat this season. The historic venue has been renovated to bring back its former style and glory. The Americana Room, which has in recent years been utilized as a small dining room, is once again an elegant lounge resplendent with leather sectionals and chairs. Several plasma television screens now hang amidst the antique paintings, next to the famous old wall mural depicting a diorama of early American history.

The most striking change, however, is the restoration of the Brazilian Room. Once a bustling dining room, it was converted in the early 1990's to a sports book-style area with a relaxed dress code, in an effort to provide an upscale, yet casual, atmosphere. Although its historic wallpaper mural is long gone, the room has been brought back to its early splendor – with a few modern additions, including wall-mounted plasma screens and flat-screen television monitors on each dining table.