



TOC TIMES

May 2007

THOROUGHBRED OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

VOLUME 3

UPCOMING TOC EVENTS

Open Forum
May 11, 2007
Hollywood Park
7:00pm

Owner-Trainer Lounge
(Clubhouse)

Ownership 101
The Business of Horse Ownership
May 12, 2007
Hollywood Park
9:00am
Owner-Trainer Lounge
(Barn Area)

Ownership 101
The Business of Horse Ownership
May 12, 2007
Golden Gate Fields
9:00am
Trackside Court

TOC Chair Landsburg Retires *By Mary Forney*

After a total of ten years of service, the last three as Chair, Alan Landsburg announced that he would step down from the Thoroughbred Owners of California Board of Directors on May 6th.

Landsburg was a founding board member of TOC, in 1993. An owner of Thoroughbred racehorses for over 30 years, Landsburg also served as commissioner and Chairman of the California Horse Racing Board and as a member of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Board of Directors. Landsburg intends to spend his new leisure time enjoying the sport and "writing tell-all books."

"The Board I leave is a fortress," said Landsburg. "It is manned by the best possible battalion of soldiers, each ready to challenge those whose actions demean the traditions of our sport. In terms of lifelines," he continued, "I've made the turn into the stretch. The earned rewards of a lifetime beckon."

At a recent dinner in his honor, Landsburg was presented a Resolution by the Board in recognition of his many contributions to the organization and efforts on behalf of California horsemen and women.

"Owners could not have a stronger or more devoted advocate than Alan," said TOC Vice President Mace Siegel. "He was instrumental in TOC's formation, and through the years has shared a wealth of knowledge – not only of horse racing, but of the communication, marketing, and entertainment industries." Siegel concluded, "Alan is one of the most dedicated people I know and he will be greatly missed."

Landsburg's legacy includes numerous educational videos that he produced for both TOC and the CHRB, and the TOC Owner Handbook that he created and co-wrote, which is still in wide use today.

"We owe Alan a huge debt of gratitude," said TOC President Drew J. Couto. "He has devoted an incredible amount of time in the service of California Thoroughbred owners. The Board was galvanized as a result of his leadership and strength of conviction."

In a bittersweet parting speech at the dinner in his honor, Landsburg said, "I leave you with a vision of better times coming to you. And I leave you with a simple charge. Turn the sport around, so that the glow of its energy can light the imaginations of another generation. And wherever I am, I will be cheering for you."

TOC Notes: TOC Directors Alan Landsburg, Martin Bach, Tom Bachman, Marsha Naify, Madeline Auerbach, Mace Siegel along with TOC President Drew Couto and staff Guy Lamothe, Kellee Breen, Mary Forney and Lucinda Mandella attended the annual Women in Racing luncheon April 11 at Santa Anita celebrating TOC nominated honorees Beverly Lewis and TOC Board Member Donna Arnold. Northern California TOC staff Richard Scheidt represented TOC on the California Authority of Racing Fairs horse recruitment trip to Turf Paradise in Arizona April 10.

TOC members are invited to a TOC Open House in the brand new Owner-Trainer Lounge at Hollywood Park, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11th. The new lounge, which makes its debut with this Spring-Summer meet, is located on the third floor, Clubhouse level, just outside the elevator that comes up from the paddock. Drop by during the Friday evening race card, share thoughts and ideas with TOC Directors and staff, and join fellow owners in an opportunity to communicate with your organization.

THE QUARTER POLL

"What is your opinion of proposed new CHRB medication rules that impose a financial penalty on top of the loss of purse when an owner's stable has a third Class 1 (most serious type) medication violation?"

Go to www.toconline.com to see the new rules.

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

TOC DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Enough Backstretch Workers?

By Phil Oviedo

One of the biggest problems trainers face as an employer is access to skilled and reliable employees. Many of our grooms, exercise riders, and hotwalkers are from other countries, such as Mexico and Guatemala, living and working in the U.S. as immigrant or guest workers. Traditionally, guest workers under the H-2B Visa program are required to apply annually for their visa. Unfortunately, there is a limit to the number of visas issued each year (just 66,000 for all non-agricultural businesses). It has become harder and harder for our employees to obtain the necessary visas required to work and live in the US. This year, two bills have been introduced in Congress - H.R. 1645, the STRIVE Act, and H.R. 1843, Save Our Small & Seasonal Business Act of 2007 - that address the need for immigration reform for the horse industry.

Both these bills deserve our support. Having skilled, knowledgeable workers available means we're able to take the best possible care of our biggest asset – the horse.

COMMITTEE CORNER: Medication & Integrity

By Marsha Naify

What used to be the "Medication & Security Committee" got a name change, a new mission statement and some new members and now here we are 8 months later having accomplished a heck of a lot, but with plenty of more stuff to do. I think our new name says it all: it's all about making horse racing a clean, honest and well-managed sport. This is probably the hardest committee to participate in, because learning about all the medications and rules is enough to send anyone over the edge. Our committee is composed of four TOC board members, including a trainer and a physician. Our main accomplishment this year was providing input and language to the CHRB when they recently changed their medication rules and penalties. To find out what the new medication guidelines are, log onto the TOC website. Meanwhile, plan to attend for TOC's Annual Medication & Integrity Summit July 28th at Del Mar.

TOC OWNER PROFILE: Debbie Watson and John Young

New owners Debbie Watson and John Young had more in common than they ever thought. The couple had been dating for a few years when, after Debbie attended a work function at Golden Gate Fields last fall, she and John discovered that they both attended the races frequently at Del Mar in their youth. Something clicked. The following weekend they attended the races together at Golden Gate and had a great time. A few weekends later they sat next to an owner that introduced them to trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. Already interested in owning, they decided they wanted in and set up an account with the paymaster the following week.

Working with Hollendorfer they set a plan to claim a horse in partnership with some existing owners. Waiting a few weeks for the right opportunity they claimed their first horse. Short lived - the horse ran back quickly and was claimed. Their next opportunity proved fruitful. Again in partnership they won a two-way shake for the 3yo filly Rockella. Rockella's next race was opening day at Golden Gate against allowance company and she won by a neck. With the ink barely dry on their winner's circle picture, they have decided to look for yet another horse. New owners today, this couple is in it for the long run. You can bet on it!



MARCH LEADING OWNERS

Northern California Races Won		Southern California Races Won	
Jerry Hollendorfer and George Todaro	8	Gary Barber and Ben Cecil	3
Robert D. Bone	7	Derenzis and Vanderham	3
Curt and Lila Lanning	4	David W. and Holly F. Wilson	3
Northern California Earnings		Southern California Earnings	
Robert D. Bone	\$115,998	STD Racing and Jason Wood	\$ 624,335
Jerry Hollendorfer and George Todaro	\$112,422	Amerman Racing Stables LLC	\$ 235,200
Curt and Lila Lanning	\$110,000	Stud TNT	\$ 219,020

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