



TOC

Thoroughbred Owners of California

Winter Newsletter

January 2023

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BY GARY FENTON

Happy New Year!

2023 began with an abundance of optimism as over 40,000 owners, horseplayers and fans attended opening day at Santa Anita Park and wagered a record \$26.3 million.

A hearty thank you to our members for their continued support of California racing.

As the new year commences, your TOC is operating at full speed with new CEO/President Bill Nader and new Executive Director Jordyn Egan fully entrenched in the day-to-day operations and current issues. Bill has jumped right into the racing program with his extensive background at NYRA and the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Jordyn, part of the planning committee of the first of its kind Horse Racing Women's Summit (along with board member Stephanie Hronis), is reshaping the ownership experience and shepherding the California Horse Power Coalition to make sure our story is heard with legislators in Sacramento.

We are pleased to announce that starting January 1st, Workers' Comp rates will decrease by 10%. The owner per-start fee has been decreased from \$162 to \$146 and trainer per-stall base fee is reduced from \$5.10 to \$4.60. This is due to the hard work by all stakeholders to reduce injuries in the backstretch and on the racetrack. Like in years past, this program remains the best in the country for its recipients. We will continue to monitor and look for further reductions starting in 2024. New board member Tim Cohen has been added to the team to help oversee the program.

Continued on Page 2

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Ten states are now operating with “merged wallets” and are contributing to increased wagering from the ADW segment. In 2020, TOC mandated that FanDuel institute “merged wallets” by January 1, 2023. A “merged wallet” is simply one FanDuel account where customers can wager on both Sports AND Horse Racing from the same account/wallet. How huge might this be for our industry? There are ~10,000,000 sports wagering account holders in the U.S. while Horse Racing only has 500,000 ADW account holders. Adding Horse Racing as a menu option for sports wagering customers will increase exposure to millions of sports fans. Big thanks to Vice Chairman Bob Liewald for running quarterback on this important initiative.

Finally, we continue to track the status of HISA as it works its way back into our ecosystem. The amendment to the HISA legislation is a step in the right direction for creating uniform rules. As many of you know, California boasts the most stringent safety and medication rules and seeing a level playing field is one of the huge benefits of HISA for California horsemen and women. Thank you to board member Rick Gold, now on the HISA Horsemen Advisory Group, for being on the front lines for us.

Here's to a great 2023!



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Serving the California Thoroughbred Industry



New TOC Members Are Up to the Task

By Jordyn Egan

Thoroughbred Owners of California welcomed new members Gary Barber, Tim Cohen, and Johnny Taboada to the board in 2022. They join an engaged and energized group that is committed to representing the collective interests of all California Thoroughbred owners.

While all three come from diverse backgrounds, they have one thing in common: an interest in Thoroughbreds that began at an early age. Barber’s passion for the industry began as a teenager in South Africa, where he attended the races at Turffontein Racecourse in Johannesburg. Taboada grew up near Hipodromo de Monterrico in Lima, Peru, where he attended the races as a fan. A third-generation Thoroughbred enthusiast, Cohen was introduced to racing by his father, Jed, who launched Red Baron’s Barn in California in the 1960s.

Cohen’s involvement increased with the purchase and subsequent development of Rancho Temescal in Ventura County. He marvels at the complexity of horse racing, but amidst the intricacies of the industry, he finds consistency in one facet -- the resiliency of the people who care for the horses.

Barber got into the game with claiming horses, then joined forces with partners and maintains the "portfolio" approach to ownership. He compares his experience in racing with the entertainment industry.

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Santos Rivera, Renzo & Johnny Taboada, William Antongeorgi III

"You must have patience and enjoy the wins to the max," he said. "Much like the entertainment industry, Thoroughbred racing is a high risk / high reward business. They both require a significant investment in capital up front for later returns and a diversified portfolio."

Taboada joined a partnership at Bay Meadows in 2003 and started his own stable in 2005. "Expect the unexpected," said Taboada. "Never get too comfortable. Be proactive as opposed to reactive. I have learned how important it is to treat horses with the utmost respect and let them tell you when they are ready to move forward. I let trainers, grooms, and vets do their work. I am incredibly lucky to have found knowledgeable people that I can trust."

All three men joined the TOC board with strong commitment to help. In Barber's case, "I want to help make a meaningful change that will enhance the Thoroughbred racing experience for existing fans and attract new fans." Taboada is eager to learn about the industry from another angle, "from the inside out," so that he can identify ways to support it. Cohen also looks forward to learning more about TOC's mission. "As I continue to become more involved, there is an understanding of why and how some of our inefficiencies exist. There are opportunities to apply outside business practices that may help California racing."



© BenoitPhoto
Tim Cohen in the Santa Anita winner's circle

Like the rest of the TOC board, these three new directors realize that there is much to do. But the TOC does not lack willpower, as Cohen has observed firsthand since joining the TOC board in July. "I was surprised by the commitment and efforts of the TOC board members; they really work hard. Until I was informed, I was not certain of the efforts made, and I am impressed."



© BenoitPhoto
Jockey Tyler Gaffalione & Gary Barber after Got Stormy's victory in the 2019 Matriarch Stakes (G1) in Del Mar

All three are ready to get to work. When asked for his resolutions for racing in 2023, Barber stated that he would like for "tracks to get state-of-the-art finish line cameras, similar to what they use for the Olympics." Taboada is ready to listen to the TOC membership and work on improvements, commenting, "We just need to be sure that what we do has a positive effect. We cannot afford to stay put."

For Cohen, the focus will be on the backstretch workers. "I have always been concerned about those whose livelihood is reliant upon racing," he said. "And I expect to focus my attention on issues that impact them."

Barber, Cohen, and Taboada join a TOC board with an extraordinary amount of experience and gumption. We are grateful that they have committed their time and efforts and look forward to what is to come – onward!

TOC Turns 30!

By Mary Forney

As we begin 2023, the year that marks the 30th anniversary of the Thoroughbred Owners of California, we reflect on the impact and historic importance of our organization. In 1993, a small group of successful business-oriented owners broke away from the then-official horsemen's organization, the California Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (CHBPA) and formed a new organization to protect owners' rights and represent all California Thoroughbred owners. By June of 1994, with the passage of enabling legislation (AB 991), TOC was unquestionably recognized as the official representative of Thoroughbred owners in the state. It was a unique and progressive move in American Thoroughbred racing. As the first owners' organization of its kind, TOC served as a model for many other state groups.

The original founders and those that came after them put in countless hours on owners' behalf, refusing to accept the status quo. Their efforts set in motion a movement that would eventually bring true change in such critical areas as tax relief, purse structure, account wagering, and workers' compensation. TOC quickly grew into a nationally recognized voice for owners, vigilantly safeguarding owners' proprietary rights and making California racing more attractive.

We also must take this opportunity to recognize and thank all our members past and present. Although

Thoroughbred racing is a multi-faceted industry, owners are a key component. Without your constant infusion of capital, your dedication, and your love for the horses, the industry simply could not exist. We take this year not only to mark an anniversary but to celebrate you – our 6,000-plus members who are the lifeblood of this great sport. Look for more information in the coming months as we celebrate this momentous year.

Recognizing that there is strength in numbers, TOC remains true to the philosophy and objectives established 30 years ago. Rest assured that we will continue to challenge the status quo and passionately work to bring about positive change for the California industry.



TOC's early directors: Frank Lonergan, Jack Owens, Mace Siegel, founding Chairman Ed Friendly, Alan Landsburg, Marvin Malmuth, Charles Kenis, Marianne Chase and Gary Burke.



"TOC has recognized its responsibility is to all owners, not just the heavy hitters. We believe that the rules of the game should give everyone a fair opportunity to realize the potential of their investment and commitment."

-The late Mace Siegel, TOC Co-founder

By Wayne Atwell

To the delight of Northern California owners and breeders, and with the TOC working with the CTBA, Golden Gate Fields has been able to add three new California-bred stakes races to the 2023 Winter Spring meet. Now with 16 stakes races, the Winter Spring meet provides a black-type opportunity in many categories. The highlight of the Winter-Spring meet will be the “Gold Rush” weekend on April 29 and 30 and the El Camino Real Derby on February 11. The TOC Owners Appreciation Day will also be on February 11, so mark your calendars.

We would like to make you aware the State of California’s CalTrans agency is doing construction in and around Golden Gate Fields. The horsemen’s lot and overflow parking lot will be repaved and realigned in January. Please take caution and plan a little bit more arrival time during this construction time which is scheduled to last 4-5 weeks.

As we conclude 2022, we would like to congratulate GGF Fall Meet leading owners Johnny Taboada (one of our Northern Cal TOC board members) with eight wins, Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC with seven wins, and Larry and Marianne Williams with six wins. Larry and Marianne Williams lead all owners in money earnings with \$242,804.



FEBRUARY 11, 2023

12:00 TO 3:00PM

GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

TURF CLUB

Register
Here

Hosted by



Launched in November 2022, the California Horse Power Coalition (CHPC) is a growing partnership among Thoroughbred associations, organizations representing backstretch workers and jockeys, animal wellness advocates, and more.

The Mission of the California Horse Power Coalition is to preserve and protect California’s vibrant equestrian culture by bringing together equine industry leaders, workers, families, and fans of the sport and illustrating its significant benefits.

Sign up for the CHPC email list to stay up-to-date with our ongoing work and learn how you can lend your voice to the efforts.

CaliforniaHorseCoalition.com

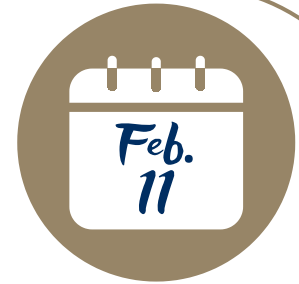
2023 EVENTS

Enjoy an afternoon with fellow owners!



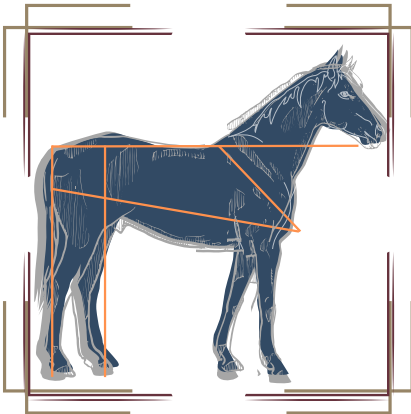
TOC has partnered with Golden Gate Fields and Santa Anita Park to show our appreciation to California owners.

Golden Gate Fields



Santa Anita Park

Registration Opens
February 12



Conformation Clinic & Ownership 101 Seminar

Northern California

Dates & Locations
To be confirmed - Stay tuned!



Join us for a meal and the opportunity to network with fellow TOC members!

TOC board members will be present for a Q& A session and Owner Awards winners will be honored.

Southern California
August 12, 2023
Del Mar Racetrack

Northern California
October 20, 2023
Golden Gate Fields

2023 EVENTS

TOC is preparing an exciting list of events during the Del Mar Summer meet. More details are to come, so to stay informed, be sure to subscribe to our email list here. In the meantime, save the dates below!



Owner Education Event

The Life of the Horse

July 27 & 28

Hosted by



Owner Appreciation Event

Plaza de Mexico Fountain

August 13

3rd Annual Women's Luncheon

Director's Room

August 24

VISIT [TOCONLINE.COM](https://www.toconline.com) FOR EVENT DETAILS & REGISTRATION



SAVE THE DATES!

JAN
GULFSTREAM

AUG
SARATOGA

SEPT
SANTA ANITA

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