



TOC

Thoroughbred Owners of California

Winter Newsletter

January 2025

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BY GARY FENTON

My father always said, "Focus on what you have, not what you don't."

This positive mindset has never been more fitting for California racing. As we enter 2025 and transition to a unified, full-time

circuit, I'm confident this year holds significant promise for our members.

California is home to two of the most iconic racetracks in the world: Santa Anita Park and Del Mar. With the return of the Breeders' Cup in 2025, we are poised to leverage our incredible assets to strengthen and grow our industry at every level. We invite you to join us in supporting California racing.

In 2025, the TOC will concentrate on three core initiatives: transitioning North horses into the South ecosystem to establish a one-circuit model that benefits both, continuing our efforts to create a balanced marketplace for horseplayers, and fostering economic growth.

One-Circuit

With over 700 horses in the North, we have quickly developed a plan to integrate all horses into a unified circuit. This starts with strategic incentives for North owners to remain an active part of our ecosystem. The initial plan includes covering stabling costs at Pleasanton to allow horsemen and women to remain local. Additionally, we raised purses to Golden Gate's 2023 levels and created exclusive races for North horses at Santa Anita Park. Many have asked how long Santa Anita Park will offer these

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Chairman's Message, Cont.

opportunities. The answer is simple: it's up to the North owners. The model benefits both the North and South, and we hope North owners take full advantage of these opportunities. We are also encouraged that purses for South races will be increased soon. A big thank you to our North board members Ty Green, Andy Mathis, and the legendary John Harris for their contributions in this transition.

Horseplayers

The pari-mutuel system is like a poker table, where weekend warriors can feel disadvantaged playing against professionals. While professional players aren't banned, balancing the marketplace is essential for creating trust in our pools. One of the main reasons we hired Bill Nader as TOC CEO was his plan to address the CAW issue. In the last two plus years, the TOC team has worked tirelessly implementing a comprehensive and innovative plan to meet the needs of all horseplayers – our customers. The results so far are impressive. CAW handle in California has declined since 2022 while purse generation has increased significantly and will further increase in 2025. Kudos to Bill and the board members of our wagering committee— Sam Siegel, Gary Barber, Bob Liewald, and Matt Dohman—for navigating this complex issue. I don't believe anyone has done more to address CAW in recent years than this team - - and more work is to be done.

Ancillary Revenue

We saved the best for last—the potential for California horse racing in 2025 is brighter than ever, particularly when it comes to ancillary revenue. Maximizing these opportunities remains a top priority for the TOC as we continue to explore new revenue streams both within California and across the nation. California horse racing contributes billions to the state's economy, supports tens of thousands of jobs, promotes sustainable agriculture, and enriches communities statewide. In 2021, the TOC successfully secured \$15 million in ADW supplements, and we are committed to building on this foundation by pursuing innovative revenue strategies to drive growth and ensure a thriving future for our industry.

While the TOC tackles these important issues on your behalf in 2025, make no mistake, the efforts of 2024 and the adoption of a one-circuit system has created a sustainable path for horse racing in California. This strong foundation will help us fuel a bright long-term future.

Good luck in 2025.

2025 TOC BOARD ELECTION February 15 Deadline to Request Nomination

There are two ways to qualify for the ballot - nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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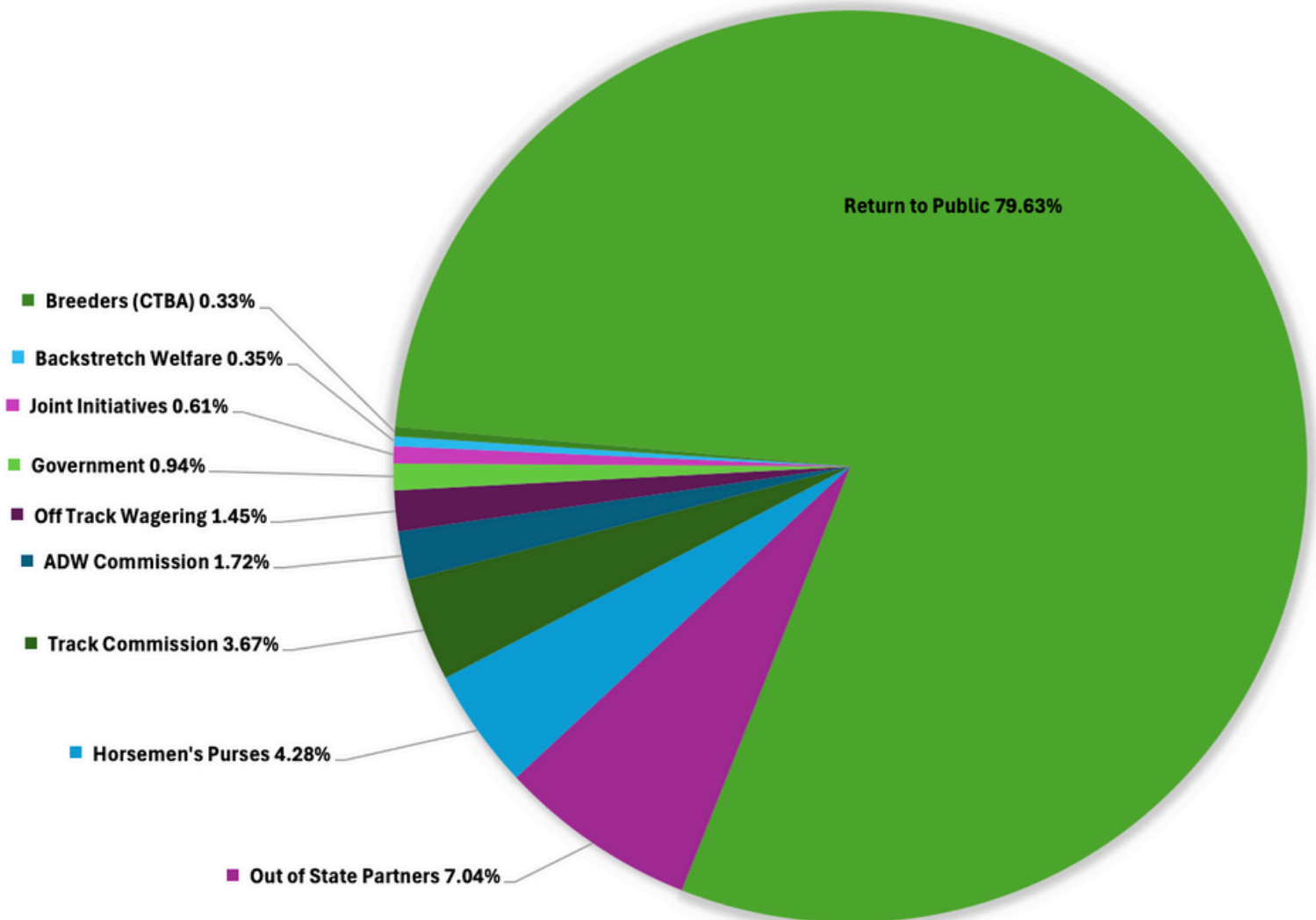
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Distribution of the Wagering Dollar

This pie chart illustrates various distributions of wagering handle from all sources associated with California Thoroughbred racing in 2024 (\$2,545,020,177). For purposes of this exercise, the total distributions for all 2024 day time California Thoroughbred and Fair race meetings are included. The percentages are shown in averages for ease of understanding and may vary slightly from one race meet to the next – depending on variables such as the mix of conventional and exotic wagers and fees negotiated for races imported and exported through contractual agreements with out-of-state partners. Approximately 79.63% of every dollar wagered is returned to the wagering public. The remaining 20.37% (Takeout) is deducted.

TOTAL CALIFORNIA THOROUGHBRED COMMINGLED (LIVE & SIMULCAST)



Distribution of the Wagering Dollar, Cont.

Breeders (CTBA)

From essentially every wager placed in California or on one of our races, a portion is earmarked for California Thoroughbred Breeders Association incentive awards and programs, including California Cup Day.

Backstretch Welfare

A percentage of ADW handle is dedicated to fund workers compensation insurance, trainer-administered pension plans for backstretch personnel and a welfare fund established for the benefit of horsemen and backstretch personnel.

Joint Initiatives

A percentage of ADW handle is dedicated to fund two programs funded by the Southern California Thoroughbred racetracks and horsemen which include auxiliary stabling and a marketing fund to promote Thoroughbred horseracing.

Government

Pursuant to California Racing Law, funding is provided to support the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB), California Horse Racing Information Management Systems (CHRIMS), Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA), Fairs & Expositions, Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), equine research through the Center for Equine Health at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and local communities through city taxes.

Off Track Wager

By California statute, a portion of handle is set aside to cover the costs of wagering operations at California satellite facilities. This includes the provision of the audio-video signal. In addition, the off and on track wagering locations receive a percentage of the revenue from every dollar wagered.

ADW Commissions

California licensed ADW providers (FanDuel, Xpressbet, Twinspires, etc.) received a percentage of each wagering dollar as a commission from bets placed by California residents.

Track Commissions

The amount of funds retained by the racing association or fair from all live and simulcast wagering.

Horsemen's Purses

The amount of funds retained by the horsemen from all live and simulcast wagering. This includes purses to owners, trainers and jockeys. Approximately 3 percent of purses generated fund the administrative costs of the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT) and backstretch workers' pension plan.

Out of State Partners

The partners include out of state racetracks which provide racing content to California (imports) as well as the export of California live racing to out-of-state locations.

U.S Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators			
Indicator (December)	Dec-24	Dec-23	% Change
Wagering on U.S. Races*	\$682,069,945	\$797,201,156	-14.44%
U.S. Purses Available	\$77,682,780	\$84,759,914	-8.35%
U.S. Race Days	221	231	-4.33%
Indicator (Year-to-Date)	YTD-2024	YTD- 2023	% Change
Wagering on U.S. Races*	\$10,583,140,568	\$10,858,524,864	-2.54%
U.S. Purses	\$1,234,506,078	\$1,220,995,711	1.11%
U.S. Race Days	3,566	3,648	-2.25%
<small>*Includes worldwide commingled wagering on U.S. races. Data from Equibase.</small>			
California Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators			
Indicator (December)	Dec-24	Dec-23	% Change
Wagering on CA Races*	\$77,279,970	\$116,916,001	-33.90%
CA Purses*	\$6,969,500	\$8,340,200	-16.43%
CA Race Days	18	22	-18.18%
Indicator (Year-to-Date)	YTD-2024	YTD-2023	% Change
Wagering on CA Races*	\$1,453,050,560	\$1,646,093,546	-11.73%
CA Purses*	\$103,957,300	\$119,092,900	-12.71%
CA Race Days	298	312	-4.49%
<small>*Figures for wagering on CA races are from all locations - ADW and Brick and Mortar - on CA live Thoroughbred races</small>			

STATISTICS

Click to view the
Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators.

California Stakes Schedule

A listing of Stakes Races held at California Tracks

[VIEW 2025 SCHEDULE](#)

SA CA-Breds

TRACK	2025	STAKE	AGE	SEX	FURLONGS	SURFACE	GRADE	PURSE
Santa Anita	Jan 25	San Pasqual	4+		9	D	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	Jan 26	Clocker's Corner	4+		6	T	R	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 1	Santa Monica	4+	F	7	D	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	Feb 1	Robert B. Lewis	3		8	D	3	\$200,000
Santa Anita	Feb 1	Megahertz	4+	F	8	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 1	Thunder Road	4+		8	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 2	Las Virgenes	3	F	8	D	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 8	San Marcos	4+		10	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 9	Sweet Life	3	F	*6.5	T (H)	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 15	Palos Verdes	4+		6	D	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 16	Baffle	3		*6.5	T (H)		\$100,000
Santa Anita	Feb 22	Wishing Well	4+	F	6	T	R	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 1	Santa Anita Handicap	4+		10	D	1	\$300,000
Santa Anita	Mar 1	Frank E. Kilroe Mile	4+		8	T	1	\$300,000
Santa Anita	Mar 1	San Felipe	3		8.5	D	2	\$300,000
Santa Anita	Mar 1	Buena Vista	4+	F	8	T	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	Mar 2	Santa Ysabel	3	F	8.5	D	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 8	Beholder	4+	F	8	D	1	\$300,000
Santa Anita	Mar 8	San Simeon	4+		*6.5	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 9	Pasadena	3		8	T		\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 15	Santa Ana	4+	F	10	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 16	Irish O'Brien	4+	F	*6.5	T (H)	CA	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 22	San Luis Rey	4+		12	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 23	China Doll	3	F	8	T	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 29	San Carlos	4+		7	D	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 29	Wilshire	4+	F	8	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Mar 30	Sensational Star	4+		*6.5	T (H)	CA	\$100,000



A pair of promising northern California fillies, Happy and Attracted, squared off in a \$31,000 restricted allowance race on January 17 at Santa Anita. Happy remained unbeaten for R L Stables, trainer Steve Sherman and jockey Francisco Duran.

What races and purses are available to Northern-based horses at Santa Anita?

To allow for a viable transition after the short-notice closing of Golden State Racing at Pleasanton, Northern-based horses have been given the option to run at Santa Anita in restricted races where they can remain competitive and still be a part of California racing. The bottom claiming prices were reduced to \$5,000 for winners and \$8,000 for maidens.

At the top end, maiden allowance and conditioned allowance races have benefited from a \$5,000 increase in purse money. Purses have increased approximately 20 percent across the board when compared to Pleasanton for the restricted races.

What is the status of the Pleasanton auxiliary stabling agreement and horse transport?

The agreement is for Pleasanton to remain open for training six days per week through March 25. There is no training on Mondays. Alameda County Fair has the exclusive right to extend the agreement into June and will provide written notice of its decision no later than February 25, provided the horse population remains above 500.

The costs associated with stabling and training are covered in the agreement with a “day rate” where the South fully compensates Alameda County Fair for the use of its facility and for services provided. The funding comes from Santa Anita, Del Mar, and the purse account. If Alameda County Fair has a willingness to continue with this arrangement and northern horses participate in day-time races in the South as anticipated, it is a win-win proposition.

Horses stabled at Pleasanton receive \$800 round-trip shipping reimbursement. Please contact the Santa Anita racing office at 626-574-6352 for details and van schedules. Horses shipping with an outside company or owner/trainer may be eligible for reimbursement with prior approval from the Santa Anita racing office.

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California Transitions to a Single Circuit, Cont.

What are the veterinary protocols to ship-in to race at Santa Anita?

Pleasanton is classified as a CHRB-approved auxiliary training center, like San Luis Rey Downs, and all CHRB & HISA guidelines and protocols still apply. A detailed summary of the rules and regulations are available in the Santa Anita racing office.

What accommodations are available to owners traveling from northern California to Santa Anita?

Owners are encouraged to contact Danielle Kasparoff, Owner/Horsemen Liaison, at 626-574-6571 to book tickets, including Clubhouse box seats or restaurant reservations. Discounted rooms are available for owners and trainers at Le Meridien Hotel by requesting the Santa Anita special rate when booking by phone. The promo code is automatically applied when booking directly through the [Santa Anita website](#).

What benefits are available to trainers shipping in from the North to race at Santa Anita?

Trainers are offered a travel stipend of \$250, which may increase depending on how many horses a trainer runs at Santa Anita over a one-week period.

Grooms shipping in with horses are offered vouchers for breakfast, lunch and dinner on race day. Dorms for grooms are available by contacting Jeff Metz at 626-806-8794.



Saturday, March 22
Santa Anita Park

All owners are invited to TOC's FREE seminar! Join us for insights from a panel of experts, including Racing Coordinator Steve Martinelli, as they discuss the day-to-day operations of the Racing Office and highlight the various resources available to owners.

Licensed owners are welcome to bring one guest. Additional guests will result in a fee.

Registration Opens February 22

More details coming soon.

Exclusive Jet Card Offer

With your purchase of a Jet Card*, you'll receive:

- A \$5,000 flight credit
- A \$2,500 betting voucher to Del Mar Racetrack or Santa Anita Racetrack

*Offers cannot be combined with other jet card offers, and are subject to change. Offers are valid for new Sentient Jet Card Owners only. Click [here](#) for up-to-date terms.

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Owner Spotlight

Joe McCloskey

After a phenomenal 2024 that included 5 Graded Stakes wins in California, CUYATHY's Johannes will bypass Florida's Pegasus while recovering from a bone bruise. Owner Joe McCloskey still has some big targets in mind for the son of Nyquist in 2025.

[WATCH NOW](#)



Leading Owners - Fall 2024



[VIEW STATS HERE](#)

Workers' Comp Rates Remain Unchanged in 2025, Pending Further Review



Post Time Self Insurance Group (PTSIG) has advised that there is no change in the horse industry's workers' compensation program covering backstretch workers and jockeys at the start of 2025, though rates may change due to the short notice decision to greatly reduce the number of race dates in northern California.

[READ MORE](#)

CARMA's 2024 Impact Report: Celebrating 16 Years of Aftercare Excellence

As we begin 2025, CARMA celebrates its 16th year of operation. To date, we have successfully placed more than 470 horses through our Placement Program and have awarded more than \$6.3 million in grants to our charity partners, significantly impacting the lives of retiring racehorses.

One of CARMA's proudest achievements in 2024 was the release of [What Horses Do After Racing: The Story of Good Carma](#), a beautifully illustrated children's book authored by renowned horse racing journalist and CARMA board member Jay Privman. Published by Red Cliff Publishing, this heartwarming legacy project celebrates the incredible second careers of Thoroughbred racehorses and underscores CARMA's dedication to aftercare. Featuring the journeys of four unique horses, including the delightful Good Carma, the book inspires readers of all ages with its uplifting stories and showcases the vital role of aftercare in Thoroughbred racing. All proceeds from the book directly support CARMA's mission, advancing its commitment to Thoroughbred rehabilitation and retraining.

Other 2024 Highlights for CARMA Included:

- Awarding \$475,000 in grants to 24 aftercare charity partners, which included welcoming three new first-time grant recipients to our group of aftercare organizations.
- Successfully placing 34 retiring racehorses through our Placement Program.
- Raising more than \$206,000 in our annual CARMathon Fundraiser, far exceeding our goal of \$150,000.
- Expanding our Placement Program to accommodate 20 horses—up from 13–14 during the pandemic—thanks to a generous bequest from the late Nancy Messineo, ensuring more retired racehorses find fulfilling second careers.



CRF5 - Relieve, Point Breeze and London Foliles Begging for Treats at Aftercare Partner
Photo Credit Champions Retreat

- Advocating for aftercare at prestigious events like the Breeders' Cup through an ongoing collaboration with the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance as a West Coast partner. In 2025, we are excited to help bring the [Real Rider Cup](#) to California in the spring.
- Partnering with the [Michael Nyuis Foundation](#) (MNF) for the inaugural MNF Charity Horse Show and Christmas Market, featuring the Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show. This event celebrated Thoroughbreds in the show ring while expanding its audience. The MNF grant program also supports the next generation of horsemen and women, ensuring a lasting legacy in the equestrian community.
- Engaging with media outlets to advocate for aftercare awareness and industry participation, with regular contributions to publications such as Paulick Report, Thoroughbred Daily News, and Thoroughbreds of California quarterly newsletter.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our important mission. Your support is essential in ensuring every retiring racehorse enjoys a well-deserved, comfortable retirement after their time on the track. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

First Chance for 2025 Tax-Deductible Donations

Get the new year off to a good start with a tax-deductible donation to CARMA. It's good karma for 2025! You can do so by [clicking here](#).



CARMAgrad, Seldovia, enjoying time with a volunteer at Aftercare Partner, Hope for Horses.
Photo Credit Hope for Horses

Background Photo - Port Saint Joe in Training at Redwings
Photo Credit Redwings Horse Sanctuary