



TOC

Thoroughbred Owners of California

Spring Newsletter

April 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BILL NADER

The anticipation and excitement this time of year are sky high. There is the upcoming Kentucky Derby and Triple Crown; the recent announcements of purse money increases at Santa Anita, Los Alamitos and Del Mar; and

the ongoing momentum of California racing is showing renewed life. We have settled nicely into spring and our Del Mar summer is just around the corner.

California brings the favorite into Louisville as it seeks to regain its position as the dominant region in the development of Kentucky Derby winners. The San Felipe and Santa Anita Derby are defining races in building the Kentucky Derby storylines with Journalism getting top billing. Baeza is another top California-based candidate on the Triple Crown trail after a strong performance in the Santa Anita Derby. While Baeza may be an unlikely starter in the Kentucky Derby, Rodriguez will be a top contender following an easy win in the Wood Memorial. Recent winners of the Kentucky Derby include six horses over a phenomenal nine-year run where pre-Derby reputations were established in California:

2020	Authentic	Won the San Felipe, 2 nd in the Santa Anita Derby
2018	Justify	Won the Santa Anita Derby
2016	Nyquist	Five-time winner in California, including the San Vicente
2015	American Pharoah	Two-time Grade 1 winner as a two-year-old in California
2014	California Chrome	Cal-bred won Cal Cup Derby, San Felipe and Santa Anita Derby
2012	I'll Have Another	Won Robert B. Lewis and Santa Anita Derby

Continued on Page 2



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President's Message, Cont.

For our day-to-day racing, purse increases for daytime Thoroughbred racing have been announced at Santa Anita, Los Alamitos and Del Mar. For the upcoming Santa Anita Spring meet, overnight purses will increase approximately 10 percent compared to last season, Los Alamitos summer purses will increase approximately 15 percent when compared to the last daytime meet in December and Del Mar is set for an eight percent summer increase. This is a result of the consolidation of racing to a single California circuit and a more efficient use of available resources.

The continued economic strain of two circuits led to declining purses in 2024 in both southern and northern California. Consolidation has helped to channel wagering income to support live racing, which, in addition to the purse increases, has helped to re-establish the foundation for racing during the Santa Anita Classic meet, which sets the tone for the year ahead.

Track Reports (Purse Generation)		
Santa Anita Classic Meet - Total Purse Revenue Generated - Total Revenue Producing Handle		
Dec 26, 2024 ~ Apr 8, 2025	2025	2024
Total Purses Generated	\$22,010,413	\$21,098,068
Total Revenue-Producing Handle	\$577,100,682	\$547,435,969
*Average Handle Per Day	\$11,777,565	\$11,900,782
Average Handle Per Day (Santa Anita Only)	\$7,715,635	\$7,439,960
Race Days	49	46

Data from CHRIMS

**Handle & Purse Generation include all ADW and Brick & Mortar wagering for both Exports and Imports on all races.*

The first wave of the consolidated, new-look California has delivered on expectations. When compared to last season, the 49-day Classic meet produced 61 more races, 658 more starters, and an increase in average field size from 7.08 to 7.56. It is all part of the rebuild as California comes together as one circuit to strengthen the foundation and reverse the sharp 2024 declines in both the north and south. The single circuit produced a 10.7 percent increase in handle and a 10.2 percent increase in attendance. We are moving forward together.

In addition to 73 North restricted races that averaged a respectable \$647,000 in average handle, trainers that made the transition from Pleasanton to Santa Anita won 15 races in open company during the highly competitive Classic meet. This is an outstanding result when one recalls the short notice announcement in mid-December that racing would be discontinued at Pleasanton. The outcome has been mutually beneficial and a great example of California horse racing pulling together in turbulent times.

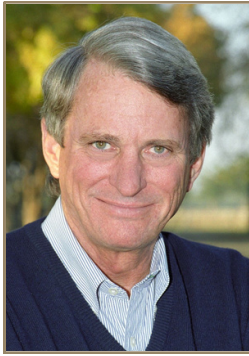
2025 Santa Anita Classic Meet				
December 26, 2025 - April 6, 2025 (49 Race Days)				
	2025	2024	Increase	% Inc.
Race Days	49	46	3	6.5%
Races	478	417	61	14.6%
Starters	3,612	2,954	658	22.3%
Avg. Field Size	7.56	7.08	0.47	6.7%
Handle	\$398,557,252	\$360,173,670	38,383,582	10.7%
Avg. Handle	\$8,133,821	\$7,829,862	303,959	3.9%
Attendance	340,149	308,635	31,514	10.2%
Avg. Attend.	4,017	3,869	148	3.8%

California Stakes Schedule

[VIEW 2025 SCHEDULE](#)
SA
Los Al
CA-Breds

TRACK	2025	STAKE	AGE	SEX	FURLONGS	SURFACE	GRADE	PURSE
Santa Anita	Apr 19	Santa Maria	4+	F	8.5	D	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	Apr 20	American	4+		8	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Apr 26	Royal Heroine	4+	F	8	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Apr 27	Senorita	3	F	*6.5	T (H)	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 3	Charles Whittingham	4+		10	T	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	May 4	Santa Barbara	4+	F	12	T	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 10	Siren Lure	4+		6	T	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 11	Cinema	3		9	T		\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 17	Mizdirection	4+	F	*6.5	T (H)	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 18	Honeymoon	3	F	9	T	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 24	Snow Chief	3		9	T	CA	\$125,000
Santa Anita	May 24	Melair	3	F	8.5	D	CA	\$125,000
Santa Anita	May 24	Thor's Echo	3+		6	D	CA	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 24	Crystal Water	3+		8	T	CA	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 24	Fran's Valentine	3+	F	8	T	CA	\$100,000
Santa Anita	May 25	Santa Margarita	3+	F	9	D	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	May 26	Shoemaker Mile	3+		8	T	1	\$300,000
Santa Anita	May 26	Gamely	3+	F	9	T	1	\$300,000
Santa Anita	May 26	Hollywood Gold Cup	3+		10	D	2	\$200,000
Santa Anita	May 31	Triple Bend	3+		7	D	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Jun 1	Desert Stormer	4+	F	6	D	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Jun 7	Summertime Oaks	3	F	8.5	D	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Jun 8	Affirmed	3		8.5	D	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Jun 14	Daytona	3+		*6.5	T (H)	3	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Jun 14	Possibly Perfect	3+	F	10	T	L	\$100,000
Santa Anita	Jun 15	San Juan Capistrano	3+		*14	T	3	\$100,000
Los Alamitos	Jun 21	Bertrando Stakes	3+		8	D	CA	\$100,000
Los Alamitos	Jun 28	Los Alamitos Derby	3		9	D	L	\$100,000
Los Alamitos	Jul 5	Great Lady M Stakes	3+	F	6.5	D	2	\$200,000

2025 Election Results



Nominations for the 2025 Ballot closed on March 1 with five candidates for five open positions. As a result, and consistent with previously established TOC procedures (and Section 7522 of the California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation Law), the TOC Board declared the five candidates that were nominated and qualified as having been elected without the vote of the full membership. Each of the five elected directors will serve three-year terms.

Nick Alexander – After joining the TOC Board in 2013, Nick served as Chairman from 2017-2021 and has raced Thoroughbreds in California for over 40 years. He has enjoyed great success as an owner and breeder with California homebreds.

Joe Ciaglia – CEO of the world’s most recognized skatepark design and build form, Joe claimed his first horse in 1999 and has gone on to enjoy success at the highest level.

John Harris – Owner of Harris Farms and a legendary California owner/breeder. A former CHRB commissioner, member of the California Horse Racing Hall of Fame, John also serves on the board of the California Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association (CTBA).

Bob Liewald – A founding member of GSI Commerce, which ran online stores for MLB, NBA, NFL, NHL and NASCAR, and later became Fanatics, Bob is the definition of the new school owner. He owns and breeds many horses on his own, in co-ownership and partnerships.

Samantha Siegel – Racing as JayEmEss Stable, which represents the first letter of her late parents Mace (a founding member of the TOC) and Jan Siegel’s names, Samantha is also a board member of the Edwin J. Gregson Foundation and California Retirement Management Account (CARMA). JayEmEss has campaigned multiple Grade 1 winners.

These five Directors join TOC Board members Gary Barber, Tim Cohen, Matthew Dohman, Gary Fenton, Mark Glatt, Ty Green, Ryan Hanson, Stephanie Hronis, Terry Lovingier, and Andy Mathis in comprising our 2025-26 Board of Directors.

The new board will be seated on July 1, 2025.

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TOC Owner Awards



Hronis Racing to receive TOC Chairman's Award

TOC has named Kosta, Stephanie, and Pete Hronis, the team behind Hronis Racing, as this year's recipients of the Ed Friendly Industry Service Award, also known as the TOC Chairman's Award.

Hronis Racing led all California owners in wins in 2024, but their impact extends beyond the racetrack.

[READ MORE](#)

Statistical Awards



[VIEW DETAILS](#)



TOC would like to recognize and celebrate the growing population of co-ownerships and partnership entities within the horse racing community. We are looking for nominations that provide a compelling story that simply, but significantly, reflect the joy of the sport.

This award is not based on statistics and is open to co-ownerships and partnerships of all sizes from two and beyond. Partnerships of any size can be nominated through self-nomination or by another TOC owner.

[NOMINATE NOW](#)

Rookie of the Year



Dylan Eplin

New racehorse owner has been selected by TOC as the recipient of the 2024 Rookie of the Year Award.

Eplin had his first start in June at the Alameda County Fair with Remember Sue, who went on to win there in her fourth start. His love of racing began when he was a child. His father, Danny, is also involved as an owner and took Dylan to watch training and racing when he was young.

[READ MORE](#)

Owner Spotlight

Aron Wellman

President and Founder of Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners

An exclusive sit-down with the owner behind the Kentucky Derby favorite! Aron reflects on the electrifying victory of Journalism in the Santa Anita Derby, and what it means to head to Louisville as the favorite for the Run for the Roses.

[WATCH NOW](#)



Leading Owners - Santa Anita Classic Meet 2024-25

Ranked by Wins

1. Reddam Racing LLC	12
2. Williams, Larry D and Marianne	9
3. Hronis Racing LLC	7
4. Augustin Stables	6
4. Nguyen, Calvin and Tran, Joey C.	6
4. Giddyup JR LLC	6

Ranked by Earnings

1. Reddam Racing LLC	\$647,974
2. Augustin Stables	\$433,200
3. Hronis Racing LLC	\$410,620
4. SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing,	
5. Madaket Stables, LLC, etc.	\$407,600
6. Spendthrift Farm LLC	\$352,900

Statistics generated from Equibase.com



Registration Opens this Summer!

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 16, at 8:30am
Breakfast & Award Presentations
Veranda Café

Owner Appreciation Day

Sunday, August 17, at 3:30pm
Plaza de Mexico – Food, Fun, Live Music

TOC Charity Event

Benefiting Thoroughbred Aftercare
Pegasus United Foundation
Thursday, August 21, at 12:00pm
Director's Room

More details coming soon.

Owner Education Seminar Recap

The TOC hosted an Owner Education Seminar on Saturday, March 22, in the iconic Chandelier Room at Santa Anita. Racing Coordinator Steve Martinelli talked about the condition book and why races are written. He also discussed the importance of keeping communication lines open with horsemen and owners to continually create quality racing opportunities for all. TOC President & CEO Bill Nader joined Steve in the discussion to provide more details on horse racing in California. Andrew Brown, Founder of Off to the Races media was our MC for the morning and did a great job engaging the audience for the Q&A segment.

The attendees enjoyed an informative morning. Coffee, pastries, and fruit were served. In general, it was nice to gather and share our thoughts about the industry we so deeply love and care about.

“The event was very informative. It was great to have Bill Nader share so openly, and it was interesting to hear about the Racing Secretaries’ job. And we learned a lot about the situation with Northern CA.”

– Kristy F.

“I appreciate the TOC conducting these events. It is always informative and helpful to hear the latest developments and have a chance for questions to be answered, especially during these difficult times for racing. Great session and well organized!”

– Barbara B.



Steve Martinelli

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CARMA Announces The Messineo Makeover Scholarship to Support Placement Program Thoroughbreds

The California Retirement Management Account (CARMA) is proud to introduce The Messineo Makeover Scholarship, a new \$10,000 annual fund dedicated to supporting CARMA Placement Program graduates as they transition into second careers.

Despite California being home to a large number of retiring racehorses, West Coast participation in the Thoroughbred Makeover is often limited due to the high cost of travel and competition expenses. As a result, East Coast competitors often dominate the event, leaving many talented horses and trainers from California underrepresented on this national stage.

The Thoroughbred Makeover, held annually in Kentucky, is a premier national competition showcasing the versatility of retired racehorses as they begin their second careers in disciplines such as dressage, show jumping, and ranch work. It is a proving ground for off-track Thoroughbreds and a celebration of their adaptability beyond the racetrack.

Made possible by a generous \$800,000 legacy gift from the late Nancy Messineo, this scholarship honors her lifelong dedication to Thoroughbred aftercare. Through this annual scholarship, CARMA aims to remove financial barriers, increase opportunities for retired California racehorses, and highlight the success of second careers beyond racing—a legacy that reflects Nancy Messineo’s deep dedication to the horses she loved.

Further details, including eligibility and application information, will be announced soon on carma4horses.org.