



# Summer Newsletter

July 2025

Content	Pages
Chairman's Message	1-2
In Memoriam: John C. Harris	2-3
Owner Spotlight	3
Leading Owners & Awards	4
TOC Events	5-6
CARMA Update	6
Del Mar Highlights	7-8
California Stakes Schedule	9
Statistics	10



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BY GARY FENTON

As we turn the corner into the heart of summer, I want to thank you for your continued commitment to Thoroughbred ownership and your steadfast support of California racing. Every entry you make and every horse you place on the

track helps keep this industry alive — and we do not take that for granted.

We head into Del Mar's iconic summer meet with reason for optimism. 2025 has been an excellent year for California racing. Field size and handle figures have grown despite ongoing challenges across the national landscape. That said, we are under no illusion that the road ahead is easy. The cost of doing business in California remains high, and the pressures on our owners, trainers, breeders, and tracks are real.

In recent months, TOC has remained laser-focused on raising purse levels, increasing participation incentives, and ensuring transparency and fairness in all matters that affect owners. We've pushed for new races for all classes of horses and are working with our partners at the tracks to improve the stakes calendar, especially as we begin planning for 2026. We've also made meaningful progress in shifting funds toward programs that directly benefit the people who put horses on the track.

While TOC has never shied away from hard conversations, we are equally committed to collaboration. Constructive engagement with The Stronach Group, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, CHRB, CTT and the CTBA remains

Continued on Page 2



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## Chairman's Message, Cont.

essential. As we navigate evolving safety protocols, race day veterinary policies, and HISA/HORSE participation, TOC continues to advocate for sensible implementation that respects owner investments while prioritizing horse welfare. Speaking of which, we are beyond proud at our safety record. At Santa Anita Park, there was one racing fatality covering both meets over the first half of the year.

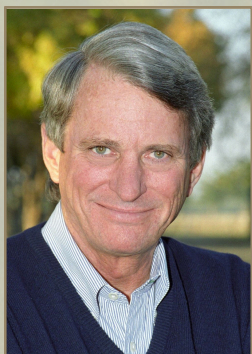
Finally, I want to recognize the extraordinary achievements of our owners this past winter and spring. California horses continue to shine—not only at home but on the national stage. Special congratulations to Journalism and Baeza, and to their owners, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and CRK Stable, for their remarkable success during the Triple Crown season. In California, Reddam Racing and Nick Alexander earned the respective winter and spring owner titles—an impressive feat in any year.

To all of you: thank you. Your continued investment in our sport, your belief in California racing, and your commitment to the horses and people who make it go are what make this community so special.

We look forward to seeing you at the races. Whether it's under the seaside sun at Del Mar or in the paddock at Santa Anita Park, our goal remains the same: to ensure California remains a world-class place to race, own, and enjoy the sport we all love.

On behalf of the TOC Board of Directors, thank you again for your trust and your voice.

## In Memoriam: John C. Harris (1943–2025)



John C. Harris, a legend in California agriculture, Thoroughbred horse racing, and breeding, passed away on July 2, 2025, at the age of 81. He was the owner of Harris Farms and held significant leadership positions within California's horse racing industry, including two terms on the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) board (2000 and 2024-25). He also served multiple terms as president of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association and chairman of the California Horse Racing Board. He was a member of The Jockey Club since 1988 and remained actively involved in various racing organizations until his passing.

Harris Farms, established by his father, Jack, in 1937, is one of the United States' leading agricultural producers, cultivating approximately 17,000 acres with a diverse array of crops including cotton, grain, almonds, onions, and wine grapes. After graduating from U.C. Davis with a degree in Agricultural Production, and a stint as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army, Harris joined his father in developing the Harris operations, eventually taking the reins himself after his father died in 1981.

Harris expanded the family business to a vertically integrated operation that includes one of the largest cattle feedlots on the West Coast, capable of accommodating 100,000 head of cattle annually. Harris Ranch Beef Company produces nearly 200 million pounds of beef each year.

Harris' lifelong love affair with the Thoroughbred began at an early age, when his grandfather took him to the races at the Fresno Fair. That passion developed into a comprehensive breeding and training operation initiated in 1966 with his father. Harris Farms stood notable stallions such as Cee's Tizzy, sire of two-time Breeders' Cup Classic winner Tiznow, and Moscow Ballet. The farm bred and raised multiple champions and stakes winners, including Soviet Problem and Work the Crowd.

Continued on Page 3



# In Memoriam: John C. Harris, Cont.

Harris believed strongly in the value of California-bred horses and was involved in the structuring of California's breeders' incentive program in the early 70's, when the legislation was completely rewritten.

He was deeply committed to supporting and advancing California's racing and agricultural industries, with his influence extending into politics, where he cultivated relationships from local to national levels, supporting candidates across party lines and advocating for California's agricultural interests. His long friendship with the late state Senator Ken Maddy led to collaborative legislative efforts benefiting the Thoroughbred industry.

Harris' good friend and fellow TOC Board member, Terry Lovingier, said, "I worked under John's mentorship on industry boards for more than 20 years, and I learned a lot from him. He was a truly fine individual, and I never heard him say one bad thing about anybody."

Known for his philanthropy and community involvement, he established the Jack A. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1981 to support higher education, and he was a longtime supporter of the Fresno Fair and its racing programs. Harris's commitment to education extended to Fresno State University and UC Davis, where he supported veterinary and equine research programs. His leadership and generosity earned him numerous honors, including induction into the California Racing Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce's Leon S. Peters Award in 2024.

John Harris leaves a profound legacy, which endures in the thriving operations he built, the champions he bred, and the communities he supported. He was a visionary, pioneer, and generous leader whose contributions shaped California's Thoroughbred industry.

"It's difficult to overstate the impact John Harris had on California racing," said TOC Chairman Gary Fenton. "He was a pillar of our ecosystem and one of its most passionate advocates. His legacy lives on through the generations of horses he bred, the people he mentored, and the causes he championed. He was always there when the industry needed him most."

He is survived by his wife, Cookie, as well as by extended family. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Jack A. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## Owner Spotlight

### Jeff Benowitz Benowitz Family Trust

Jeff shares the story behind his family's deep roots in California racing, the thrill of watching KING OF GOSFORD rise to stardom, and what continues to fuel his passion for the sport of kings.

[WATCH NOW](#)





# TOC Owner Awards



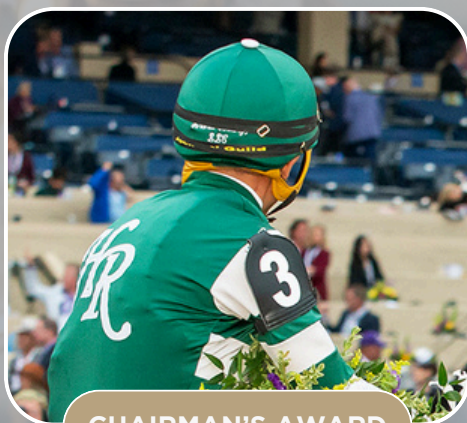
## Great Friends Stable Wins TOC's Annual Partnership Award

The annual award recognizes and celebrates co-ownerships and partnership entities within the horse racing community and is open to partnerships of all sizes from two and up.

Great Friends campaigns four-year-old stakes sensation Raging Torrent in partnership with Yulong Racing.

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CHAIRMAN'S AWARD



STATISTICAL AWARDS



ROOKIE AWARD

## Leading Owners: Santa Anita Hollywood Meet 2025

### Ranked by Wins

1. Nicholas B. Alexander .....	11
2. Hronis Racing LLC .....	9
3. Reddam Racing LLC .....	6
3. Les Blake .....	6
5. Richard Barton .....	5
5. Harris Farms, Inc. ....	5

### Ranked by Earnings

1. Hronis Racing LLC .....	\$355,360
2. Nicholas B. Alexander .....	\$294,420
3. Reddam Racing LLC .....	\$292,960
4. Richard Barton .....	\$236,620
5. Benowitz Family Trust, CYBT, Gevertz, Nentwig, Peskoff .....	\$200,000

*Statistics generated from Equibase.com*



## TOC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 16 – 8:30 AM

Veranda Cafe, Del Mar

The general business meeting will provide directors an opportunity to update the membership on important issues and will include a question-and-answer session.

Award presentations will be made to the recipients of the Chairman's Award and Annual Owner Awards.

A complimentary buffet breakfast will also be served.

Reservations are required.



REGISTER NOW

## OWNER SOCIAL HOUR

Saturday, August 16 – 1:00 PM

Celebrity Grill Patio, Del Mar

TOC and Del Mar Thoroughbred Club invite licensed owners to join us for a relaxed and social 1-HOUR gathering at the Celebrity Grill Patio this summer!

Enjoy light bites, drinks, and great conversation with fellow owners—all set against beautiful ocean and paddock views.

Licensed owners are welcome to bring one guest. Space is limited, and reservations are required.



REGISTER NOW

## OWNER EDUCATION SEMINAR

Sunday, August 17 - 9:00 AM

Del Mar

Join us for a special seminar to discuss veterinary protocols and best practices that have shaped California horse racing and led to significant improvements over the past five years. The seminar will include the opportunity to witness a vet exam to evaluate a horse's soundness to compete.

Leading veterinary experts, Dr. Dionne Benson and Dr. Ryan Carpenter, will share their expertise along with Rosa Sandoval of the Southern California Equine Foundation as the first of a two-part series.



REGISTER NOW



## Charity EVENT



UNITED PEGASUS  
FOUNDATION

[PURCHASE TICKET](#)

### TOC CHARITY EVENT

Thursday, August 21 - 12:00 PM

Directors' Room, Del Mar

Join us for a special luncheon to kick off what's sure to be a memorable experience. After the opening program, guests will enjoy an exciting afternoon of racing.

**All Proceeds Benefit the United Pegasus Foundation.**

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

All are welcome, whether you're a TOC member or otherwise.

## CARMA Update

### From Finish Line to Spotlight: CARMATHon 2025 Puts Aftercare Center Stage

This summer, CARMA is rolling out the red carpet for a campaign unlike any other. Blending Hollywood flair with Thoroughbred aftercare, **CARMATHon: New Beginnings** invites the racing industry to celebrate—and support—the next chapter for retired racehorses.

At the center of the campaign is a fun twist: a faux feature film, **CARMATHon: New Beginnings**, complete with a cinematic trailer and a cast of real-life stars—retired Thoroughbreds who've found new purpose thanks to CARMA's work. While the movie is fiction, the mission is real: raising funds to support the care, retraining, and placement of California's retiring racehorses.

"Aftercare is a shared responsibility, and the racing industry has shown incredible support over the years," says Lucinda Lovitt, Executive Director of CARMA. "This campaign elevates that message while thanking the donors, owners, and partners who help make it all possible."

Since 2008, CARMA has awarded more than **\$6.3 million in grants** to aftercare organizations and placed over **470 horses** through its in-house Placement Program. These horses have gone on to thrive as eventers, therapy animals, trail companions, and beloved family horses—thanks in large part to responsible ownership and industry support.

CARMATHon is an opportunity for owners and fans alike to invest in what happens after the track. Donations support everything from veterinary care and training to transportation and sanctuary placement.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for individuals and organizations who want to lead by example. Sponsors receive recognition throughout the campaign and the satisfaction of helping horses transition safely into their second act.

We're also proud to partner with The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, whose support helps make this campaign possible. Celebrate Opening Day with Purpose at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe: When you book your stay at The Inn [using this link](#), a portion of the proceeds will be donated to CARMA.

**CARMATHon: New Beginnings** launches **Saturday, August 16, live from Del Mar on [FanDuel TV](#)**. Join us for a day-long telethon, heartfelt stories, and opportunities to give.

To learn more and donate, click [here](#).



## Del Mar's 86th Summer Season Has The Look Of Another Winner

If you like a little turf, a little surf, a little sun and a little fun – oh, have we got a spot for you!

It's called Del Mar and – amazingly – for the 86th time its gates will swing open both for the fans and the Thoroughbreds starting on Friday, July 18.

The track's popular 2 p.m. first post will be in place for the majority of the afternoons throughout the 31-day stand that goes forward to Sunday, September 7. After opening weekend, Four O'Clock Fridays will be happening for several weeks, then there will be an adjustment to Three O'Clock Fridays for the balance of the session starting on August 15.

The nation's only seaside track's role as "the meet" in the west will be expressed by providing its horsemen and horsewomen with total purses of more than \$27.9 million over the course of its eight weeks, a solid increase of 8.1% over the 2024 total purses of \$25.8 million.

Additionally, the oval "where the turf meets the surf" also will conduct 38 stakes races worth \$7,825,000, highlighted by this year's 35th edition of the Grade I, \$1,000,000 Pacific Classic, slated for Saturday, August 30. The Classic will be the showcase piece of an afternoon presenting five Graded stakes, including a pair of Grade II headliners in the \$300,000 Del Mar Handicap and the \$300,000 Del Mar Mile, both contested on the track's renown Jimmy Durante Turf Course.

Notable in the overnight purse increases is the fact that a majority of the track's owners and trainers will be able to run in maiden special weight dirt races – both open and Cal-bred – for purses of \$100,000. The track again will be offering its Maiden Dirt Bonus that provides a 25% increase to non-winner races at the \$62,500 level and above, meaning those conditioners with fewer than 100 horses on the Southern California circuit will be competing in those straight maiden races for more than six-figure prizes for their horses.

"We are thrilled to announce our purse increases," said Del Mar vice president and racing secretary David Jerkens. "Santa Anita had a strong start to our single-circuit structure in the state and we're looking forward to continuing the positive momentum during our summer meet."

Del Mar's "Ship & Win" program – which originated at the seaside oval in 2011 and has attracted nearly 3,000 additional horses to race locally – will offer a healthy \$5,000 bonus just for starting in a dirt race, while turf runners are given a check for \$4,000. Further, those same horses will earn a 50% supplement on top of their purse earnings for running first through fifth on the dirt, while turf runners get a 40% bonus for similar accomplishments.

Continue on Page 8





# 2025 Del Mar Highlights, Cont.

“Del Mar is the summer highlight for many of our members and for horse racing enthusiasts across the country,” said TOC president Bill Nader. “The first half of 2025 has shown steady growth in every important metric, which is part of our collective effort to return California horse racing to its rightful place. We are on the right path as we move to Del Mar to drive the second half of the season.”

Proudly, Del Mar is delighted to announce the continuation of its extremely well-received backstretch meals program, first implemented in 2023. The track – with support from the California Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Foundation and the Oak Tree Racing Association – again will provide meals to the hard-working men and women who directly care for our horses. The program provided more than 18,000 meals to backstretch workers in both 2023 and 2024.

On the frontside, Del Mar fans will have special events to attend each weekend throughout the summer. Among the offerings will be the “Del Mar Craft Beer Fest” (Sat., July 19); “Uncorked: Del Mar Wine Fest” (Sat., Aug. 2); “Tacos & Tequila” (Sat., Aug. 9), and “Taste of New Orleans” (Sat., Aug. 23). Additionally, each Sunday will offer food and drink specials as part of a new program called “Savory Sundays.” It will unfold throughout the summer in the Plaza de Mexico and offer food and drink treats from such popular local eateries as Ranch 45, Monarch Ocean Pub and Pamplemousse Grille.

Other regular happenings that make the meet distinctive include “Daybreak at Del Mar,” a special opportunity to take part in San Diego’s most unique breakfast sitting trackside on the weekends while those magnificent Thoroughbreds go through their workouts right in front of you; free wagering seminars with expert handicappers each Saturday and Sunday; the “Taste of the Turf Club” on Sundays, featuring a special menu curated by the Fairmont Grand Del Mar’s executive chef and offering bottomless mimosas or bloody marys; Friday’s Happy Hours and Free & Easy Thursdays (free admission/program/seat and discounts on food and drink).

Regular racegoers will notice it right away: that distinctive tone coming from the announcer’s booth – that special sound made for more than the past 40 years at Del Mar – is not there anymore. Trevor Denman, the man, the myth the legend, has decided to call it a day and hang up his binos and mic. But fear not, Del Mar has signed on the best of the best to take up his location on high in Larry Collmus, a pro’s pro who has called at Del Mar several times in the past and at racetracks around the country, including being NBC’s guy for the Kentucky Derby every year.

After opening weekend, racing programs are projected to present eight races on most Thursdays and Fridays along with 11 on most Saturdays and Sundays.

Looking ahead to the track’s Bing Crosby Meeting in the fall – October 30 to November 30 – Del Mar once again will host the Breeders’ Cup Championships on October 31 and November 1. This will be the fourth time (2017, 2021, 2024) the two-day, \$34 million extravaganza has set up shop at the shore oval.

## California Stakes Schedule

A listing of Stakes Races held at California Tracks

[VIEW 2024-25 SCHEDULE](#)

# California Stakes Schedule

DMTC

CA-Breds

[VIEW 2025 SCHEDULE](#)

TRACK	2025	STAKE	AGE	SEX	FURLONGS	SURFACE	GRADE	PURSE
Del Mar	Jul 18	Ceasars Sportsbook Oceanside	3		8	T	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Jul 19	San Clemente H.	3	F	8	T	2	\$200,000
Del Mar	Jul 19	Wickerr	3+		8	T	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Jul 20	Osunitas	3+	F	8	T	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Jul 25	Fleet Treat	3	F	7	D	CA	\$150,000
Del Mar	Jul 26	Bing Grosby	3+		6	D	1	\$400,000
Del Mar	Jul 26	San Diego H.	3+		8.5	D	2	\$300,000
Del Mar	Jul 26	Daisycutter H.	3+	F	5	T	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Jul 27	Eddie Read	3+		9	T	2	\$250,000
Del Mar	Aug 1	Real Good Deal	3		7	D	CA	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 2	Clement L. Hirsch	3+	F	8.5	D	1	\$400,000
Del Mar	Aug 2	California Dreamin'	3+		8.5	T	CA	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 3	La Jolla H.	3		8.5	T	L	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 3	CTBA	2	F	5	D	CA	\$100,000
Del Mar	Aug 8	Graduation	2		5	D	CA	\$100,000
Del Mar	Aug 9	Yellow Ribbon H.	3+	F	8.5	T	2	\$200,000
Del Mar	Aug 9	Best Pal	2		6	D	3	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 10	Sorrento	2	F	6	D	3	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 15	CIT and TOC	3+	F	11	T	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Aug 16	Del Mar Oaks	3	F	9	T	1	\$300,000
Del Mar	Aug 17	Solana Beach	3+	F	8	T	CA	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 23	Pat O'Brien	3+		7	D	2	\$250,000
Del Mar	Aug 24	Rancho Bernando H.	3+	F	6.5	D	3	\$100,000
Del Mar	Aug 30	FanDuel Racing Pacific Classic	3+		10	D	1	\$1,000,000
Del Mar	Aug 30	Del Mar H.	3+		11	T	2	\$300,000
Del Mar	Aug 30	Del Mar Mile	3+		8	T	2	\$300,000
Del Mar	Aug 30	Green Flash H.	3+		5	T	3	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 30	Torrey Pines	3	F	8	D	3	\$150,000
Del Mar	Aug 31	Shared Belief	3		8	D	L	\$125,000
Del Mar	Aug 31	Caesars Sportsbook Del Mar Derby	3		9	T	2	\$300,000
Del Mar	Sep 1	Tranquillity Lake	3+	F	8	D	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Sep 1	Generous Portion	2	F	5.5	D	CA	\$100,000
Del Mar	Sep 5	I'm Smokin	2		5.5	D	CA	\$100,000
Del Mar	Sep 6	John C. Mabee	3+	F	9	T	2	\$250,000
Del Mar	Sep 6	FanDuel Racing Del Mar Debutante	2	F	7	D	1	\$300,000
Del Mar	Sep 6	Del Mar Juvenile Fillies Turf	2	F	8	T	L	\$100,000
Del Mar	Sep 7	Del Mar Juvenile Turf	2		8	T	3	\$100,000
Del Mar	Sep 7	Del Mar Futurity	2		7	D	1	\$300,000



# Statistics

## U.S. Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators

Indicator (June)	Jun-25	Jun-24	% Change
Wagering on U.S. Races*	\$956,784,146	\$1,030,762,214	-7.18%
U.S. Purses Available	\$114,576,801	\$121,722,557	-5.87%
U.S. Race Days	380	408	-6.86%
Indicator (Jan ~ Jun)	YTD-2025	YTD-2024	% Change
Wagering on U.S. Races*	\$5,786,483,810	\$5,951,518,212	-2.77%
U.S. Purses	\$589,426,120	\$608,713,608	-3.17%
U.S. Race Days	1,712	1,790	-4.36%

\*Includes worldwide commingled wagering on U.S. races. Data from Equibase.

## Southern California Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators

Indicator (June)	Jun-25	Jun-24	% Change
Wagering on CA Races*	\$77,693,098	\$84,939,015	-8.53%
CA Purses*	\$5,187,000	\$5,468,500	-5.15%
CA Race Days	14	13	7.69%
Indicator (Jan ~ Jun)	YTD-2025	YTD-2024	% Change
Wagering on CA Races*	\$608,018,514	\$562,354,828	8.12%
CA Purses*	\$38,358,000	\$39,242,000	-2.25%
CA Race Days	80	75	6.67%

\*Figures for wagering on CA races are from all locations - ADW and Brick and Mortar - on CA live Thoroughbred races

## Track Reports (Purse Generation)

### Santa Anita Classic & Hollywood Meet - Total Purse Revenue Generated - Total Revenue Producing Handle

Dec 18, 2024 ~ June 17, 2025	2025	2024	Difference	% Difference
Total Purses Generated	\$47,891,101	\$35,049,568	\$12,841,533	36.6%
Average Purses Generated Per Day	\$613,988	\$467,328	\$146,661	31.4%
Total Revenue-Producing Handle	\$1,132,799,594	\$933,169,118	\$199,630,476	21.4%
Average Handle Per Day	\$14,523,072	\$12,442,255	\$2,080,817	16.7%
Average Handle Per Day (Santa Anita Only)	\$8,183,047	\$7,518,712	\$664,335	8.8%
Race Days	78	75	3	4.0%

### LA County Fair @ Los Alamitos - Total Purse Revenue Generated - Total Revenue Producing Handle

Jun 18, 2025 ~ July 8, 2025	2025	2024	Difference	% Difference
Total Purses Generated	\$3,260,502	\$2,507,078	\$753,423	30.1%
Average Purses Generated Per Day	\$362,278	\$313,385	\$48,893	15.6%
Total Revenue-Producing Handle	\$86,514,458	\$65,287,813	\$21,226,645	32.5%
Average Handle Per Day	\$9,612,718	\$8,160,977	\$1,451,741	17.8%
Average Handle Per Day (Los Alamitos Only)	\$3,022,353	\$2,922,143	\$100,209	3.4%
Race Days	9	8	1	12.5%

Data from CHRIMS

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

All Handle & Purse Generation include both Southern & Northern Zones for 2025. The YOY comparison shows the benefits of all State wagering focused on a single circuit.