

February 4, 2005

Hey there, all you West Coast Active Riders!

Greetings to everyone- it's terrific to see so many of you out here in Indio! On behalf of West Coast Active Riders and our Board of Directors, **great luck to everyone for 2005**. Let's do some winning! Speaking of which, congratulations are definitely in order to **Kyle King** and the Kingsland Farms homebred gelding **Riptide**, winner of last Friday's **\$30,000 Ariat Grand Prix**- and also to **Jill Henselwood**, who won on Sunday with her lovely horse **Special Ed**. Well done, you guys! The action continues this weekend with our **first World Cup Qualifier** of Indio...cross your fingers for great West Coast World Cup representation in April!

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And by the way....are you planning on attending the **World Cup Finals** in Las Vegas, **April 20-24, 2005**? This is going to be an unbelievable event, guys....so now's the time to start planning. For the first time ever, Las Vegas Events is going to be hosting the Show Jumping and the Dressage finals *at the same time*- now that's sport! Plus, Las Vegas is celebrating her **one hundredth birthday** in 2005, so buckle up for some serious celebrating! Thanks to the courtesy of **Tim Keener, our captain for this super event**, West Coast Active riders get a **special ten percent discount on tickets**, a discount which will be continued for *just a little while longer*. Plaza tickets, (those are the good ones right behind the VIP section!) normally sell for \$300 per ticket for the whole week of Show Jumping, but for a limited time, **WCAR members can purchase them for \$270**. PLUS.....They're going fast- no really! They're almost sold out, so now's the time to order.

If you want to purchase tickets, please send me an e-mail, or come find me at Indio- **all checks get made out to Las Vegas events and WCAR will distribute the tickets next month**. Want to find out more about this fabulous competition? Visit Las Vegas Events' super website at <http://www.lasvegasevents.com/>.

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Big thanks to Tom Struzzieri and the entire HITS staff for being so responsive to WCAR suggestions- wow! Not only is the **horse walkway** a major safety improvement, but the **footing in the Grand Prix Ring, the shaded tent by Jumper Ring 1, the much improved bathroom situation** and the **beautiful new jumps that debuted in Sunday's Grand Prix** are just great. We are truly thankful to all our members who sent in suggestions and communicated their comments and questions to our Board. Thank you, HITS- we know it's a big job, but we notice, appreciate and are extremely grateful for your continued facility improvements.

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Please join us in **commemorating Larry Mayfield's life this Saturday**. Larry, a dedicated member of the California horse community, and a great friend to many in our sport, passed away on January 14th. We are deeply saddened by this loss, and we extend our sympathies to all his family and friends. There will be a celebration of his life on Saturday, February 5th, at the show grounds in Indio, directly following the conclusion of the Grand Prix ring schedule, on the berm between the restaurant and Tumbleweeds. All are welcome.

In the words of John Quirk,

"Larry Mayfield was my friend. He went out of his way to let me know that he thought well of me, and now I wonder if I went far enough to let him know that I felt the same about him. It is a reminder that we shouldn't wait too long to tell our friends what we feel for them. God speed, Larry."

Please join us in remembering a great California horseman!

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Finally, West Coast Active Riders is very proud to announce our 2005 WCAR Meritorious Riders Scholarship Winners!!!!!! Each year, West Coast Active Riders awards a scholarship comprised of showing and stabling fees at California horse shows to two deserving young riders. These scholarships, awarded on the basis of **academic and athletic merit**, enable up-and-coming riders who are dedicated to their education the opportunity to compete in A-Level horse shows.

For the past three years, three horse show managers have spearheaded the effort to make this scholarship accessible and beneficial: **Dale Harvey and West Palm Communications, Robert Ridland and RJ Brandes at Oaks Blenheim, and Larry and Marnye Langer of Equestrian Sports, Inc.** We are thrilled to announce that in 2005, **Tom Struzzieri and HITS** joined our California team of benefactors. **This brings our 2005 scholarship total to \$4000 per rider!**

Additionally, we had some great help from WCAR members: **Dr. Rebecca Lewis** generously contributed \$100 to each rider for expenses, and international rider **Helen McNaught** volunteered to give each lucky winner a free riding lesson! We are so grateful to all of our contributors for their generosity.

This year, our pool of applicants was three times as large as in 2004. We want to thank all of our MRSP applicants for sending in applications and participating in our program- you are ALL so impressive. It was a truly Herculean task to pick two riders from our incredible group, and one which fell on the capable shoulders of **Julie Hancock, Will Simpson and Elaine Fresch, our 2005 MRSP Committee.** Big thanks to this great team for doing a tough job so beautifully.

We would like to congratulate our two winners this year: **Samantha Harris and Crystal Hickey!** Both of these young ladies are talented riders, dedicated students, and super-special girls, according to their friends and trainers.

According to our own president, Will Simpson,
"We were all truly impressed by both of these applicants. We were honored to award the scholarship to Crystal, whose impressive list of academic accomplishments matches her great record in the sport. We were all touched by her decision to sell her horses to pay for college, and her will and desire to succeed in the sport regardless. Her trainer, Karen Healy, wrote a great letter on Crystal's behalf, citing her willingness to work hard. We know that this is a time in the sport for many young riders when the financial pressure is particularly overwhelming, and we hope that this scholarship can help bridge that gap for Crystal to get her started as a professional in our great sport!

"Samantha Harris is another up and coming star, who is particularly outstanding in her commitment to humanitarian and volunteer work. Her trainer, Mark Watring, spoke strongly about her extreme dedication in the barn, and her dedication not only to riding, but to her horsemanship. When we asked some of her peers about her, they couldn't say enough nice things about her love for her horses! We love that she does all her own barn and grooming work, too. We think that her outstanding humanitarian work and serious attitude toward the sport will take her far!

We hope that both Samantha and Crystal will work together and be great mentors toward each other and their younger up-and-coming friends. Again, thank you to all our applicants, and congratulations to Crystal and Samantha from Elaine, Will and Julie."

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Good luck this week to all our members and friends!

Yours,

Gaby Salick