

March 1, 2005

Hey there, West Coast Active Riders!

Wow- can we have a hand for some normal Californian weather, please? After weeks of lousy weather, it's SOO nice to be back in the sun!

Big congratulations to our West Coast World Cup leaders, **Nicole Shahinian Simpson**, winner of February 13th's \$75,000 Grand Prix, and **Joie Gatlin**- winner of last Sunday's! (Did you guys happen to catch the great "indoor" course that Olaf Petersen built on Sunday? That was so cool!) Nicky and Joie are leading us into a great **Californian World Cup performance**, so be sure to say "well done" when you see them! For more World Cup qualifying action, and to see the rest of us battle it out for a chance to see Las Vegas, you CAN'T miss the **\$150,000 Grand Prix of Indio on Week 6!**

It's going to be great!

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Oh no- would you believe it? **We've SOLD OUT of World Cup tickets!!!** I know, it's so sad! And they went so fast! But don't worry...you can still find tickets through Las Vegas Events, although the weekend **is** almost totally sold out. For more information on ordering tickets, and also a guide to local hotels and accomodations, try <http://www.lasvegasevents.com/>.

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You like the **Falls**, right? That's that cool place on Highway 111 with the signature martinis and the indoor waterfalls....Well, our friend Billy has a new place and he wants all of you to check it out when you have time. **It's called Red 74, and it's on the corner of Hwy 74 and El Paseo.** It's a little, well, edgier (shall we say?) than The Falls...Be prepared for some serious socializing, a big crowd, and lots of dancing if you come after 9:00! And there' s live jazz on Sunday evenings, so if you're in the mood for something a little mellower, well, there you go!

Have fun and say hi to Billy for us!

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Thanks to all our Grand Prix riders for continuing to be so cool about filling out our **surveys** for the World Cup classes. You've all been terrific, and the information has been super helpful!

Please come to our Riders' Meeting with Sally Ike from the USEF on Thursday, March 10th, at 5:00 at the El Campeon tack room on the showgrounds to discuss all these matters further.

This is a very important meeting, and one in which **we CAN make changes to the World Cup qualifying system for 2006.** So please come- we'll tell you what we found out from our riders' polls, and we'll tell you what the options are for changes for next year.

If you want to make a change, this is a meeting that you can't miss.

Also, Sally would like to to speak to the Garnd Prix riders about the **Chef D'Equipe selection process**, which continues to be a major issue and decision in our sport....this is a great time to learn more about what's been going on so that we can ALL stay in the loop.

Remember....Riders' Meeting: Week Six, Thursday, 5:00 at the El
Campeon Tack Room!

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Are you an open rider planning to compete at Spruce Meadows this year? Remember to call your friend Cindy Stys at the USEF. These ARE international shows, close as Canada is, y'all.....so you do need to fill out the right forms. Make your life easy- and Cindy's (the good lord knows how hard she works to keep us all organized!) and **call her at (908)-234-1251 to get squared away in good time!**

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And for those of you GP riders who might be back East this summer...HITS is hosting the **Rolex/USEF National Show Jumping Championships in Saugerties, NY** on June 8-12 of this year and **YOU are invited to compete!!!** With \$150,000 in prize money, a brand new facility to accomodate the FEI horses and a CSI designation, this show is going to be extremely popular...especially once those East Coasters get all worked up about it!

If you're interested in competing, check out the HITS website at <http://www.hitsshows.com/>, and click on Rolex/USEF.

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Last but not least...**Our Fundraising Extravaganza Indio Party- you are coming, right? It's Friday, March 11th, of Week 6 at Indio, and it is going to be GREAT.** We've taken lots of advice about how to make this party fun, and we've done lots of thinking and planning. We'd LOVE to see you there. So come, ok? **We've got a great silent auction, a fashion show, a WCAR movie, an open bar (!!!) and much more. Plus, it's a great way to connect with our friends who we didn't see nearly enough of this Indio!** I've attached the invitation to this letter, and you can always RSVP to my e-mail address.

Have a great week, everyone, and enjoy the sunshine!

Yours,
Gaby