

July 20, 2005

Hey there, West Coast Active Riders!

Welcome home to those who were in Calgary...that rain seems like a distant memory now, right? For those of you who remained on Californian ground, we hear that those **Oaks Blenheim June Classic shows** were a big hit, with great attendance, major efforts to keep the footing good during our heat wave, and super prize money. Big congratulations to Grand Prix winners **Jaime Guerra** (Oaks Blenheim June Classic I), **Hap Hansen**...yep- that's win number NINETY SEVEN, guys!!! (Oaks Blenheim June Classic II), **Jaime Azcarraga** (Oaks Blenheim June Classic III) and Helen McNaught (Oaks Blenheim Red, White and Blue) ...we missed you while we were in Canada, but we're *all* about continuing the winning on the homefront!

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For those of you who attended the last two weeks of Spruce Meadows, you were probably part of that collective sigh of relief when the rain stopped! You probably didn't miss a minute of the super sport that makes Spruce famous, and I *know* you were there when the grandstand went WILD over **Beezie Madden's awesome win** in the **2005 Queen Elizabeth II Cup**. Three cheers for WCAR members **Rich Fellers** and McGuinness, who placed eighth, and **Guillermo Obligado** and Carlson, who placed eleventh in this prestigious event. Beezie's great victory was followed up the very next day by American **Schuyler Riley** winning, for the second year in a row (that's Spruce Meadows *HISTORY*) the grueling Chrysler Derby. Again, WCAR had a great showing in the Chrysler Derby, with **Richard Spooner** collecting both fourth and eighth place with Hilton Flight and Robinson. Tenth place in this class went to **Hap Hansen** and His Horse, who narrowly missed being in the ribbons for the Q.E.II Cup the day before. And twelfth went to our very own WCAR President **Will Simpson** and El Campeon's Boxter. How 'bout that?!

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Of course, the very MOST exciting part of Spruce Meadows was the **Paramount Resources Prix de Nations Class**, in which our **2005 WCAR Spruce Meadows Teams** competed for a first place Nations Cup finish. This terrific class, in which teams of riders compete under the "Nations' Cup" format, is a great opportunity for all our riders to practice the intimidating and complex task of representing a team. Each team rider (there are usually four riders per team) jumps a challenging course, generally set at the height and difficulty maximum for one's division. After the first round, in which every team counts its three best scores (the lowest score, or "drop score" does not count), the top four teams return for a second round over the same course, under the same format. The champion team, in the case of a first place tie after the second round, may be decided by a jump-off, for which the chef d'equipe chooses one rider to represent the other three members. You can imagine how exciting this can get!

The Nations' Cup competition format, which is used at three of our International Championship events (Pan American Games, Olympics and World Championships) is challenging for all athletes, no matter what level. So how *cool* is it to be able to practice at a top-level competition facility like Spruce Meadows, in the most amazing Canadian sunshine, over courses designed by Leopoldo Palacios, arguably the best designer in the world?!!!!

WCAR would like to thank the **Southern Family and Paramount Resources** for making this amazing opportunity available to our riders. And a big cheer for our fabulous sponsor **Ariat**, who sent our riders the most GORGEOUS hunt coats!

Can we please have a hand for our 2005 WCAR Spruce Meadows Teams?!!!!!!

Our 1.10 meter team: Richard Neal, Pam Buie, Troy Christiansen and Aimee Primm; Our 1.20 meter team: Gretchen Privett, Richard Neal, Rachel Kummer and Kathryn Burdett; Our 1.30 meter team: Julie Hancock, Crystal Hickey, Erica Buie and Stephanie Saperstein ; And our 1.40 meter team: Tammy Chipko, Tiffany Hickey, Kelly Connor and Hannah Selleck. And GREAT thanks to our fabulous chefs d' equipe: Richard Padilla, Morley Abey and Eva Gonda.

WCAR would like to offer our personal congratulations to all of our 2005 West Coast Active Riders' Spruce Meadows team members. For your effort, your determination, and your spirit in the face of a day of truly challenging competition, we congratulate you on the experience that you derived from your Nations' Cup rides. Events like the Spruce Meadows Prix de Nations offer YOU- our next generation of Olympic riders- the opportunity to practice skills that will earn our country's future medals and championships.

We were all extremely impressed, as well, by the high level of team spirit, humor and friendship that made our challenging day into the top-notch learning opportunity that it was. Cheers to everyone who responded to difficulty with the will to practice, learn and improve.

Great work! We'll smoke 'em next year.

Yours,
Gaby