

Hello, West Coast Active Riders!

First, I want to wish everyone who is competing at the Foxfield Derby and Medal Finals this weekend the best of luck. This great show is one of the terrific old California traditions, and I think it's only fair to brag that MANY of our board members (including Diane Grod- twice!) have won the Sunday Derby! So to all of you out there in Westlake Village this weekend, good luck! We know that WCAR is going to be well represented, and we hope you all have a great time!

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The Del Mar International was a great show last weekend, and we want to thank all our riders who came out and supported it. The \$40,000 Del Mar International Grand Prix was a fantastic class, won this year by Mandy Porter and her LOVELY new horse Summer, owned by Barbara Ellison. Although we missed seeing our four time winner, Will Simpson, out there, we were thrilled to see Mandy Porter in the winners' circle with a horse I'm SURE we'll be seeing more of. Great job, Mandy!

Congratulations to runners up Mark Watring and Sapphire, fresh off the Olympics, and third place finishers Richard Spooner and Robinson. This was such a fun class to be part of, with yet another terrific course designed by Olympic Course Designer Leopoldo Palacios. Continued great luck to our World Cup hopefuls!

For World Cup standings for the West and East Coasts, check out [www.ryegate.com](http://www.ryegate.com).

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Hats off to everyone for making our 2004 WCAR Prix de Nations class an overwhelming success in its first year. With an incredible turnout (almost 40 riders!), super riding and horsemanship from all competitors, and a great selection of riders including Olympian Mark Watring and "Master of Faster" Richard Spooner, we couldn't have been happier with the results! The winning team took home beautiful coolers, stadium blankets and jackets, and had their names inscribed on the Kevin White Memorial Trophy- the first of many teams, we hope, to be featured on this beautiful trophy.

And your 2004 winners were..... Richard Spooner, Kaylen Spooner, Eduardo Sanchez Navarro and Katherine Bardis, with eight terrific rounds! What an honor to present this trophy in its inaugural year to our original West Coast Active Riders founder, Richard Spooner! Big congratulations to our runners up, Team Hidden Valley, featuring Mark Watring, Yasmine Abdallat, Helen Henry and Aurora Griffin. Great work, you guys, and we can't wait to re-create this awesome class. Thank you so much, as well, to our terrific WCAR sponsors- we couldn't have done it without you!

For results and scores from the 2004 WCAR Prix de Nations, please visit [www.jumpdelmar.com](http://www.jumpdelmar.com).

Hey, by the way- How about those Henrys? Helen and Jerry sold WCAR merchandise like it was going out of style- in fact, we ran out! Thanks you so much, you guys. That was such a great thing to do for our group, and I am truly impressed by your selling skills! And anyone who still wants a WCAR hat, jacket or sweatshirt can send me an e-mail- I'll mail it to you just like J. Crew!

By the way, all you 2003/ 2004 Sprucers, Helen fulfilled her volunteer obligation by selling merchandise at Del Mar. Do you still need to send some hours our way? Send me an e-mail if you want to man a merchandise booth at some point in the weeks to come. It's fun, and we could really use the help.

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The Del Mar International is another great California tradition, and it was a privilege to be able to be part of it this year. For West Coast Active Riders, it was a terrific honor to be able to kick off what we hope will be a great tradition of Prix de Nations classes in such an exciting and exceptional environment of competition. But here's the not so great news:

Although the 2004 Del Mar International was supported by many of the top Grand Prix riders, and certainly by many WCAR members, the smaller divisions and the classes during the week did not, in truth, get nearly the attendance and support they deserved. Think about it- how many shows do we attend where you can show your Training Jumper in the same arena as the 1992 Show Jumping World Cup Finals? Or jump courses designed by the Olympic Course designer? The Del Mar International is an exceptional horse show for many reasons: great atmosphere, a wonderful arena, top notch course designers in all rings, great prize money, and management headed by Dale Harvey, who was a top Grand Prix rider himself and knows exactly what it takes to put on a great show.

We simply cannot sit by and watch this show become extinct! We need to promote great sport in California, and we need to support the diversity of horse show management that helps us do that. Mostly, we need to send our horses and students to shows like the Del Mar International so that they can experience this level of competition as well.

You'll hear more about Del Mar from WCAR over the next few weeks, but please feel free to join us in supporting one of our most important shows by sending an e-mail to either me (gssalick@aol.com) or Ali Nilforushan (anilforushan@cox.net). Let's all commit to preserving a great tradition.

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And finally, with all the focus on our World Cup Qualifying events of the last four weeks, let's not forget the World Cup itself! Next year, the World Cup Finals return to the United States yet again. This is great news for West Coasters, who get to send an extra rider, not to mention the opportunities for us to compete in the National divisions! From April 20- 24, 2005, the World Cup Final for Show Jumping returns to the fantastic Thomas and Mack arena.....only this year, it's better! That's right- this year for the first time, the World Cup Final for Dressage will be held in conjunction with the Show Jumping Final, and that's going to be some truly awesome sport. Just think: you don't even have to get on an airplane to see the greatest riders in the world, from two separate disciplines, under the same roof! And let's not forget the fan-ta-bulous show guaranteed by Las Vegas Events.... If you want to see the Show Jumping Finals, don't get caught without a ticket! For more information, and to order tickets, please visit [www.worldcuplasvegas.com](http://www.worldcuplasvegas.com)

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Finally, here's some great news for WCAR members! If you are reading this e-mail, you are eligible to join Towerheads at a special discounted rate or to renew your existing membership at this discounted rate as well. You know about Towerheads, right? Ken Kraus' ("from the tower" in West Palm) terrific

website that features show results, interviews, riders' forums and, well, just about the best gossip around about our little horse world? If you're not a member already, this is your chance to take advantage of a big discount and a great opportunity. Just go to [www.towerheads.com](http://www.towerheads.com), look under WCAR Memberships, and type in the following secret code: W2XM4cV9. You can sign up at a great discount and then you'll see- it's totally addictive! (Just don't believe anything you read about me. Unless it's good. Then you can believe it.)

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Good luck to everyone this week, and congratulations to everyone, again, for making our WCAR Prix de Nations a great success.

Yours,  
Gaby