

December 16, 2004

Hello, West Coast Active Riders!

Big holiday wishes to everyone! I suspect that most of us are in the same holiday crunch... buying, wrapping, mailing and not spending nearly as much time as we would prefer on horseback! **Cheers to everyone keeping a level head** during a wonderful, but hectic, month. And if you're one of the lucky few who have managed that, would you please send me an e-mail and **tell me how it's done?????????**

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Congratulations to all our West Coast representatives who participated in this past weekend's **Leslie Howard clinic**....I hear that it was a great success, and that everyone learned a ton- and had fun! Our big thanks to **Robert McNeel**, who organized, as usual, an amazing clinic for riders, spectators and horses alike, and to **Mike and Christa Endicott**, who lent their lovely facility and hosted a fantastic get-together!

We were thrilled to be able to present a **free entry to the clinic** to one lucky WCAR member (Great idea, Robert, and thank you SOOOOO much!) **chosen by Leslie herself** to take part in the three day clinic. This year, our winner was **Zazou Hoffman**, one of our super up-and-coming stars.

Let's check in with our cute correspondent to hear what she had to say about the clinic:

I was so excited when I heard that I was chosen for the W.C.A.R. spot in the Leslie Burr Howard clinic. Leslie is a two time Olympian (winner of the 1984 Gold Medal). She also won the Maclay and has also been in a gazillion World Cups. SHE IS AMAZING!

The first day of the clinic (which was at the beautiful Endicott ranch in Rancho Santa Fe) was flat work. We worked on shortening our horse's stride over cavalletti. Leslie got on all 18 horses so that she could individualize her comments. The second day we continued to work on adjustability over low jumps, bending and slicing. The third day we worked over a course of twelve fences. The clinic concluded in a competition over a jump-off course.

The main theme of the clinic was the need to be able to lengthen and shorten your horse. Leslie emphasized that whether you are a soft rider or a strong rider, you need to be able to do the opposite during a course. She quoted George Morris "Your strength is your weakness" .

The clinic was so much fun. The prizes were great. I learned so, so much. It was helpful to be able to watch the entire clinic and to see Leslie work with each horse and each rider. She was genuinely interested in making helpful suggestions and she was SOOOO PATIENT. Robert McNeel did a fantastic job of organizing all the details, from wonderful meals to sound system to goody buckets for all the riders. The Endicotts were terrific hosts and had a festive reception for Leslie at their very pretty home.

Thank you very much to W.C.A.R. and Leslie Howard. Happy Holidays fom Zazou.

-Zazou Hoffman

Thank you to everyone who participated, and/or came out and cheered on your friends!

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And now for the latest and greatest news...You've all heard about the **Eddie Macken clinic**, right? That's the one on **January 14th-16th at Hummingbird Nest** in Simi Valley, California. Sound familiar? That's right- it's the **site of the FEI Childrens' International Jumping Final** just a few weeks ago. OK, so you know how incredible it is: Not only is the facility itself absolutely breathtaking, the Sapersteins know how to put on a top-notch event from start to finish. And you can bet the farm that this clinic will be no exception! And Eddie...well, **what's not to like about Eddie Macken?**

Eddie Macken (IRE) is a two time Olympian, and a four time winner of the Hickstead Derby (four consecutive wins!). He has won **two silver medals** in the World Championships, and a silver in the European Championships as well. Eddie won Grand Prix at **Aachen, Spruce Meadows, Madison Square Garden, Hamburg, and Dublin**, to name only a few! He is currently based in British Columbia, Canada, and is the acting coach of the Irish team in Super League Nations Cup Events.

Eddie is a terrific teacher, and a great spirit (not to mention easy on the eyes!). He's got a joke and a story for just about any occasion. You'll have a great time learning from him, and you are guaranteed to take away some extremely practical, individualized pointers. **What better way to prepare for Indio?** (And for all you people out there still trying to think of a great big gift for someone.....well, you didn't hear it from me!)

If you are interested in the clinic, please call **Richard Padilla**- that's right, he's the one who made it all happen at the FEI Childrens' Show- at **805-341-5831**. The price for the weekend is \$975, which **includes stabling, hay, shavings, grass turn-out, trail rides and all meals**. Wow! Currently, there are four levels: 1.00-1.10 meters, 1.15-1.20 meters, 1.25-1.30 meters, and 1.40 meters (professionals also invited!) **Please, please, please call soon if you want to ride in the clinic**. There are only eleven spots left, and they will go quickly!

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But here's the best part of all:

Mr. and Mrs. Saperstein are giving WCAR a great gift- they are going to throw us an **AWESOME party on Saturday, January 15th**, during the Eddie Macken clinic, for our very first 2005 WCAR fundraiser!!!!

Cowboys and Indians...that's the theme!

So **wear a costume** if you dare (oh, come on!), and meet us for cocktails at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30. This is a great chance for all of us to see each other before the Indio season starts, and you know it'll be a great party!

I'll be sending out invitations this week, but if you're interested in joining us, please RSVP to my e-mail address: gssalick@aol.com. Party tickets are \$50 apiece, which includes drinks, dinner and festivities.

Oh- and we'll give a **prize for the best costume!**

Thank you to the Sapersteins for their terrific support of West Coast Active Riders!

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Yours,
Gaby Salick