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West Coast Active Riders Begin Prix de Nations Team Trials and Have Important Riders' Meeting

San Diego, CA- April 5- The West Coast Active Rider organization has begun the four week selection trials for their Prix de Nations teams that will compete at Spruce Meadows on July 6. There are four different sections for junior and amateur jumper riders to compete in, and four riders for each section will be chosen based on their performances throughout the trials.

The junior and amateur riders had their first trial at the Palms Classic Horse Show on March 23-27. Seven riders had a clear round: Patricia Hayward, Paige Kirwin, Richard Neal, Aimee Primm, Rachel Kummer, Ken Dickey and Melissa Brown. The trials continued at the Oaks Blenheim Spring Classic I Horse show on March 30- April 3.

Also at the Palms Classic Horse Show, teams competed in the \$5,000 WCAR Prix de Nations. The winning team was Team Silver Spoons, consisting of Richard Spooner, Katherine Bardis, Kaylen Spooner and Rachel Kummer. In second place was Team Delila, with members Fred Bauer, Lauren Hester, Tammy Chipko and Patricia Hayward.

The USEF Show Jumping Riders Meeting was held on March 10 in Indio, CA. Over 30 people attended the meeting led by Committee Secretary Sally Ike. They discussed the chef d'equipe search for the USEF Show Jumping team, recommendations for the 2005-2006 West Coast World Cup Qualifiers and FEI requirements at West Coast horse shows.

The chef d'equipe search noted that it had been narrowed down to two candidates, Leopoldo Palacios and George Morris. Certain points were mentioned about the search: the contract will be for four years; the process was very thorough; West Coast riders were well represented; both men are very well qualified for the job; if a contract cannot be negotiated with either person, the search process will resume.

The WCAR World Cup Qualifier 2004/2005 Review Committee consists of Rich Fellers, Gaby Salick, Will Simpson and Molly Talla. For the next World Cup season, they had the following recommendations: Minimum of \$50,000 in prize money should be offered for each World Cup qualifier; No World Cup qualifiers should be dropped from the calendar, but new ones should be added; Dale Harvey's March Palms Classic should be approved as a World Cup qualifier.

The riders at the meeting were in agreement with these recommendations. Many thought another qualifier after the Palms Classic should be added, and Robert Ridland volunteered to add a qualifier at the March Oaks Blenheim show. Those at the meeting also agreed that WCAR should meet again after the Indio Desert Circuit to finalize their recommendations.

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) has awarded the 2005 FEI Children's International Jumping Final to the Hummingbird Nest Ranch in Simi Valley, CA. It is the first time in the history of the event that the finals will take place at the same location two years in a row.

The 140 acre world-class equestrian facility is proud to host the event again this year by providing a setting for children to meet on a friendly yet competitive level. The unique event is comprised of children from around the world between the ages of 12 to 14 years old.

WCAR members Mandy Porter and Julie Winkel were the only two in the jumpoff of the \$30,000 Antares Grand Prix at the Palms Classic. Porter rode Summer to the only double clear ride for the win.

WCAR would like to thank their riders, sponsors and friends that attended the Indio Party and Calcutta. WCAR executive director, Gabriella Salick, said, "We are so grateful for all your help and support. By coming to our party, you contributed greatly to our ability to help our sport on the West Coast."

Special thanks go out to the following sponsors: Kenneth Vinther from CWD; Sally Peoples of Pure and Simple beauty products; The Hoffman Family; El Campeon Farms; J2; Billy Mieldazis; and Ariat.

For more information about the qualifiers for the 2005 FEI Children's International Jumping Final, please contact Jennifer Haydon at jhaydon@usef.org.

For more information on Hummingbird Nest, please contact them at Info@Hummingbirdnestranch.com.

For more information on WCAR, please visit the new and beautifully improved website at: www.westcoastactiveriders.com.

For information on tours, clinics, fundraisers, and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact: West Coast Active Riders, 3830 Valley Center Drive, #705 PMB 805, San Diego, CA 92130. Fax: (805) 373-1092. E-mail: info@westcoastactiveriders.com.

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