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George Morris Discusses USET Foundation with West Coast Active Riders

Wellington, FL- August 25- On August 12, 2005 Californians welcomed new U.S. Chef d'Equipe George Morris and USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins to the West Coast with a "Cocktails and Conversation" hour. The event was generously hosted by Mr. R.J. Brandes, CEO of Blenheim Equisports. Californian Grand Prix riders, trainers, owners, and many up-and-coming stars attended this event at Brandes' beautiful Arden Cottage in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Morris and Jenkins discussed issues pertaining to the United States Equestrian Team Foundation's High Performance Program for the next Olympic cycle (2005-2008).

Designated as the U.S. Chef d'Equipe, Morris will lead the USET Foundation's High Performance Program through the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. He commented on his thoughts pertaining to elite U.S. athletes, "We have to participate with the rest of the world on a regular basis. There are consequences for not winning and great consequences for lack of success, which include losing owners and sponsors. Californians have it all: the weather, the athletes, and the horses, but you have to find it."

Praising the Californians as a whole for their participation and interest in the sport, Morris complimented their ability to be "great under pressure." He encouraged riders to stay true to their sport by not "getting soft" in their training and competitive standards.

Morris addressed the influence of equestrian Bertalan DeNemethy, "A man and horseman of the greatest class, DeNemethy gave us a blue-print, and we cannot forget this blue-print." Morris continued to emphasize the importance of the U.S. remaining in the Super League in order to compete at the top international level on a year-round basis. He mentioned the importance of maintaining fairness in terms of medication and controlling stabling in order to reduce the possibility of poling horses. These rules comply with those at all international competitions and provide comparable conditions for all exhibitors.

Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director of the USET Foundation, spoke about the Quadrennium Campaign that supports the High Performance program. This campaign raises funds and is of utmost importance to the future of our teams in Europe. The Foundation receives no direct or indirect government subsidy; therefore, the Foundation relies primarily upon donations. Contributions made to the USET Foundation directly support the grants that the Foundation makes to the United States Equestrian Federation.

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation supports the competition, training, coaching, travel, and educational needs of America's elite horses and athletes. These athletes participate at the top level of international sport in the world, forming the championship-level teams that compete in the four major

international competitions: the Olympics, the World Equestrian Games (WEG), the Pan American Games, and the World Cup Finals.

USET Foundation also supports teams who attend eight Super League Nations Cup shows that run in France, Italy, Switzerland, Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, and Spain. Countries must qualify to compete in this exclusive league, as the number of countries who can attend is limited.

In addition to the four championship level events and the Super League Shows, the USET Foundation sends teams to the North American CSIO Nations Cup Team shows: Spruce Meadows Masters and the CSIO Wellington. The Developing Riders Tours and WCAR European Tours are fielded by the USET Foundation as well.

The West Coast Active Riders had an exciting summer in competition. Their recent successes include Joie Gatlin and the Canyon Capital Insurance owned bay mare, Mogharebi's Luna, taking top honors at the Oaks Summer Classic I Grand Prix. Gatlin is from San Juan Capistrano, California. Heidi Stosser of Lake Forest, California, who is new to the Grand Prix ranks, piloted her mount Skipper 44 to a second place finish behind Gatlin. Duncan McFarlane earned first place in the Menlo Charity Horse Show Grand Prix aboard Eezy. Duncan, the owner of Eezy, resides in Fairfield, California. Santiago Rickard and Jazz of Willowbrook Stables in Sherman Oaks, California finished with the red rosette in second.

Gabriella Salick, Executive Director of the West Coast Active Riders Organization, congratulated the 2005 North American Young Riders teams out of California, "Great job, ladies! We hear that you were professional, tough, team-spirited competitors who did Zone Ten proud!" The N.A.Y.R.C. A-Team included Elizabeth Easton, Shelby Walter, Lauren Hester, Adria Mashburn and Katherine Bardis. Morgan Taylor, Torie Immel, Paige Beal-Andros, and Sophie Benjamin composed the B-Team.

The Country Supply store is now offering discounts for all WCAR riders and will donate five percent to the West Coast Active Riders when items are purchased by a WCAR member. Members may place orders online at www.countrysupply.com with the country code WCAR.

The upcoming Del Mar International Horse Show will host the WCAR Prix de Nations, as well as a sport horse auction on Saturday, October 1st. Best of luck to all WCAR competitors! All breeders, trainers, and owners of sport horses are invited to participate in the Equifuture Sport Horse Sale. The catalog is available online at www.jumperdelmar.com

For more information about WCAR programs and memberships, please visit their website at www.westcoastactiveriders.com.

For information on tours, clinics, fundraisers, and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact:
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