

Hello, West Coast Active Riders!

Congratulations to all our riders who competed in the Nutrena Jumper Finals the week of October 14-17 at Showpark! I've heard that even with a little decidedly Un-Californian weather, the event was a great success. Our big thanks to Nutrena for sponsoring such a terrific event for our young riders.... And of course, BIG congratulations to all our winners: In the Childrens'/AA Division, the Nutrena Champions were Aurora Griffin and Green Sleep's Classic, with Pam Buie and Sir Henry coming in a close second! In the Jr./Amateur Modified division, your big winners were Kate Wilson and Edesa's Garcon, just edging out second place finishers Katrina Montinola and Mercury Rising. In the Low Jr./AO Division, first place finishers were Caren Kelley and The Journalist, and the second place winners were Cassie Frost and Truly a Babe. Great work, you guys! The Nutrena Jumper Finals are a big deal, and your success shows your hard work and dedication!

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And going back to the Foxfield Derby, held October 10 in Westlake Village....Wow! Another fantastic year's competition from a show which is one of our most fun West Coast showing traditions! With beautiful weather, a great turnout and a terrific lunch, this event continues to be a California crowd-pleaser! Big congratulations to Anne Frankel and Here and Now, winners of the Junior/ Amateur Derby, and Jesse White and Another Cat, winners of the Foxfield Derby. This class was SO exciting, and there is no end to the fun of jumping all those cool jumps: the "Tiger Trap", the "Sunken Road".... I had not been to Foxfield since I was a camper there (many, many years ago- I was in "Welsh"!), but I had a great time walking the course and jumping all those jumps that I remember the "big girls" jumping! The Foxfield Derby is a super event for all riders, and an amazing experience for professionals making up young horses....not to be missed!

And now an update from WCAR Correspondent Aurora Griffin, anchor rider from the 2004 1.20 Spruce Meadows Prix de Nations Team, and our reigning Nutrena queen:

"Last Sunday I had an amazing opportunity to compete in the Foxfield Derby. The course was 18 jumps, but 23 efforts. I'd been to camp there, but this was different! There was everything from open waters, bank combinations, jumping in and out of rings and flying banks. I was fortunate enough to have two chances. The Jr./Am Derby was in the morning. I had about 12 faults in this round. In the Big Derby in the afternoon, I did much better, having only a foot in the water for 4 faults. My horse, Classic, was a very good boy and trusted me when we were pushing over strange and immobile obstacles! The scenery was beautiful and the competition was incredible. I was in awe finding myself competing against professional and grand-prix riders. It was a wonderful experience which I would recommend to all."

For more information about Foxfield, including the Derby and their AWESOME summer camp, please visit www.Foxfield.com.

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And now for another super tradition in the making:

For the very first time, the F.E.I. Childrens' International Jumping Final will be held in California this November 22-28 at Hummingbird Nest, the gorgeous equestrian facility owned by Mr. and Mrs. Saperstein. This is only the second time that this event has occurred in the United States! The FEI first introduced the competition in 1995 to promote the sport of show jumping among children at an international level. Since then, the FEI Childrens' International Jumping final has successfully increased opportunities for children from around the world to participate in this exciting international class. Host countries for this wonderful event have included: Chile, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, South Africa, Brazil and most recently Canada. But this is the FIRST time that California will have the opportunity to welcome all these fantastic young riders, thanks to the generosity of the Sapersteins.

Mr. and Mrs. Saperstein are the owners of Hummingbird Nest, a 140 acre Equestrian Facility located in Simi Valley, California. This world class facility is surrounded by thousands of acres of land that are part of the Simi Valley Parks District. Extensive enhancement since the start of 1999 has preserved the archeological and historical significance of the property and has restored it to its original splendor. It has breathtaking mountain views, beautiful landscaping and a spectacular 15,000 square foot clubhouse overlooking the International Grand Prix arena, making it an excellent venue for entertaining clients. The F.E.I. Childrens' Jumping International promises a week of top-level sport, fun, celebration, and plenty of entertainment. Additionally, the show benefits the Mattel Childrens' Hospital at UCLA- a great cause! This event, in which over 17 different nations participate, welcomes 32 riders between the ages of 12 and 14 to spend a week together in a new land, promoting a sense of friendship, camaraderie and sportsmanship. And what better place than California to show our international peers what American Show-Jumping is all about?

During the week of November 22-28, the Sapersteins are expecting over 10,000 visitors! With countless activities for the whole family, visitors can enjoy art classes, art exhibitions, a vintage car exhibition, fun games for children, wagon rides, rodeo activities, breath-taking skydiving shows, a Fun and Craft Fair, numerous marching bands, musical performances and much more! Not to mention the opportunity to watch the riders of the future battle it out on the gorgeous Grand Prix field.

WCAR wishes all of our participating riders the best of luck at this wonderful competition- we know you'll have a blast, and we'll be there, cheering you on!

But wait- there's just one more thing....

All international competitors (meaning all those riders who are not qualified as West Coast Americans) will be riding horses donated for that weekend by the participating American Riders. For this reason, all qualified West Coasters have been asked to bring not one, but TWO horses to the competition: one for themselves and one to go into a pool of horses for the competition. And although every rider has contributed to this pool in whatever way is realistic and possible for him/her, there remains a shortage of horses for the competition.

Do you have a great horse who can jump 1.10-1.20 meters (Childrens/Adult Amateur-Jr./Amateur Modified level)? Perhaps you would consider lending your horse to the F.E.I. Childrens' Jumping International for the week of November 22-28. It's a great way to help the competition, and a super demonstration of California generosity and team spirit. It's also a perfect opportunity to showcase a sales horse to a big audience, and to a group of people who may have never seen your terrific horse before! If you have any questions or ideas about donating a horse for the competition, we invite you to contact Richard Padilla on his cell phone: 805-341-5831.

And for more information on sponsorship, scheduling, competitions, and purchasing tickets and/or VIP tables, please contact Connie Churchill at 310-271-7469, or visit www.hummingbirdnestranch.com.

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Continued great luck to all our WCAR riders back East...you're making us all proud! Our big congratulations to WCAR Board Member Joie Gatlin on her Grand Hunter Championship in the Regular Working Hunters at the Washington International- she won on Jane Frazee's wonderful Mandarin! And my friend Mark Bone tells me that Georgia Spogli's Round Midnight was a gigantic star in the First Year Greens at Capital Challenge just before that.....So come on, all you WCAR members: send me your results already, so we can brag about you too!!!!

Yours,
Gaby Salick