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THE EQUESTRIAN NEWS

Since 2002

December 2009 / January 2010

Issue 38

Ho-Ho, Hay-Hay

Happy Holidays the LAEC Way



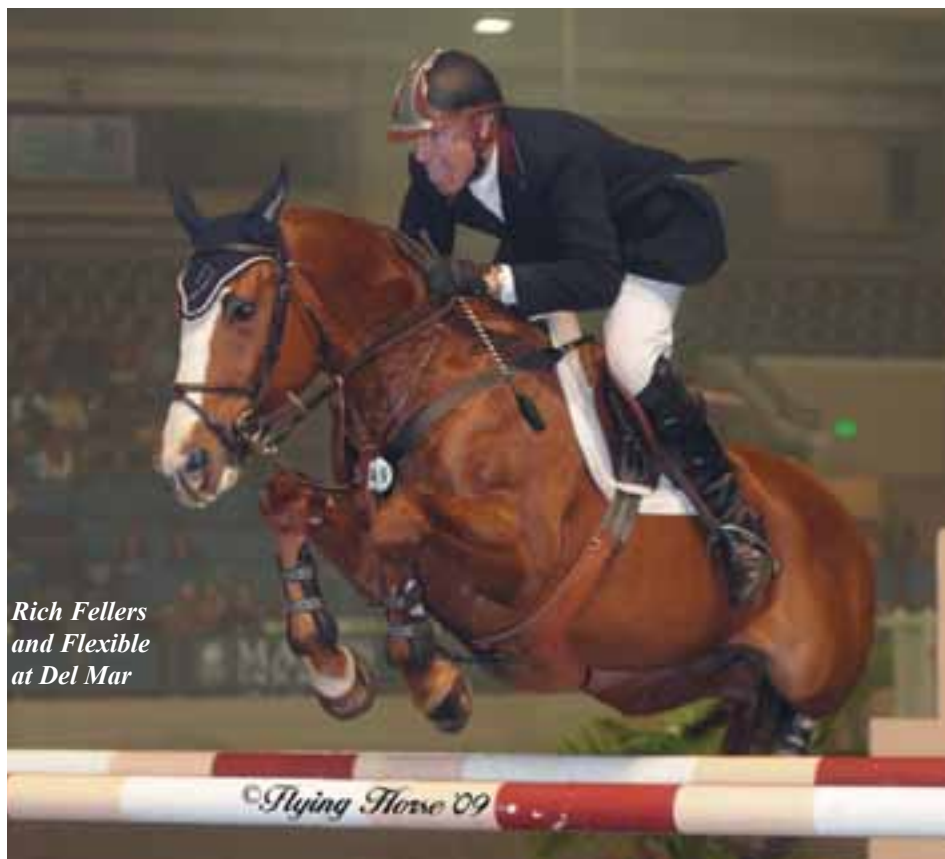
Just call him Chris Kringle! Los Angeles Equestrian Center official mascot Christopher Robin suits up for his best Rudolph imitation to spread cheer among boarders and guests. "He's Santa's little helper," laughed handler Karen Sund.

Among his seasonal duties this year, the 28" American Miniature Horse will be making a list of LAEC holiday party invitees—and checking it twice, to ensure good attendance!

Chris has reason to be of good cheer. Sund plucked the 10 year old 'dear' from dire circumstances. "We went to look at a Friesian and came home with a mini," she recalls. "I saw a small pen with a 'For Sale' sign. You couldn't even see what was in it." When she did peek in, she was distressed to see a matted mess. Five years later, he's as polished as a new sleigh!

The diminutive Golden Palomino would like it on the record that whether he's posing for photos with children or welcoming visiting dignitaries, he is never naughty, always nice.

Flexible Flier! Fellers Pony Pumps World Cup Points



Rich Fellers and Flexible at Del Mar

Flying Horse

By Paula Parisi

Rich Fellers and Flexible are on a winning streak. The duo won a decisive victory in the \$50,000 Del Mar International World Cup Qualifying Grand Prix on Oct. 17,

and followed that up with a blue ribbon in the \$75,000 Grand Prix of Sacramento on Nov. 7.

At a time when most high-performance riders have set their sights on the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG), Fellers would like to parlay his winning streak into qualifying for show jumping's Rolex FEI World Cup Final. His victory in Del Mar brought him significantly closer to that goal. At press time, Fellers and Ashlee Bond led the pack in terms of World Cup points.

They compete on a new playing field that sees Canada and Mexico merged with the U.S. into two North American Leagues—East and West.

"I'd really like to do the World Cup Finals again with Flexible," Fellers said with resolve. His passion to jump in Geneva April 14–18 sets him apart somewhat from the majority of his high-performance peers, who seem to be honing in on WEG, taking place for the first time on U.S. soil, in Lexington, KY, Sept. 25–Oct. 10.

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Cowgirls, Boys Go for Vegas Gold

Miss Rodeo Competition Kicks off Week of Western Sport

By Kathy Anderson

It's Super Rodeo Time in Las Vegas! Cowboys and cowgirls at the top of their games are on a quest for the World Championship titles and the gold buckles that come with them at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Dec. 3–12 at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Adding a bit of glamour to the rough and tumble sport, the festivities kick off with the Miss Rodeo America 2010 Pageant, Nov. 29–Dec. 5 at the Orleans Hotel and the South Point Equestrian Arena and Event Center. Representing California is reigning state champion 20-year-old Ashley Hoffmann of Salinas, who joins 28 other U.S. cowgirls to compete for the honor of becoming the "First Lady of Professional Rodeo." Passing on her 10-gallon crown is 2009 national champion Maegan Ridley, herself

a former Miss Rodeo California, who takes her final lap at the event.

Ridley and Hoffmann aren't the only cowgirls who'll be kicking up their heels at the event. Barrel racers Danyelle Campbell of Beaumont and Sheena Robbins of Fresno, who made it to the top of the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) standings, will also be representing the state as they race around the cylinders. Campbell, who marks her third Finals, will ride her six-year-old Quarter Horse mare, Repete. Campbell says Repete "turns pretty tight, and it's a small arena, so I don't have to slow her down." She describes the mare as one who's "got a big heart. She tries really hard. She's got a lot of try." It's Robbins' Finals debut.

Hoffmann, a native of Boston who has studied dance in Tahiti and conditioned

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DOMINICK LEMARIE

TriTech Tops San Diego Season Overtime decides victory

TEN Staff Report

TriTech led from the first chukker and went on to win the historic Spreckels Cup, culminating the 2009 San Diego Polo Club season. Hoisting the trophy are (pictured above) TriTech's Jesse Bray (2), Matias Obregon (4), Gaston VonWernich (5) and Chris Maloney (1).

TriTech had three goals in the first three minutes of the game while round one resulted in zero points for Hanalei Bay—Meaghan Scanlon (0), Jason Crowder (5), Mariano Fassetta (6), Nick Morrison (1) and Ron Bonaguidi (0).

Polo players are typically identified with their handicaps attached to their

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Danyelle Campbell and Repete

INSIDE: Reagan Equestrian Campsite

Rides into Agoura Hills See page 8.



Costume Drama

At the Traditional Equitation School (TES)

See page 30.





Reagan Campground Underway

Property to offer pipe stalls and other equestrian amenities

By Paula Parisi

Equestrian Trails Inc. (ETI) Corral 63 has held its first official fund-raiser in the quest to raise \$2 million to establish the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Campground (RREC) in Malibu Creek State Park (MCSP). Among those attending the Sept. 26 event at Mill Creek Equestrian Center in Topanga Canyon was Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavy, Recreational Equestrian Coalition president Ruth Gerson, ETI National Trails Coordinator Lynn Brown, National Park Service chief deputy Evan Jones and State Parks superintendent Ron Schafer.

Gerson has for the past 32 years worked to make a reality of her dream to have an equestrian campground in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. In 1977 she was able to get the idea approved as part of the MCSP master plan, and it's included in the 2005 plan as well.

"We were able to get approval for an



From the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Campground, riders will have access to more than 700 miles of trails.

equestrian campground, but they took the original location and made it a preserve, so we had to find another site," Gerson said. After bouncing through a couple of areas that didn't work for various reasons, the idea of the Agoura ranch acreage once owned by President Ronald Reagan was put forward. "It took us a long time to get to this location, but it really is the best place," Gerson said, citing the former President's lifelong love of riding and horses as a vivid part of California's equestrian history. "The land there is even referred to by State Parks as 'the Reagan Ranch,'" she said of the parcel, which is located in Malibu Creek State Park, at the junction of Mulholland Highway and Cornell Road.

The ranch was not Reagan's first. During his time as a working actor and radio host he purchased eight acres in Northridge. He purchased the 290-acre property in Malibu Canyon in 1951, according to the book *Ronald Reagan and His Ranch*. Author Peter Hannaford said Reagan called the place Yearling Row and raised Thoroughbreds there.

"He named the first foal Nancy D., after his soon-to-be-wife," writes Hannaford (whose focus is mainly Rancho del Cielo, the 2,000-acre "ranch in the sky" the Reagans purchased just outside Santa Barbara in 1974 during the end of his tenure as governor of California, 1967-1975). It was Rancho del Cielo that became known as "the Western White House" during the Reagan presidency (1981-1989).

Yearling Row hadn't earned as

USEF Honors Morris, Dutton



Show jumping luminary George Morris (left) has been named National Coach of the Year and eventing superstar Phillip Dutton Developmental Coach of the Year by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). As a result of the honors, Morris and Dutton become the USEF's nominees for the 2009 United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Coach of the Year Award.

The USOC's Coaching Recognition Program acknowledges coaches for their contributions to teams' successes throughout the year. The USOC reviews nominees from all national governing bodies to select a winner in each of the National and Developmental categories.

Morris, acknowledged as one of the most accomplished coaches in the world, nabs the USEF honor for the second consecutive year. Since 2005 he has served as the nation's show jumping chef d'équipe and coach, with a 2008 Olympic Team Gold medal to his credit and seven Nation's Cup victories.

He consistently guides the U.S. to victory across the globe, and commanded a second-place finish in the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup tour this summer as well as a victory in the \$1 million Spruce Meadows CSIO for McLain Ward and Sapphire in September. "His expertise and steadfast determination in the most intense competition is legendary and his faith in his athletes delivers huge success," stated the USEF in announcing its selection of Morris, who is based in Wellington, Florida.

An Australian by birth, Dutton moved to the U.S. in 1991 and became a U.S. citizen in 2006. During his time stateside, Dutton has trained dozens of the up-and-coming eventers to the top of their field, earning him the USEF's description as "a tour de force on the field of play." In addition to personally leading the event standings by some 300 points, three of the top 10 riders in the country train with Dutton. He manages and trains out of True Prospect Farm in West Grove, Pennsylvania, as well as his Red Oak Farm in Aiken, South Carolina.



Ronald and Nancy Reagan riding on property that is now part of Malibu State Park.

impressive a soubriquet. Hannaford quotes Nancy Reagan as recalling, "It had no foundation and it tilted," and that an attempt to host a sleepover for their daughter, Patti, resulted in "mice flying all over the place." To what may have been Nancy's relief, the house burned down before the Reagans sold the property to Paramount Pictures in 1967, but the barn and stables remain, and Gerson said there are plans afoot to restore the buildings. "There are still some jumps up, from when Reagan did his cross country," noted Gerson, a local equestrian homeowner who frequently traverses the area on her trail rides.

The RREC will be the first campground where equestrians can "just drive right in and camp" in the Santa Monica Mountains, which has a network of more than 500 miles of trails. Gerson said the

current plan is for 30 campsites, each with a barbecue, water hookup and two corrals. "There will be a few other corrals scattered throughout the grounds, and there'll be a main restroom with showers as well as a manure disposal site," she noted. There will also be an overflow parking area that can accommodate large horse rigs.

Gerson said the expectation is that in addition to drawing from California the RREC will be a destination for out-of-state equestrians, with its attractive mix of rural and urban amenities. "It has easy access from the freeway, with a lot of essential services close by—gas stations, restaurants, tack shops, farriers and vets."

While the kickoff fund-raiser—"mainly to raise awareness and friends"—was coordinated in conjunction with the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation in Sacramento, Gerson said the undertaking also has the enthusiastic support of the National Department of Parks as well as the city. "The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks is very supportive of this effort. They have not had a new campground in at least 10 years."

Gerson said she hopes to break ground on the Reagan Equestrian Campground within three years, possibly sooner, contingent on funding. She lauded the efforts of the ETI in administering the REC development and assisting with fund-raising. The first big event is planned for 2010. In the meantime, those wanting to make a tax-deductible contribution can write a check to the ETI Foundation and mail it to P.O. Box 357, Agoura Hills, CA 91376.

For further information contact Ruth Gerson, chair, Ronald Reagan Equestrian Campground Committee, at 818-991-1236 or ruthgerson@aol.com or visit www.parks.ca.gov/ReaganCampground.



Reagan's partner of many years was the gray Anglo Arabian El Alamein.

Dover to Lead Team Canada Dressage

After throwing his hat into the ring for the job of U.S. dressage chef d'équipe/technical adviser and seeing the position offered instead to longtime judge Anne Gibbons, six-time Olympian Robert Dover accepted the position of Technical/Coach Advisor for Dressage Canada's high-performance program in October. The Wellington, FL, resident assumed his new role with characteristic enthusiasm.

"Anyone who knows me knows that once I commit to something, I do so with my whole heart and soul and will not stop until I have achieved my goal, especially where it means medals," Dover wrote on his blog (www.doversworld.com).

"[Robert] brings to Equine Canada a rare force of will," said Equine Canada CEO, Akaash Maharaj. "He is clearly determined to see our dressage team

bestride the competitive world like a colossus, and he has the infectious energy and optimism necessary to turn that ambition into a reality."

Dover, who regularly gives clinics in California, has already visited Toronto, Vancouver and Ottawa to see horse-and-rider combinations, and he'll travel to Alberta in December to see more. "Here's a word to all of you who will be riding in front of me as I travel through the provinces," he said. "Think *American Idol* or *So You Think You Can Dance*... and BRING IT!"



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