

## Meet the Challenge—Make the Change

With the dawning of 2003, we can look back at the first few years of the new millennium and be encouraged by the fact that the California breeding and racing industry has made tremendous strides during that period of time. Just as the entire Thoroughbred world is faced with continual challenges, so too are our local participants and they have performed admirably.

Last year, for example, California-breds continued to build on the 2000 and 2001 successes of the like of dual Breeders Cup Classic winner Tiznow, with more than a dozen individual graded stakes winners. We also made waves at the inaugural NTRA Great State Challenge, where the golden state contingent won two of the three races that it had runners in.

Furthermore, the 2002 editions of California Cup (XIII) and California Gold Rush (III) proved to be as successful as always, and this year we not only look forward to their renewals but also to the first running of the Sunshine Millions. Anticipation is growing daily for this \$3.6 million day of eight stakes races split evenly between Santa Anita Park and Gulfstream Park, in which only Cal-breds and Florida-breds are eligible to compete in head-to-head challenges.

So, the upcoming twelve months certainly have plenty in store for all of us, just like this current issue of *California Thoroughbred* does. Naturally, our cover story is a detailed preview of which horses we can expect to see competing at the aforesaid Sunshine Millions, while another feature to look out for is a review of the fine victories by Continental Red and Crackup at the aforementioned Great State Challenge.

As usual, this first magazine of the year includes a section—nine pages in all—dedicated to the leading California sires of the past twelve months. This is followed by a wrap-up of the CTBA's Riverside County Stallion Tour, the final in a series of four such events that also traveled to the Central Coast, San Diego County and Northern California in 2002.

Then, we are pleased to feature the venerable Strike Gold in the latest chapter of our "A Glorious Time" series, while the CTBA Member Profile spotlights Brian Boudreau (Malibu Valley Farms Inc.). The magazine also includes a preview of the Barretts January (21 & 22) Mixed Sale as well as reports on the latest racing news from both Southern and Northern California, including Debonair Joe's exciting graded stakes win last month.

Our feature story section includes regular favorites like "Plan Now, For a Better Price Later," "Down on the Farm" and "Greener Pastures," while readers can also look forward to an interesting article on soundness by JW Equine as well as Debra Ginsburg's "Racing Reflections" piece. As always, there is a wealth of information in our "Departments" portion of the publication, ranging from sire lists and race dates to the latest Cal-bred maiden winners and local stakes performers.

So, as we look forward to the New Year, it is important to realize that even though our local horses have enjoyed a lot of success in recent times, it remains an ongoing battle to maintain the California-bred as a leader in the Thoroughbred industry. Therefore it is important not to rest on our laurels but to strive to continue to produce horses of the highest quality, which brings to mind an old Labor Party slogan that is most appropriate in the circumstances, namely "Meet the Challenge—Make the Change."

—Rudi Groothedde  
[rudi@ctba.com](mailto:rudi@ctba.com)



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In the Company of . . . JJ Gish (left) and Jim Dods (right) of Typecraft, Wood & Jones Inc., printers of this monthly magazine since 1999.

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201 Colorado Place, Arcadia, California 91007  
Telephone: (626) 445-7800 or 1-800-573-CTBA  
(California residents only).  
FAX: (626) 574-0852.  
E-mail address: [info@ctba.com](mailto:info@ctba.com)

Owned and published by the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the production of better Thoroughbred horses for better Thoroughbred racing.

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*California Thoroughbred* is published monthly in Arcadia, Calif. Periodical postage is paid at Arcadia, Calif., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the California Thoroughbred, P.O. Box 60018, Arcadia, CA 91066-6018

**SUBSCRIPTIONS -**\$45.00 per year domestic  
\$63.00 per year foreign.

**CTBA on the Internet —** <http://www.ctba.com>

