



WEST COAST

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Sharp Shooters

Steve Bajer and John O'Hara know how to pick 'em

BY LENNY SHULMAN

You look at Steve Bajer and John O'Hara moving around the sales at Keeneland each September and November, and they seem like two guys who took a wrong turn on the way to a fishing trip. Bajer, 62, and O'Hara, 53, both married, walk the grounds with an easy give-and-take dialogue running between them, accompanied by O'Hara's son, Dustin. They're dressed casually, and while they're paying close attention to the business at hand—picking out weanlings and yearlings to buy—they give off the impression of two guys on holiday looking for a restaurant. The results of their purchases, however, paint a far different picture.

Shopping in the equine bargain bins, Bajer and O'Hara have enjoyed an enormous amount of success. They had two of their purchases pre-entered in this year's Breeders' Cup World Championships. One of them, J P's Gusto, is already a grade I winner. Nicole H. wound up running in the Dream Supreme Stakes on the Breeders' Cup undercard. In previous years they have been involved in buying some horses you may have heard of—Alphabet Soup, winner of the 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic (gr. I); Adoration, winner of the 2003 Breeders' Cup Distaff (gr. I); and grade I winner Santa Teresita. For a couple of easy-going guys, these Californians are sharp-eyed sharks.

(continued on page 3516)



John and Dustin O'Hara with Steve Bajer (right)

DAVID YOUNG



California's Best on One Roster.

2010 LEADING SIRES:

UNUSUAL HEAT

Three-time leading sire of progeny earnings, 2008-2010
Seven-time leading sire by turf earnings, 2004-2010
Leading sire by average earnings per runner: \$82,512

Nureyev-Rossard, by Glacial / Fee: \$20,000



SWISS YODELER

Leading sire by California-bred 2-year-old progeny earnings and by 2-year-old stakes performers: 2 stakes winners, 2 stakes-placed • Third-ranked overall by races won (123).

Eastern Echo-Drapeau, by Raja Baba / Fee: \$5,000

LUCKY PULPIT

Leading Freshman sire by earnings: 8 starters, \$235,896
Leading sire of 2-year-olds by average earnings per runner (\$29,487) and average earnings per start (\$7,148).

Pulpit-Lucky Soph, by Cozzene / Fee: \$2,500



ALSO STANDING:

BEST GRADE I VALUE:

STORMY JACK

Sire of Grade I winner and California Horse of the Year **Bob Black Jack**.
Bertrando-Tiny Kristin, by Steelinctive
Fee: \$1,500

The Usual Q. T.
(G1, \$1,411,320)
by **Unusual Heat**.

BREEDERS' CUP CHAMPIONS:

DESERT CODE

Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner and 2-turn graded winner on synthetic.
E. Dubai-Chatta Code, by Lost Code
Fee: \$2,000

SINGLEINARY

Breeders' Cup Mile-G1 victor and a leading juvenile sire of 2010.
Sultry Song-Joiski's Star,
by Star de Naskra • Fee: \$1,500

CEE'S TIZZY HEIRS APPARENT:

TIZBUD

From 19 starters in 2010, sire of stakes winner **Tizsosexy** and **Tiz Argent**.
Cee's Tizzy-Cee's Song, by Seattle Song
Fee: \$2,500

LUCKY J. H.

Graded winner of \$632,065 whose first foals will be yearlings of 2011.
Cee's Tizzy-Lucky C. H., by A. P. Indy
Fee: \$1,500

Stallions are Breeders' Cup nominated • Unusual Heat stud fee is live foal due Nov. 1.
All other stallion fees are live foal due at foaling.



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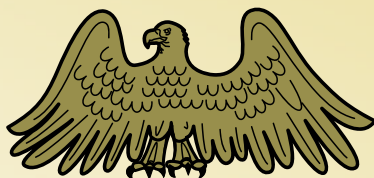
2010 Leading Sires in California

State sire lists updated daily online. Go to <http://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/thoroughbred-breeding/sire-lists>

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in California (exported stallions are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through November 10, 2010. As supplied to The Blood-Horse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., earnings exclude monies from Japan and Hong Kong. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A ♯ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

Rank	Stallion (Foaling Year, Sire), Farm Standing	2010 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	Stakes Wnrs/Wnrs	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2010 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	*A-E Index	*Comp Index
1	UNUSUAL HEAT (90, Nureyev), Harris Farms	N/A	120/60	5/6	0/5	(The Usual Q. T., \$888,570)	\$3,989,453	*455	27	2.16	1.11
2	STORMIN FEVER (94, Storm Cat), Golden Eagle Farm	\$5,000	120/58	5/12	1/5	(A Little Warm, \$708,000)	\$3,111,783	*571	27	1.29	1.48
3	BENCHMARK (91, Alydar), Ballena Vista Farm	\$4,000	160/99	4/6	1/4	(Bench Points, \$144,600)	\$2,577,257	575	29	1.29	1.21
4	SALT LAKE (89, Deputy Minister), Golden Eagle Farm	Died, 2010	114/59	4/6	2/4	(Hamazing Destiny, \$441,424)	\$2,228,354	*1165	51	1.46	1.42
5	IN EXCESS (IRE) (87, Siberian Express), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$12,500	118/64	4/4	2/4	(Bran Jammass, \$135,716)	\$2,020,738	896	62	1.76	1.46
6	BERTRANDO (89, Skywalker), Ballena Vista Farm	\$8,000	112/57	2/4	0/2	(Karelian, \$320,000)	\$1,874,622	906	50	1.43	1.58
7	KAFWAIN (00, Cherokee Run), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$5,000	135/70	5/5	1/5	(Radio Relay, \$102,860)	\$1,855,025	*312	12	1.10	1.34
8	OLD TOPPER (95, Gilded Time), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$3,000	145/83	3/5	1/3	(Bond James Bond, \$95,570)	\$1,828,704	401	15	1.02	0.91
9	SWISS YODELER (94, Eastern Echo), Harris Farms	\$6,000	139/62	3/3	1/3	(Hi Ho Yodeler, \$118,912)	\$1,719,773	607	23	1.10	1.06
10	TRIBAL RULE (96, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$6,000	88/44	4/6	0/4	(Alphie's Bet, \$279,000)	\$1,708,041	247	14	1.52	1.21
11	DEPUTY COMMANDER (94, Deputy Minister), Ballena Vista Farm	Died, 2009	125/63	2/3	0/2	(Dubai Gold, \$77,350)	\$1,592,713	*562	24	1.23	1.64
12	CEE'S TIZZY (87, Relaunch), Harris Farms	\$6,000	77/37	2/7	0/2	(Cost of Freedom, \$185,158)	\$1,472,619	*697	39	1.72	1.18
13	DECARCHY (97, Distant View), Magali Farms	\$4,000	77/44	2/3	1/2	(Antares World, \$221,480)	\$1,393,058	177	5	1.10	1.01
14	SEA OF SECRETS (95, Storm Cat), Ballena Vista Farm	\$3,000	108/43	4/6	1/4	(Secret Gypsy, \$268,541)	\$1,388,020	*369	19	1.00	1.12
15	SOUTHERN IMAGE (00, Halo's Image), Rancho San Miguel	\$5,000	85/41	1/1	0/1	(Southern Ridge, \$84,050)	\$1,295,100	*213	1	0.83	1.51
16	HIGH BRITE (84, Best Turn), Harris Farms	Died, 2010	87/44	2/2	0/2	(Enriched, \$344,496)	\$1,276,047	*896	46	1.06	1.20
17	SIBERIAN SUMMER (89, Siberian Express), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	65/39	2/5	0/2	(No Hesitation, \$295,658)	\$1,274,985	*361	13	1.07	0.89
18	REDATTORRE (BRZ) (95, Roi Normand), Harris Farms	\$2,500	59/31	1/4	0/1	(Compari, \$220,000)	\$1,273,243	*330	1	1.09	1.21
19	MARINO MARINI (00, Storm Cat), Rancho San Miguel	\$3,500	80/42	3/3	1/3	(Money Lover, \$105,740)	\$1,139,526	138	4	0.92	1.08
20	ATTICUS (92, Nureyev), Magali Farms	\$4,000	80/32	1/2	1/1	(Bruce's Dream, \$176,880)	\$1,000,900	392	12	1.11	1.54
21	FREESPOOL (96, Geiger Counter), Special T Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	71/34	1/1	1/1	(Mr Tokyo, \$107,572)	\$778,423	170	2	0.58	0.82
22	LIT DE JUSTICE (90, El Gran Senor), Magali Farms	N/A	71/35	1/1	1/1	(Dotsy Jean, \$169,948)	\$749,060	385	22	1.28	1.18
23	MINISTERS WILD CAT (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	54/25	2/4	1/2	(Swiss Wild Cat, \$189,552)	\$715,202	103	2	0.72	1.06
24	VALID WAGER (92, Valid Appeal)	Died, 2007	63/28	1/3	1/1	(U R All That I Am, \$235,409)	\$713,884	498	18	1.07	1.22
25	TEN MOST WANTED (00, Deputy Commander), Magali Farms	\$4,000	69/24	1/1	0/1	(Tenth Power, \$70,196)	\$680,397	131	1	0.64	1.27
26	COMIC STRIP (95, Red Ransom), Rancho San Miguel	\$1,500	57/30	3/4	1/3	(Tornado Betty, \$96,300)	\$664,716	275	11	0.80	1.22
27	RICHLY BLENDED (98, Rizzo)	Died, 2006	40/23	1/2	0/1	(Ultra Blend, \$137,424)	\$623,768	119	2	0.82	0.78
28	ROAR (93, Forty Niner)	Died, 2008	50/32	1/1	0/1	(Roaring Home, \$65,121)	\$582,396	*634	17	1.51	1.37
29	ONE MAN ARMY (94, Roman Diplomat), Milkyway Farm	N/A	26/14	0/0	0/0	(Scofield Barracks, \$112,380)	\$555,787	62	4	1.48	0.90
30	LORD CARSON (92, Carson City)	Died, 2005	44/22	2/2	1/2	(You Lift Me Up, \$133,902)	\$531,722	465	28	1.16	1.28
31	GOTHAM CITY (98, Saint Ballado), Applebite Farms	\$2,000	43/26	0/0	0/0	(The Bat Signal, \$69,584)	\$505,936	104	0	0.84	0.96
32	BEAU GENIUS (85, Bold Ruckus), Ballena Vista Farm	Pnsd	60/25	1/2	0/1	(Clair Annette, \$73,224)	\$501,569	*735	39	1.20	1.17
33	MOMENTUM (98, Nureyev), Vessels Stallion Farm	\$5,000	52/22	0/0	0/0	(Catsalot, \$61,501)	\$492,896	133	0	0.58	1.09
34	MUQTARIB (96, Gone West), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	Pnsd	51/25	0/0	0/0	(A Jealous Woman, \$90,000)	\$484,607	*268	4	0.61	0.94
35	WESTERN FAME (92, Gone West), Applebite Farms	\$2,500	45/24	0/0	0/0	(Frequent Fame, \$64,060)	\$482,080	269	13	0.94	0.82
36	RIO VERDE (92, Nureyev), Lovacres Ranch	\$3,000	50/21	1/1	0/1	(Grace Upon Grace, \$85,476)	\$481,279	239	4	0.61	0.83
37	GAME PLAN (93, Danzig), E. A. Ranches	N/A	51/32	1/1	1/1	(Highland Games, \$50,580)	\$474,445	362	22	0.88	0.82
38	PERFECT MANDATE (96, Gone West), Old English Rancho	\$7,500	41/21	1/2	0/1	(Perfect Curis, \$109,700)	\$460,143	255	11	1.01	1.25
39	HIGH DEMAND (97, Danzig)	N/A	44/17	0/0	0/0	(High Success, \$66,780)	\$403,855	122	1	0.89	1.22
40	BIRDONTHEWIRE (89, Proud Birdie), Madera Thoroughbreds	\$3,500	21/12	1/1	1/1	(Soul Candy, \$203,020)	\$401,115	*242	10	1.32	1.42
41	FLAME THROWER (98, Saint Ballado), Oak Hill Farm	\$3,500	41/11	1/1	0/1	(Flamin' Hot, \$154,490)	\$395,122	*190	2	0.83	1.08
42	SILIC (FR) (95, Sillery), Getaway Thoroughbred Farm	\$3,500	28/14	0/0	0/0	(Pretty Slic Chick, \$123,575)	\$370,440	*123	1	1.05	0.95
43	CRAFTY C. T. (98, Crafty Prospector), Windfall Farms	\$5,000	26/12	0/0	0/0	(Le Chesnay, \$54,102)	\$366,595	*84	1	0.89	0.96
44	GLOBALIZE (97, Summer Squall), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	47/20	0/0	0/0	(Cell Line Forever, \$35,643)	\$356,136	122	1	0.71	0.82
45	VRONSKY (99, Danzig), Old English Rancho	\$2,500	16/7	1/1	0/1	(Norvsky, \$94,538)	\$331,503	51	1	1.42	0.78
46	TIZBUD (99, Cee's Tizzy), Harris Farms	\$3,000	19/8	1/2	0/1	(Tizsosexy, \$97,280)	\$329,105	66	1	0.89	0.92
47	MUD ROUTE (94, Strawberry Road), Special T Thoroughbreds	\$2,500	32/17	0/0	0/0	(Our Road Scholar, \$58,394)	\$322,384	245	6	0.84	0.94
48	BEHRENS (94, Pleasant Colony), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds	\$4,000	33/17	0/0	0/0	(Sporty Boy, \$52,890)	\$313,074	184	0	0.61	1.50
49	FREE HOUSE (94, Smokester)	Died, 2004	18/7	2/3	1/2	(Fantasy Free, \$145,511)	\$310,014	181	7	0.99	1.50
50	STORMY JACK (97, Bertrando), Harris Farms	\$2,500	23/8	1/1	0/1	(Daylight Storm, \$122,480)	\$305,892	75	1	1.01	0.70
51	TERRELL (00, Distorted Humor), Dignitary Downs	\$2,000	28/18	0/0	0/0	(Sense of Humor, \$34,506)	\$289,481	57	0	0.55	1.05
52	ROYAL CAT (96, Storm Cat), Old English Rancho	\$2,000	29/14	0/0	0/0	(Benicia Blue Eyes, \$44,300)	\$271,029	130	0	0.60	1.05
53	UNBRIDLED NATIVE (01, Unbridled), Old English Rancho	Died, 2008	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Where's the Remote, \$171,924)	\$269,446	49	0	0.76	0.78
54	AFFIRMATIVE (99, Unbridled), Warren's Thoroughbreds	\$1,000	9/4	1/1	0/1	(Warren's Jitterbug, \$143,670)	\$266,712	22	1	1.48	0.84
55	POTEEN (94, Irish River), Old English Rancho	\$1,500	22/8	0/0	0/0	(Sidepocket Lou, \$48,410)	\$264,065	71	3	0.86	0.81
56	CAPSIZED (96, Summer Squall), Oak Hill Farm	N/A	24/14	0/0	0/0	(Wabash River, \$32,785)	\$261,248	90	0	0.63	0.87
57	GENERAL MEETING (88, Seattle Slew)	Died, 2006	21/12	2/3	1/2	(Tap It Light, \$104,720)	\$258,991	*471	36	1.86	1.58
58	SINGLETARY (00, Sultry Song), Harris Farms	N/A	25/8	2/2	2/2	(Spirited Winner, \$69,097)	\$238,085	61	2	0.65	1.33
59	IRON CAT (95, Storm Cat), Oak Hill Farm	\$2,500	31/16	2/2	1/2	(I. C. Rosie, \$25,128)	\$236,545	118	5	0.94	1.00
60	LUCKY PULPIT (01, Pulpit), Harris Farms	\$2,500	8/6	1/2	0/1	(Luckarack, \$87,400)	\$235,896	23	1	1.99	1.28
61	DIXIE DOT COM (95, Dixie Brass)	Died, 2007	33/12	0/0	0/0	(Witzel Dixie, \$49,145)	\$231,806	112	1	0.62	1.17
62	BARTOK (IRE) (91, Fairy King)	N/A	29/13	0/0	0/0	(Classical Bartok, \$24,316)	\$228,757	205	7	1.07	0.91
63	FLYING CONTINENTAL (86, Flying Paster)	Died, 2004	23/10	0/0	0/0	(Pack Your Bags, \$84,604)	\$224,730	493	23	0.92	1.08
64	POPULAR (99, Saint Ballado), Cottonwood Creek Ranch	N/A	16/12	0/0	0/0	(Gambling Pokerface, \$40,400)	\$217,183	41	0	0.90	1.00
65	GREY MEMO (97, Memo), Ridgeley Farm	N/A	15/11	0/0	0/0	(Adelicate Miss, \$75,100)	\$214,101	38	0	0.81	0.82
66	KELLY KIP (94, Kipper Kelly), Vinewood Farms	\$4,000	24/11	0/0	0/0	(Sir Silver Fox, \$48,040)	\$213,724	105	2	1.10	1.03
67	ANCIENT ART (01, Storm Cat), Warren's Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	22/6	0/0	0/0	(Warren's Kong, \$59,180)	\$193,608	48	0	0.45	0.71
68	MADRAAR (94, Mr. Prospector), G&M Thoroughbred Farm	Died, 2008	25/11	1/1	0/1	(Acute Velocity, \$131,960)	\$186,733	199	2	0.33	0.68
69	SCORE QUICK (92, Northern Score), BMT Ranch	N/A	12/7	1/1	0/1	(Koolnquick, \$44,740)	\$176,115	78	2	0.72	1.14
70	UNBRIDLED MAN (98, Unbridled), Summer Wind Farm	\$1,500	21/5	0/0	0/0	(Safari Kid, \$51,974)	\$175,041	57	0	0.50	0.63

*A-E AND COMPARABLE INDEX: The lifetime Average-Earnings Index indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned, on the average, in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. The Comparable Index indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AEI higher than their mares Comparable Index.



Golden Eagle Farm

STORMIN FEVER

Storm Cat-Pennant Fever, by Seattle Slew

ON FIRE IN 2010!



Adam Coglianesi Photo

CHECK THE LABEL

(\$493,894)

2010 MULTIPLE GRADED
STAKES WINNER INCLUDING
THE RECENT G1 GARDEN CITY STAKES.



Adam Coglianesi Photo

A LITTLE WARM

(\$752,280)

2010 MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER
INCLUDING THE
G2 JIM DANDY STAKES AND THE
SPECTACULAR BID S.



Michael Burns photo

BIOFUEL

(\$758,492)

CANADA'S 2009
CO-CHAMPION 2-YR-OLD
FILLY, G1 PLACED IN
2010 AND RECENT WINNER
OF THE G3 SELENE S.

STORMIN FEVER'S 2011 STUD FEE: \$6,500 (DUE WHEN FOAL STANDS & NURSES)

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COMMITTED TO BREEDING QUALITY

Rancho San Miguel

2011 STALLION ROSTER

Storm Wolf

**SPEED
THAT SIZZLES!**

STORMIN FEVER – EXCLUSIVE ROSETTE, BY ECLIPTICAL

California Graded Stakes Winner by California Leading Sire STORMIN FEVER!

- Won 3 of 5 lifetime starts, including a 6-length score in the Grade 2 Lazaro Barrera Memorial S. in 1:22 1/5.
- Won a Santa Anita allowance by 7 1/2 lengths, setting fractions of :22, :44 4/5, : 56 4/5, and 1:09 flat for a 101 Beyer!
- Broke his maiden in his second start by 7 lengths at Santa Anita, posting a 104 Beyer!

By STORM CAT's #1 leading sire son in California with 2010 progeny earnings of \$3 million+, STORM WOLF is a full brother to G1-performing, G3 SW MISTY ROSETTE. His dam is record-setting SW EXCLUSIVE ROSETTE. Graded stakes family of MIAMI SUN, CONTACT GAME, etc.

His attractive first foals will be yearlings in 2011.

- Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal



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Marino Marini

STORM CAT — HALO AMERICA, BY WAQUOIT

#1 Leading California Third-Crop Sire by 2010 Winners & Stakes Winners

With 2010 progeny earnings of \$1-million+, sire of three 2010 stakes winners headed by SW **MONEY LOVER** (1st \$60,400 Alphabet Kisses S.), MSW **HOT FUSION** (now 5 wins in 5 career starts), and undefeated 2-year-old **SILVER SENSATION**.

Total progeny earnings \$1.85 million+!

■ Fee: \$2,500 Live Foal

McCann's Mojave

MEMO — JONI U. BAR, BY NORDIC PRINCE

Record-Setting, Multiple Graded Stakes Winner of \$1.5 Million

All surface stakes winner including graded victories at 6 1/2F, 1 1/16 miles, and 1 1/8 miles (NTR). Defeated 15 Grade 1 winners including **CONGAREE**, **HEATSEEKER**, **PERFECT DRIFT**, **SILVER WAGON**, **TIAGO**, **TASTE OF PARADISE** and **UNFURL THE FLAG**.

Outstanding first foals will be 2011 yearlings!

■ Fee: \$3,000 Live Foal (Consideration to approved mares)



Southern Image

HALO'S IMAGE — PLEASANT DIXIE, BY DIXIELAND BAND

California's #1 Leading Second-Crop Sire by money and winners

\$1.2 million+ in 2010 progeny earnings and 42 winners
5 current stakes horses, including record-setting SW **SOUTHERN FIREBALL**, **Privileged** (3rd Swale S.-G2), **Mallory Square** (3rd Florida Oaks-G3), and **Southern Ridge** (3rd \$175,000 Long Branch S.)

■ Fee: \$4,000 Live Foal

ALSO STANDING **Comic Strip** / **Onebadshark** / **Sought After**

No Booking Fees for 2011 Seasons / Stud Fees are payable Oct. 1 of year bred

Inquiries to Clay Murdock / P.O. Box 741, San Miguel, CA 93451
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BENOIT & ASSOCIATES

Bajer and O'Hara purchased Adoration for \$40,000

(continued from page 3510)

Both found their way to bloodstock work after would-be training careers didn't blossom as expected. O'Hara hails from Maryland, where his parents owned horses. He spent his summers during college working for trainers Patrick Byrne, John Forbes, and Steve Brown, then went to work full-time as a groom, foreman, and assistant trainer for all of them before migrating to the West Coast and becoming an assistant to Jack Van Berg. After Alysheba retired from racing after winning the 1988 Breeders' Cup Classic (gr.I), O'Hara went out on his own and enjoyed moderate success but didn't attract the type of clients that could keep him going. He began pinhooking horses with prominent California owners

John Toffan and Trudy McCaffery.

Bajer, meanwhile, a native of Detroit, joined some classmates who cut college to attend a Kentucky Derby in the early 1970s and fell in love with the horses. One of his classmates was Hank Wesch, who would become the longtime Turf writer for the San Diego *Times-Union*. Bajer tried his hand as a high school teacher in California for a year before quitting and crashing at Wesch's place in San Clemente. He got a job mucking stalls and feeding horses at a nearby farm, then began walking hots at Old English Rancho, working his way up to groom, foreman, and assistant trainer. He worked as an assistant for Loren Rettele and they won the 1978 Arkansas Derby (gr. I) with Esops Foibles. Bajer wanted

TRICAR STABLES, INC.

Dispersal of Horses of Racing Age and Reduction of Breeding Stock & Yearlings



BENOIT PHOTO

DECEMBER 15TH, 1:00 PM

59 Horses of Racing Age are among the 87 horses cataloged

Stakes winners bred or raced by **Tricar Stables**: Multiple Grade I winner **Proud Tower Too** • Graded winners **Emerald Jig** and **Semillero** • California champions **Proud Tower** and **Super Avie**

Sale Location: 1525 West O'Hara Road, Anthony, New Mexico 88021
Inquiries to Tricar Stables (575) 993-0097 or Sal Gonzalez (915) 274-5994

2010 California Sires By Winners

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Benchmark.....	160.....	99
Old Topper.....	145.....	83
Kafwain.....	135.....	70
In Excess (IRE).....	118.....	64
Deputy Commander.....	125.....	63
Swiss Yodeler.....	139.....	62
Unusual Heat.....	120.....	60
Salt Lake.....	114.....	59
Stormin Fever.....	120.....	58
Bertrando.....	112.....	57
Tribal Rule.....	88.....	44
High Brite.....	87.....	44
Decarchy.....	77.....	44
Sea of Secrets.....	108.....	43
Marino Marini.....	80.....	42
Southern Image.....	85.....	41
Siberian Summer.....	65.....	39
Cee's Tizzy.....	77.....	37
Lit de Justice.....	71.....	35
Freespool.....	71.....	34
Atticus.....	80.....	32
Game Plan.....	51.....	32
Roar.....	50.....	32
Redattore (BRZ).....	59.....	31
Comic Strip.....	57.....	30
Valid Wager.....	63.....	28
Gotham City.....	43.....	26
Beau Genius.....	60.....	25
Ministers Wild Cat.....	54.....	25
Muqtarib.....	51.....	25
Ten Most Wanted.....	69.....	24
Western Fame.....	45.....	24
Richly Blended.....	40.....	23
Momentum.....	52.....	22
Lord Carson.....	44.....	22
Rio Verde.....	50.....	21
Perfect Mandate.....	41.....	21
Globalize.....	47.....	20
Terrell.....	28.....	18
High Demand.....	44.....	17
Behrens.....	33.....	17
Mud Route.....	32.....	17
Snowbound.....	44.....	16
Iron Cat.....	31.....	16
Royal Cat.....	29.....	14
Silic (FR).....	28.....	14
One Man Army.....	26.....	14
Capsized.....	24.....	14
Bartok (IRE).....	29.....	13
Nineeleven.....	19.....	13
Dixie Dot Com.....	33.....	12
Crafty C. T.....	26.....	12
Birdonthewire.....	21.....	12
General Meeting.....	21.....	12
Popular.....	16.....	12
Flame Thrower.....	41.....	11
Madraar.....	25.....	11
Kelly Kip.....	24.....	11
Grey Memo.....	15.....	11
Flying Continental.....	23.....	10
Smokester.....	18.....	10
Rhythm.....	25.....	9
Rainbow Blues (IRE).....	19.....	9
Takin It Deep.....	18.....	9
Truckee.....	18.....	9
Singletary.....	25.....	8
Illinois Storm.....	23.....	8
Stormy Jack.....	23.....	8
Poteen.....	22.....	8
Tizbud.....	19.....	8
Soul of the Matter.....	15.....	8

BALLENA VISTA FARM

HIGH-PERFORMANCE SIRES FOR 2011



MESAROS PHOTOS

BENCHMARK

Alydar-Winters' Love, by Danzig

Leads California's 2010 sire lists by synthetic earnings, winners (100), races won (161) and has 29% two-year-old wins/starts this year.

2011 Fee: \$4,000 • Property of Ballena Vista Farm

DIXIE CHATTER

Dixie Union-Mini Chat, by Deputy Minister

Second high-weighted juvenile colt of 2007 by a sire represented by 50% graded winners/stakes winners. First crop arrives in 2011.

2011 Fee: \$5,000 • Property of Ballena Vista Farm, Mr. & Mrs. Martin J. Wygod and Herman Sarkowsky

SEA OF SECRETS

Storm Cat-Love From Mom, by Mr. Prospector

Sire of stakes winners from 6 to 13 furlongs at six different racetracks in 2010, including three consecutive stakes wins by multiple graded winner **Secret Gypsy** (G2, \$596,926).

2011 Fee: \$2,500 • Property of Ballena Vista Farm

BERTRANDO

Skywalker-Gentle Hands, by Buffalo Lark

California's leading lifetime sire of graded stakes winners is a Grade I sire (**Karelian**) and dam sire (**Unrivaled Belle**) in 2010.

2011 Fee: \$8,000 • Property of a Syndicate

IDIOT PROOF

Benchmark-Perfectly Pretty, by Bertrando

Eclipse Award finalist and Grade I millionaire had the highest Beyer (113) of 2007 among sprinters from his crop. First foals arrive in 2011.

2011 Fee: \$2,000 • Property of Ballena Vista Farm and Mr. & Mrs. Martin J. Wygod

TRIBAL RULE

Storm Cat-Sown, by Grenfall

Leading California sire of 2-year-old winners with 14 maiden wins on dirt (7) and synthetic (7) at nine tracks including Churchill Downs, Santa Anita and Woodbine.

2011 Fee: \$6,000 • Property of Ballena Vista Farm and Mr. & Mrs. Martin J. Wygod

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to train but couldn't get any horses, so he gravitated to the buying and selling end. Bajer had met O'Hara when the latter was training, and the pair repeatedly found themselves trying to buy the same horses. They decided to join forces and have been together ever since, selling under the name Equine Prep.

The two run a unique operation. They have just two clients for whom they regularly purchase horses. But with their training backgrounds, they are more than happy to buy horses on their own, supervise the breaking and early training of their purchases, and take them to the racetrack, usually in the care of trainer Dave Hofmans. From there the horses are always for sale, and they've performed well enough to turn a nice profit.

"Their success, I think, is due to hard work," Hofmans said. "They go to the sales early and do their due diligence. They know what kind of horse they want to buy and they find them. They've sure sent me a lot of nice ones through the years."

"We both have training backgrounds and racetrack backgrounds, so we know what horses can handle and what they can't," noted O'Hara. "If a horse is slightly back at the knee, it's something we know we can live with and that horse can come forward through training."

O'Hara and Bajer aren't playing with unlimited bankrolls. Their success is even more impressive given the fact their purchases stay within a price range of \$40,000-\$150,000.

"If this were the NFL draft," said Bajer, "we'd get to start playing in the fourth or fifth round. At the sales everybody lands

on the same few horses, and a lot of good horses are passed over."

Bajer and O'Hara bought Adoration from her breeder, Lucy Bassett, for just \$40,000.

"Adoration had a well-proportioned body; her front end matched her back end, she had a very nice walk to her, a good

"Adoration was slightly back at the knee, but she was training great leading up to the 2-year-old sale. Then she got sick so we pulled her out, but we knew she was a runner, so we gave her to Dave (Hofmans). She ran fifth in her first race; then we agreed to route her and she won by eight. We sold her the next week to the Amermans, who are clients of Dave's. We were able to sell her for a good amount, and we are tickled to death she went on and won a Breeders' Cup race. Those owners support the business and they're satisfied, and that's what we're in the game for. It's a win-win for the business, and it lets us sell more horses."

At the 2009 Keeneland September yearling sale, the pair was at it again. They bought J P's Gusto for \$52,000 for one of their clients, Dr. John Waken, a retired pathologist, whom Bajer met 12 years ago while rehabbing a back injury by walking around his neighborhood in Arcadia, Calif. He kept running into Waken, who races at Gem Stable, on the walks, they got to talking, and Waken told Bajer he'd been in the horse business since 1967.

"He's an Iron Man to be in the business that long," Bajer said.

"He's had five heart attacks, he's been given his last rites, and he's been pronounced dead twice. He's a wonderful guy. Here's a guy who loves the game and loves the action, and he'd been in it 48 years without having a winning year."

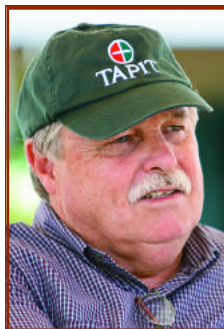
J P's Gusto had an older full sister who became graded stakes placed after the sale catalog came out, marking his family as one Bajer and O'Hara were interested in. They bought him out of Book Five.

"He fit our criteria for the things we like physically," said Bajer. "He was a little back in the knee, but we know that once those horses get broken and start getting some exercise, they straighten out."

Added O'Hara, "We had Smokester and all his horses for John and Trudy, and every one of those horses were back at the knee as yearlings. It's a learning experience on the buying side as to what you can forgive in a young horse. On the training side you don't see all that because you're just getting 2-year-olds. J P's Gusto never had a backward day. Ever."

J P's Gusto, who ran sixth in the Grey Goose Breeders' Cup Juvenile (gr. I) Nov. 6, swept Del Mar's series of 2-year-old stakes, winning the Best Pal Stakes (gr. II) and the Del Mar Futurity (gr. I). He is a four-time stakes winner of \$387,360 to date. A year earlier Bajer and O'Hara had bought Harissa for \$95,000 for Waken, and she's gone on to win the Sunland Park Oaks and earn \$292,466 so far.

"It's not easy buying at our price level



"If these sales were the NFL draft, we'd start playing in the fourth or fifth round."

STEVE BAJER

"The edge we have as former trainers is knowing what a horse can handle and what he can't."

JOHN O'HARA



DAVID YOUNG

brain," O'Hara said. "We look for running families, and her dam had four to race at that point, and all of them were over \$100,000 in earnings. We also like to buy product by younger mares because those horses tend to be less expensive. We count on our skills to know when a family can produce a runner, then it's just whether we like the physical.



BENNETT & ASSOCIATES

Purchased from Book Five at the Keeneland September sale, J P's Gusto has won four stakes

because that's where everybody's at today," O'Hara stated. "But we know what we can stand for training. That's the edge we have. Outside agents are out trying to buy the perfect horse, or as close to perfect as they can get because they don't want somebody coming back to them complaining about buying a horse that toes out or whatever. There are things we will accept that other people won't.

"We look at three or four criteria they have to have, and we view pedigree as the ceiling as to what we're going to pay and eventually receive on the selling end. We want to buy it for half what we think we can sell it for, and our sales multiple over the past 15 years is 2.16."

After Bajer and O'Hara buy yearlings, they're broken at Schvaneveldt Farm in Riverside, Calif., under the care of Monte Schvaneveldt.

"We've had real good success out there," said O'Hara. "I go out there and stay on top of everything. We develop a game plan for each horse, and for six months we get to see them train every day. We can put them in race situations, behind two horses or inside them. They pass through the gates each day. When Dave gets them, they've seen everything. So we know how they handle things, how sound they are, what their movement is like, and whether they will be an early or later 2-year-old."

Last year Well Deserved won her first race and won the Cinderella Stakes at Hollywood Park in her second start. J P's Gusto was ready to run after just a month at the racetrack.

"We've bought horses for a lot of people who end up sending the horse somewhere else, so it's out of our hands," said Bajer. "But part of our expertise is placing these horses. David is a perfect fit for us. He knows when to back off and when to push young horses, and his experience is invaluable to us. He helps us by getting them to the races and winning, and he gets careers out of them, not two or three races and they're on the sidelines and you never see them again.

"We bought Alphabet Soup as a 2-year-old after they couldn't sell him at a training sale. We gave \$100,000 or \$125,000 total for him and a Wild Again because Mrs. B.J. Ridder was looking to buy a 2-year-old and Kip Elser had a couple of them. Mrs. Ridder picked the right one. We brokered that deal. David won stakes with him at 4 and 5."

Bajer and O'Hara's other major client is Marc Ferrell, who as a teenager used to walk hots for O'Hara. O'Hara hadn't seen him for 15 years when he received a phone call from Ferrell, who went on to own five hospitals and was looking to get into the horse business. For Ferrell, Bajer and O'Hara have picked out Well

Deserved, and privately purchased Fiddlers Afleet, winner of the 2009 Oklahoma Derby and earner of \$463,885; Goldsville, winner of this year's Exelsior Stakes (gr. III) and earner of \$276,940; Tidal Dance, a multiple stakes winner who made \$237,506 before being retired; and bought Quality Council, who finished third in the Nov. 6 Nashua Stakes (gr. II) at Aqueduct. Ferrell has recently purchased a 125-acre farm outside Lexington, near Versailles.

"What is great about these guys is their honesty and integrity," noted Ferrell. "They give you their honest opinion on a horse, and you never have to worry about an ulterior motive. The customer comes first, and that's very rare. We've had a lot of success together because they can look at a horse and tell you how it's going to grow and what it will be a year down the road. They're easy-going guys and fun to be around."

Waken owns about eight horses and Ferrell perhaps a dozen, yet a half-dozen of those 20 have become stakes winners.

"We have one guy who's been in the business forever and loves it, and another one who's brand new and trying to learn and wants the farm and the broodmares and everything," O'Hara said. "So we have two great guys who love the game."

Although Bajer and O'Hara can't presently play at the high-end financially, they wouldn't mind getting the opportunity to give that a try.

"We'd love it if someone told us one day, 'You have a budget; now try to exceed it,'" Bajer said. "But we're having a good time right now, and we think it matters to have someone between the trainer and the owner who understands the game. We love being involved." 🐾

2010 California Sires By Stakes Winners

Sire	Stks Wnrs	Stks Wins
Stormin Fever.....	5.....	12
Unusual Heat.....	5.....	6
Kafwain.....	5.....	5
Benchmark.....	4.....	6
Salt Lake.....	4.....	6
Sea of Secrets.....	4.....	6
Tribal Rule.....	4.....	6
In Excess (IRE).....	4.....	4
Old Topper.....	3.....	5
Comic Strip.....	3.....	4
Marino Marini.....	3.....	3
Swiss Yodeler.....	3.....	3
Cee's Tizzy.....	2.....	7
Siberian Summer.....	2.....	5
Bertrando.....	2.....	4
Ministers Wild Cat.....	2.....	4
Decarchy.....	2.....	3
Deputy Commander.....	2.....	3
Free House.....	2.....	3
General Meeting.....	2.....	3
Rahy's Quackerjack.....	2.....	3
Snowbound.....	2.....	3
High Brite.....	2.....	2
Iron Cat.....	2.....	2
Lord Carson.....	2.....	2
Singletary.....	2.....	2
Indy Film.....	1.....	3
Redattore (BRZ).....	1.....	3
Valid Wager.....	1.....	3
Atticus.....	1.....	2
Beau Genius.....	1.....	2
Lucky Pulpit.....	1.....	2
Perfect Mandate.....	1.....	2
Richly Blended.....	1.....	2
River Flyer.....	1.....	2
Tizbud.....	1.....	2

2010 California Sires By 2-Year-Old Winners

Sires	2yos	2yo Rnrs	2yo Wnrs
Kafwain.....	71.....	33.....	14
Tribal Rule.....	92.....	35.....	14
Benchmark.....	73.....	19.....	11
Swiss Yodeler.....	63.....	27.....	9
Ministers Wild Cat.....	54.....	22.....	7
Lucky Pulpit.....	23.....	8.....	6
Salt Lake.....	46.....	18.....	6
Old Topper.....	49.....	19.....	6
Marino Marini.....	39.....	12.....	5
Southern Image.....	66.....	19.....	5
Bertrando.....	61.....	17.....	5
Rio Verde.....	24.....	9.....	5
In Excess (IRE).....	54.....	13.....	5
Singletary.....	23.....	8.....	4
Nineeleven.....	10.....	5.....	4
Roar.....	21.....	6.....	4
Globalize.....	24.....	11.....	4
Decarchy.....	42.....	10.....	4
Doc Gus.....	22.....	7.....	4
Terrell.....	30.....	8.....	3
Western Fame.....	14.....	7.....	3
Freespool.....	42.....	13.....	3
Gotham City.....	17.....	8.....	3