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New Name Signals Important Changes At Galway Downs Site

Temecula, Calif., Oct. 5 — More than 100 riders will contest the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event, on Nov. 1-4, at the same site where it's been since 1999, but they'll find the site is now much improved and has a new name to celebrate those changes.

"It's turned a new page as a facility" as the Southern California Equestrian Center, says Robert Kellerhouse, organizer of the Galway Downs event.

The facility, founded in 1968, was called the Southern California Track and Training Center and was home exclusively to Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses in race training. Previous owners renamed the facility Galway Downs, and Kellerhouse gave the events he started running there the same name. Today the Southern California Equestrian Center houses as many as 200 racehorses while hosting a wide range of equestrian competitions each year.

"So this new name harks back to the old roots, while at the same time indicating that it serves a broader spectrum of the area's equine community," says Kellerhouse.

The Namco Capital Group of Los Angeles purchased the center out of bankruptcy proceedings in late 2004. Since then, they've spent more than \$350,000 on improvements and repairs to the barns, fencing, irrigation system, and service infrastructure (plumbing,

electricity and phone). Plus they've put in new footing for the cross-country course, the rings and the training track, and added a grass jumping arena.

"It was time for a name change, because it looks like a new place," says Kellerhouse. "It's always been a very pretty location, and now it's pretty and it works well."

Kellerhouse believes that the revived grounds are an enormous asset to the area's equestrian population and to all its citizens. Temecula, because of its location between Los Angeles and San Diego, is under tremendous development pressure. But the area is called Valle de los Caballos, because it's long been home to horses. At first it was almost exclusively Thoroughbred breeding and racing, but over the last decade or so sport horses (eventing, hunter/jumper and dressage) have joined them.

Kellerhouse describes the center as "one of the things that makes Temecula a unique and special place to live, the others being vineyards and golf. Without them, Temecula could be Anywhere, USA."

Each month, the Southern California Equestrian Center hosts hunter/jumper shows, breed shows, dressage shows or clinics. Still, the center's two premier events are next month's Galway Downs International Three-Day Event and the Galway Downs International Horse Trials in late March.

"It's a multi-use equestrian facility," says Kellerhouse.

For more information on the Southern California Equestrian Center, visit its website (www.sceconline.com).

General admission to the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event is \$8 per day in advance, \$10 per day at the door. Patron tickets – which include parking, a program and a catered lunch with beer, wine or soft drinks – are also available.

To order patron or general admission tickets, or for more information on the Galway Downs Three-Day Event, go to galwaydowns.com or call 951-303-0405. To learn more about eventing, visit the U.S. Eventing Association's website (www.useventing.com).