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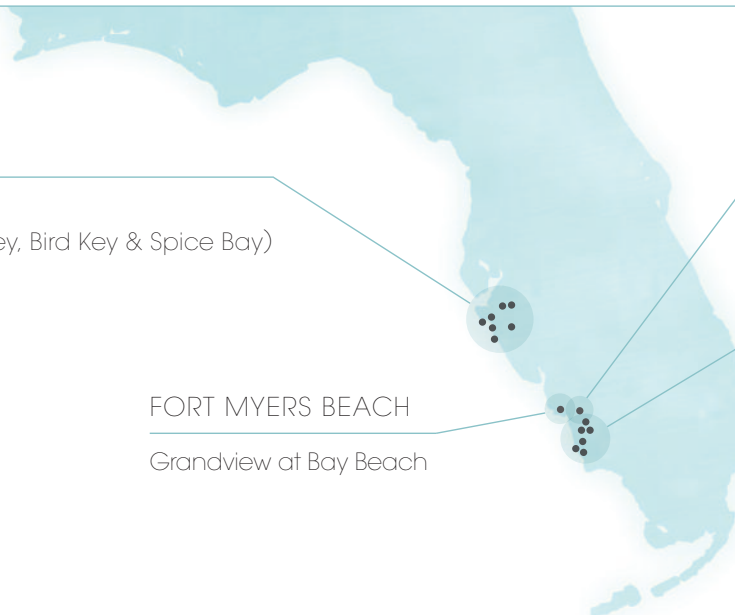
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Grilling vast quantities of meat over an open flame is based on the traditions of the gauchos, or cattle herders, who once roamed the grasslands of Central Argentina.

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Imagine if the clothes on your back could actually “give back” to society. Fashion meets philanthropy in the U.S. Polo Association sportswear brand. It’s possible. It’s popular. And it’s super chic.

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Although it may seem the antithesis of the often zen-like digital detox that usually goes with a riding and barn experience, computer technology has entered the lives of every equestrian.

**By Jaymie Klauber**

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War horses are sacred animals that have made a profound mark on the cultural consciousness. For the Marine Corps, Sergeant Reckless is a Korean War-era equine that will forever be a symbol of military fearlessness, majesty and honor.

**By Rachel Steadway**





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# features



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## 60 Cover Artist: Gary Kelley

Cover artist Gary Kelley's works depict a spectrum of subjects, from the serious to the inspiring, and even the amusing. He's a technological minimalist whose work has been commissioned for children's books, national magazines, large-scale murals and, of course, the Kentucky Derby.

**By Amanda C. Nelson**

## 78 Lesson Learned

Promoting polo is a one-student-at-a-time process. At Sarasota Polo Club's school, amateur athletes learn at their own pace, with the guidance of seasoned instructors.

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It is both a backbreaking commitment and a labor of love to care for a string of eight or nine polo ponies, as the lives of these equines are highly regimented.

**By Abby Weingarten**

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During polo season, your Sundays (and now some Fridays) are covered ... tailgating, matches, various après polo party plans. But what to do on the non-polo days, or during those seemingly endless non-polo months?

**By Christina A. MacKenzie**

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Whether this is your first time here, or you have made Sunday polo a tradition, we encourage you to jump in and help to carry on the grand traditions of the “Sport of Kings.”

Stomp divots, bring out your best tailgate spread, enjoy the company of family and friends and most of all, revel in the excitement and the beauty that is polo. We do hope you enjoy the comradery and sportsmanship that our club is built on – and that embodies this great sport.

Our entire staff here at the club have been working tirelessly all year long beautifying grounds, planning activities and making sure that all of our players, members and guests have the best polo experience. None of this would be possible without our members, sponsors, tailgaters and loyal fans; we thank you and value your continued support.

Does polo look like something you want to try? We welcome all ages and abilities to our polo school! Participants learn the rules of the game, polo horsemanship and swing mechanics, culminating with a real game in the final week. If you are interested in taking polo or riding lessons, please contact our polo office at 941-907-0000. Let our wonderful instructors teach you how to play!

Thanks to our returning sponsors, Asolo Repertory Theatre and Saks Fifth Avenue. You'll want to participate in the many “themed” tailgate contests, which they will be judging. Be sure to check them out on our new website ([sarasotapolo.com](http://sarasotapolo.com)).

The Polo Patio on the north side will offer craft beers, Freddy's Steakburgers and Frozen Custard, as well as limited items from our gift shop. It's a great place to gather, meet new friends and enjoy watching a match. Let's not forget the south side gift shop, with apparel and polo gifts for all. Regardless of whether you're on the north or south side of the field, take a stomp over at half time – or whenever you get a chance! Forgot your beverages? There is a bar with a large assortment of drinks for purchase in the clubhouse, open for all to enjoy.

Let the divot stomping, festivities, and the thundering of hooves begin! We hope you enjoy the 2017 edition of the Sarasota Polo magazine. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our staff members if you have questions, suggestions or if we can do anything to make your polo experience more enjoyable!

See you at the field!

All our best,

**Your Sarasota  
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From left: Sherri Sweeny, Events and Promotions Manager; Kristen Galvan, Polo Operations Manager; Taylor Schaum, Office Assistant/Lesson Instructor



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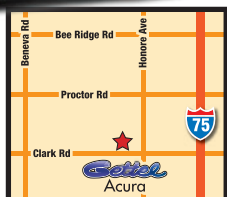


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# Sarasota POLO

AT LAKEWOOD RANCH

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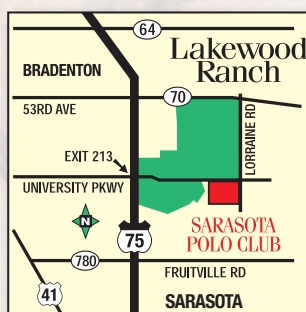
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## December 2016

30 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm

## January 2017

08 Holcomb-Kreithen Plastic Surgery and MedSpa

Tailgate Theme: College National Championship

15 Lakewood Ranch Women's Club

22 Dinan Realty Group

Tailgate Theme: Fireside Chat

27 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm — Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance

29 Country Club East, Lakewood Ranch

## February 2017

05 Pre-Super Bowl Party

Call for Tickets!

12 The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota

Tailgate Theme: Show Me Your Love

19 Suncoast Porsche

Tailgate Theme: Hawaiian Luau

24 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm — The Mall at University Town Center

26 The Observer Cup / SMR Cup Weekend

Tailgate Theme: Cowboy Polo

## March 2017

05 Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc.

12 BMO Private Bank

Tailgate Theme: St. Patty's Day

19 The Players Centre for the Performing Arts

Tailgate Theme: Spring Break-Mexico

26 Raymond James

31 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm — Southeastern Guide Dogs

## April 2017

02 Fidelity Investments, Sarasota

09 Saint Stephen's Episcopal School

Tailgate Theme: Glitz and Glam

Sunday Matches:	Friday Matches:
Start at 1 pm	Start at 3 pm
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# ASADO

WOOD, FIRE + FRIENDS



BY CHEF TOMMY KLAUBER & MANUEL LOSSA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS



Cooking with wood on a fire is like a first date; it is something you look forward to with great anticipation and a little anxiety.

You can never know what unforeseen conditions may occur: the day can be windy; the wood may be green. In a way, every time you cook over wood outdoors you are starting in a fresh, strange kitchen.

Once you have done it enough, however, you will always be able to adapt.

ASADO: WOOD, FIRE + FRIENDS





Argentina is a country known for many things ... polo, the tango, and Evita Peron, for example. In the culinary world, phenomenal beef is their main claim to fame. Great meat equals great asado, which is essentially a South American cookout.

Served to small and large groups, this style of grilling vast quantities of meat over an open flame is based on the traditions of the gauchos, or cattle herders, who once roamed the grasslands of Central Argentina.

Comparing the asado to a typical barbecue isn't fair and any Argentine would cry foul to this claim. Things like propane gas or even charcoal are sacrilegious to the authentic asado, which uses only a wood burning fire. The asado isn't Spanish for barbecue or grill, it's more of an event, an art form, and a ritual steeped in generations of family tradition. Grilling was typically a man's territory and veteran asadores could debate the benefits of their techniques for hours. A fire is started and wood is burned down to coals, which are then used to slow-cook the meat, infusing a smoky flavor. Fancy recipes are not common – just a sprinkle of salt is needed – as the quality of the meat is the showcase. Beef ribs, steak, lamb, chorizo, and blood sausage are typical fare and are served with chimichurri sauce, a mixture of olive oil, garlic, parsley, oregano, and vinegar.

But asado is more than a meal. "Asado not only refers to the meat . . . it is also the company," says asado guru Manuel Lossa. The asado is all about patience and enjoying your life, nature, family and friends. The asado is the center of all social gatherings.

This communal nature is woven throughout the culture. For example, mate, a bitter green tea, is consumed with friends –

never alone. Into a receptacle resembling a gourd, one member of the group places a metal straw and a handful of mate leaves. That person pours boiling hot water over the leaves and consumes the first brew. The steeping process is repeated, and the mate is passed to the next person. Each person takes turns drinking from the same vessel.

Like the word mate, which refers to both the utensil and the beverage, the term asado applies to the event and the meat. The cuts of meat here are larger and have more surface fat. Individual steaks are far less common. The slow cooking process of asado melts the fat cap of less expensive pieces, giving way to tenderness and flavor. The asador (grill master's) technique is key; various components are placed on the parrilla, or grill, according to cooking time and order of consumption. Chorizo, the lightly seasoned pork sausage, and morcilla, a blood sausage, go on the grill first, and consequently are consumed first. Meats follow, and large cuts, often the showpiece, are the finale. The asador will slice and offer up each piece immediately after removing it from the parrilla. In this way, the meal is served in rounds. Accompaniments are uncomplicated, designed not to overwhelm the meat, nor take away from socializing.

Techniques are fairly straightforward: always use hardwood; oak especially makes great coals. Maple is also good, as are birch and hickory. The smoke of fruit wood adds a whiff of flavoring. Fire is used as a source of coals, which are then either shoveled or raked

The asador will slice and offer up each piece immediately after removing it from the parrilla. In this way, the meal is served in rounds. Accompaniments are uncomplicated, designed not to overwhelm the meat, nor take away from socializing.

under and around the cooking grate. Just as you can control the temperature in your oven, you can control the amount of heat that you use in wood fire cookery. By moving the coals closer to, or farther from the food, you can adjust the temperature.

Almost any food can be made delicious when cooked over fire. Each food has a particular stage of fire at which it cooks best. Listen to your ingredients – they will be your best guide – and keep your fire going all through the meal, including dessert!





# ASADO

## TRADITIONAL RECIPES

### Chimichurri Sauce

- 1 cup lightly packed chopped parsley (ideally, flat leaf "Italian" parsley)
- 3 to 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon chili pepper flakes

#### Instructions:

Place all chimichurri sauce ingredients in a blender or food processor and pulse until well chopped, but not pureed.

### Orange Basil Tapenade

- 2 cups green olives, pitted without pimentos
- 2 teaspoons orange zest
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoons fresh-squeezed orange juice

#### Instructions:

Put olives and orange zest in the bowl of a food processor and pulse 10 times. Get your olive oil ready. Turn on the motor and pour the oil through the spout. Once the oil is added, turn off your motor. Check the texture. It should be grainy without any large chunks. If you have chunks, scrape down the sides and pulse a couple more times until consistently grainy. Refrigerate until you are ready to serve (If you are serving immediately, proceed to the next step). At service, stir in orange juice and chopped marjoram. Sprinkle 3-5 whole marjoram leaves on top for edible garnish. **SPC**

- 2 tablespoons fresh oregano leaves (optional)
- 2 tablespoons shallot or onion, minced
- 3/4 cup vegetable or olive oil
- 3 tablespoons sherry wine vinegar, or red wine vinegar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice

- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh marjoram, plus a few unchopped leaves for garnish

### On the Menu...

- Empanadas Los Naranjos
- Rescolodo Vegetables with Orange Basil Tapenade (Vegetables roasted in the coals)
- Fresh Figs with Mozzarella, Thyme and Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Grapefruit Salad with Arugula and Toasted Hazelnuts
- Salmon with Charred Fennel and Aioli
- Lamb al Asador and Chimichurri
- Chorizo on Parrilla
- Split Chicken with Lemon Garlic and Parsley
- Dulce de Leche Flan with Dakin Dairy Unsweetened Whipped Cream



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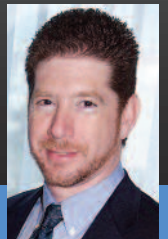
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Most people know the brand by its classic polo shirt with the embroidered emblem of two mallet-wielding polo players on horseback. But purchasers of the attire may not be aware that the proceeds from the fashion line actually help fund several facets of the nonprofit United States Polo Association (USPA), including teaching, mentoring and training initiatives.

“The more product we sell, the more money the USPA gets to invest in its programs,” says David Cummings, the president and CEO of USPA Global Licensing, who also served as the executive director of the USPA until 2003. “We are trying to build public awareness of the sport and the brand, to drive people to polo matches at various clubs throughout the United States.”

The U.S. Polo Assn. brand is managed by USPA Properties, Inc., a subsidiary of the USPA. USPA Properties is a for-

profit corporation, and pays royalties to the U.S. Polo Association for the rights to license their trademarks. USPA Properties pays federal, state and local taxes in excess of 40 percent on all profits. As the steward of the U.S. Polo Association trademarks, Properties' mission is to develop a long-term source of revenue for the U.S. Polo Association. This revenue is used to underwrite numerous programs for education and promotion of the sport of polo in the U.S.

With 750 standalone retail stores in more than 135 countries, the U.S. Polo Assn. brand encompasses everything from men's, women's and children's apparel to eyewear, timepieces and home décor. Cummings hopes to expand to 800 stores by the end of 2017. U.S. Polo Assn. merchandise is also sold in independent retail and department stores, as well as by several online retailers. The brand has already hit about \$1.5 billion in annual sales, he says.

Helping utilize some of the revenue is Kris Bowman, the executive director of polo development for the USPA. She channels the funds into programs that help polo clubs and emerging athletes.

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HERB BOOTH | CLOTHING SUPPLIED BY THE USPA



# U.S. POLO ASSN.

## SPORTY MIX

on and off the field



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# U.S. POLO ASSN.

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“The USPA has taken the money generated and invested it wisely in umpire training and instruction, club services, equine welfare and various committees. They’re putting money back into the game,” Bowman says. “They have been successful in helping young American players become professionals, and the interscholastic programs are bulging at the seams.”

According to Bowman, one of the newest initiatives in the USPA is the middle school program, which launched last year.

“We developed this program to encourage youth, from 5th to 7th grade, to begin playing competitive arena polo in preparation for interscholastic/intercollegiate competition,” Bowman says. “This league offers a starting point for young players to get a taste of competition without playing against high-school-aged children. The program is growing in popularity and will be a link to the successful National Youth Tournament Series and interscholastic programs.”

Bowman is also promoting a certified polo instructor program, which is designed to share best instructional practices and provide a high standard for teaching. The polo manual is now available online and in print, she says.

“Standardizing our sport and making the entry more available is one of the best things we can do. We now have live streaming of games available, so that polo is more accessible to polo fans who desire to keep up with the top levels of competition,” Bowman says. “This has really opened the floodgates to our fan base.”

The USPA, which dates back to H.L. Herbert’s founding in 1890, only continues to evolve and thrive because of the U.S. Polo Assn. brand. Today, there are more than 300 registered USPA clubs and 5,000 members. **SPC**



# POLO X STYLE

## FIELD SIDE FASHION

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LWR GCC SPREAD



LWR GCC SPREAD



SCOTT LANCASTER WITH JEWEL AND THEIR 2016 ADOLPHUS  
BUSCH ORTHWEIN HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

# ponies *from* HEAVEN

Throughout their playing careers polo players may own many horses. Players always have a few favorite horses ... and always have fond memories of favorites from the past.

The team at Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. (SMR) works to provide a beautiful facility in the Sarasota Polo Club , allowing players and fans to enjoy the Sport of Kings. Volunteers work as a team to address numerous logistical issues. The game officials work as a team to make sure that rules of the game are observed. Grooms and players work as a team to assure the horses are ready. Four players join as a team to compete, but the most important team on the field is the team of the rider and the horse.

Throughout their playing careers polo players own many horses: almost all polo ponies are Thoroughbreds and almost all are mares or geldings. At any time a player may own a string of horses ranging in number from as few as six to as many as 20 or more. Players always have a



RENEE STRICKLAND AND BABY DOLL

ERIC NALPAS

BY LYDIA J. KOLBAS

MAIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS & DAVE BOEGE



JAMIE MIRIKITANI WITH MAVERICK AND LILY ON RIGHT

DAVE BOEGE

few favorite horses and always have fond memories of favorites from the past; Sarasota Polo Club players are no exception.

### A JEWEL FOR ALL

The Sarasota Polo Club is a great place to learn to play polo. Scott Lancaster, who manages a polo club in St. Louis, Mo. during the summer months, comes to Sarasota for the winter season and provides horses and instruction for those who would like to learn to play. One of these horses is Jewel – an 8-year-old grey mare who gets noticed everywhere she plays. Jewel was trained by Hall-of-Famer Steve Orthwein. You can be sure you will see Jewel “shine” in the Sarasota Polo Club Sunshine League tournaments this season.

### BABY, THIS HORSE IS A DOLL

Renee Strickland is a native Floridian and has worked on a cattle ranch all her life. She began playing polo in 1994. Her favorite polo pony is a chestnut mare named Baby Doll.

Baby Doll was born in Argentina and was trained by one polo pro and owned by two others before Strickland acquired her in 2006. It is not unusual for a polo pony to have several owners over its lifetime. Baby Doll is a sweet kind horse and enjoys a trail ride now and then, Strickland says, but what Baby Doll enjoyed most before her retirement from polo was a fast-paced polo game. When Baby Doll was on the field, she says, you needed to hang on, because Baby Doll was going to take you to where the action was and you were going to get there in a hurry.

### LILY LOVES MAVERICK

In the management of horses, it is frowned upon to have a horse be “barn sour” or “buddy sour,” in other words, unable to work alone because of attachment to a barn or another horse. Pro Jamie Mirikitani has two polo ponies, Lily and Maverick, who are the exception to the rule. The 14-year-old mare Lily and 15-year-old gelding Maverick are in love. They stable together, turn out

Throughout their playing careers polo players own many horses: almost all polo ponies are Thoroughbreds and almost all are mares or geldings.

together (to pasture) and pony on sets (are led side-by-side for exercise) together.

Lily frowns on any horse who comes near her beloved Maverick and Maverick maintains his alpha status over the entire herd, constantly looking after Lily. Lily is slight, sensitive and quite the beauty. Maverick is a handsome beefy hunk. Over the past 11 years, Maverick has been awarded the “Best Playing Pony” at least 11 times! Lilly has won the award five times. You will find the two dark bays on the field teamed with their pro, Jamie Mirikitani, in the 5th and 6th chukkers of every tournament match for the 2017 season.

### LEO’S LEGACY

Those who have the opportunity to visit a polo barn and better yet “work” around a string of horses will discover that some stand out more than others. Leo, a red chestnut gelding, was one of those special guys. Owned and trained by pro Stuart Campbell, Leo lets everyone know he wants to have his treats by stomping his stall door after his morning workout.

Despite the incredible amount of care the horses get, they sometimes become ill. Leo had a setback several years ago and Campbell spent the night with him as Leo suffered from colic and needed to be hydrated intravenously. Leo recovered and after



PIPPA CAMPBELL ON LEO

spending a number of years with Campbell, Leo was sold to polo sponsor James Miller. When Miller was unable to ride for five weeks as a result of a car accident, Leo became his go-to horse in order to get his riding confidence back.

This year Leo will return as a member of Pippa Campbell’s string as Miller generously gifted Leo to Campbell’s daughter. So at age 21, Leo will again be carrying a Campbell and riding the field he knows so well.

### HOBİ AND HIS HOMBRE

Polo Pro Francisco Lloso hails from Argentina and one of his favorite horses, Hobi, was the foal of a mare from Argentina who was owned by sponsor Teresa Mull. Lloso raised and trained Hobi, who is the perfect mix of good genes and great training.

A red bay, Hobi is now 13 years old and has played polo in Kansas, Aiken, S.C.; Ocala, Fla. as well as Sarasota. The life of most polo pros is a life on the road. Hobi



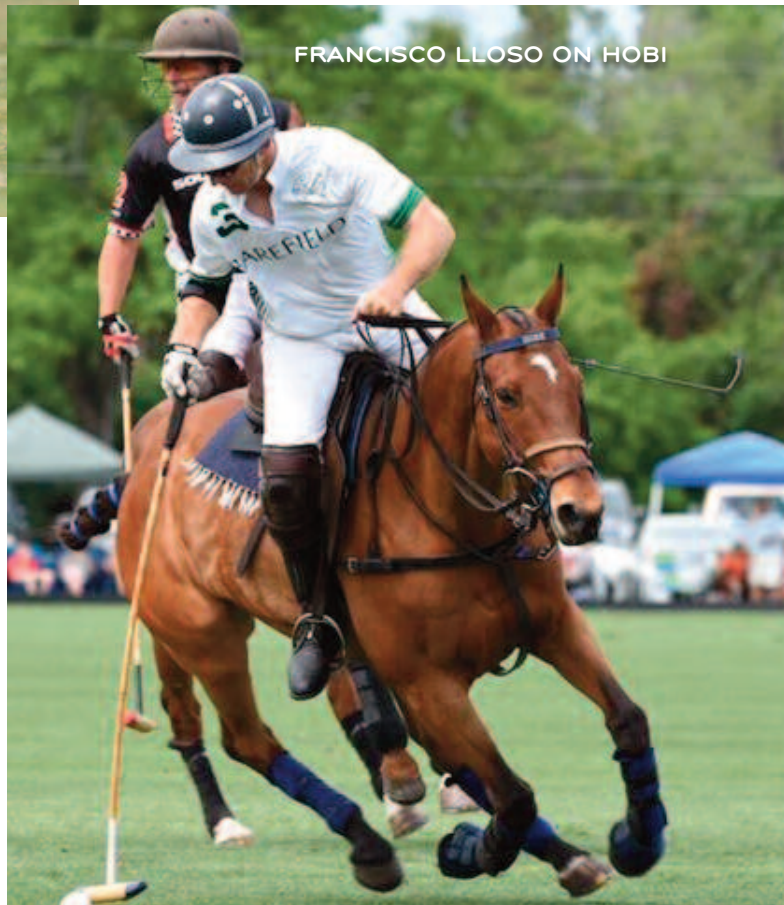
JAMES MILLER ON PACIFICO

We know players have their favorite horses. One can only wonder if horses have their favorite players ...

is a playful gelding, but a fierce competitor with a huge heart who always gives 110%. He has won the “Best Playing Pony” award at the SPC eight times. In spite of Hobi’s competitive nature, he is easy to be around and Lloso says even a child could ride him.

### TO PACIFICO AND BACK

Upgrading your string of polo ponies is necessary to stay competitive. Local club sponsor James Miller has done so for the upcoming season. His new kid on the block is Pacifico, a 14-year-old dark bay gelding. Pacifico was bred and played polo in Australia, and was originally owned by polo sponsor Ignatius du Plessis. Pacifico played high-goal polo the past four years in the U.S. with Polito Pieres, so he has been on the field with both great horses and great players. In 2015 Polito Pieres became one of only seven active 10 goal players recognized by the USPA and the only American. Miller is expecting an exciting upcoming



FRANCISCO LLOSO ON HOBI

season as he showcases and introduces Pacifico to the Sarasota Polo Club players and fans.

### SAFE RIDE

The bottom line is that if you play polo, you have to know and trust the horse you are riding. Polo players must know the personality and abilities of each of their horses. The safety of the player and the horse are dependent on both the player and horse knowing what can be expected. We know players have their favorite horses. One can only wonder if horses have their favorite players ... **SPC**



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# PUTTING POLO IN THE PAPER SINCE 1998

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# SACRED WOOD

The mallet matters. Polo wouldn't exist without it. And though this tool gets far less attention than the athletes who wield it, it is one component of the sport that deserves a thorough second look.

BY RACHEL STEADWAY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS & GEORGE WOOD





The mallet matters. Polo wouldn't exist without it. And though this tool gets far less attention than the athletes who wield it, it is one component of the sport that deserves a thorough second look.

Though the history of the mallet is not entirely specific, it is known that the tool dates back to at least the 16th century. The design may have been refined over the centuries but it still maintains its age-old charm and function. The ancient materials continue to be considered industry standards, and the process of handcrafting the mallet has been passed down over generations.

Crafting a mallet is a delicate art form, and three Wellington, Fla.-based companies have perfected it: Polo Gear USA, Nano's Polo Mallets and Tato's Mallets. These manufacturers can make custom mallets based on a polo player's specifications, and they also do repairs.

Since 1993, Polo Gear USA has shipped mallets to customers in 47 countries. These instruments are made with the highest-quality, all-natural, raw materials. Polo Gear USA mallets—whether for bike or foot polo—are hand-straightened, cured, balanced, finished and painted. Customers can choose pre-made mallets that are matched to height, weight, strength and experience; or order tailor-made mallets with an athlete's initials stamped right on the heads.

Nano's is the pride of Argentinean Adriano "Nano" Perez, who has been manufacturing mallets since 1969 and established his Wellington company in 1993. Perez travels to Argentina and Asia to find materials, and he has been referred to as the "world's best repairman" because of his ability to skillfully refurbish old or broken mallets.

Tato's Mallets (named for founder/woodworker, Tato Alvarez, of Argentina), has also made an array of impressive equine tools since 2001.

"I think people can play polo with anything but, when it comes to the mallet, it is something very psychological. In tennis or golf, people have different preferences for rackets or clubs, and the same is true for polo," says Santiago Alvarez, Tato's vice president, adding that the company produces thousands of mallets annually. "We don't really know what the best mallet is; it depends on the customer. If I look at the top 10 players, whether they are from Argentina or the United States, they're all using different things. All the time, the players come in and say, 'I like this mallet. I played really well with this. Can you replicate it?' And we do."

All three crafters have a similar method for mallet production. The woods are imported from Asia and Argentina. The nails, glues, tapes and binders are typically from the United States.



Left page: Tato Alvarez and his mallet shop; Right page: top Adriano “Nano” Perez in his workshop; bottom left inside Nano’s; bottom right Wood Mallets Ltd.



It all comes down to the mallet cane and head, and an intricate process goes into crafting both parts. Polo mallets are made from manau—a wood that is a member of the rattan family and grown in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Cane harvesting is done during the dry months to speed up air seasoning and lower moisture.

Post-harvest, the canes are spread out, sorted and shipped to a processing site, where they are cured to prevent rotting. The nine-to-10-foot canes are cured in a hot oil bath, which is a mixture of kerosene, diesel, palm and coconut oils; this leaves the canes a yellowish-beige color. The canes are then washed in a water-and-sand mixture, graded and classified based on their diameter (smaller-diameter canes are used for polo mallets).

Then it is onto the polo mallet’s signature cigar-shaped head. The mallet head is made from tipa—a durable, dense wood that can only be found in northern Argentina and in regions of Paraguay and Brazil.

When the tipa tree is harvested, the wood is cut into blocks and stacked in a dry warehouse. The wood is then air seasoned for three to five years before it is made into mallet heads (the length of air seasoning increases the longevity and performance of the

head). Typically, the mallet head weight ranges between 160 to 240 grams, with the most common being around 200 grams.

“When it comes to polo, we are working with imperfect materials,” Alvarez says. “It’s always a challenge to make the perfect mallet. Each cane, when we get it, we cut it down. Then we have to hand-strain each cane over an open flame. As the cane heats up, it becomes rubbery and we can shape it. Then it goes into an oven to get rid of moisture and make sure it is straight. Then we make the mallet.

“The type of wood we use for the heads is dried for about five years minimum to ensure that the wood is nice and dense so that, when you hit the ball, it has a solid feel and doesn’t break down,” Alvarez says. “Then you can paint the mallets, stamp them and customize them.”

It is a lengthy, laborious undertaking to harvest and handcraft a mallet (not to mention import the raw materials), but it is this attention to detail that makes Wellington’s mallet companies thrive.

Outside of Florida – and the U.S. – Wood Mallets Ltd. of New Zealand makes both cane and composite mallets. While they say that most players “wouldn’t dream of” using anything but canes,





finding a selection of good canes is becoming more difficult with the shrinking of the tropical rainforests. The lack of supply and the coincidental diminishing quality of the remaining cane may put cane mallets on a path to extinction, says George Wood, of Wood Mallets, who has been selecting canes in Asia for 35 years.

“Few players realize what a finite resource the cane supply is and it’s now only able to be sourced from one relatively small area in Indonesia,” Wood says. “We are already finding that getting enough good quality root manau canes is a major problem and substitute species just don’t work. I’m not sure how much longer we have but my suppliers have suggested possibly only another 5 years before they are completely gone. Deforestation and palm oil plantations are the main reason.

“There’s absolutely no doubt in my mind that composites are the only future and sales of our Fibercanes increase every year,” Wood says.

Fibercanes have a foam-filled, tapered, tubular shaft made from hand-laid resin-impregnated composite fibers such as carbon to

## mallet fit • guidelines

- **Length:** This is mainly determined by the height of the horses that are being played. Arm length, hitting style and the horses gait can also play into selection of the right length.
- **Head weight:** These vary greatly. Those with lesser physical strength and stamina might find a lighter head easier to handle.
- **Head shape:** There are numerous different patterns, but the majority of players use the cigar pattern.
- **Handle size:** Smalls are recommended only for those with very small hands; medium or large handles suit most players.



## SACRED WOOD

maximize torsional strength and fiber glass for impact strength, Wood says. "They're lighter and stronger than ever before, and simply outperform canes in every way."

For those who are not quite ready to abandon traditional mallets, Wood also offers a hybrid mallet, which has a 16" length of cane in the lower section of the shaft.

The mallet's importance cannot be underestimated; it is said that the implement is as important as the quality of the horse or the condition of the field. Choosing a mallet is not easy, but it can make the difference between a good match and a great one. **SPC**

### For more information :

Tato's Mallets: [tatosmallets.com](http://tatosmallets.com)

Polo Gear USA: [pologearusa.com](http://pologearusa.com)

Wood Mallets: [woodmallets.com](http://woodmallets.com)

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# Giddy-up GEEKS

Although it may seem the antithesis of the often zen-like digital detox that usually goes with a riding and barn experience, computer technology has entered the lives of every equestrian.

Smartphone technology has created a fun and easy connection among communities of horse people, in general, and within the specific discipline like polo. You can reach out globally and ask for help, stay informed, or find your “people” and keep in touch – electronically. A polo player, or just a fan, can find a polo club almost anywhere in the world and immediately pinpoint polo games to watch, horses to ride, and new acquaintances with whom you share this common interest/passion.

A small device strapped to an arm, stuffed into a pocket or tucked in a boot or bra, enables working people to stay on top of professional demands while pleasure riding or training, allowing more time to pursue the obsession/addiction of horses and all equestrian sport. On the track, trails, and stick and ball fields at the polo club, it is common to see someone on the phone; a groom taking a set of five horses, keeping them calmly in control, while having a smoke, and texting.

The safety advantages are significant. During a casual trail ride in the club with friends, a member fell off a spooking horse, shattering her ankle. Absent of their phones, her friends likely felt helpless, but the ever-prepared injured party herself called for help and within minutes someone arrived to assist and



BY JAYMIE KLAUBER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS

## Travelling with horses no longer seems lonely and daunting. With apps like Horse Travel Planner, a smartphone can help plan your trip and prepare you for emergencies.

transport her to the hospital. Now these friends now are never without their phones attached to them, in case of emergency.

Type A—, well-organized equestrians keep detailed records concerning their horses; pedigrees, medical data, purveyors, contacts, grooms, feed sources, tack and gear purchases, as well as fitness regimens, photos, histories and barn upkeeps. With numerous horse management apps like Equisketch, Equiagenda, Horse Box, Horse Keeper, and the \$50 Ranch Manager, all that information is right on their devices and instantly accessible with the swipe of a finger. Like any new computer program, it is initially time consuming to enter all the data and attach all related records, but once done, these apps make the multitasking horse person's life much easier.

Very helpful, and often most humorous, is the modern equestrian's use of the smartphone to play vet, mimicking people who self-diagnose their ailments on the Web. At the first sign a horse may be "off," physically or mentally, the owner stands, bent over, often holding a leg, or pointing to/pressing on some part of the horse's grand and complex anatomy while simultaneously grabbing their smartphone to bring up an article they read on that very thing. Or they may reference one of their many equine medical apps, like Horse

Side Vet & Equine Vet, deciding that it must be "this diagnosis" or "that diagnosis." And of course there are the online forums, pointing toward "other diagnoses" — all supposedly dedicated to their horses' well-being and recovery while trying to sell a panoply of natural and/or medicinal products to fix the issue. History shows most equestrians are self-proclaimed vets, and now, armed with their smartphones, the extent of their knowledge (and delusion), has become limitless.

Almost every state has numerous Facebook groups that help equestrians buy, sell, rent, board and trade anything in the horse realm, as well as learn about group social or fundraising rides, poker runs, and local shows. Our area alone has several, such as Sarasota/Manatee Horse & Tack Exchange, S.W. Florida Horse & Tack Trader, Florida Horses and Trailers for Sale, and Horse Peeps. There's always someone seeking a horse or used items, a boarding facility or trailer that is "just perfect" for their friend, so they tell a friend ... and the online chain of comments and tags effectively leads to that perfect thing. Nationally, groups within every discipline connect people and provide information and an audience. For polo alone, Facebook has many groups that include US Polo Connection, Polo Gear for Sale in USA, and Polo Horses for Sale, to name just a few.

Travelling with horses no longer seems lonely and daunting. With apps like Horse Travel Planner, a smartphone can help plan your trip and prepare you for emergencies. It is possible to post on Facebook that you are stranded with horses, and there is a very good chance someone in the area will see it, offer to come pick up your horses and keep them in a paddock until the problem is remedied. Knowing where to "layover" is also important, and sites like [travelinghorse.com](http://travelinghorse.com) and [horsemotel.com](http://horsemotel.com) make it easy to find a nice place to overnight your horses in stalls or paddocks. Many of these places offer a bunkhouse or room in B&B fashion, for the human and canine companions as well. Some boast accessibility to tens of thousands of acres of park land for great trail riding while on the road trip. One will even loan you a vehicle to go get a bite in town without having to unhook your rig to take your truck. Again, all at your fingertips.

Trail riding in state parks or unfamiliar areas has historically given new meaning to the word "adventure." Most long-time equestrians have a cache of scary stories that end with their gratitude to be alive to tell, but begin with getting lost, falling off and having your horse take off, sustaining injury with no access to help, or sudden and dramatic weather changes. Thanks to handy GPS apps like Equitrail and Horsetrails, designed specifically for horseback riding, odds of finding the way back to a



camp area or trailer increase exponentially. There are also apps for state parks that offer riding trails, and sites that link to all available trail riding spots within in a given area. Handy Facebook “meet-up” posts provide opportunities to discover new places or meet others to ride with who share the passion for the trail.

Countless websites offer expansive selections of equine-related products, at a lower price (often with free shipping), than local, independent feed/general stores. These convenient online resources have threatened the future of the mom and pop supply store, but consumers of equine products who favor immediate gratification are drawn to more affordable and extensive options. Local loyalty only goes so far; busy

equestrians dislike traveling to town, only to be reminded how costly their hobby/passion is.

Supplies aren't the only purchasable commodity. Teaching and training videos are readily available to assist in the success of any equestrian: [poloskilz.com](http://poloskilz.com) and [polotraining.org](http://polotraining.org) websites, as well as sites for most any discipline. Trainers and teachers for lessons, as well as horse trainers of all style, can also be found online for any equine realm.

The creators and managers of these uber-useful groups/pages, apps and websites have managed to construct what would have been impossible even a decade ago: a way to present important information and convenient methods for improving and simplifying all that is required to deal with each

day in the equine community.

The speed at which technology is advancing makes future possibilities seem endless. Imagine a ‘fit-bit’ for your horses ... cadence, jump height, stride size, number of steps, heart beat ... anything. Or imagine your horse using his own iPad. Not so far-fetched, according to an article in [thehorse.com](http://thehorse.com). Japanese researchers have developed and tested touch-screen technology for horses, they say, where horses earn points, hear a noise, and get an automatically distributed carrot when they make the right choice with their muzzles on the screen. In the future, scientists say, computer screens will allow researchers to get more “into the mind” of the horse, helping people see what the horse sees. **SPC**

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The Sarasota Polo Club's gift shop has various men's, women's and children's clothing, polo mallets and balls, toys and gifts, including this year's 2016 commemorative *Sarasota Polo* magazine poster and T-shirt.

Don't forget to pick up a set of Sarasota Polo Club Tervis® Tumblers to keep your drinks cold and in style on the sidelines. The gift shop is open every Sunday during season or by appointment and is located behind the pavilion. **Items vary ... shop often!**



GARY KELLEY  
SARASOTA POLO CLUB  
SEASON OF 2017

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Kelley is a decorated maestro when it comes to his work – in addition to being elected into the illustrious Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame in 2007, he has also collected 27 gold and silver medals from their rankings. His career portfolio is also stocked with two best-in-show recognitions in New York and Los Angeles illustrators' exhibitions. He has also worked for the NFL and the NBA and was the official artist for the 2002 Kentucky Derby. Kelley is internationally renowned! Read more about our artist in the feature story *About the Artist* on page 60. **Limited quantities!**





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**Nov. 10, 1955:** Sergeant Reckless, the Government's only genuine horse Marine, finds the cake to her liking as she is fed by Mrs. Eric Pederson, wife of Lieutenant Eric Pederson (center) during a Marine Corps 179th birthday dinner at which the sorrel mare was guest of honor. Sgt. Reckless, much decorated veteran of many Korean battles, was purchased from her Korean owner by Lt. Pederson to serve as a pack animal. She did the job with dignity and gallantry.



BETTMANN

# SERGEANT RECKLESS

## SEMPER FI TO THE END

Her wartime service record was featured in *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *LIFE* magazine recognized her as one of America's 100 all-time heroes.

War horses are sacred animals that, throughout history, have made a profound mark on the cultural consciousness. For the Marine Corps, Sergeant Reckless is a Korean War-era equine that will forever be a symbol of military fearlessness, majesty and honor.

A mare of Mongolian horse breeding, Reckless was chestnut colored with three white stockings and weighed about 900 pounds. A Korean stable boy at the Seoul racetrack was her first owner, according to the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Reckless ultimately went on to hold official rank in the United States military and was the only horse to become a Marine sergeant.

In October 1952, Lieutenant Eric Pedersen purchased Reckless at \$250 for his platoon. Because his unit was based in mountainous terrain, Pedersen needed an animal that could haul up to nine of the 24-pound shells needed to supply the recoilless rifles. Reckless became a pack-horse for the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

BY RACHEL STEADWAY

MAIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY BETTMANN/GETTY CONTRIBUTOR

The highlight of her nine-month military career was in late March 1953 during the Battle for Outpost Vegas. In one day, she made 51 solo trips to resupply several front line units. She carried four-to-eight 24-pound shells on each trip, covering more than 35 miles.

**BELOW:** Reckless beside a 75mm recoilless rifle.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Reckless at her promotion to staff sergeant.





Reckless was permitted to roam throughout the unit's campsites and into soldiers' tents to sleep on cold evenings.

During the Korean War, she carried ammunition and helped evacuate wounded soldiers. She would quickly memorize the supply routes and go on deliveries without the guidance of a handler. Reckless' primary trainer was Joseph Latham, a platoon gunnery sergeant who taught her battlefield survival skills, including how not to become entangled in barbed wire and to lie down when under fire. She even learned to run for a bunker whenever she heard "Incoming!"

The highlight of her nine-month military career was in late March 1953 during the Battle for Outpost Vegas. In one day, she made 51 solo trips to resupply several front line units. She carried four to eight 24-pound shells on each trip, covering more than 35 miles.



Reckless with her primary trainer, Platoon Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Latham





**1954:** Sergeant Reckless at her stateside rotation ceremony, 1954. Pfc. William Moore is holding her. He accompanied her on the trip to America.



Reckless in pasture



Reckless under fire in Korea



Reckless's son, Fearless, in 1959

A plaque and photo were dedicated in her honor at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton stables and a statue of her was dedicated on July 26, 2013 at the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War). In the base of the statue is a lock of her tail hair.

Reckless was wounded twice in combat (hit by shrapnel over her left eye and left flank), assigned the rank of corporal in 1953 and promoted to sergeant in 1954. Reckless became the first horse in the Marine Corps to participate in an amphibious landing when the 5th Marine Regiment moved from Camp Casey to Inchon, and she was awarded two Purple Hearts.

She also earned a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation with the Bronze Star, the National Defense Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Korea Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation and a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. She wore the awards on her horse blanket, along with a French Fourragere that the 5th Marine Regiment had earned in World War I.

Reckless was regarded as part of the Marine Corps family, and she often provided some levity during tough periods. She was permitted to roam throughout the unit's campsites and into soldiers' tents to sleep on cold

## SERGEANT RECKLESS

On 28 July 2016, Sergeant Reckless was posthumously awarded the Dickin Medal for her service between 1952 and 1953.

evenings. She was known to consume everything from scrambled eggs, buttered toast, chocolate bars and peanut butter sandwiches to mashed potatoes, hard candy, beer and Coca-Cola. She once even ate \$30 worth of poker chips.

After the war, Reckless retired and relocated to the United States to make appearances as a military celebrity. She was promoted to staff sergeant in 1959, gave birth to four foals and died in 1968 after suffering injuries from barbed wire.

In 1997, LIFE magazine listed Reckless as one of America's 100 all-time heroes. A Jocelyn Russell statue of Reckless, carrying ammunition shells and other combat equipment, was unveiled on July 26, 2013, in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War). In the base of the statue is a lock of her tail hair.

The statue's plaque includes a quote from Sergeant Harold Wadley, who served in battle alongside Reckless, which reads: "The spirit of her loneliness and her loyalty, in spite of the danger, was something else to behold. Hurting. Determined. And alone. That's the image I have imprinted in my head and heart forever." **SPC**



Unveiling of the Jocelyn Russell memorial statue of Reckless at the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park in 2013



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# GARY KELLEY

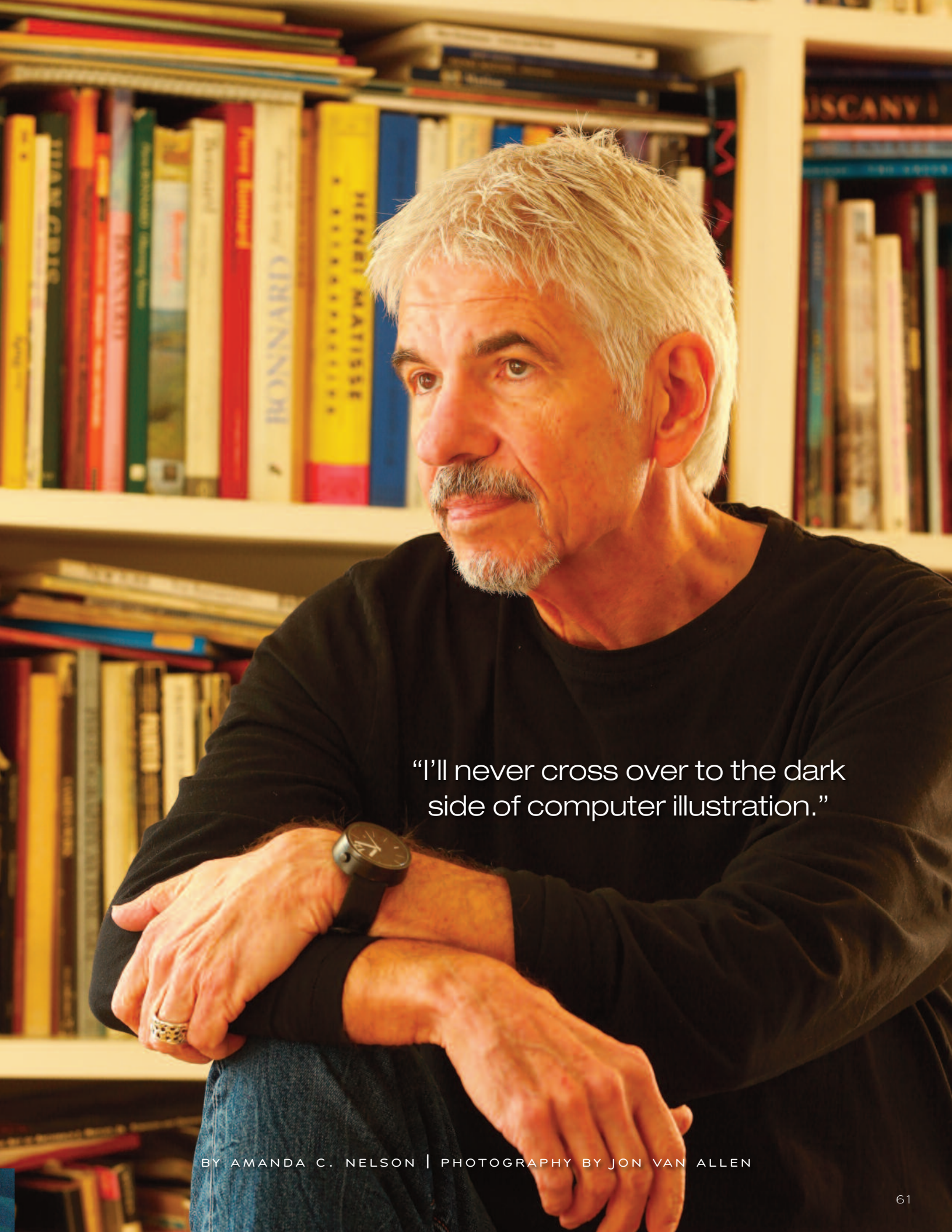
Cover artist Gary Kelley began life as a Midwesterner – he grew up in Algona, a small, Iowa town about two hours north of Des Moines. And after brief stints of living and traveling nationally and abroad, he remains a Midwesterner, living and working in Cedar Falls, still the same two hours from Des Moines, but due east.

He also remains a technological minimalist, at least as far as creation is concerned. Sure, he has a Facebook page, but he proudly touts his love of searching for references in books, as opposed to a lot of online research ... the endeavor itself is something of a treasure hunt. As for computer illustration, he admits that there are a lot of shortcuts that are handy, but “it’s not direct.” He needs to feel the work, and people’s connection to it. “Maybe I have this kind of need to please people more than I have to,” he says.

Cedar Falls is both his home and the home of his alma mater: the University of Northern Iowa, where Kelley spent his collegiate days studying painting and design with the enthusiasm and love of a lifetime of admiration for the arts by his side.

At the age of 3 to 4 years old, Kelley remembers, he had an idea of what he wanted to do. He drew every day because he liked to do it, not because he was pushed. His parents always encouraged his talent, happy to see him doing what some people would consider a longshot – pursuing a career in art.

In the late 1970s, his schooling experience with brushes and lines (and a B.A. in art) amalgamated with his graphic design and art direction work, morphing into a career as an illustrator. Beginning with his first commission from *Better Homes and Gardens*, Kelley began accumulating a long list of clients including *Time*, *The New Yorker*, and *Playboy* magazines. *Rolling Stone* is his favorite magazine client of all time (his work included portraits of Eric Clapton, George Harrison, and Tom Cruise for his role in *Interview with a Vampire*). “They let the artist do what they wanted



“I’ll never cross over to the dark side of computer illustration.”

BY AMANDA C. NELSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON VAN ALLEN

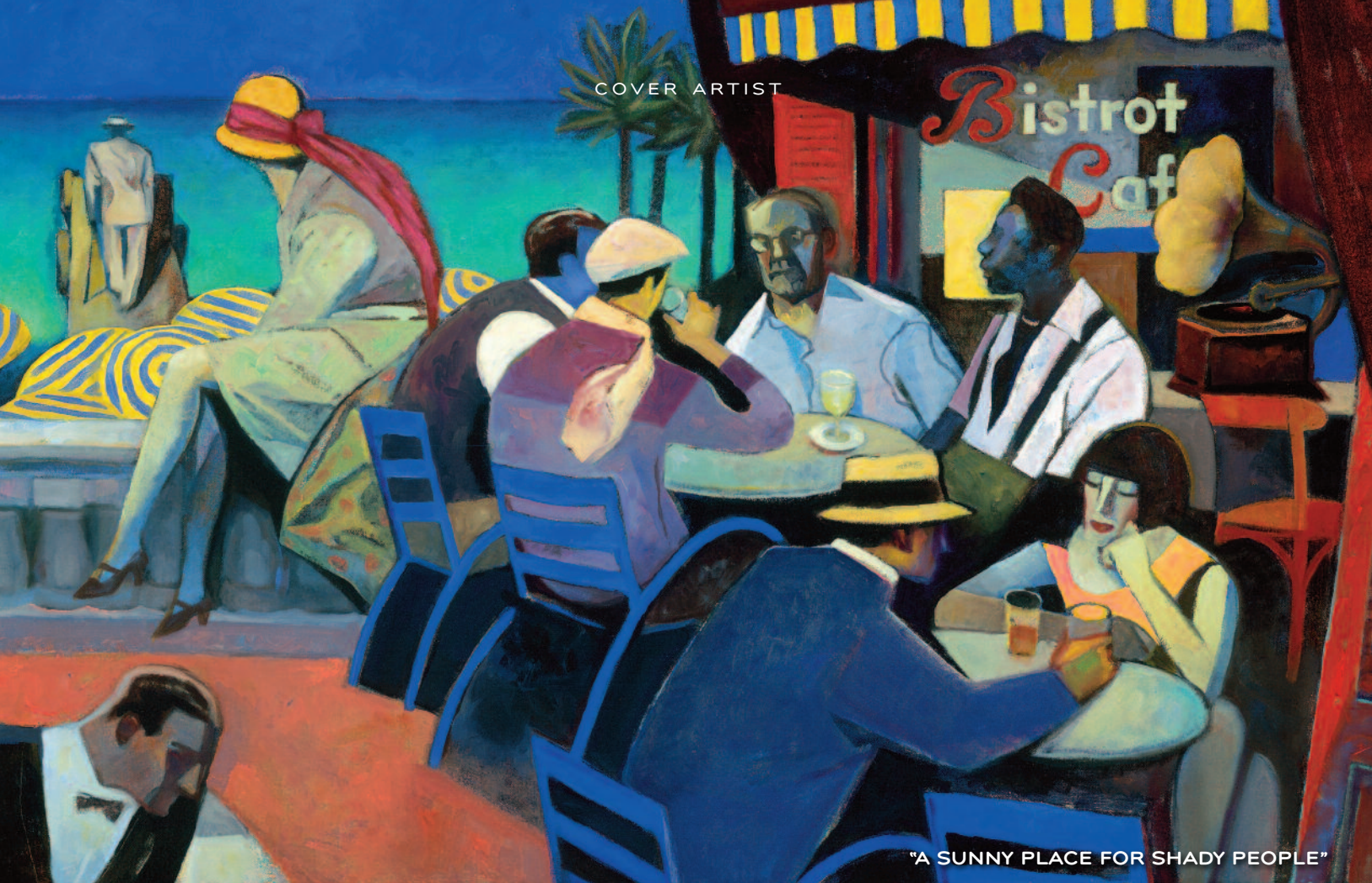


to do,” Kelley says. “There was no approval process. I was the only approval process.”

Has also worked for the NFL and the NBA, and has had one-man shows at the Academy of Art in Cincinnati, The University of the Arts (Philadelphia), Lustrare Gallery (New York), Art Institute of California (Laguna Beach), The Kentucky Derby Museum, Creation Gallery in Tokyo, and the Pablo Neruda Cultural Center-Bagnolet in Paris, France. Group shows include The Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge, Mass.), The Chicago Art Institute, The Museum of American Illustration (New York), School of Visual Arts (New York), and Librarie Nicaise in Paris.

One of his deepest passions is the creation of images for children’s books, in such titles as “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” “Rip Van Winkle,” and “Macbeth for Young Readers.” The art of visual storytelling allows Kelley to start with a manuscript, break it down into visual segments and, keeping in mind the finite number of pages he has to work with, decide the layout and mix of illustration that will bring the book to life.

One of his more visible projects is the author murals at the coffee shops at Barnes and Noble book stores nationwide.



"A SUNNY PLACE FOR SHADY PEOPLE"

Closer to home, Kelley was commissioned to produce an 80-foot-long mural that runs length of University of North Iowa's Hall of Fame, connecting the UNI-dome and McLeod Center.

Kelley is a decorated maestro when it comes to his work – in addition to being elected into the illustrious Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame in 2007, he has also collected 27 gold and silver medals from their rankings. His career portfolio is also stocked with two best-in-show recognitions in New York and Los Angeles illustrators' exhibitions. He is internationally renowned.

When he's not physically creating, he can sometimes be found talking about it: Kelley lectures at the Smithsonian, Rhode Island School of Design, The Smithsonian – and even locally at the Ringling School of Art and Design.

Kelley's wide-ranging works depict a spectrum of subjects from the serious (slavery and the women's suffrage movement), to the inspiring (portraiture of music legends, the Pope, and the Mona Lisa), and even the amusing (a smoking lounge at the Atlanta

Hartsfield International Airport). Where will it go next? Kelley is elusively enigmatic:

"I'm forever inspired by constantly evolving subjects."

#### WHEN YOU BEGAN AS A STUDENT AT UNI, WAS ART YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR A MAJOR?

Studio art from day one.

#### DO YOU PREFER STUDIO ART OR ILLUSTRATING MORE?

I enjoy narrative art, be it painting or illustration.

#### WHICH MEDIA DO YOU MOST OFTEN WORK IN?

Painting with oil on canvas is about 60% of my work; 25% pastels, and the other 15% would be monotype.

#### YOU PRIMARILY WORK ON CANVAS WITH PAINT; DO YOU CREATE OTHER TYPES OF ART AS WELL?

I mostly paint – but we have started to expand how they're produced. Some are printed on handbags and notecards now.



CAFE 1

**WHO HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION?**

My uncle taught me early on. Today my inspiration is constantly evolving.

**WHAT DO YOU FEEL HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?**

Too many to list, but overall I love being in the studio and the variety of challenges.

**HOW DID YOU GET INTO ILLUSTRATING CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS?**

Creative Editions commissioned me to illustrate four Ray Bradbury books in 1986, and I never looked back.

**MARRIED...FAMILY...KIDS?**

One very supportive forever wife. Two great kids; one is a writer and one is a kitchen designer.

**FAVORITE SUBJECT MATTER TO CAPTURE ON CANVAS OR PAPER?**

People for sure, and music and history.

**YOU'VE CREATED WORK FOR THE KENTUCKY DERBY; IS THIS THE FIRST POLO-THEMED PIECE YOU'VE DONE?**

No, I've done a lot of horses and a couple of polo commissions over the years.

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU MOST WHEN CREATING THIS COVER?**

The color, the energy and as always, finding abstraction in a figurative composition.

**IF YOU WEREN'T AN ARTIST, WHAT WOULD YOU BE PURSUING?**

I have no alternatives...unless possibly film or writing.

**WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH? WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?**

The Coen brothers and Chris Farley. Family, friends and my work.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR ART IN THE FUTURE?**

Always searching for new, unexpected sources of inspiration.

**EXPLAIN YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS.**

Research my subject, find visual connections and motivation in art history. Draw and redraw to refine composition. Transfer final composition to paper, canvas or printmaking plate. Create, react, create, react, etc. **SPC**

more kelley

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COVER ARTIST



"TOUR DE FRANCE"

# brent hamill *sarasota polo club player and home owner*



ERIC NALPAS

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Brent Hamill moved to Atlanta, Ga. at the age of 10. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a BBA in marketing, Brent followed his love of pizza; franchising Domino's Pizza in California, Texas and Colorado. Today Brent enjoys as much time as possible with his three children; Mia, Ashley and Chase, enjoying the great outdoors while engaging in many different sporting activities.

## What was your earliest experience with polo?

When I was three years old watching my grandfather and uncles play for the Pierre, S.D. team. They would travel between Sheridan, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Iowa; Milwaukee, Wisc. and other cities to play. I was fortunate to watch polo as a young boy.

## What first attracted you to polo?

The fact that my grandfather and uncles played polo was my first real attraction to the game, but Stuart Campbell is the reason I am playing polo today. Stuart donated a polo lesson to a private school to help with a fundraiser and the rest is history, or maybe an adrenaline addiction.

## What impressed you most at your first game?

What impressed me the most my first polo game is still true today, it's the horses. The heart and athleticism of a polo horse is amazing. They are asked to go flat out, stop, turn, and bump the opponent; and a good horse does it all with passion.

## What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

The entirety of the club is amazing; great neighbors, friendly members, excellent fields, proximity to Out-of-Door Academy for my children, diverse dining and shopping as well as the beach just minutes from the club.

## What is your favorite polo tradition?

As a player, the pregame Star Spangled Banner. As a spectator, it is definitely the halftime divot stomp.

## Who do you most admire in the polo world?

Aldolfo Cambiaso. Since 1994, year in and year out, Cambiaso has been the most talented player in the world, with a 10 handicap.

## What is the one thing that is a "must bring" when you come to a polo game?

Bring a smile, because you are going to have a great time both on and off the field.

## What's always in your cooler?

I keep my cooler stocked with Dasani, G2 and local craft beers.

## What's your après polo place?

My front porch rocker ... overlooking field 4.



ERIC NALPAS

# gordon hunter

*sponsor, suncoast motorsports of sarasota*

Growing up in the suburbs of Detroit during the 1960s and '70s, when it was known as "The Motor City," I always had a fascination with cars that started at a young age. I used to sit on my grandfather's lap on the front porch and name the make of every car as it passed. I also remember helping my father wash his car every Saturday morning in the driveway and him taking us for long Sunday drives with my mother and younger sister. I received my driver's license almost the same time as my mother and shared her car for a short time until my parents surprised me on my 16th birthday with my own new red 1966 Plymouth Sport Fury. I always kept that car fully detailed and cherished it. I moved on to a new, 427 cubic inch 1969 red Corvette a few years later. Now that was a fun car for an 18-year-old guy!

I had been living in West Palm Beach since 1974, and in 1992, after 13 years of management with Lord & Taylor department stores, I changed my field from retail employment and joined the automobile business.

In 2010, I was offered the position of general sales manager of Suncoast Motorsports of Sarasota, where we have both Porsche and Volkswagen automobiles. I now call Sarasota my home and would not even think of moving back to West Palm Beach!

**What was your earliest experience with polo?**  
In 1992.

**What first attracted you to polo?**  
I built a home in Wellington, Fla., one-half mile from the polo fields, and began going to the Sunday games with several thousand people in attendance.

**What impressed you most at your first game?**  
The number of people attending and the dressy clothes.

**What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?**  
The open area and the friendliness of the attendees.

**What is your favorite polo tradition?**  
Half time, replacing the divots.

**What is the one thing that is a "must bring" when you come to a polo game?**  
Hat and sunscreen.

**What's always in your cooler?**  
I don't bring one!

**What's your après polo place?**  
Sorry, I don't have a specific one!

# c. howard larson

*polo player, retired veterinarian and flagger*



ERIC NALPAS

Originally from Hampton, Conn., C. Howard “Howie” Larson is a retired veterinarian, athlete and groomer who currently lives on a Montana mountaintop and has strong ties to Sarasota. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut, a master’s degree from the University of Illinois and a degree in veterinary medicine from the University of the Philippines. Howie has been aligned with the Sarasota Polo Club since before its inception, as he began working on Robin Uihlein’s horses in the late 1980s.

## What was your earliest experience with polo?

In my hometown of Hampton, Conn., were Frank Butterworth and Giant Valley Polo Club. I went to work for them in high school, haying and fence building. There were polo ponies there, and that’s where I got started riding and playing. I liked the horses and how they all had their own personalities. That was really my first experience with horses.

## What were some of your first polo games?

My first games were in 1968 when I went to Florida to work with Frank and Butch Butterworth. I was grooming for Frank Butterworth at the time, and I had gone to horseshoeing school before I went to vet school. I also played at Yale when I worked in Connecticut. I was probably 21 at the time (I’m 70 now).

## How did you become involved with Sarasota’s polo scene?

It started because I worked for Robin Uihlein for several years. I knew Robin when I was in Lake Worth with Frank. His father played in Boca Raton and I met him there first. After I moved to the mountains in 1988, Robin called me. I didn’t have anything to do in the winter, so I worked as a groomer while he was playing in West Palm Beach. I helped Robin start the Sarasota Polo Club. I took care of his horses by riding them and doing the veterinary work on them. I also had a practice in Potomac, Md.

## What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

Right from the beginning, Robin and the other players took up the policy of good sportsmanship polo; it was all clean play or you were out of there. Robin enforced that pretty well and I assisted him in the polo operations. I started the shirt shop and the gift shop way back when. I had a wonderful experience starting the club, helping Robin and riding the horses. It’s still a great club, and I rent a place in Sarasota every winter. While I’m in town, I do some vet work and am on call for the Sunday games.

## What prompted you to stop playing polo?

Well, I retired at 40, moved out to Montana and built a log home on top of a mountain. I enjoyed riding horses and being an athlete, but I just decided to retire, quit polo and sell everything. To make a big move to Montana, horses just weren’t in the big picture for me anymore. I’m here in Montana for seven months or more out of the year and I don’t ride anymore. I retired because I always wanted to live on top of the Rocky Mountains and I thought, “If I’m ever going to do what I want to do, I should do it now.” Now I just walk around the mountains, fish and go to the bar.

## Who do you most admire in the polo world?

I admire all of the sponsors and the fellows who brought polo to life, paid people to play and kept the tradition going – from Frank Butterworth to Robin Uihlein.

## What is your favorite polo tradition?

Drinking beer. But I like watching the horses, too. I have great admiration for the horses.



MARK BOLLES

# kathryn barnes

*sarasota polo club fan*

Kathryn Barnes has worked part-time as a receptionist at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club since March 2005. She also does fashion and hair modeling at the Home Shopping Network, as well as for commercials, print, and television.

Kathryn was born in Keedysville, Md. on farm near Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md. She attended Hagerstown Business College and worked for Allegany Airlines in Hagerstown, Md., then transferred to Washington, D.C. as the airline's first stewardess. She moved to Orlando, Fla. in 1959 and started her modeling career in 1968 doing fashion shows, print, and commercials.

She really enjoys her job at the Country Club — knowing and helping members' families — church, and going to polo. She is also a member of the Elks Club 2855.

Her daughter, Sharon, lives with her.

## What was your earliest experience with polo?

At Christmas we went to polo and had pictures for our Christmas card with the horse named Forrest Gump! I went to work at the Country Club and my boss gave me tickets to attend. Fantastic, WOW, exciting.

## What first attracted you to polo?

When I moved here in 2004 the first thing I saw on University Parkway was a sign ... polo! And there were horses across the street from the Boca Grove condos. I thought "I must go!"

## What impressed you most at your first game?

Tailgating with my convertible, chairs, food and drinks ... chatting with people and telling them all about polo. I love the sun — it's a great way to get a sun tan — then walking the grounds to the Sarasota Polo Shop. Also, tramping on the grounds where horses run. Wow! The horses are so beautiful and the players can ride so well. I rode and took care of horses on the farm at home.

## What do you like best about the Sarasota Polo Club?

Socializing with people, telling them how wonderful it is here in Lakewood Ranch for us to enjoy. Tailgating in the fantastic weather.

## What is your favorite polo tradition?

Convertible, tailgating, sun, people, and of course the horses!

## Who do you most admire in the polo world?

Riders/players, and my bosses, Mr. Jensen and Mr. Piazza.

## What is the one thing that is a "must bring" when you come to a polo game?

First of all — my convertible, then chairs, food, drinks ... and personality and excitement.

## What's always in your cooler?

Drinks, wine, cheese, chips, and candy.

## What's your après polo place?

After a game, maybe go to shop then home and relax — go to the pool and watch football, then dinner later ...

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*salutes the*  
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 Photo by Cliff Roles

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OFF-SIDE  
FOREHAND



# polo lingo

The following are some basic definitions to add to your polo watching enjoyment.

## Divot Stomping

An activity that involves spectators in the game. During halftime, spectators are invited to go onto the playing field to replace pieces of turf that have been dug-up by the horses.

## Double-Chukkered

Means that the same horse may be played again in a later chukker.

## Field

The polo field is 300 yards long and 160 yards wide (10 acres). The goal posts have an eight-yard span.

## Game

Consists of four or six chukkers, depending on the number of available horses, the level of play, or the nature of the tournament.

## Goal

When the ball crosses the line between the goal posts. The team's goal changes each time a goal is scored.

## Handicap

Registered players are rated on a scale of minus 2 through 10 (the higher the better). Only 0 and 1 goalers can go up in half point increments.

## Hook

An extremely effective defensive technique. A player may use his mallet to interfere with his opponent's swing.

## Back Shot

Can be hit from either side of the horse.

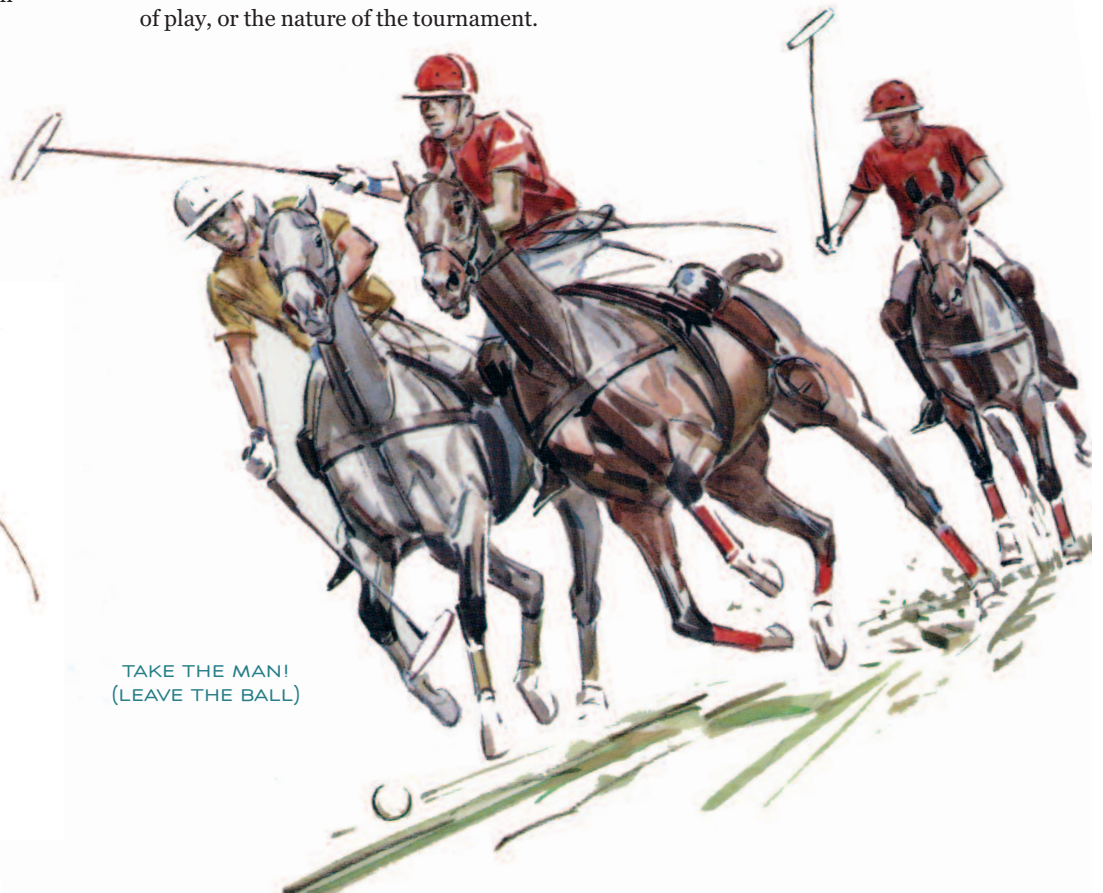
## Chukker

There are six chukkers in a polo match, each one lasting  $7\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. Between each chukker, players change horses.

NEAR-SIDE  
NECK SHOT



TAKE THE MAN!  
(LEAVE THE BALL)





### Near-Side Shot

Made from the left side of the horse. Near-side can be a forehand or backhand shot.

### Neck Shot

A ball which is hit under a horse's neck from either side.

### Off-Side Shot

The off-side is the right side of the horse. It is the most commonly used shot in polo.

### Penalty

A free hit towards the goal from a set distance. The severity of the foul committed determines what penalty will be awarded.

### Positions

Each of the four team members play a distinctly different position. Players may momentarily change positions, but they try to stay at their initial spot. Player No. 1 is the most forward offensive player. No. 2 is just as aggressive, but plays deeper. No. 3 is the pivot between offense and defense and tries to turn all plays to offense. No. 4, or the back, is the defensive player whose principle role is to protect the goal.

NEAR-SIDE  
BACK SHOT



### Ride-Off

Occurs when two riders attempt to push each other off the line of the ball.

### Tail Shot

Hitting the ball behind and under the horse's rump.

### Third Man

A referee who sits off the field. If and when the two umpires on the field are in disagreement, the third man makes the final decision.

### Throw-In

A chukker begins and many plays resume with the umpire bowling the ball between the two ready teams.

### Umpires

Two mounted umpires on the field consult each other after each infringement and impose a penalty only if they agree. If they do not agree, they confer with the third man or referee. They also monitor safety for the players and horses.

SPC

OFF-SIDE  
NECK SHOT



RIDING OFF



# the game

## polo basics

Polo players use a mallet, also known as a “stick.” They are made of bamboo cane and the head is made of tipa wood. The head is beveled on one end to allow a full swing, flush to the ground. They vary in length from 48 to 54 inches, and are highly flexible. The ball used today is made of plastic and is 3.25 inches in diameter and weighs approximately 3.5 ounces. Originally, the ball was made of bamboo root, but was changed to plastic for consistency. All players use English saddles as opposed to Western saddles.

### THE FIELD

A full-size boarded polo field measures 300 yards by 160 yards. This vast size is necessary for eight polo horses to have room to gallop, stop and turn. Depending on the ability of the player, a struck ball can travel up to 150 yards. The players’ jerseys are numbered from 1 to 4. Numbers 1 and 2 are the forwards, No. 3 is the quarterback, and the No. 4 is the defense, and is usually called the back.

### THE GAME

Matches are monitored by two mounted umpires and a referee, also called a third man, who is seated on the sideline mid-field. The two umpires consult with one another after each infringement, and impose a penalty only if they agree. If they do not agree, they confer with the referee.

Polo matches are divided into six periods or “chukkers.” Between chukkers, there is an interval of four minutes to enable players to change horses, and at half time, between chukkers three and four, the players are given 10 minutes to rest and strategize.

Each chukker is 7½ minutes long and the clock is only stopped by the umpire’s whistle. The first horn is blown at seven minutes, warning that the players have 30 seconds left in the chukker, and the second horn is blown to end the chukker, unless a goal is scored or the ball goes out of bounds.

If the score is tied after the sixth chukker, the teams will come out again after a

10-minute break and play “sudden death”: the first team to score wins the match.

Any time a ball crosses the line between the goal posts, it is considered a goal, and it makes no difference whether a horse or a mallet causes the ball to go through. The goal posts are eight yards apart and, for safety reasons, are collapsible upon impact. The goal posts, like American football, continue up from the posts to infinity; therefore as long as the ball crosses over that 8 yard line, regardless of how high, it is a goal. To equalize wind and turf conditions, the teams change sides after each goal.

The team that scores the most goals wins the match. Each player is given an individual handicap from minus 2 to 10 goals, with minus 2 as a novice, and 10 being the very best. Only 0 and 1 goalers can go up in half point increments. The handicap of a team is the sum total rating of its players.



At the beginning of the game and after each goal is scored, the two teams line up in the center of the field. Numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are being paired off with their corresponding numbers of the opposing team and face the umpire. The umpire then bowls the ball in underhanded between the two teams. Once a player strikes the ball, the game opens up and the players are no longer marking their corresponding numbers, but now their opposite numbers. No. 1 marks the

free hit from their backline. No timeout is allowed for knock-ins or throw-ins.

## THE PLAY

Dangerous riding is forbidden, such as bumping at a dangerous angle, zigzagging in front of a player riding at a gallop, pulling across another player's horse, or even riding at an opponent in such a manner as to intimidate him. When riding-off or bumping an opponent, it is permissible to push with your shoulder with your arm

hook, and is considered a foul. A player cannot strike at the ball across the legs or body of an opponent's horse.

The foregoing rules are obvious and easily understood but the most important rule of all is crossing, which is for the safety of the horses and players. Most penalties are a result of this infraction.

The majority of the horses being played are Thoroughbreds. Each player uses

# The laws of the polo field are as unique as the sport.

opposing back, the No. 2 the opposing No. 3, the No. 3 the opposing No. 2, and the back with the opposing No. 1.

When a ball crosses the sideline or goes over the sideboard, it is considered out-of-bounds and the umpire will bowl in another ball between the two teams, five yards from where the ball went out of play. Should a team in an offensive drive hit the ball across the opponent's backline, the defending team resumes the game with a

close to your side: no elbowing is allowed.

The angle of the bump should never exceed 45 degrees. The faster the horse travels, the smaller the angle must be.

A hook is an extremely effective defensive technique in which a player uses his mallet to interfere with his opponent's swing. This must be done from the same side as the ball or from immediately behind. A cross-hook occurs when the player reaches over the mount of his opponent in an attempt to

an average of six horses per match and rides a different one in each chukker. There is a distinct partnership between a player and his horse. The better a horse has been schooled and the greater understanding with which it is played, the more successful the player/horse partnership will be. This will greatly add to the spectator's pleasure of watching polo. **SPC**





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# LESSON LEARNED

Promoting polo is a one-student-at-a-time process. At Sarasota Polo Club's school, amateur athletes learn at their own pace with the guidance of seasoned instructors.





BY ABBY WEINGARTEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS



# polo for all

Whether you want to work toward playing in the Sunday game or just be able to understand the basics of riding, the polo school is right for you.





**The Sarasota Polo School’s mission:  
to draw newcomers to the sport, change the public  
perception of what polo is, and create  
a family-centric athletic community.**

“Our school is designed to help people progress and learn without being rushed,” says Kristen Galvan, the Club’s polo manager. “Players can step up from lessons to the arena chukkers and to the final step of being outdoor chukkers. People of any age and ability can play, and we’ll tailor a program to an individual’s goals, schedule and budget.”

One of Galvan’s main objectives is to bolster the youth polo program.

“I would like to have more kids coming in to learn to ride and progressing in polo so the Club could get a youth polo league started,” Galvan says. “But whether you want to work toward playing in the Sunday game or just be able to understand the basics of riding, the polo school is right for you.”

Taylor Schaum teaches the beginner riding lessons to players ages nine and older, and professional four-goal player Juan Martinez-Baez is in one of the seasoned

professionals providing lessons and advanced instruction. The school provides players with a horse, tack and mallet, and private or group lessons are taught on the Club’s grounds throughout the week.

“The school teaches you all the basics you need to know, and you will learn everything from grooming and tacking up your horse to being out on the field and playing in a real game. Polo is such a fun sport, so it’s especially great to watch people take their riding and playing to the next level,” Schaum says. “Because polo is a team sport, you meet and make friends with people from all over the world. There is usually a barbecue or party at some point after the game. The social aspect and camaraderie of the polo community is incredible.”

Polo school enrollees experience a 10-week-running, twice-weekly, hour-long “Polo School Course” that teaches the rules of the game, as well as horsemanship and swing mechanics. Graduates of the course can

All the great players started somewhere

# all for polo

Because polo is a team sport you meet and make friends with people from all over the world. The social aspect and camaraderie of the polo community is incredible.

become Club members and play in the Arena League before moving onto the Sunshine League (both have full tournament schedules, and players at multiple levels can participate).

“The thing I enjoy most about teaching is meeting lots of new people that have no idea how to play and watching them progress and have fun,” Martinez-Baez says. “For people who are interested in the polo school, I would encourage them to first come out to a game and see the excitement for themselves. I often encourage them to talk with the players and listen to our stories and see the passion we have for the sport. I want them to see that this game is not impossible or out of anyone’s league. All the great players started somewhere.” **SPC**



All ages and skill levels welcome!

For more information:  
Sarasota Polo Club  
Kristen Galvan  
941.907.0000

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# we salute our players

As a sport, polo is unparalleled, and the players are the true stars of the game, upholding its traditions.

Polo players are an unusual breed of athlete. Although these men and women come from all walks of life and are involved in a myriad of activities, for the most part, their outside time and energy is saved for the game they love most...polo.

They are avid and responsible horsemen and own from one to 20 horses whose care and maintenance is their chief concern.

Join us as we salute our players. It is through their dedication and commitment to the sport that Sarasota Polo is able to provide the residents of our area with one of the most exhilarating sports being played today: polo, the "Game of Kings!"



Following pages players not pictured: Gabriel Caro, 3 Goal; Denny Antonio Santana, 3 Goal; Meghan Burggraff, A Rated

PHOTO BY ERIC NALPAS





# Polo players

are as unique among sportsmen  
as polo is among sports





**4 GOAL**  
**Joe Wayne Barry**  
Marion, TX



**4 GOAL**  
**Stuart Campbell**  
South Africa



**4 GOAL**  
**Eddy Martinez**  
Columbus, GA



**4 GOAL**  
**Jamie Mirikitani**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**4 GOAL**  
**Shane Rice**  
Poway, CA



**3 GOAL**  
**Juan Martinez Baez**  
Mexico



**3 GOAL**  
**Luis Galvan**  
Aiken, SC



**3 GOAL**  
**Francisco Llosa**  
Argentina



**2 GOAL**  
**Nick Johnson**  
England



**2 GOAL**  
**Gilberto Junqueira**  
Brazil



**2 GOAL**  
**Herndon Radcliff**  
Lexington, KY



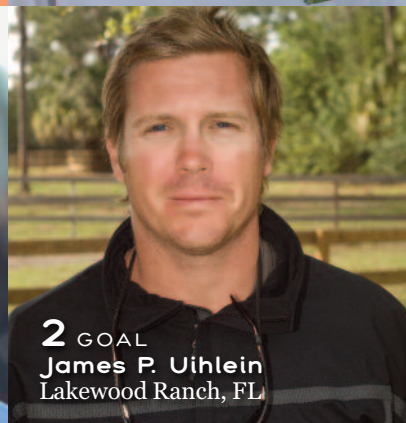
**2 GOAL**  
**Dennis Santana**  
Dominican Republic



**2 GOAL**  
**Buck Schott**  
Lexington, KY



**2 GOAL**  
**Josh Shelton**  
Wichita, KS



**2 GOAL**  
**James P. Uihlein**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**2 GOAL**  
**Peter Von Gontard, Jr.**  
St. Louis, MO



**1.5 GOAL**  
**Jon Luke Beck**  
Tallahassee, FL



**1.5 GOAL**  
**Paige McCabe**  
The Villages, FL



**1.5 GOAL**  
**James Miller**  
Paris, KY



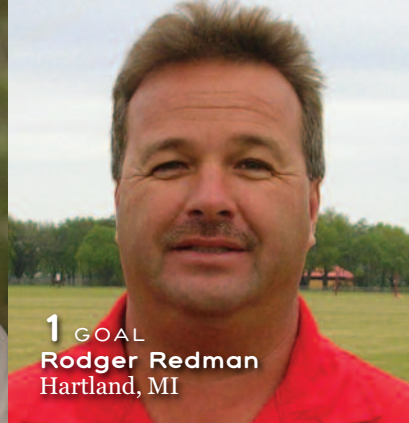
**1.5 GOAL**  
**Jim Parr**  
The Villages, FL



**1 GOAL**  
**David Manuel**  
Ocala, FL



**1 GOAL**  
**Roper Morrow**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**1 GOAL**  
**Rodger Redman**  
Hartland, MI



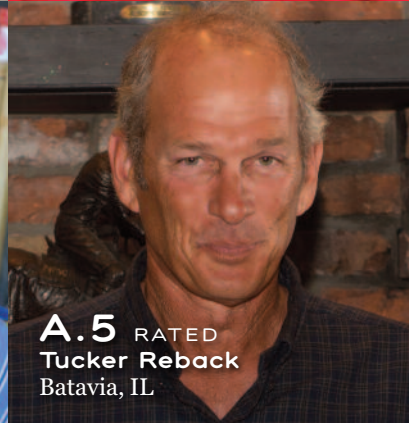
**1 GOAL**  
**Trey Schott**  
Lexington, KY



**A.5 RATED**  
**Ryan Gilbertson**  
Wayzata, MN



**A.5 RATED**  
**Raymond Guest**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**A.5 RATED**  
**Tucker Reback**  
Batavia, IL



**A RATED**  
**Kelly Beck**  
Tallahassee, FL



**A RATED**  
**Tim Cheromcka**  
New Hope, PA



**A RATED**  
**Brent Hamill**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**A RATED**  
**Claude Leclair**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**A RATED**  
**Teresa Mull**  
Wichita, KS



**A RATED**  
**Mark Mulligan**  
Frenchtown, NJ



**A RATED**  
**Tony Natale**  
Chicago, IL



**A RATED**  
**Larry Robinson**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**A RATED**  
**Cash Shelton**  
Wichita, KS



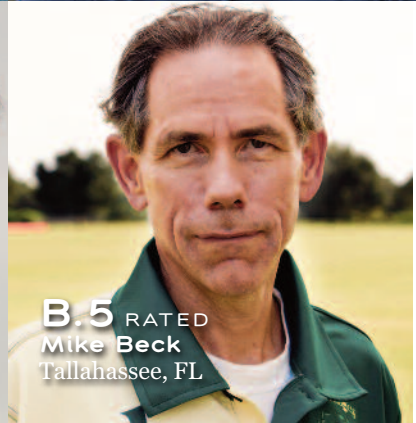
**A RATED**  
**Jack Shelton**  
Wichita, KS



**A RATED**  
**Roger Stainton**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**A RATED**  
**Dixon Stroud**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B.5 RATED**  
**Mike Beck**  
Tallahassee, FL



**B.5** RATED  
**Holly Chamberlain**  
Bradenton, FL



**B.5** RATED  
**Jaymie Klauber**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Barb Alexander**  
Batavia, IL



**B** RATED  
**Anneke Beck**  
Tallahassee, FL



**B** RATED  
**Lynn Billings**  
Sarasota, FL



**B** RATED  
**Renee Dinan**  
Sarasota, FL



**B** RATED  
**Scott Doyle**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Mary Pat Guest**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Scott Klingensmith**  
Sarasota, FL



**B** RATED  
**Sylvia McNichol**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Jim Moss**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Miguel Lis-Plinells**  
Land O Lakes, FL



**B** RATED  
**Ann Oniskey**  
Ottsville, PA



**B** RATED  
**Vincent Ricaud**  
Nantes, France



**B** RATED  
**Lisa Scott**  
West Grove, PA.



**B** RATED  
**Raj Singh**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Renee Strickland**  
Myakka City, FL



**B** RATED  
**Phil Town**  
Atlanta, GA



**B** RATED  
**Denny Woodruff**  
Lakewood Ranch, FL



**B** RATED  
**Tammy Wyman**  
Sarasota, FL

# action



BEFORE



AFTER

2016 Best Team Player  
2016 Four Time MVP  
**JAMIE MIRIKITANI**  
(IN BLACK)

2016 Best Penalty Shooter  
**STUART CAMPBELL**  
(IN WHITE)















**B** RATED  
Milton H. Ellis IV

Lost but not forgotten. You will be missed, our friend.







WILDCAT  
POLO

22

Northern  
Capital Group

#1  
Wildcat  
Polo

Wildcat  
Polo

2016 SEASON  
winners' circle



**USA Governor's Cup / 6 Goal**  
**RULE ONE/SHEPHERD PARTNERS**  
 Stuart Campbell, Luis Galvan, Tony Natale, Phil Town



**USA Wayne Brown Memorial / 6 Goal**  
**RULE ONE/SHEPHERD PARTNERS**  
 Stuart Campbell, Luis Galvan, Tony Natale, Phil Town



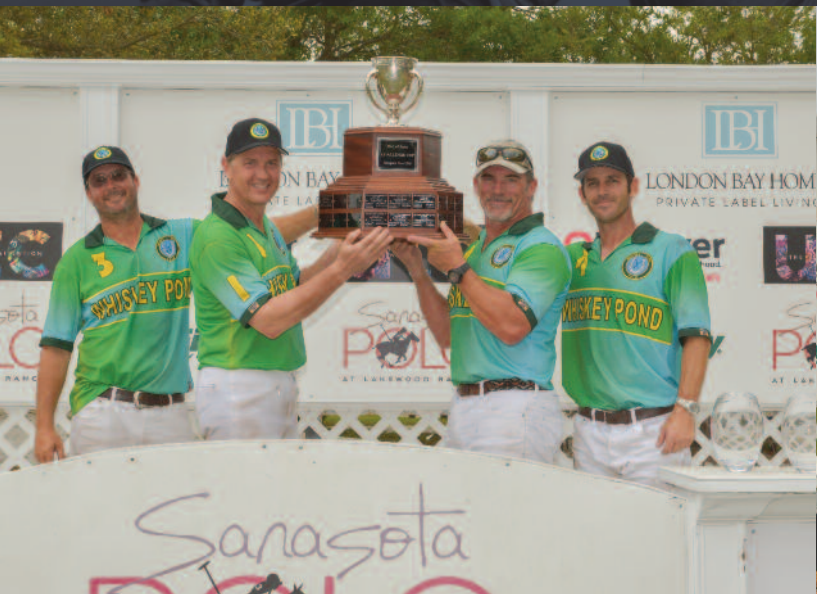
**Silver Anniversary / 6 Goal**  
**RULE ONE/SHEPHERD PARTNERS**  
 Stuart Campbell, Luis Galvan, Tony Natale, Anneke Beck



**USA Robert A. Uihlein Memorial / 12 Goal**  
**WILDCAT**  
 Nick Johnson, Ryan Gilbertson, Chris Nevins, Jason Crowder

2016 SEASON

# winners' circle



**USPA Hall of Fame Challenge / 6 Goal**  
**SOUTHSIDE/WHISKEY POND**  
 Matt Sekera, Brent Hamill, Raymond Guest, Jamie Mirikitani



**USPA National Inter-Circuit Cup / 12 Goal**  
**HILLCROFT FARM**  
 James Miller, Marcos Bignoli, Tomas Collingwood, Herndon Radcliff



**USPA Sarasota Women's Challenge**  
**TEN OAKS**  
 Pippa Campbell, Anneke Beck, Mili Galindo, Belinda Brody



**USPA Ringling Cup / 6 Goal**  
**SOUTHSIDE/WHISKEY POND**  
 Brent Hamill, Raymond Guest, Matt Sekera, Jamie Mirikitani



Congratulations!

all players at Sarasota Polo  
Club are winners to us!

# MVP 2016



GOVERNOR'S CUP  
JAMIE MIRIKITANI



SILVER ANNIVERSARY CUP  
JAMIE MIRIKITANI



ROBERT A. UHLEIN, JR.  
MEMORIAL CUP  
JASON CROWDER



RINGLING CUP  
JAMIE MIRIKITANI



NATIONAL INTER-CIRCUIT  
MARCOS BIGNOLI





HALL OF FAME CHALLENGE  
JAMIE MIRIKITANI



WOMEN'S CHALLENGE  
BELINDA BRODY



WAYNE BROWN MEMORIAL  
PHIL TOWN

2016 SEASON  
 year-end awards



Best Offensive Player  
**JASON CROWDER**



Best Team Player  
**JAMIE MIRIKITANI**



Best Defensive Player  
**SHANE RICE**



Best Penalty Shooter  
**STUART CAMPBELL**



Neil M. Chur Memorial  
**BUCK SCHOTT**



USPA Dr. Billy Linfoot Award  
 Most Improved Player  
**ANNEKE BECK**



USPA Florida/Caribbean Circuit  
 Sportsmanship Award  
**NICK JOHNSON**



Bobby Barry Memorial Umpire Award  
**LUIS GALVAN**



Spirit of Polo  
**DENNIS SANTANA**



Best Mounted  
**JAMES P. UIHLEIN**



Best Flagger  
**HOWIE LARSON**



USPA Owen O'Hanlon  
Best Groom  
**LUIS BARRIOS**



Groundskeeper Award  
(Saw the ground the most)  
**SCOTT DOYLE**




Club Bicycle  
(Worked for everyone in the club)  
**TAYLOR SCHAUM**

PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS

# best playing ponies

2016 SEASON



The most talented polo player won't win without a good horse and the ability to understand it.

Without their horses, these equine advocates would become spectators rather than players, something next to impossible after sampling the thrill of racing across an open expanse of field with a mallet in hand, astride one of the most powerful and swift animals in the world.

PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS



**USPA GOVERNOR'S CUP  
"MOONSHINE"  
STUART CAMPBELL**



**THE OBSERVER CUP  
"MOKI"  
JAMIE MIRIKITANI**



**USPA WAYNE BROWN  
"BRILLIANTE"  
STUART CAMPBELL**



**SUNCOAST PORSCHE CUP  
"MOCHA"  
CHRIS NEVINS**



**USPA ROBERT A. UHLEIN MEMORIAL  
"JUAN PABLO" PLAYED BY FRANCISCO  
BILBAO OWNED BY G-STRING POLO**



**UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER  
"BRUJITO"  
ALAN MARTINEZ**



**USPA SARASOTA  
WOMEN'S CHALLENGE  
"SCOOBY DOO" ANNEKE BECK**



**USPA HALL OF FAME CHALLENGE  
"VALENTINA"  
STUART CAMPBELL**



**USPA RINGLING CUP  
"MAVERICK"  
JAMIE MIRIKITANI**



**USPA NATIONAL INTER-CIRCUIT  
"KAYLA"  
FRANCISCO BILBAO**



**SILVER ANNIVERSARY CUP  
"HP"  
LUIS GALVAN**

# sidelines





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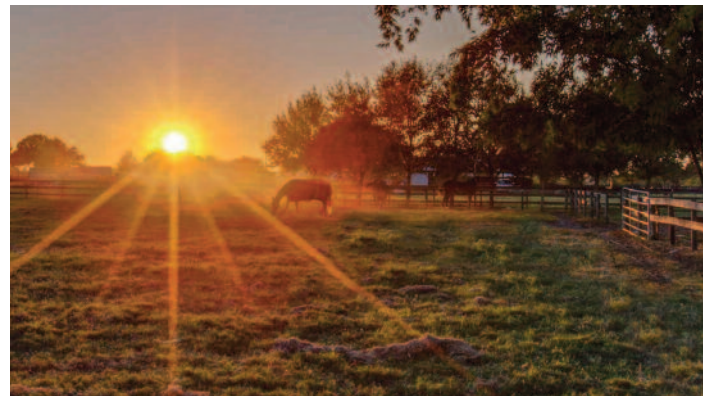
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A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a light green long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and brown boots, stands in the doorway of a stable. A black dog is sitting on the floor next to her. The stable interior is visible, showing wooden stalls and a horse. The title 'Labor of Love' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the center of the image.

# Labor of Love

Taking care of eight to nine polo ponies at once would seem like an insurmountable task to most, but Renee Strickland wouldn't have her lifestyle any other way.

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS

# Love of the horse



Dr. Marty Adams



It is both a backbreaking commitment and a labor of love to care for these equines, as the life of the polo pony is highly regimented. The horses have a routine that involves mealtimes with specific menus, as well as visits from the veterinarian, farrier, chiropractor, dentist and massage therapist.

“It’s definitely a lot of work, to say the least, but it brings me an amount of joy and pleasure I can’t put a price tag on,” says Strickland, a Sarasota Polo Club member from Myakka City. “I can’t imagine my life without my horses.”

For diehard polo pony caretakers like Strickland, there is plenty of research involved in the process, and experts like Virginia-based Dr. Marty Adams can help answer questions. He is the equine nutritionist and horse feed manager for Southern States, and the equine nutrition research team member for Cooperative Research Farms. Adams was previously an equine nutritionist for Seminole Feed in Ocala, Fla.

“Polo ponies are usually thoroughbreds, and they have a six-month season of work with matches and the other half with little activity. So I have made feeding recommendations for polo ponies on many occasions,” Adams says. “The biggest problem for them is keeping adequate body condition and stamina during the polo season.”

To address that problem, Adams suggests delicately altering the fat, sugar, starch and calorie content in the feeds. Annual veterinary and dental checkups are important, and farrier work should be done every six to eight weeks. Some ponies may also need chiropractic and massage therapy (if the trainer/owner/player can afford it), Adams says.

Strickland is one horse owner who takes a more budget-friendly, do-it-yourself approach to polo pony caretaking. She has employed the same farrier for 22 years, who shoes her horses right before the beginning of the playing cycle and takes them off at the season’s end. Strickland does her own exercising and grooming, and she



only calls a veterinarian in the event of an emergency, she says. For about 2½ hours every morning before work, four or five days a week in preparation for polo season, Strickland exercises two or three sets of horses around her orange grove.

“It takes up a lot of my time but I can’t afford someone to do all this for me. I’ve been working with horses my whole life so I have plenty of experience. It’s a huge commitment physically, financially and time-wise, but I look at it as incredible exercise,” Strickland says. “I think there’s only one way I can describe why I do this: the love I have for the game. I think everyone should find something in their life that brings them this much joy. It’s as natural to me as breathing. If you tried to take my horses away, it would feel like you were taking the air out of my body.”

Stuart Campbell can relate. He has been playing at the Sarasota Polo Club since 1996. He enjoys taking retired horses from the racetrack and training them to compete.

“It is a long, slow process, and it takes about two years to see a finished horse competing here in these tournaments,” Campbell says. “It normally takes me a month to get my horses fit enough to play their first match after being turned out (vacation) for two months. I try to give my horses a couple of months rest after each season to help them recover, both mentally and physically, from a strenuous season that normally runs about three months.”

If Campbell plans to play in early January, for example, he will start “legging the ponies up” in early December to give himself four weeks of preparation time. Once a year, in the winter, a horse dentist floats (wears down the surface) all of the ponies’ teeth “to make sure they don’t have any sharp teeth that could hurt them if they rubbed against the bit,” Campbell says.

A farrier shoes the horses every five weeks, and the horses get dewormed every six weeks. On occasion, Campbell calls the veterinarian to perform an ultrasound on a tendon or take an X-ray. After every game, Campbell’s horses have ice boots and poultices placed on their legs.

“My horses enjoy being turned out into paddocks every night. They get brought in for breakfast at 6 a.m. and fed a formulated pellet. They’ll be brushed thoroughly, have their hooves cleaned out, and get checked for any cuts or injuries. Following this, they’ll do their daily workout,” Campbell says. “When they return from their morning exercise, they’ll be showered and put back inside their stalls for the day. Once they’ve finished their dinner, they get to go outside into their paddocks and socialize with their friends for the night.”

All in all, Campbell and Strickland’s polo ponies get the royal treatment. Their loving owners insist upon it. **SPC**

Stuart Campbell reaping the rewards of his hard work



of the game

# Life *after* POLO

BY CHRISTINA A. MACKENZIE

During polo season, your Sundays are covered ... tailgating, matches, various apres polo party plans. And now, with matches added on the last Friday of the month, December through March, you've nailed down your plans for another week's worth of days. But what to do on the non-polo days, or during those seemingly endless non-polo months?



Lakewood Ranch Main Street

The obvious first choice Lakewood Ranch's Main Street.

Hands down, Music on Main is the most popular Ranch gathering. Held on the first Friday of every month, it features DJs and live bands (along with dancing, of course). The street is lined with vendor booths including specialty foods, as well as beer and wine served by a different featured monthly charity. There are also numerous bars and restaurants, including the street's newest additions: Craft Growlers to Go and Tasting Room, and Nancy's Bar-B-Q.

There are countless festivals and events held all year on Main Street: visit [facebook.com/LakewoodRanchMainSt](https://facebook.com/LakewoodRanchMainSt) or [lakewoodranch.com](https://lakewoodranch.com) to see what's happening.

If you don't need a party to enjoy yourself, catch a movie at Lakewood Ranch Cinemas, play a round of miniature golf at



On the first Friday of every month is the “Music on Main” celebration—a downtown Lakewood Ranch tradition with DJs and live bands.

The Fish Hole’s 18-hole adventure golf course, or take a class at Barre 3, which draws from ballet barre, Pilates and yoga – “functional training with a twist.” If you’re feeling more creative, book an art class or a “Paint ‘N Party” at Let’s Create Art, try jewelry-making at Knot Awl Beads, or create pottery and glass crafts at Arts A Blaze.

Don’t forget to shop local and keep your money in the community. Skip the hassle and detachment of the big box stores and grab some coffee and two-wheelers at Village Bikes, or change up your home décor with some furnishings from White Rose Interiors. How about something sparkly from Vanessa Fine Jewelry, a unique gift from Wish On Main, or something for your furry family member from Unleashed for Pets? Shop on Main Street before venturing out into the surrounding area – visit [lakewoodranch.com](http://lakewoodranch.com) for more information.

Along Lake Osprey Drive is the Lucky Pelican Bistro, and the Alamo Steakhouse and Grill at the Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch. Elsewhere in the Corporate Park area you will find Jumpin Fun Trampoline Park, and Beyond Dancing, where you can take classes in anything from ballroom to Latin dance.

Market Street off University Parkway has something for everyone: pick up some flowers at Lakewood Ranch Florist, shop for some reclaimed treasures at Fifi’s Fine Resale Apparel and accessories, and pick up some goodies for Fido at Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming.

On Nature’s Way, in the Ranch’s San Marco Plaza, is Country Pancake House and Restaurant. Before or after flapjacks, book a haircut at the nearby Che Bella Salon & Spa and a pedicure at DT Nails. Take a class at Yoga Body & Soul, go shopping at 2nd Ann



Everyone wants to know where the locals eat; luckily Lakewood Ranch has international selections for all to enjoy.

Rose (an upscale consignment store) and have lunch at Thai Spice and Sushi. Don't forget the weekly wine tasting events at Cheers to Wine!

Further north, along Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, there are shops and eateries galore. Lakewood Walk is home to Truman's Tap and Grill, as well as Mojo's Real Cuban. The Granary serves breakfast and lunch; stop by Crowder's Gifts and Gadgets afterward for some fun shopping! Wolves Head Pizza and Wings and the Acapulco Mexican Restaurant are both near State Road 64, along with a yoga studio and hair and nail salons.

Feeling a little more energetic? The Ancient Oak Gun Club—a sporting clays club—is located off of State Road 64 East. There are 24 shooting stations on two separate courses, which are operated by a wireless, radio-controlled launching system that also offers a delay for the individual shooter and a five-stand for shotgun shooting enthusiasts.

## LIFE AFTER POLO

The club is open to the public, and all ages and skill levels are welcome. Groups are welcome to hold events, also! Call 941.745.5900 for details.

The Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch hosts a wealth of sports tournaments, camps, clinics, and community events, including the soccer-focused Nike Friendlies and the annual Labor Day Showcase; seasonal pumpkin and snow fests, and “color” and “inflatable” runs.

Participant experiences have been greatly enhanced this year as the Campus has added bleacher seating, bathrooms, concessions, and a Lakewood Ranch information center. There are also monthly “Movies on the Green,” usually scheduled for the last Friday of the month. Admission is free, with only a \$5 parking charge. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the movies start at 8. The outdoor, family-friendly film event features a kids’ zone, food vendors, and sponsor booths. Bring your chairs and blankets!

Perhaps you would like to throw your own party? The Sarasota Polo Club, as well as the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club, are available to host everything from meetings to full-scale galas. You don’t even have to be a member! Call 941.907.000 for the Polo Club and 941.907.4700 for the Golf and Country Club for more information.

One of the great things about Lakewood Ranch is its proximity to an incredible array of dining, shopping and cultural activities in the Sarasota and Manatee County area.

A brief drive west of Interstate-75 leads to Sarasota County’s bounty of performing arts venues, galleries, museums, and opera and ballet companies. The Ringling museum houses permanent collections from the Rubens Galleries to Turrell Skyspace, as well as rotating contemporary exhibits. The adjacent Circus Museum captures the spirit of the “Greatest

Show on Earth” with, among other things, a 44,000 piece circus model. Take the Private Places tour at the Ca’ d’Zan (the former lavish residence of John and Mable Ringling) and walk the Venetian Gothic palace’s hidden passageways.

The Historic Asolo Theater, site of the Asolo Repertory Theatre, is a stroll across Bay Shore Road from the museum. A tad further south on North Tamiami Trail is the Van Wezel



Ancient Oak Gun Club in Lakewood Ranch is open to the public and welcomes men, women and children of all ages and all levels of shooters — even the most novice!

Performing Arts Hall, a signature purple venue that showcases concerts and musicals.

There are the Sarasota Opera, the Sarasota Orchestra, the Sarasota Ballet and Fuzion Dance Artists for lovers of the symphony, song and dance. For more stage shows, book a reservation at Florida Studio Theatre, the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe or McCurdy’s Comedy Theatre.

The Players Theatre, the oldest community theatre in Sarasota and second oldest in Florida, recently announced plans to sell its existing building and property and move to



Ca' d'Zan

# Local history



Village of the Arts

One of the great things about Lakewood Ranch is its proximity to an incredible array of dining, shopping and cultural activities in the Sarasota and Manatee County area.

Lakewood Ranch. They will be the arts and entertainment piece in the Ranch's Waterside Place, located in the Sarasota County side of Lakewood Ranch ... something to look forward to in a few years, but for now, you can still enjoy them in Sarasota!

Cinephiles, catch a low-budget documentary at the annual Sarasota Film Festival in the spring. The Ringling International Arts Festival presents a weeklong extravaganza of visual and performing arts every fall.

Bradenton has the Manatee Performing Arts Center and an award-winning Manatee Players troupe. Close to the venue is the South Florida Museum, home to the oldest manatee in captivity (68-year-old Snooty), an all-digital Bishop Planetarium and a 60,000-gallon manatee aquarium. The first Saturday of most months is family night with half-price admission.



Van Wezel

## LIFE AFTER POLO

Jam with live bands and vendors along Old Main Street in Bradenton during “Main Street Live!” (visit [realizebradenton.com](http://realizebradenton.com) for dates). The Downtown Bradenton Farmers’ Market is held here from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday from October to May. Between Main Street and the Manatee River is the Riverwalk’s skate park, fishing pier, day dock and splash fountain.

Spend a day wandering Bradenton’s Village of the Arts, an eclectic live-and-work community made up of colorful historic cottages that house restaurants, specialty food shops, multi-media art studios, and galleries. The Village’s popular artwalks are held the first Friday night and Saturday afternoon of every month, and feature live music, food, and “unique indie art spanning every genre.”

The annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival is held for two days in February and gives a unique perspective on the past, present and future of Florida’s commercial seafood industry. The event, which features art, vendors, and incredible seafood dishes, raises funds to preserve local mangrove wetlands to ensure and protect a healthy fish and wildlife population, and draws well over 20,000 participants.

Head a little bit further, out to Anna Maria Island, and enjoy the Beach Bistro’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade; Spring Fest, a celebration of local arts and artists, with live music and fabulous food vendors; or Food and Wine on Pine, a foodie event offering selections from the area’s best restaurants with great wine selections and live music. Celebrate the summer with two public fireworks displays, and welcome the fall with Bay Fest, the Anna Maria Island Fall Festival, or the Cortez Stone Crab Festival.

So, yes, it’s true ... when the ponies are put away, you can still play! **SPC**

# TO DO after polo

## Lakewood Ranch Main Street RESTAURANTS

### Craft Growlers To Go & Tasting Room

941.822.8131 / [craftgrowlerstogo.com](http://craftgrowlerstogo.com)

### Big Olaf Creamery

941.907.0151 / [bigolafldr.com](http://bigolafldr.com)

### Casa Maya

941.538.6350 / [casamayalwr.com](http://casamayalwr.com)

### Ed’s Tavern

941.907.0400 / [edstavernlwr.com](http://edstavernlwr.com)

### Fast N Fresh

941.462.2650 / [eatfastnfresh.com](http://eatfastnfresh.com)

### Hana Sushi

941.907.1290 / [jpanrestaurant.com](http://jpanrestaurant.com)

### MacAllisters Grill & Tavern

941.359.2424 / [macallisters.com](http://macallisters.com)

### Main Street Trattoria

941.907.1518 / [mstrattoria.com](http://mstrattoria.com)

### Nancy’s Bar-B-Q

941.362.2833 / [nancysbarbq.com](http://nancysbarbq.com)

### Paris Bistrot

941.388.0564 / [bistrofl.com](http://bistrofl.com)

### Pastries by Design

941.907.8222 / [pastriesbydesign.com](http://pastriesbydesign.com)

### Pinchers Crab Shack

941.922.1515 / [pinchersusa.com](http://pinchersusa.com)

### Polo Grill & Bar

941.782.0899 / [pologrillandbar.com](http://pologrillandbar.com)

### Starbucks

941.373.1970 / [starbucks.com](http://starbucks.com)

### Station 400

941.907.0648 / [station400.com](http://station400.com)

## Lakewood Ranch Area RESTAURANTS

### Acapulco Mexican Restaurant

941.708.3308 / [acapulcofl.com](http://acapulcofl.com)

### Alamo Steakhouse and Grill

941.782.4422 / [hllr.com](http://hllr.com)

### Country Pancake House

941.361.1117 / [countrypancakehouse.net](http://countrypancakehouse.net)

### First Watch

941.907.6657 / [firstwatch.com](http://firstwatch.com)

### The Granary

941.746.2000 / [thegranarylwr.com](http://thegranarylwr.com)

### Lucky Pelican

941.907.0589 / [luckypelicanbistro.com](http://luckypelicanbistro.com)

### Mojo’s Real Cuban

941.756.0467 / [mojoscuban.com](http://mojoscuban.com)

### Thai Spice and Sushi

941.907.4747 / [thaispiceoflake-woodranch.com](http://thaispiceoflake-woodranch.com)

### Truman’s Tap and Grill

941.755.1800 / [trumanstap.com](http://trumanstap.com)

### Wolves Head Pizza and Wings

941.251.4028 / [wolvesheadpizza.com](http://wolvesheadpizza.com)

## Lakewood Ranch Main Street SHOPPING

### Knot Awl Beads

941.907.8335 / [knotawlbeads.com](http://knotawlbeads.com)

### Main Street Bazaar

941.907.3456

### Naples Soap Company

941.907.0870 / [naplessoap.com](http://naplessoap.com)

### Unleashed for Pets

941.907.2999 / [unleashedforpets.com](http://unleashedforpets.com)

### Vanessa Fine Jewelry

941.373.6311 / [vanessafinejewelry.com](http://vanessafinejewelry.com)

### Village Bikes

941.388.0550 / [villagebikes.com](http://villagebikes.com)

### White Rose Interiors

941.907.6868

### Wish on Main

941.907.9125 / [wishonmainstreet.com](http://wishonmainstreet.com)

## Lakewood Ranch Area SHOPPING

### 2nd Ann Rose

941.893-5959 / [2ndannrose.com](http://2ndannrose.com)

### Cheers to Wine

941.306.5804 / [cheers-to-wine.com](http://cheers-to-wine.com)

### Crowder’s Gifts and Gadgets

941.744-2442 / [crowdersgifts.com](http://crowdersgifts.com)

### Fifi’s Fine Resale Apparel and Furniture

941.907.8900 / [fifislakewoodranch.com](http://fifislakewoodranch.com)

### Lakewood Ranch Florist

941.328.8758 / [lakewoodranchfloristinc.com](http://lakewoodranchfloristinc.com)

### Woof Gang Bakery and Grooming

941.907.9111 / [woofgangbakerylwr.com](http://woofgangbakerylwr.com)

# TO DO *after polo*

## LIFE AFTER POLO

### Lakewood Ranch Main Street SERVICES

**Ana Molinari Salon**  
941.373.3900 / anamolinari.com

**Athletic Edge**  
941.907.2288 / athleticedgesports.com

**Barbary Shoppe**  
941.907.6068 / barbaryshoppe.com

**Barre 3**  
941.800.1333 / barre3.com

**In Focus Family Eye Care**  
941.362.2020 / infocusfamilyeyecare.com

### Lakewood Ranch Area SERVICES

**Che Bella Salon & Spa**  
941.907.2674 / chebellasalonspa.com

**DT Nails**  
941.907-2073

**Yoga Body & Soul**  
941.400.3106 / yogabodysoul.net

### Lakewood Ranch Main Street ENTERTAINMENT

**Arts A Blaze Studio**  
941.306.5840 / artsablazestudio.com

**The Fish Hole**  
941.306.5891 / thefishhole.com

**Lakewood Ranch Cinemas**  
941.955.3456 / flmsociety.org

**Let's Create Art**  
941.907.8183 /  
beyonddancingsarasota.com

### Lakewood Ranch Area ENTERTAINMENT

**Ancient Oak Gun Club**  
941.745.5900 / ancientoakgunclub.com

**Beyond Dancing**  
941.361.1491 / artlwr.com

**Jumpin' Fun Trampoline Park**  
941.388-5867 / jumpinfunsports.com

**Premier Sports Campus**  
941.757.1582 /  
premier sports campus.com

### Just Beyond Lakewood Ranch ENTERTAINMENT

**Asolo Theater**  
941.351.8000 / asolorep.org

**Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival**  
941.254.4972 / cortezfish.org.org

**Florida Studio Theatre**  
941.366.9000 / floridastudiotheatre.org

**Fuzion Dance Artists/  
Sarasota Contemporary Dance**  
941.345.5755 /  
sarasotacontemporarydance.org

**Historic Asolo Theater**  
941.351.9010 / asolorep.org

**John and Mable Ringling  
Museum of Art**  
941.359.5700 / ringling.org

**Manatee Performing  
Arts Center**  
941.748.5875 /  
manateeperformingartscenter.com

**McCurdy's Comedy Theatre**  
941.925.3869 / mcurdyscomedy.com

**Ringling International  
Arts Festival**  
941.359-5700 / ringling.org

**Sarasota Ballet**  
941.359.0099 / sarasotaballet.org

**Sarasota Film Festival**  
941.364.9514 / sarasotafilmmfestival.com

**Sarasota Opera**  
941.366.8450 / sarasotaopera.org

**Sarasota Orchestra**  
941.953.3434 / sarasotaorchestra.org

**South Florida Museum**  
941.746.4131 / southfloridamuseum.org

**The Players Theatre**  
941.365.2494 / theplayerstheater.org

**Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall**  
941.955.7676 / vanwezwezel.org

**Village of the Arts**  
941.941.747.8056 / villageofthearts.com

**Westcoast Black Theatre  
Troupe**  
941.366.1505 /  
westcoastblacktheatre.org

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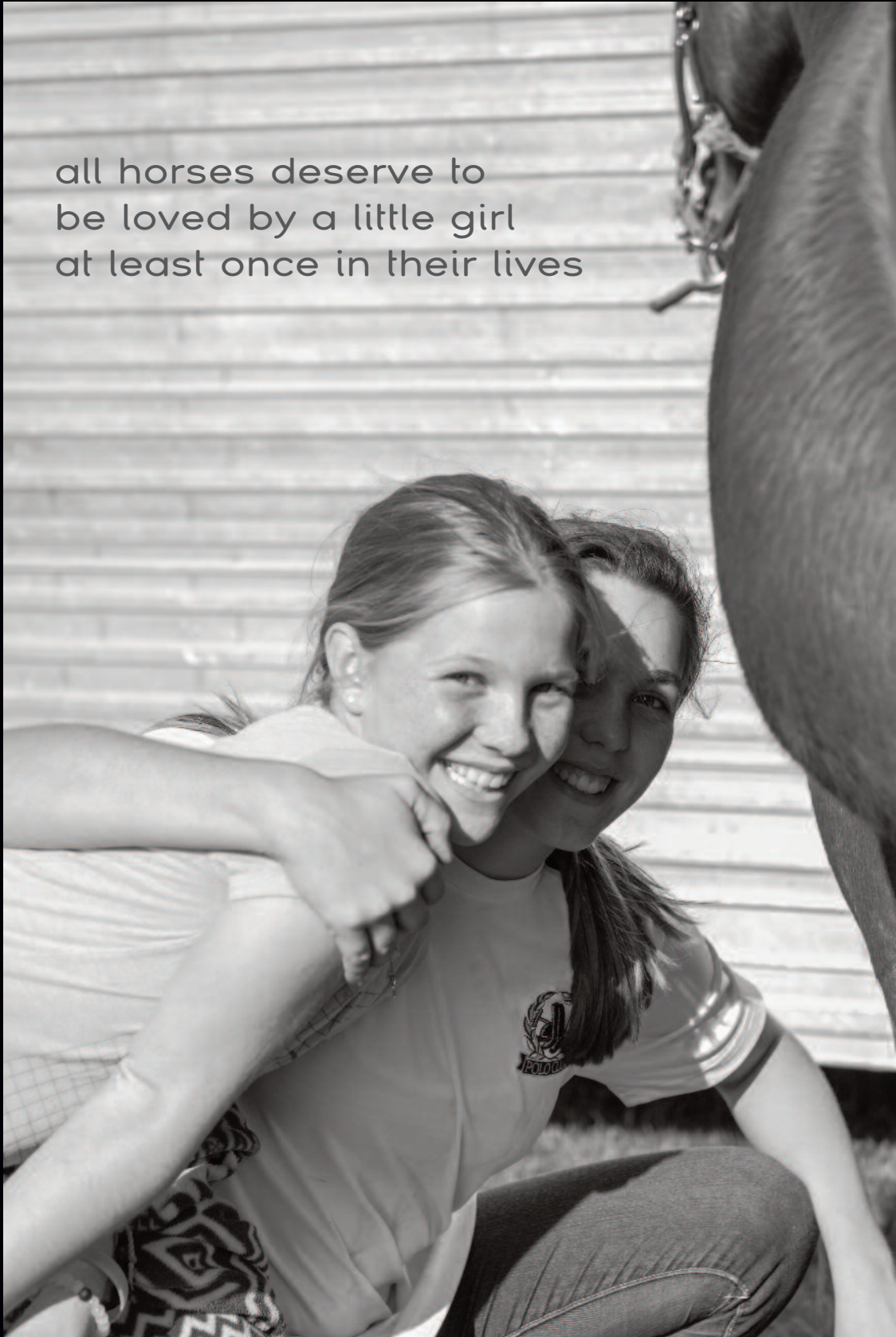
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at least once in their lives



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC NALPAS

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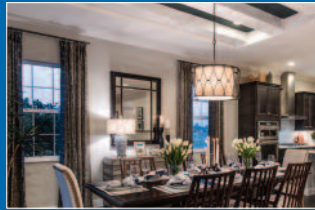
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