



## Welcome to the PTF Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2014

We hope you enjoy this first issue of the PTF Quarterly Newsletter. Founded in 1967 to help grow the sport of polo with an emphasis on youth, the PTF continues this mission through its many projects:

- Scholarships for Intercollegiate Polo Players
- Clinics for young and old players
- Santa Barbara summer polo camp
- Virginia Polo Center summer high school clinic and tournament
- Florida Junior and Youth Polo
- Eldorado Junior Polo
- International Junior Exchanges
- Mack Jason Leadership program to keep Intercollegiate Alumni in polo.
- Intercollegiate, Interscholastic, Umpire, and Volunteer recognition awards
- Polo lessons at PTF owned Hickox Fields, Old Westbury, NY (tentative)

The PTF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that sincerely appreciates the support from the polo community that enables these great projects.



Future ten goalers Matias Gonzalez and Mariano "Peke" Gonzalez

### Upcoming Events

- Feb 17 Avendano Memorial Junior Tourn.
- Feb 21 PTF Youth Tournament, FL
- Mar 14 PTF fundraiser Eldorado/Empire Polo Clubs Tentative
- Mar 17 Buzz Welker Memorial Junior Tourn. @ Grand Champions (15 & under)
- Mar 21 PTF Youth Tournament @ IPC (ages 16-21)
- Apr 1-2 Polo College Fair @ Patagones Polo Club
- Apr 18 Finals PTF Junior (including Youth) Championship Tournament
- Apr 18 PTF Junior & Youth Awards Banquet & fundraiser – IPC Mallet Grille (see last pg)
- Aug 7-9 Univ. Va. Interscholastic Clinic and Tourn.
- May-Sep Pony Club, 4-H, and other youth clinics



Eldorado Polo Club - Joe Barry Memorial Tournament



## Youth Compete in New Zealand

### Youth Team spends Thanksgiving break competing and sight-seeing in NZ

*Danny Scheraga*

The Polo Training Foundation partially sponsored an American team of five high school players to compete in the Christchurch area on the South Island of New Zealand during the Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 23 – Dec. 2, 2013. Players were selected from a list of sportsmanship and most improved player award winners at tournaments throughout the United States. Colton Bancroft - Rancho Santa Fe, CA, Matias Gonzalez - Wellington, FL, Ian Mactaggart - Millbrook, NY, Jack McLean - Sewickly, PA, and Hank Uretz - La Quinta, CA were the five players. Danny and Janet Scheraga and Hank's mother Claudia Uretz accompanied them.



**Janet & Danny Scheraga with Jack McLean, Colton Bancroft, Ian MacTaggart, Hank Uretz, Matias Gonzalez and Claudia Uretz**

Our schedule included matches with Christ's College (tied score), Rangī Ruru Girls School (our win) and St. Andrew's College (tied score). Horses were supplied by the families of players from teams we were not playing that day. Each day the School we played hosted us for the day.

Sunday was the test match of U.S.A. vs New Zealand. The match began with a tribe of Maori's performing the Haka, a traditional dance used to intimidate the opposition. Although the boys played well and put up a valiant effort, it was team New Zealand's day.

Our New Zealand hosts put out a tremendous effort in entertaining us, treating us like royalty, and fulfilling all our needs. On Monday we headed home having met many new friends from both countries.

## Eldorado Jr. Polo

*Jane Isquith*

The Junior and Pee-Wee Polo season at Eldorado Polo Club is in full swing! Bright and early every Saturday and Sunday morning, kids and parents show up for practice chukkers on the prestigious Cantina Field at the Eldorado Polo club for some instruction and lots of fun.

Mike Jordan is the faithful head instructor and is joined by a guest instructor, often a member of Team USPA, such as Eldorado 12-goal players Jared Sheldon and Jesse Bray. For junior players that are a little more experienced, they join the instructors for chukkers focusing on learning smart polo plays. In the Pee-Wee group, leadliners and new players work on developing their swing and learning good horsemanship.

The first tournament of the junior polo season was the Joe Barry Memorial Junior Tournament that took place January 18-19<sup>th</sup>. With almost 30 participants of all ages ranging from 4-17, it was a fun-filled weekend supplemented by some serious competition! There were two teams in both the Leadline and Intermediate Flights, followed by a very close round robin game between Coldwell Banker, World Gym and Empire teams in the Advanced Flight. After two days of play, World Gym proved victorious, but all teams showed tremendous talent.



**Joe Barry Memorial Junior Polo Tournament**

The next junior tournament is the Fish Creek Junior Tournament and is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. With the continuous support of the PTF as well as all the club members and staff, we hope to continue to grow the program and support the future of polo in our young polo players.



## Florida Junior Polo

### 2013 Major Collins Memorial Clinic & Tournament

December 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 2013, International Polo Club  
*Jennifer McLeavy*

A gorgeous December day in Wellington Florida at the International Polo Club brought 20 kids together for a 2 hour clinic of drills, techniques, scrimmage, and the annual relay race.

After a rest day, the players returned to the International Polo Club, with a total of 36 young players to compete for the Major Collins Trophy. Four levels starting with the older advanced group at 9am, and concluding with the adorable leadline at 11:30am. Families and friends gathered to congratulate the future players as they received their awards. While the Most Valuable Player awards went to River Blake, Alyssa Tranchilla and Nicolas Escobar, the Best Playing Pony awards went to Gigi Fenner, Pelham Hardie's mount, and Benjamin Avendano's "Poncho."



Mackenzie Weisz, Jack McLean, Nicolas Escobar,  
Christian Weisz and Juanse Olivera

Three teams battled in the top tier for the Major Collins Trophy. The Blanco TX team of Benjamin and Joaquin Avendano, Cipriano Echezarreta and Chase Schwartz was victorious!

A special thank you to the IPC for the world class fields and to our Coaches and Umpires: Brandon Phillips, Wesley Bryan, Marissa Wells, Ulysses Escapite, Pelon Escapite, Henry Stevens, Marcos Onetto and Amber Owens.

### 2014 Polo College Fair

On Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Polo Training Foundation and the Patagones Polo Team will be flying in College Polo Coaches from the top Polo Colleges and hosting the first ever Polo College Fair.

On Tuesday evening, the Coaches will give a lecture at the International Polo Club's Library, as part of IPC's Lecture Series. On Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Patagones Polo Club will host chukkers for Sophomores and Juniors, followed by a Polo College Fair. At the College Fair, the Coaches will be available to answer questions about their colleges, their polo teams, and the Polo College lifestyle.

### 2014 PTF Junior Polo Championship

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the International Polo Club in Wellington, Florida will host the final of the inaugural PTF Junior Polo Championship. The championship, for 21 years of age and under, will be played on grass, with 4 chukker games, in single elimination format, with two tiers: 0-6 goal and 6-12 goal. Both tiers will be played on the flat, just like the US Open. If you're in town to watch the US Open finals on Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>, make sure you don't miss this exciting event, showcasing the future talent of polo!!



*Wishing Christian a fast and speedy recovery after breaking his leg during a fall at the Joanna Monaco Tournament.*



## The Polo Training Foundation

*Cordially invites you to*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual*

# The PTF Polo Party

*Dinner, Dancing & Open Bar*

*@ The Mallet Grille  
Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2014  
7pm*

**COCKTAIL ATTIRE**  
**RSVP (888)783-7656**  
**[FLORIDAJRPOLO@YAHOO.COM](mailto:FLORIDAJRPOLO@YAHOO.COM)**

**\$200 PER PERSON**  
**\$165 JUNIOR TICKET**  
**\$225 TICKET AT THE DOOR**  
**(\$100 OF EACH TICKET IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)**



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Email us at [sterise@polotraining.org](mailto:sterise@polotraining.org) to receive the next issue of the PTF Newsletter via email.