

THE MORNING LINE

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014

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Where's Polo Today?

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PETER BRANT & MARIANO AGUERRE TEAMMATES FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS, STILL GOING STRONG

Remember when golfer Ernie Els won his second Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes in 2012, his celebrated achievement, apart from winning his second Open Championship (2002 at Muirfield) and his fourth Major Championship, was that he had won at least one major in each decade over the span of 3 decades (Ernie won his first, the US Open, in 1994 at Oakmont and his second US Open in 1997 at Congressional.)

In Polo, White Birch teammates Peter Brant and Mariano Aguerre have achieved something probably very unique in the history of game, they have played and won at the top level for the past 28 years together in every decade over a span of 4 decades.

It started back in 1986 when 17 year old Mariano Aguerre arrived in Greenwich, brought in by the late Hector Barrantes. Mariano was at the beginning of his career,

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Peter Brant, Mariano Aguerre, Hilario Ulloa and Matias Sosa winning the USPA Monty Waterbury for White Birch in August.

POLO RETURNS TO RETAMA

Polo returned to Retama in a small way this summer when Texas Military Polo Club conducted an "Introduction to Polo" clinic and lesson at Retama Equestrian Center on Sunday 15 June and Sunday 27 July. These events were held in Retama's regulation sized covered arena, which had been built when Retama was the center of polo in the United States.

The June clinic was attended by a great group of enthusiastic riders from Retama Equestrian Center – Renee Lopez, Karin Brown, Bridget Brownfield, Erin Bell, Sydney Fedesna, and Hannah Brehm, with many of them riding their own horses. Joining them were Texas Military club members Brad Henderson,

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July Retama Polo Lessons Group

SCHEDULE & RESULTS

ML Polo Update - Sunday, September 7, 2014 - AM

Polo at Glance

Today at Greenwich, USPA Royal Salute Jubilee Cup, match at 3pm.

USPA Royal Salute Jubilee Cup, Sunday Sept. 7 at 3pm

Royal Salute 27

- Naco Taverna 6
- Facundo Pieres 10
- Mariano Aguerre 9
- Peter Brant 2

vs.

Casablanca 24

- Joaquin Panelo 4
- Kris Kampsen 6
- Hilario Ulloa 9
- Nick Manifold 5

Mashomack - Interclub 12 goal Cup. Two games today Sunday.

Houston Polo Club kicks off its **Fall 2014 Season** with the **Red Oak Cup 8 goal.** One game today.

In Chantilly, France, start of the **European Championship** yesterday through **September 14.** Yesterday Ireland defeated Spain 6-4 to complete the first round.

Two games today, Italy plays the Netherlands and France plays Germany. The semifinals are Friday the 12th, the final is Sunday 14.

To view the rosters, go to:
http://www.poloclubchantilly.com/images/stories/fichiers_joints/352_CE2014.pdf

Standings

Bracket I

- Italy 1-0
- France 1-0
- Germany 0-1
- The Netherlands 0-1

Bracket II

- England 1-0
- Ireland 1-0
- Austria 0-1
- Spain 0-1

Clubs - Schedule and Results

Southampton Hunt & Polo Club - Southampton Cup - 8 Goal

- Sun 17 VanLith def. Certified 8-6
- Thurs 21 Equuleus def. VanLith/La Magnolia 12-11
- Thurs 28 Black Knights def. Certified 11-7
- Sun 31 Equuleus def. "101" 10-9
- Mon 1 Black Knights def. 101 11-7
- Top 4 teams advance to semifinals
- Sun 7 Semifinals
- Sun 14 Final

Your Fall Season in Central Florida

6 Goal - Two Week Tournament
 October 17th - 26th

Women's Championship Tournament
 October 31st - November 2nd

8 Goal - Two Week Tournament
 November 7th - 16th

International Polo Week
 November 21st - 23rd

Family Feud
 November 28th - 30th

6 Goal - Two Week Tournament
 December 5th - 14th



Contact Paige Boone at

352-750-POLO

www.TheVillagesPoloClub.com



5 teams

Van Lith/La Magnila 8 // 1-1

- Stefano Natella 0
- Mark VanLith 1
- Francisco Ayala 4
- Nicholas Millan 3

Certified 8 // 0-2

- Ricky Merhad 0
- Michael Borrico 1
- Kris Kampsen 6
- TBA 1

Black Knights 8 // 2-0

- Carlos Rohm 0
- Omer Karabey 0
- Tommy Biddle 6
- Marcos Alberdi 2

Equuleus 8 // 2-0

- Danny Tagliaferro 1
- Joe DiMenna 0
- Martin Pepa 5
- Hugo Tagliaferro* 2

"101" 8 // 0-2

- Michael Ashkenazy 0
- Mikey Matz 3
- Hugo Lloret 4
- Robert Neis 1

Southampton Hunt & Polo Club - Fall League 4 Goal

- Sat 16 La Magnolia def. Certified 7-6
- Tues 19 "101" def. VanLith 6-4
- Fri 22 Equuleus defeated Aliano/Black Knights 8-6
- Sun 24 Kelpies def. Value Holdings 7-6
- Sat 30 Aliano/Black Knights def. Certified 8-5
- La Magnolia def. Equuleus 7-6
- Mon 1 Kelpies def. VanLith 6-4
- tba Value Holdings vs. VanLith



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tba Kelpies def. "101"
Sat 6 11:30am Black Knights vs. La Magnolia

Sat 13 11:30am Certified vs. Equuleus
1:00pm "101" vs. Value Holdings

Sat 20 1:00pm Final

Bracket A (4 teams)

Aliano/Black Knights 4 // 1-1

Omer Karabey 0
Gonzalo Moccoorra 0
Felipe Viana 4
Nick Aliano 0

Certified 2+ // 0-2

Ricky Mershad 0
Michael Borrigo 1
Robert Ceparano 1
tba

Equuleus 4 // 1-1

Matthieu Bordeaux Groult 1
Joe DiMenna 0
Hugo Tagliaferro 2
Danny Tagliaferro 1

La Magnolia 4 // 2-0

Ali Bailey 1
Stefano Natella 0
Francisco Ayala 4
Frederico Infantino -1

Bracket B (4 teams)

Value Holdings 4 // 0-1

Laura Newcomb 0
Alan Mitchell -1
H. Lloret 4
Rob Neis 1

Van Lith Ranch 4 // 0-2

Mark VanLith 1
Chris Briere 1
Nicholas Millan 3
Keith Hart -1

"101" 4 // 1-0

Jed Cogan -1
Michael Matz 3
Tomas Alberdi 2
Michael Ashkenazy 0

Kelpies 4 // 2-0

I Lopez Gaffney Jr -1
I. Lopez Gaffney 0
Martin Pepa 5
Alberto Bengolia 0

Mashomack Polo Club - Interclub 12 goal - 4 teams

Fri 5 Hawk Hill def. Smithfield 12-8
Sun 7 10am Hawk Hill vs Gardenvale
12pm Heathcote vs Smithfield
Fri 12 3pm Gardenvale vs Heathcote.
Sun 14 12pm Smithfield vs Gardenvale
2pm Heathcote vs Hawk Hill
Fri 19 5pm Final (best 2 records)
Sat 20 11 am consolation match for 3rd vs 4th

Single Bracket (4 teams)

Smithfield 11 // 0-1

Craig Callen 0
Julio Ezcurra 4
Tommy Biddle 6
John Klopp 1

Gardenvale 12 //

Shane Finemore 0
Jared Sheldon 3
Ezequiel Zubiaurre 4
Cholo Donovan 5

Hawk Hill 12 // 1-0

Philip Mactaggart 0
Sterling Giannico 3

Gringo Colombres 6
Mariano Gracida 3

Heathcote 12 //

Oak Thorne 0
Bautista Panzillo 0
Francisco Lanusse 6
Tatin Zubiaurre 6

Houston Polo Club - Red Oak Cup 8 goal.

Sun 7 Game 1 7 Bar W/Pegasus vs Cinco Canyon
Game 2 Team Tejas vs Listo Polo
Tues 9 Game 3 Lantic Bay vs Propaganda
Game 4 Lockton/Chandler Ranch vs Ghurka
Thurs 11 Semifinals Bracket I Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2
Consolation Bracket 1 Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2
Sun 14 Semifinals Bracket II Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 4
Consolation Bracket 2 Loser Game 3 vs Loser Game 4
Tues 16 Final Winner Bracket 1 vs Winner Bracket 2
Consolation Final Bracket 1 vs Bracket 2

Single Elimination (8 teams)

Bracket I (first game winners play each other in the semifinal)

7 Bar W / Pegasus 8

Jeff Wood 0
David Andras 1
Robert Orthwein 3
Mason Wroe 4

vs.

Cinco Canyon 8

David Marks 0 / Brooks Diesel 0
Agustin Arellano 1
Bryan Middleton 3
Nicolai Galindo 4

Team Tejas 8

Charles Fridge 0
Chad Bowman 1
Billy Mudra 3
Joe Wayne Barry 4

vs.

Listo Polo 8

Kelly Plato 0
George Krabbe 1
Ignacio Saenz 3
Francisco Rodriguez Mera 4T

Bracket II (first game winners play each other in the semifinal)

Lantic Bay 6

Tom Earl -1
Remy Muller 2
Peter Blake 2
*Jared Sheldon 3
*TBA sub to play 1st tournament

vs.

Propaganda 8

Jenny Vargas 0
Paul Hobby 1
Nick Cifuni 3
Charly Quincoes 4

Lockton / Chandler Ranch 8/7

Tim Kelly 0 / Joe Chandler -1
Peter Von Gontard 2
Hernan Tejera 3
Hamish Bray 3

vs.

Ghurka 8

Fox Benton 0
Drew Luplow 1
Stewart Armstrong 3
Chris Nevins 4

FALL POLO IN PALM BEACH? YES!

Register your team for the finest fall season medium and high goal polo at our turn-key facility.

TOURNAMENT DATES

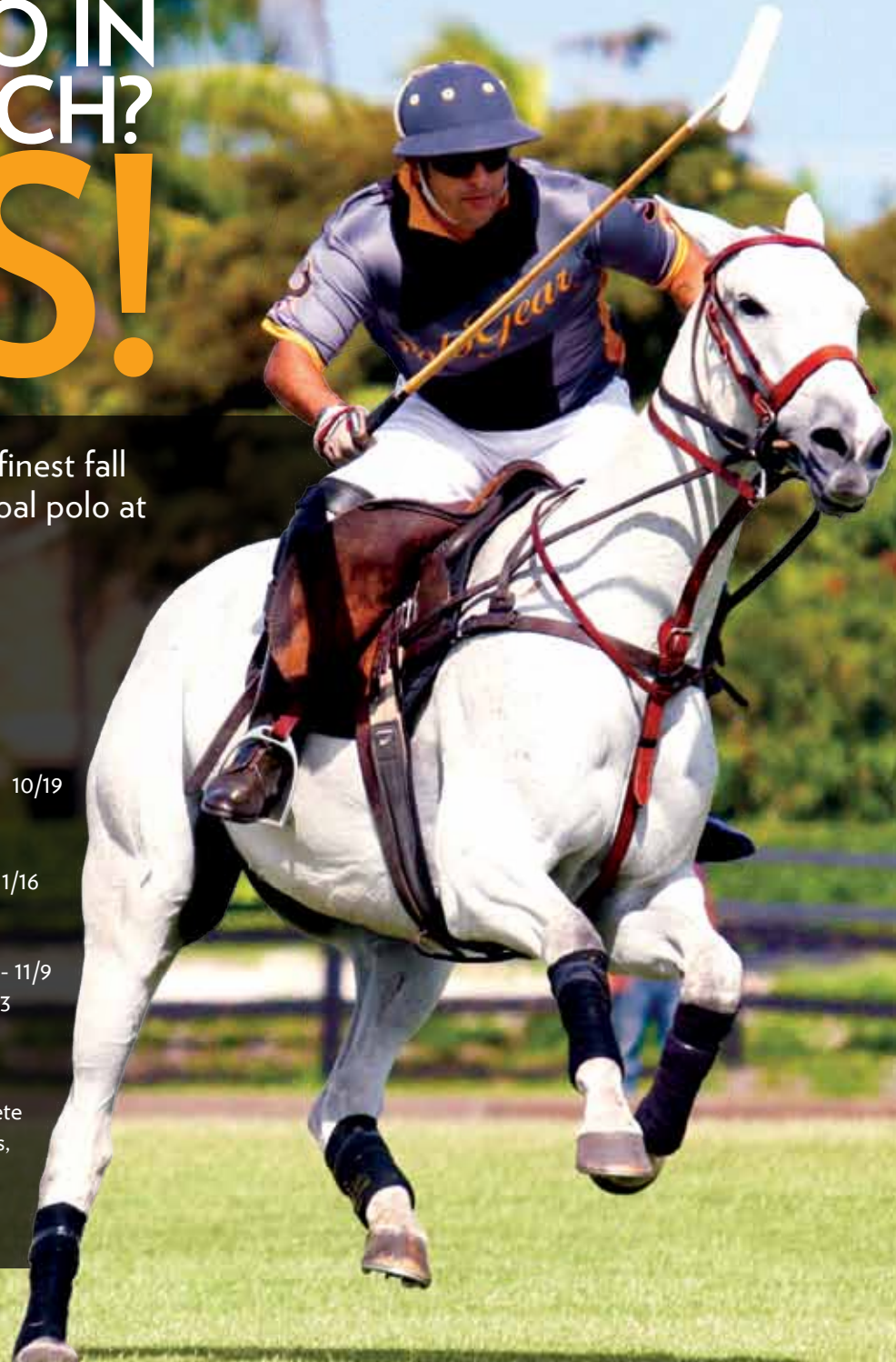
MEDIUM GOAL

- The Tackeria Invitational: 10/1 - 10/5
- The US Trust Cup: 10/7 - 10/12
- The USPA Kay Colee Memorial: 10/14 - 10/19
- The USPA Fall Classic: 10/21- 10/26
- The USPA Fall Plates: 10/28 - 11/2
- The Pedro Morrison Memorial: 10/30 - 11/16

HIGH GOAL

- The USPA North American Cup: 10/28 - 11/9
- The USPA National 20 Goal: 11/11 - 11/23
- The 2014 International Cup: 11/29

Our expert staff can customize a complete playing experience including horses, pros, two tournament ready fields and USPA certified umpires.



Call or email our Professional Staff to make arrangements for the 2014 Fall Season
Juan Olivera (Polo Manager)
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FROM THE COVER

INTERVIEW WITH PETER BRANT

as a polo player, Peter Brant was already a seasoned player having led his White Birch team to great tournament wins in Palm Beach, Greenwich and Saratoga with great players such as Gonzalo, Alfonso and Paul Pieres, Hector Barrantes and several others.

Peter won his first USPA Gold Cup, then the Rolex Gold Cup in 1983 at Palm Beach Polo, winning with the three Pieres Brothers. He would get two more in 1984 (with Alex Farrell, Gonzalo and Alfonso) and 1986 (Dana Fortugno, Alfonso and Gonzalo Pieres, and Juan Bollini) and finally his first *Major* tournament with Mariano Aguerre, the same Rolex Gold Cup also with Alfonso and Gonzalo.

But already Mariano's handicap had jumped up so White Birch won the Gold in 1988 with Mark Egloff taking Mariano's #1 spot, and again in 1989 with Todd Offen at #1, Mariano Aguerre at #2, Gonzalo and Peter.

Very early in his career Mariano developed a keep sense of the game of polo and on one occasion he outplayed the late Carlos Gracida, then at the height of his great career. It was in 1989 in Greenwich in the Fall in a 26 goal match, Carlos Gracida was making his debut with Rolex. Mariano, still #2 to Gonzalo Pieres, was running with the ball and hit an approach shot maybe 50 yards ahead of himself, in the middle of the field. In the shot process, Mariano broke the head of his mallet that went flying. There was a moment of uncertainty, Carlos Gracida galloping on the side of the ball elected to come across and steal the ball, now apparently loose. With a quick assessment of the play, Mariano stayed on the line at great speed, forcing the crossing foul on a bemused Carlos.

When Gonzalo Pieres joined Ellerson in the early 90's, Mariano Aguerre became the leader of the team. Asked about the transition back then, Peter Brant said: "It took a little time to do it, but we did pretty well there for kind of 3/4 years in a row when I was playing in Florida. We won the Gold Cup three years in a row (1996-97-98), won the US Open (2005)."

Revlon, Cellular One and Michelob were the strong teams in the early 90's, Peter and Mariano knocking twice on the US Open door in 1994 and 1995 (then with Bautista Heguy as #2), twice losing in the final to a team led by Memo Gracida (Aspen, then Outback), and between those two years, Peter and Mariano had a chance to measure up to their former teammate and mentor Gonzalo Pieres, losing in the final of the

Rolex Gold Cup in 1995 in overtime, after a fantastic game that had Red Armour, Bautista Heguy and Adolfo Cambiaso in the mix.

We had a conversation this week with Peter Brant, fresh from his four wins in the Spring/Summer Season in Greenwich. "Yes, we were very successful this season," Peter said, "I had a really good team [Matias Sosa 0, Hilario Ulloa 9, Mariano Aguerre 9 and Peter Brant 2], everybody played well, it was good."

On putting together successful teams, Peter had this to say: "What we try to do is balance the team, to have a strong balance, and sometimes we kind of stayed away from teams, except in Palm Beach, with two very high goal players in the center, but now it's possible with a 20 goal team playing at Bridgehampton or Greenwich to find a player playing #1 that is low goal. It works well when you have two really great players, but normally if one of them is weaker you would be better off with a more balanced team of having a sort of 6 in the middle with Mariano and have a 3 forward."

Q. That what you did all these years with Jeff Blake and Nacho Figueras?
"Yes, that is what we were doing then, but we haven't had a season like this one, this is one of the very best seasons we've ever had in the White Birch history, as far as the Summer program is concerned. I don't know if we've ever won all four tournaments. When we were in Saratoga maybe, one year we won those tournament along the ones we won in Greenwich in the 80's but not until this year, that's a very hard thing to do."

"Great Horses" has really been the trademark of White Birch. We asked Peter Brant about providing horses for the team and what has changed over the years if anything?

"Yes, it's true, we do do that, but I think today it's changed in a sense that all the players have very good horses because they all pretty much mounting themselves. In the old days when I began playing, and for many years, an Argentinian player would say: "Ok, I'll come and play with you, you have to buy 6 horses from me, and they would basically send two really good horses and four donkeys. That's basically the way they did it, they would give two good horses and the balance would be in very inexpensive horses so they would be able to keep some of the

money as their salaries. So today, what a lot of them are doing is offering their talent as a polo player plus the fact that they are mounted well, because they all want to improve their handicap, and they all want to stay very high, and the best way for them to do that is really to develop their own horses, and keep their own horses, that way they'll keep their handicap for longer periods of time."

Q. How was Ulloa mounted this Summer?

"He rode some of our horses, but he had some of his own. He rode some of the horses that we mount Mariano with, Mariano has got more than 6 horses, we generally do that, but we don't keep as many horses up as we used to. We used to have in the 90's many, many horses, but I just found that the players concentrate on mounting themselves, bring them up and keep them in really good condition, so what we do now is get a player that has some horses and then we supplement where they are weak with some of ours."

Q. How do you pick the horses?
"What we try to do is, a horse comes for sale or a horse bred by us down there by Mariano, and then what happens is we decide who the player would be that most suit the horse, because one of the problems in polo is that people try to buy horses but they don't understand there are certain horses suited for positions. What might be great for a back might be terrible for a one, and one that might be great for a back might be terrible for a three. It's a certain kind of horse that makes a player, in other words you should have different types of horses on the team that have different skills. A big horse that bumps well, rides off well, and checks very well is the kind of horse you want for a back. A horse that is very bold, that runs in front and moves laterally nicely is what you want for a one. #3 needs a horse that's got everything, power, handy. For two you need a horse that can go the distance, go up and down the field at speed."

Q. Gonzalo Pieres developed many players in his years, and Mariano has picked the trade from him, many young players have played with White Birch, the list would be too long to include here, on their way to great success. What does White Birch do that is special to develop these young players?

"What we do is try to get the player to really be a part of the barn, do their chores and really be part of the life of

the barn, and I guess when they get in there they know what a critical position on the team it is and if they don't perform then they might get sat down and have somebody else have the opportunity because it's a position where you want to give it to someone that's really going to, like you say, *develop*. They have to know going in that it is a position that is uniquely playing on a team that is a high goal team with a lot of experienced players and they have to show more than just going out there being players who are underrated."

Q. How do you attribute the longevity and success of your playing with Mariano all these years, 28 years?

"Well, we are both obviously competitive, we want to win, we try our hardest all the time. [Mariano] is a player that is very conscientious, he is a family guy, he works at it regularly, he prepares for the game well, you know I appreciate that. He is very direct, honest and straight forward. He is like a son, he really is a wonderful person and I know his family, of course, he is married to Gonzalo [Pieres]'s daughter whom I have known since she was 5 or 6 years old, Tati. I used to play with Gonzalo, so it's really family. I have been playing with the Pieres for some 35 years. Gonzalo in his time was the greatest player in the world, and we all certainly learned a lot from him, and the horseman at the time was Hector Barrantes, and me being involved with racing, I understood the horse side very clearly. I was not just coming out playing polo. Involved with the thoroughbred business for many years before I came to play polo, I understood the importance of the horsemanship and the quality of the horses."

Q. What are your polo plans for the future?

"My hip was bothering me, I had a serious hip problem, and I had a hip operation last Winter, so this good season for me is very rewarding because when I got the hip operation it was a scary thing, I thought maybe I would not be able to play anymore. So I'm very pleased I got back into shape, I have lost a lot of weight, it's been a good season. I'm going to play in Palm Beach, not this year, but next year in 2016.

"Mariano has done a great job. Now we have [Hilario] Ulloa, a really good player, he helped us a lot this Summer, he was playing very well, well mounted. He's also a family guy, very good family and a very nice person.

Frederic Roy

POLO RETURNS TO RETAMA

Christine Mayer, Ingrid Mayer, Doug Brunet, Karl Hilberg, Molly Brunet, Julie Hilberg and Carin Gessell. Doug Brunet was the instructor and he started out with introducing the new horses to polo mallets and balls. This was followed by basic instruction to the group on how to hit the ball. Individual instruction with the new players and their horses on hitting and a basic over view and objective of the game followed. The event finished with a walk and trot chukker. From all the laughter it was very obvious that the participants had a great time!

The July follow up polo lesson saw two additional adults join the previous “Group of Six” and two children riding prior to the large group lesson. New additions were Becca Thompson and Areetha Carter; and two future polo stars, Logan Snow and Laurel Snow. The lesson started with a white board session discussing the Line of the Ball and the Right of Way. This was followed by individual instruction on the horse and then 4 vs 5 walk/trot chukker with a number of interruptions to continue the instruction. The lesson was concluded with a walking dribbling drill. Wrapping up this session was a BBQ under the old Retama “Polo Office” sign.

Thanks to Renee for providing the great setting for the two events and we look forward to more fun and polo at Retama. Lessons are conducted monthly at Retama Equine Center by Texas Military Polo Club. Retama Equestrian Center is located at 17530 Old Evans Road, Selma, TX about 18 miles from downtown San Antonio and just a mile off of I-35N. Texas Military Polo Club’s fall season runs from 15 September to 7 December and they offer lessons, by appointment, on Wednesdays and Sundays for more information email –texasmilitarypolo@yahoo.com or follow us at www.facebook.com/texasmilitarypolo.

Karl Hilberg

