

# Off The Racquet

The Official  
Publication  
Of the  
American  
Polocrosse  
Association

The American Polocrosse Association... P.O. Box 158...Bonneau, SC 29431

[www.americanpolocrosse.org](http://www.americanpolocrosse.org)

February 2011

## **President's Letter**

Although we in Texas have been suffering through what we consider to be a miserable cold season, the rest of the country has really been the victim of amazing amounts of snow, snow and more snow. As I read of the efforts made by others to be able to ride (find an indoor arena/shovel enough snow to be able to get the trailer out/drag the horse to the trailer through the snow...) I find myself lowering the volume on my muttered complaints about the chilly wind. Still, with the unusual cold snap two weeks ago, I found myself with frozen pipes (in my house only) for seven of 14 days, and on the day that the weather finally warmed up, the well died; leaving four homes and 56 horses with no water for two days. ARGH. On the plus side, we learned you could buy 20 gallons of water at our local volunteer fire department for 5 cents, it was cheap to fix the well and the worst of winter is past.

As our winter wanes, polocrosse players in the southern states are starting to leg up the horses and are trying out new ones to bring into the game. Training new horses can be a challenge, and some people have had top notch advice on how to bring their horse along. Guy Robertson (World Cup English player) has been in Texas since January, breaking horses and has conducted three weekend training clinics—in Texas, North Carolina, and in Florida—during that time. If you weren't close enough to have him ride your horse in person, an intense weekend of how-to was the next best thing.

Your APA Board has held their first face-to-face meeting of this term and is settling down into the business of running your sport. You can see a listing of the new Board Members below and the newly appointed Committee

## **ELECTION RESULTS:**

We give big thanks to the outgoing Board Members for their time and work on APA projects! Here are the results from Elections 2010. Your new 2011 Board Members are:

Treasurer: Erica Vallee

Board At Large: Liz Pohl and Chuck Younger

Central Zone Representative: Catherine Pickens

Eastern Zone Representative: Wade Liner

## **Kellee Campbell**

Chairs on pages 2 and 16—17 of this OTR.

One of the new ideas that this Board is implementing is the creation of a Horse Welfare Officer for each sanctioned tournament. This official will be responsible for making sure that no horse suffers from sub-standard treatment (either deliberate or through ignorance) while on the tournament grounds. The position has been created to ensure that our animal partners are cared for humanely, both on and off the field. The Tournament Committee will name the individual acting as the Horse Welfare Officer and that person will be guided by a written protocol approved by the Board. A written explanation of the Horse Welfare Officer will be included in tournament registration packets.

Some of you may have been following the on-going discussions about umpiring and the rulebook on the Yahoo site. While the Yahoo site provides an avenue for discussions, it is not designed or intended to be the manner in which an APA member communicates with any of their sport's representatives. Please be aware that your Board Members are always available to hear and respond to your concerns and can be reached at any time through an email sent to [www.apainfo.com](http://www.apainfo.com). Robby Shuttles, your Chief Umpire for 2011, and members of the Umpire Panel are also available to you through the same email contact. None of your elected Board Members or Program Chairs are required to read or respond to posts on the Yahoo site and in fact, the tone of some of the Yahoo posts would be enough to discourage even the most enthusiastic proponent of our sport from entering the email melee.

*Continued, Page 13*



### **The News For You:**

<b>President's Letter</b>	<b>1, 13</b>
<b>Umpire News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Board News</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Admin. News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Program News</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Nationals 2101</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Club News</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Membership Form</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tournament Dates</b>	<b>19</b>

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### Membership Chair

Pending acceptance

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# CHIEF UMPIRE NEWS

Several years ago I wrote an article on how to become certified. The process has remained the same since I became involved in the umpire process in 1996 or so. Here are the steps to being certified:

1. First, you must raise your hand. I recommend being sponsored by an upper level certified umpire so that person can watch your progress and vouch for you when your name comes up.
2. You must take and pass a basic written test on the rules. These tests are given by the Chief Umpire through his panel or other delegates at clinics or other gatherings.
3. You must show proficiency at calling games within our rules, using judgment and controlling games. This is the squishy part. Knowing the rules and being able to interpret them in a split second is two entirely different things. Having the courage and conviction to tell your friends, teammates or folks you have idolized as players that they are wrong, dangerous, out of line or must leave the field is a must. This only comes with experience and the desire to develop the skill.

Once all three of the above criteria have been fulfilled, the Chief Umpire makes the decision whether a person should be certified. Routinely this decision is made once a year, though exceptions are made. My practice has been to poll the panel members in the zone where a person plays and to ask the other certified umpires their opinions on certifying a person. When the panel member says yes and I

have no reason to doubt the player's ability, he or she is certified.

The three requirements for a good umpire: 1) a good throw in; 2) good positioning to make the call; 3) confident and consistent calling of the rules. While it is important that our umpires know and enforce our rules, I don't care if they get a call wrong so long as they make a call and keep the game safe.

Age has nothing to do with ability to umpire. Some of the best umpires are quite young. However, I have not considered any player for certification until he or she is an adult member of the APA. Level of play does have some correlation to a player's ability to umpire. That is to say that as a general rule, a player who has never played A grade will be less likely to umpire well at A grade level. That is only a general rule of thumb and does not hold in every instance. Through dedication, natural ability and astuteness, some umpires who have never played at the A level are quite competent to umpire at that level.

The final note is that umpiring in our sport is purely volunteer. Your umpires are your friends, opponents and club members. Please remember that they are doing the best that they can and that you would not be playing the game without them. So, thank your umpires.

—Amy Keith

# SANCTIONING YOUR TOURNAMENT

Here are the things required to sanction and run your APA-tournament::

- 1) To secure the date and get it posted on the web, in email blasts and any newsletters published: you must send in a sanctioning form and sanctioning fee to the APA office. Organizing the dates with your zone is a good place to start, but the form and fee make it official.
- 2) You need to send in the form and fee 60 days ahead of the tournament. This rule allows for travel to be arranged for your umpire, in case airline travel is necessary.
- 3) You will be sent a membership roster along with an insurance certificate for the event by email. The online member registration allows us to have less 'checks in the mail' cross over. This official list has memberships that were done online and those that were sent by mail. This roster will also have the most recent turned in-player ratings on it and the date the player was rated.
- 4) If a player's name is not on the list or the 'date paid' column has another year's date in it, they are not current. The tournament committee must take membership payment from this player before they play. If they have paid at a preceding tournament, and that tournament committee has not sent their name or payment in
- 5) Within 3 days the tournament committee needs to email the new member names and type of membership to the APA office.
- 6) Within 14 days, the tournament committee must send in the cap fees, the player roster and the results to the APA office. If all these things are not included, the club will forfeit the sanctioning fee.

to the APA office, the tournament committee must still take payment. The extra dues payment will be sent back to the player when received. This is an old rule that we plan to uphold again. Many tournament committees face irritation when a player says they have paid...but if this happens, it is the preceding tournament committee that should have acted in accordance to the agreement they signed for sanctioning. Or, the player should realize that if they mailed in their payment too close to the tournament, it may not have been received.



These rules are listed on the sanctioning agreement form that a member of your club signs. This form is also sent by email to all clubs at the beginning of the year. If you have a new club contact, please let the APA Secretary know:  
Laura Humphreys: lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org  
—THANK YOU!—

# NATIONALS 2010

Harvest Farm, AL October 8-10 (*Also the site for 2011 Nationals, Oct 7-9, 2011*)

Nationals 2010 was held at Harvest Farm in Harvest, Alabama last October. This site is a beautiful place to hold polocrosse tournaments and the APA is most appreciative of all the help the Fisk's and Tennessee Valley Polocrosse gave to the APA for holding our biggest event there.

First place winners received the best Nationals buckles yet; a stunning, smoothed out square design with gold lettering and silver accenting on a black background. Second place winners received a popular comeback in a black thick woven pad with the large embroidered logo patch in a corner (D Grade and Juniors had royal blue). Third place winners got handy step stools with engraved plates on them noting the national event, great for trailer and mounting block use. Best Horses in each division received the wonderful, therapeutic ThinLine pads in a tote bag and an elegant customized neck sash to be worn for a picture or hung up at the barn. Best Conditioned Horses received the elegant neck sashes and will get engraved silver plates with their horse's name on them to denote this honor. Best Players received silkscreened laptop brief cases with an engraved silver plate noting their accomplishment inside.

Results, some commentaries and pictures follow. The photos were taken with permission from websites, and since not all the players were identified, all names were left off.

## Nationals 2010 Results:

### A Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lone Star I  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Waldemar  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Carolina  
Best Horse: Diva, Derek Rumel  
Best Conditioned Horse: Diva, Derek Rumel  
Best #1: Sam Pohl  
Best #2: Renee Thompson  
Best #3: Rachael Gayler

### B Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Charlie Horse/Orange County  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sugarloaf  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Conroe/Bucks County  
Best Horse: Makenna, ridden by Amos Underwood, owned by Jamie and Deb Zito  
Best Conditioned Horse: Makenna, ridden by Amos Underwood, owned by Jamie and Deb Zito  
Best #1: Amos Underwood  
Best #2: Gordon Duff  
Best #3: John Cook

### C Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Carolina  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bay Area  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tennessee Valley

Best Horse: Brittany Crawford's horse  
Best Conditioned Horse: Romeo, Evan Vallee  
C Grade (continued)  
Best #1: Evan Vallee  
Best #2: Kelly Fisk  
Best #3: Caron Mouett

### D Grade

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Tennessee Valley Orange  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Lone Star  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tennessee Valley Red  
Best Horse: Montana, Tristan Chamberlin  
Best Conditioned Horse: Denny, Caleb Bonds  
Best #1: Tristan Chamberlin  
Best #2: Conner Alexander  
Best #3: Sloan Hamlin

### Juniors

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bay Area Mix  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Carolina Green  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Croixside  
Best Horse: Rosie, Audra Campbell  
Best Conditioned Horse: Tyson, Paige Vallee  
Best #1: Paige Vallee  
Best #2: Megan Waggener  
Best #3: Audra Campbell

### Women's Division

1<sup>st</sup> Place: The Racquels  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: The Marilyns  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: The Sophias  
Best Horse: Pillard, Amy Keith  
Best Conditioned Horse: Fonzie, Bonnie Shriner  
Best #1: Beth Younger  
Best #2: Peggy Ferebee  
Best #3: Amy Keith

### Rotating Awards: these awards are picked by previous winners, except for Best Presented Team

Essex All Blacks, The Friendship Cup: Donna Ellis  
Shelley Shearer Memorial Award, Best Playing Junior: Peter Balogh  
Tricia Cane Award: Laura Chamberlin  
Best Umpire: Rob Shuttles  
Most Fair and Best Polocrosse Sportsman: Deb Zito  
U21 Best Rider (plaque plus ThinLine pad): Sam Pohl  
Bomber Junior Horseman Award (trophy plus custom made breastplate): Catherine Hanagan  
Horse of The Year: Sonic, Kristi Johnson  
Paddy Memorial Award, Best Presented Team: Bucks County Polocrosse  
New: Jaquie McArthur Award: Donna Ellis

# NATIONALS 2010 (continued)

(continued from page 5)

## Thoughts From a Few Players:

From Amy Keith: I love surprises. After 17 years of playing polocrosse where I have only missed 3 national championship tournaments, I was surprised at this championship. Perhaps I was most surprised at my lack of faith in the camaraderie and friendship we share. A moment of play and reflecting on that play surprised me, showing me how strong our bonds are.

For those of you that know me, I have never hesitated to foment competition and drama, both on and off the field. I love and admire players like Sam Pohl who quietly and deftly cut out the heart of the opposing team with creative excellence. But that is not me. I also have loved watching Rob Shuttles who has a backbone of steel that allows him to grab victory from his opponents in the last chukka by virtually reaching down their gullets and pulling it from their processing digestive tracts. Rob, who hates to lose, has matured to appreciate his opponents even in those rare moments when they are his victors. Rob's style is more like mine. I understand it.

I understand the D grade players who were upset at the draw in their division. They come to compete and want it as badly as Rob or Sam. I appreciate that player in the ladies division who can forgive me when I throw a shoulder to her ribs. She forgave me because she realized I am a competitor. All my nicey, nicey in the fledgling women's division went out the window when I saw a player beating me. It surprises no one when we lose our tempers, play too hard or get sulky on the field.

But at this nationals, Rachael Gayler surprised me. I have known this gal since she was about 8. She is hugely talented and fiercely competitive. She has traveled the world to play and improve her polocrosse. I have coached her, cheered for and now against her. I have seen that the weakest part of her game is the emotional aspect. She used to fall apart in the game when she was frustrated or down. Even when she won she would burst into tears after the victory. Every talented athlete has a flaw and hers has always been her emotions.

So I was not surprised to hear her yelling at Sam while he was playing the 1 against her as the 3. He was beating her. Time was running down and he was moving in the end zone and clearly not taking the shot. Rachael yelled, "Take the shot, Sammy!". I was not surprised to hear her yell in that situation. He had been her teammate for years including on last year's national championship team. So, I thought, she yelled at him in frustration. Not surprising.

But after thinking on it I realized and she later confirmed, she was yelling for Sam not at him. She was cheering for him while defending against him at the nationals championships. She was pulling for her friend and appreciating his play even while he was beating her. I was surprised. Rachael has come into her game and her maturity through this game. Her play was terrific, her horse one of the best. And I was so proud to realize that through polocrosse, she has learned to be a terrific sportsman as well as player. I love this game and it's surprises.

End Note: Rachael's team played Sam's two days later in the finals. Rachael's team won by 1 point. I feel very sure that Sam, in the anguish of the loss, was happy for his friend Rachael.

From Evan and Paige Vallee: This is the largest tournament for the APA where every member has a chance to play for the national title and the coveted belt buckle.

Our trip began early on Wednesday morning. We packed up the horses and left Vass, NC around 5 AM. The trip was easy and we were greeted by John Jameson who gave us directions on where we could park. Seeing as we were the first of our club to arrive that afternoon, we picked an area where the whole Carolina Polocrosse Club group could be together. In all, we had 26 CPC members playing that weekend. All 26 of our members freshly roached manes, braided tails with matching rosettes, every mount had white wraps and white saddle pads. All of our mounts had braided brow bands in CPC colors. The tail rosettes and brow bands were even done for the teammates who were from other clubs and were playing in our CPC colors. That took a lot of ribbon!

This year my sister and I did not play on the same team. Instead, we both played on different teams in different divisions. I (Evan) played in C Grade on the Carolina Polocrosse Club team that was comprised of all CPC members. Our team had several notable factors: 1 YDT members who traveled to NSW on the PDP outbound tour, a father and daughter combo, a retired Colonel and 1st Lieutenant from the United States Army, a son who would later play against his father in the finals and a retired firefighter who had a wife and son playing in other divisions. The weekend games were well spread out and the format of 6, 6 minute chukkas with full teams is something every tournament should strive to achieve. The game is based on full 6 man teams in other countries and the 6, 6 minute chukkas do require your horse to be at their top fitness level, but also tends to be easier on the horses.

Play in the C Division was tough as we faced teams from Texas, Tennessee and Georgia. Some of the players had been coached well through the year and had brought their best game to Nationals. It was, however, a surprise to face the other Carolina team that had 4 CPC members in the finals on Sunday. At first, my Dad and I thought it would be great to play against each other (section to section) but then we realized that my mom could not handle the stress. So, instead, we kept her busy cheering for our individual sections as we played opposite rotations. Since we did this great favor for her, we also asked her to help us by walking horses. It was good for her to stay busy.

CPC was also lucky enough to have two Junior teams in the Junior Division. This is where my sister played with two of her friends from CPC. The finals on Sunday were the Bay Area Mix team and CPC 1. This was such a great match off as the two teams looked great and matched each other goal for goal. The Bay Area team came out on top by two goals, but it was a great game to watch for all the spectators.

*(Continued from page 6):*

It was really nice to see such large divisions across the board. We had 4 full teams in A Grade, 5 in B Grade, 6 in C Grade and 11 sections in D Grade. Juniors had 5 sections. Plus there was a Women's Division and Social. After watching my mom play in the Social, I am a bit worried she might take her horse back so she can play more next year.

We'd like to thank our horses for great weekends as they were both the reason we did so well. Our horses earned Best Conditioned Horse in our respective divisions and helped us both earn Best # 1 Player awards.

Now, if we can travel home from Alabama without getting a flat tire, we think my mom will be up for another trip next year. Personally, I think the only thing that kept her sane about the flat tire is that 3 members of our club saw us blow out and acted like our own personal pit crew and had us back on the road within 20 minutes.



*Photos on pages 7, 8 and 9 were taken by Susie Gill. Visit <http://poshsfanclub.shutterfly.com/19666>*



*There were 147 players at Nationals 2010*







Photos on pages 10, 11 and 12 provided

by Skylar and Jerry Green

Visit <http://gofish.smugmug.com> and look under Polocrosse







# WORLD CUP NEWS

Firstly, we want to thank everyone who has helped and supported Team USA 2011. We couldn't do it without you.

Check out the new team website designed by Dan Duhig at [www.usapolocrosse2011.com](http://www.usapolocrosse2011.com). Thanks Dan for the design and Rachael for sorting out all the team info and bios. It looks great and we are very, very excited about it!

Another exciting addition is Arleen Strider coming on board to help offer advice and suggestions for friends and family who are traveling to the World Cup. Please contact her if you are making the trip to support the team. We would like to keep a running list of who is going so if we have any new news, we can contact you directly. Arleen can be reached at [astrider@comcast.net](mailto:astrider@comcast.net).

Team Manager Jessie Reed, Melissa Main and Erica Vallee are hard at work with some success, tracking down sponsorship opportunities. Despite their efforts, the team is still in need. We have implemented the Friends of Team USA sponsorship program with a \$100 donation. It offers an exclusive Team hat, listing on our website, final list advertised in the 2011 APA nationals program. If you would like to make a donation to the team or support an individual player the payment site can be reached through the APA or team web site through the Sponsorship pages. Or you can go directly to the go to donation page at <http://www.americanpolocrosse.com/support-donation.php>. If anyone is interested in or has information about financial or product sponsorship, please contact Jessie at [buckspolocrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:buckspolocrosse@yahoo.com).

The team is entering the last five months of preparation, building up to the World Cup. Aside from working out, eating right, working horses and playing polocrosse, the players will participate in two coaching opportunities. Coach Cooper is coming over to the states twice before the World Cup. First, for two weekends in April for a training camp that is going to be hosted at Assistant coach Renee Thompson's place in Texas. Secondly, for the final coaching event will be hosted by Bucks County the week before the teams departure for the World Cup.

All of the team members will travel to PA without horses or trailers for this final event. Players are being generously housed by club members. Thanks Bucks! That being said, we are trying to source horses. If you would like to offer a mount or mounts for the practices, they will be well cared for and it might benefit your horse to be played by this level of player. If you are interested, please contact Kiki Pantaze at [kpantaze@pvco.net](mailto:kpantaze@pvco.net).

That's all for now and go Team USA.

Kiki Pantaze  
World Cup Chair

## President's Letter *(Continued from Page 1)*

So remember, the people you have asked to grow your sport are always available for and receptive to your input. Just use the correct channels to contact them.

Across 'the pond', the World Cup venue has been changed but there is still time for those of you lucky enough to travel and support the American team (as well as watch polocrosse played at a level that few of us would ever hope to match) to get housing and transport in place before the July event. Contact Arleen Strider at [astrider@comcast.net](mailto:astrider@comcast.net) for information!

Check out the tournaments already on the website and at the back of this issue for your spring—we're looking for you!

'til the next chukka,

Kellee Campbell, DVM  
President, APA

# CLUB NEWS

## NEW CLUBS!

We have a few new clubs to announce! Some clubs below have been mentioned before, but they are still new to playing and older clubs in their zones should help support them grow.

### Sunshine Polocrosse; Sorrento, FL

Colors: Orange, French Blue  
Melissa Bigsby [mkbigsby@mac.com](mailto:mkbigsby@mac.com)  
407-832-6730

### Stay To Play Polocrosse; Manistique, MI

Colors: White, Green  
Rae Birr [raebirr@gmail.com](mailto:raebirr@gmail.com)  
906-286-0737

### Kirby Hill Polocrosse; Pawling, NY

Colors: Green, Yellow  
Heather Kelly [jumpintopolo@aol.com](mailto:jumpintopolo@aol.com)  
203-947-8959

### Happy Valley Polocrosse; State College, PA

Colors: Royal Blue, Gold  
Mary Gail Becker [marygailbecker@juno.com](mailto:marygailbecker@juno.com)  
814-231-0633

### Middle Mississippi Polocrosse; Jackson, MS

Colors: Green, Black  
Kate McNeel [cmcneel@comcast.net](mailto:cmcneel@comcast.net)  
601-981-0690

### Sandie Creek Polocrosse; Carrollton, GA

Colors: Green, Tan  
Sandie Camp [sandiecreek@bellsouth.net](mailto:sandiecreek@bellsouth.net)  
404-405-2394

## NEW SERVICE FOR CLUBS!

There is now a new online service for ALL APA clubs on the APA website. If you are holding a sanctioned tournament, Tournament Organizers can have players sign up for your tournament ONLINE! Tournament Organizers fill out all pertinent information on a simple to use online form first and the entry form is then automatically generated for your tournament via the APA website! For any of you who used the online entry for Nationals, it will be very similar and just as easy to use.

Players will sign up and pay for the tournament (and their APA memberships if they have not already renewed or joined) online by using their PayPal account, personal credit card with PayPal or personal check through PayPal! You can request a report of how sign ups are going; and a final report will be emailed to you a week before your tournament including all the entrants, ratings and payments! For back to back tournaments, please check your emails for updates from the Administrative Secretary a few days before your tournament. She is supposed to get info from the previous tournament within 3 days of that event. If Tournament Committees don't do this, they will be blocking information for a future tournament.

Tournament entry payments (up to 3) will be made to clubs by the APA Treasurer within 3 days of an email request; final payment will be made 3 days after all paperwork has arrived (within the current 14 day requirement) at the APA Office. Cap fees and PayPal fees will be deducted from the final payment. The club will only be responsible for cap fees and memberships paid at the tournament itself and the already required tournament results. Contact the APA Treasurer to set up payment transfer information; if your club does not have a PayPal account, a check will be mailed to the Tournament Organizer.

Complete instructions are on the website under Tournament Entry. Take a look at how our new service will make your Tournament Organizer's job a lot easier! Please email the Administrative Secretary for the info to get the Tournament Organizers form. Laura Humphreys at [lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org](mailto:lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org)

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### *Board Meeting Summary, Continued from Page 17:*

Erica Vallee reported that it would help fund opportunities for international cultural exchanges initially for the Youth Development Groups. 9 youth (from age 10-17) and 7 coaches/administrators would be involved in an exchange with New Zealand. If the APA receives the grant, the plan is to have clinics across the US and target youth, player and umpire development. The grant would support these clinics, in which a selection process will be used to target youth for this international exchange. This will fulfill the government requirements. APA members are working to design a program that would allow the grant to target all players, not just youth.

# WHAT DOES THE APA DO FOR YOU?

**“What does the APA do for you?”** As the Mountain Zone Representative to the APA, I was anxious to answer this question for the members and players in my zone. I was fairly convinced in my initial perception that perhaps ‘the APA’ didn’t actually *do* very much for you. I mean, we are all able to *play* polocrosse aren’t we, with or without the APA? It took further conversation with members throughout my zone, outside my zone and by brainstorming with other APA Board Members eager to answer the very same question to realize that the APA *does*, in fact, do a thing or two for its members.

On a simplistic level, the APA provides *resources* through its various programs and services that allow members to meet other players and promote the sport of polocrosse. On a more complicated level, the APA strives to bring consistency and organization to a rather small number of people throughout a rather large geographic area who envision very different ideas as to how polocrosse fits into their lives. It would appear as if our polocrosse community is based on *differences*...and indeed, there are many differences of opinion, application, direction, knowledge, desire, experience, understanding, etc. But we all share the ONE COMMON FACTOR that brings us all together time and time again... and that is the LOVE OF THE SPORT.

Polocrosse players are truly members of an elite group. I am quite certain there are many more cowbell enthusiasts or even Zorbists (people who strap themselves into a giant plastic ball and roll down a hill, like a hamster) than polocrosse players. There aren’t too many polocrosse players out there, folks, and this realization should help us *bridge* the gaps of .... opinion, application, direction, knowledge, geography, climate, etc.

As a new player into the community, I am fortunate that my club remains completely enthusiastic, entirely supportive, tolerant to the nth degree and fanatically rabid in its pursuit of polocrosse! The Mountain Zone contains a three-time Chief Umpire, an Upper Level Umpire who routinely travels outside of the Zone to umpire for others, a several-term zone representative who continues to provide support and knowledge to the membership, several life-long APA members with great experience and history of the APA, former APA Board Members, Committee Chairs, and an ever growing number of enthusiastic, positive and active new players, all willing to bridge some pretty big gaps to play polocrosse.... and the exact same can be said of ALL of the APA Zones comprising the APA!

In fact, individually and collectively, we ARE “The APA .” And as such, “we”, the APA, contain a wealth of resources and enthusiasm available to assist individual members in their pursuit of polocrosse. And so I thank you all for helping me to discover just what the APA does for *you... and me!*

—Lia Levy

## BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 12 –13, 2011

The following is a summary of the Board Meeting held on February 12-13, 2011. This content has not been officially approved by the Board, but is a summary of discussions and results of elected Program and Committee Chairs.

The Board met in Durham, NC for their yearly face to face meeting. The following members were in attendance: David Lynn, Erica Vallee, Peggy Ferebee, Wayne Cooper, Lia Levy, Chris Wolfe, Chuck Younger, Liz Pohl, Sarah Ferebee and Wade Liner. The meeting was chaired by Laura Humphreys who was acting in the place of President Kellee Campbell, unable to attend due to the imminent birth of a foal.

Laura welcomed everyone and started with a discussion of the APA Manual which needs updating but is a good guideline. The question put to the Board: “Where does the APA want to go on the future?” Each discussion began with a reference to the description written in the APA Manual.

### Old Business

Player Development Program- APA Manual states 3 parts, Coaching Accreditation, Clinic Coordination, Development Team and the existing outline is from 2006. There was an update submitted in 2009 and needs to be acted on. This program should encompass all players and not just those involved in international exchanges. The discussion was tabled until later in the meeting.

Horse Welfare Officer- it was the consensus of the board that this position would benefit the Association and improve our standing with other equestrian organizations. Kellee will work on standards that will be used to determine abuse. The Tournament Committee would appoint a reliable, knowledgeable person to do this job. Players would be informed that there will be action taken against anyone abusing a horse during the event. This information should be included in the players’ packets and discussed at the team captain’s briefing. It was suggested that Florida could be the test.

### Officer Reports

President’s Report- Kellee is filling in until someone else is elected. It was decided the Zone Reps would come up with suggestions for potential candidates to bring to the Board before going to the membership.

Treasurer’s Report- Erica outlined the problems she had experienced over the last year as Wachovia transitioned to Wells Fargo with the account actually being shut down in July. She is currently researching a new bank but needs one that can handle accounts in a number of states. She will report back in 30 days.

### Administrative Report

Laura Humphreys gave membership figures: There were 408 members in 2010:137 Juniors and 271 Seniors. Eastern Zone had 212, Central Zone 125, Mountain Zone 65 and Western Zone 6. As of 2/9/2011 there were 227 members but more will traditionally join as the tournaments start. The rules state that once a tournament is over any new member information should go to the Admin-

istrative secretary in 3 days and general information and cap fees in 14 days so she can update the database. This allows her to present an accurate roster of members for the next tournament organizer. Member information will be faster as organizers start using the online registration that is now available through APA. It was moved and approved that clubs will lose the sanctioning fee if they do not return the required information in three days for membership, tournament results and caps fees in 14 days.

There was also a discussion on what constitutes a family for membership fee consideration. It was decided to stay with the definition of a husband and wife and their children under 18.

The new brochures are now going out to all active clubs.

### **Programs**

**Chief Umpire-** This position has the sole authority and responsibility over the interpretation and revision of the official rules governing match play and over the selection, development and retention of certified umpires. There was no report from Chief Umpire Amy Keith, who was not able to make the meeting. The Board discussed the importance of improving umpire training and that the membership should respect those who umpire. The Chief Umpire should have experience with international play, knowledge of rules and is willing to help players and beginning umpires learn. Robbie Shuttles was nominated and approved by the Board to be Chief Umpire.

**International Liaison-** This position is responsible for receiving, investigating and negotiating all foreign exchanges and requests to the APA, including social exchanges. Laura Humphreys has been doing it on a temporary basis until someone else is appointed. Liz Pohl volunteered to approach Amy Keith about it and report back to the Board in 2 weeks.

**Player Development Program-** In his December 2010 report, David Brooks discussed the outbound tour to NSW in June and an inbound tour in August. He also held a Megaclinic for all levels of players. It has been requested that the PDP do more for the general membership. It was suggested that with the current economic conditions this might be a good year to look to zone exchanges and coaching clinics. The Chair needs to be a good communicator so information gets out. Ryan Murphy was nominated and elected as PDP Chair as well as Chief Coach.

**World Cup Report-** Kiki Pantaze reported that Prissy Rummel had to step down as team manager due to health concerns and Jessie Reed has taken her place. Erica Vallee and Melissa Bigsby are helping her with a budget. Arlene Strider is the contact person for housing. There is a chance that the venue in UK will change. The APA has made some payments to World Cup and they are working on sponsorships. Kiki Pantaze was nominated and elected to be 2011 Chair for World Cup.

**USPC Liaison Report-** This objective of this role is to maintain open lines of communications between the APA and USPC. Sarah Ferebee reported that Pony Club is coming more into line with APA in allowing the New Derby face-mask helmets and stock saddles. PC is also allowing Horse Masters, their adult division, to participate at PC Nationals. Ryan Murphy attended the Annual Meeting. He, Dori Johnson and Kate McNeel gave workshops on play, horsemanship and how to get started. Ryan has clinic set

up and this has been a good grassroots recruitment tool. He is planning a Megarally for March. Sarah Ferebee was approved to continue as USPC Liaison.

### **Zone Reports**

The APA Manual states that the Zone Reps work to manage events and records in their zone, serve on the Grievance Panel, Membership Committee and Nationals Committee when appropriate.

The tournament schedule for 2011 is:

March 12-13	Charlie Horse
April 2-3	Waldemar
April 8,9, 10	Lonestar
April 8-9	Sandy Creek
May 13-14	Carolina
May 28-29	Tennessee Valley
July 2-3	Minnesota
June 11-12	Bay Area
June 25-26	Bucks County
July 1-Aug 1	Albuquerque
July 4-17	World Cup
Aug 12-13	Aspen, Co.
Sept. 3-4	Orange County
Sept. 24-25	East Zone Regionals
Oct. 7-9	Nationals
Nov. 12-13	Mad Max Jackpot, Greensboro, NC
Nov. 26-27	Charlie Horse

Each zone rep reported on their upcoming plans.

**Eastern Zone-** Wade Liner- likes the idea of zone exchanges and will push for another Megaclinic.

**Western Zone-** Lia Levy- will put on a Regionals and have some fund raisers. They want to emphasize Safety, Skill and Sportsmanship and have more umpire training. They will be glad to try to horse and house a few people who want to fly out. The Habanero have joined the New Mexico Council for more visibility. They are setting up a systematic practice system with a \$10.00 fee for guests. She recommended business cards to hand out to interested people.

**Mountain Zone-** Wayne Cooper- Not much happened last year. Had a practice last week and charge \$25.00 for non-members to ride for insurance. He is working with a group in Alaska and Idaho as well as Pony Club. There are plenty of players but we need to show them what APA can do for them.

Erica mentioned that home-schoolers may qualify for a varsity letter in riding if it is pursued.

### **Committees**

**Business Development-** The APA Manual states the objective is to research and recommend various sources of revenue for the APA, to pursue corporate and other sponsorships with equine and other organizations to benefit the APA, and to promote and market the APA to the general public. The APA logo is now copyrighted and permission must be granted for it to be used. We have had articles in magazines and regional media. Our website is outdated and needs to be updated. We also need to set standards for demonstrations. It was recommended that we have a basic advertising packet, especially helpful in going for sponsorships. We've used a packet before that has worked, but use has been on hold while waiting for a nicer looking packet. This lapse has lead to the failure to obtain

some sponsorship. Several companies are being approached. Erica requested more help from the organization as a whole. It was suggested that clubs could find people who have abilities in this area and may be able to cultivate businesses with which they already have a relationship. Erica Vallee and David Lynn were elected to remain Chairs.

Communications Committee- The APA Manual states that this committee facilitates communication between the Officers, Board of Directors, Committees and the membership. Donna Ellis reported that the website is now out dated and could be greatly improved to do more as a marketing tool. She requested \$3000 to improve the site and volunteered to continue working on it. She is also looking at a new, less expensive hosting plan. It was agreed that functions, such as on line dues payments and tournament registration are a great asset for the site. This is now available for all sanctioned tournaments – the upcoming CPC tournament will be using online registration. Instructions for all organizers will be there. Ideas include a members-only section and being able to upload ratings directly to this site. Chris Wolfe, Kiki Pantaze and Lia Levy will put together specifications and seek competitive bids for a new website, getting back to Chris in two weeks and the board will have 30 days to act on it.

Laura Humphreys discussed the possibility of reviving the Association's magazine if funds permitted, perhaps just having one issue at the end of the year. She is still having problems getting information in a timely matter for Off the Racquet which is sent out electronically except to those who request a hard copy. Email blasts have been very effective in getting information out. APA should take advantage of social networking sites such as Facebook. Chris Wolfe was elected to remain Communications Chair.

Executive Committee – The APA Manual states the President and two Board Members make up this committee. They are there to make an emergency decision for the APA. Liz Pohl and Chris Wolfe were appointed by Kellee Campbell.

Finance Committee-The APA Manual states the APA Treasurer is Chair and will ideally have people with financial/accounting backgrounds sought to serve as members. Erica Vallee presented the Profit/Loss statement for 2010. Because some programs, like PDP and World Cup, had expenditures in different line items, it was suggested that another format be used which would make those expenses clearer. The Association currently has a paid bookkeeper to assist her and a CPA which was required by a grant application.

There was no approved budget for 2010. The Board looked at the 2009 projected budget and used that to formulate a 2011 budget. PDP is a self sustaining program, as is the World Cup except for entry fees, which the APA pays. It was moved that the APA pay the travel expenses of a certified non-playing Tournament Umpire for all sanctioned tournaments if affordable. The budget discussed will be a working budget until we get a new Profit/Loss summary from Erica in two weeks. It was decided to renew our membership in the USEF and pay for it out of the PR budget.

Grievance Panel-The APA Manual states the members of this committee will be the Chief Umpire and all four Zone

Representatives. It was suggested that the current guidelines for what can get a member disciplined and what that entails should be more clearly defined. The standards for behavior like alcohol abuse should be handled first on a club basis – if you see a club member misbehaving correct them. Manny Diemer had sent in some suggestions and these will be turned over to the Chief Umpire.

Membership Committee-The APA Manual states this is to develop a program to improve recruitment, motivation and retention of members. Determine various methods to be used and create tools for clubs to use in membership drives. Foster relationships with equine and other organizations to benefit the APA and to promote and market the APA to the general public. Victoria Prince has been working on getting new clubs started. What we need to address is why members leave the club. We need to show that APA membership has value. Lia Levy suggested that we make sure everyone has a membership card and try and get discounts linked to that. The individual clubs are the source of their own growth and this should be a function of the Zone Rep. Victoria Prince was elected to remain as Membership Chair with the Zone Reps as her committee.

Nationals Committee-The APA Manual states this committee acts as the Tournament Committee for Nationals and will be made up of the President, the Secretary, the Hosting Zone Rep and a Host Club Contact. This is to be a fund raiser for the APA so the venue should make a profit. We are not using the rotating schedule and still need to consider a more western venue for next year. John Jameson reported that the 2010 Nationals had a profit of \$7,200. Overall, everything was great; only a few complaints. Water ran out at the very end of the tournament and showering facilities would be nice. Liz mentioned it would be nicer to have fields closer so people could watch other games. Perhaps D grade could be broken up since it was so large. Full teams in all divisions might help. It was stressed that the 2012 site and date need to be decided on early in the year so people can plan. Liz Pohl agreed to head a site committee for 2012 Nationals. Laura Humphreys was elected chair of the Nationals Committee.

Ratings Committee-This committee oversees that ratings are done at sanctioned tournaments. Prissy Rumel does not wish to remain as chair. Several suggestions were made regarding ratings: only rating twice a year rather than every tournament, zone reps help with ratings, how to publish rating. It was moved and approved that the only official ratings will be posted on the APA website. Sarah Ferebee was elected as Ratings Chair. She wants to research how other countries do their ratings.

### **New Business**

Chris Wolfe mentioned that some of his club members were confused by exactly when dues were classified as late – when they arrive or by post mark. The form states fees must be received by Jan. 31. This is not a problem with on line registration.

PDP –The Board asked Ryan Murphy to read the 2006 guidelines and compare to the 2009 draft and report his opinions to the Board in 2 weeks. The Board will then have 2 weeks to approve the final format.

There is exciting news that a grant through US Department of Education and Cultural Affairs was applied for.

*Continued on Page 14*

# AMERICAN POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION—Membership Form 2011

(Please consider signing up online at: [www.americanpolocrosse.com/support-join](http://www.americanpolocrosse.com/support-join) )

Please complete clearly below: (All information will be sent to first name that appears on form)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle I. \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

APA Number \_\_\_\_\_ APA Club Affiliation (only one) \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP:** Please check type of membership, renewal or new and fill in all family member information below if this is a family membership. All memberships end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. **Renewals are due at the APA office between January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>.** After January 31<sup>st</sup>, there is a 20% late fee for renewals. Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, the price of new memberships is discounted 75% to: Family \$27.50, Individual \$17.50, Junior \$10.00.

Family Membership **\$110.00** – includes husband, wife and children under 18 (renewal after Jan 31<sup>st</sup> is \$132.00); include last names if different

Spouse's First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Email	Cell #
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Child's First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Child's First Name	Last Name	Birth Date
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Child's First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Child's First Name	Last Name	Birth Date
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Individual Membership **\$70.00** – single members 18 years and older (renewal after Jan 31<sup>st</sup> is \$84.00)

Junior Membership **\$40.00** – single members 17 years and under (renewal after Jan 31<sup>st</sup> is \$48.00)

Life Membership – current Life Members only; please update contact information, sign and send in form

Associate Membership **\$30.00** – support the APA and receive our newsletter, *Off The Racquet*

Day Membership **\$20.00** – temporary membership, no full benefits; only available for ONE sanctioned tournament per year. Tournament Date:

Renewal (late fee if after Jan 31<sup>st</sup>) New Member (no late fee ever) **Pony Club, 4-H, USET, other?** \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Contributions to APA approved funds: Name of Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
(General Fund, Player Development Program, Coaching, Umpiring, Nationals)

**The Off The Racquet newsletter can be found on the website for our members. If you want it mailed in paper form, check here \_\_\_\_\_**

The American Polocrosse Association offers to its membership, newsletters, rulebooks, coaching and umpire certification programs, eligibility to participate as a player in sanctioned tournaments, a general liability insurance policy for members and sanctioned tournaments eligibility to compete in international competitions, and a commitment to promote the American Polocrosse Association.

**I, as a member, agree to abide by the By-Laws, the Code of Conduct and all Rules and Regulations of the American Polocrosse Association. I agree to comply with all State laws pertaining to the possession of distribution of alcohol to minors. Further, I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to comply with all APA rules, including those pertaining to equipment and helmets. The safety of the equipment and the animals that I use is my responsibility.**

#### RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The undersigned states the following: I acknowledge that the game of polocrosse involves inherent risks of personal injury to me personally, my horse, and damages to equipment and property. Knowing and understanding this, I still desire to participate in and attend APA sanctioned events.

In consideration for my participation in and attendance to these events, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and assigns, discharge and hold harmless; The American Polocrosse Association, the APA Club, its officers, directors, members and agents, and all other persons or organizations in any way connected with this event including, but not limited to properties, their owners and operators, their officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, heirs, administrators and assigns, from any and all rights, claims or liability for damages from any and all claims of any kind of nature, that might arise out of my participation in any activity in any way connected with this event or taking place upon the grounds.

I further acknowledge that this release will extend to any accidents, damages, or claims arising out of my participation, caused by my own act or the acts of anyone or any animal within my control. I hereby certify that I am covered by medical, health and accident insurance and/or I am responsible for any costs I may incur for my own medical injuries.

By signing this release and waiver, I am assuming all risks of this activity in which I will be engaged and am releasing all of the parties indicated above of any and all liability for their negligence of any description whatsoever. It is my intent to assume all risk and to waive and give up my rights (for myself and my heirs) to sue. And I do so knowingly and voluntarily.

**Parent or Guardian Release and Waiver** (Please list all minor members, in space below, whether player or non-player)

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor, and on the minor's behalf, and on the behalf of all other parents and guardians, I accept the release and waiver of liability above as an inducement for allowing my child to participate in polocrosse games, practices and related activities. I further authorize any emergency medical care which may be necessary.

Signature For Release of Liability \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send To Our APA Address: APA; P.O. Box 158; Bonneau, SC 29431

Questions? Contact Laura Humphreys, APA Secretary  
[lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org](mailto:lhumphreys@americanpolocrosse.org)

# TOURNAMENTS 2011

Here are tournament dates that have been filed with the APA Office. Zone Representatives have been given the other dates and not all are sanctioned yet. Tournaments are not considered sanctioned until the form and fee arrive in the APA Office.

**S—March 12-13, 2011      Ocala, FL**  
2011 Charlie Horse Spring Classic Polocrosse Tournament  
Deb Zito, [dycharliehorse@yahoo.com](mailto:dycharliehorse@yahoo.com)  
352-266-9326

**S—April 2-3, 2011      Hunt, TX**  
Waldemar Classic  
Liz Pohl, [lizpohl@hotmail.com](mailto:lizpohl@hotmail.com)  
830-329-2920

**S—April 8-10, 2011      Coupland, TX**  
Jon Weber Classic  
Susan Johnson  
512-698-6826

## Upcoming Dates:

April 8-9	Sandy Creek, GA
May 13-14	Carolina, NC
May 28-29	Tennessee Valley, AL
July 2-3	Minnesota Extreme, MN
June 11-12	Bay Area, MD
June 25-26	Bucks County, PA
July 31-Aug 1	Albuquerque, NM
July 4-17	World Cup, UK
Aug 12-13	Aspen, CO
Sept. 3-4	Orange County, NC
Sept. 24-25	Eastern Zone Regionals
Oct. 7-9	Nationals, Harvest, AL
Nov. 12-13	Mad Max Jackpot, Greensboro, NC
Nov. 26-27	Charlie Horse, FL

*INSIDE OFF THE RACQUET:*

*PRESIDENT' S LETTER*

*APA and CLUB CONTACTS*

*UMPIRE NEWS*

*BOARD NEWS*

*SANCTIONING YOUR TOURNAMENT*

*NATIONALS 2010 RESULTS & PICTURES*

*NATIONALS 2011 SITE (Harvest, AL, Oct 7-9, see Board News)*

*WORLD CUP NEWS*

*NEW CLUBS*

*NEW TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FOR CLUB USE – ONLINE!*

*TOURNAMENT DATES 2011*



American Polocrosse Association  
P.O. Box 158  
Bonneau, SC 29431