

### DIARY OF A GOLF HORSE SKEPTIC

Dear Diary,

My trepidation getting involved with horses was greater then my trepidation regarding golf. Diary I was talked into going to Pegasus Farm to experience Equus. My mental justification was quite legitimate. How could I recommend this program to my fellow Veterans if I did not experience the program. (Diary if the truth be told the exuberance of a very special friend helped convince me to attend). Well the experience was life altering. From a person who looked at horses as the other red meat to a horse I actually love horses now!!! guy.

Well Diary we now come to golf!
Yikes! There is a program Called
PGA Hope. Working with the VA
the PGA teaches Veterans golf.
What could be wrong with that???
Well to answer what may seem to be
a rhetorical question is golf sucks!

You have to keep perfectly quiet so people can hit a ball that is not moving. Baseball players stand at the plate hitting balls thrown at them in excess of 100 MPH! But you have to be quiet so someone can hit a ball that is not moving!!!! If I slide into home and my cleats dig up the ground in front of home plate I do not have to return to rake up the soil and dust off home plate. However in golf I am expected to be a greens keeper even though I pay to play!!!

Ok Ok Diary my rant is over. So on the positive side of golf is spending a few hours with friends. Golf outings to help raise some money can be fun. By the 2nd hole I can have a beer in one hand and a hot dog smothered in sauerkraut in the other to help me be silent while my friend tries to hit a ball that is not moving. Great way to induce silence.

So Diary where does that take us? Well the PGA gave me and a host of other Veterans 5 golf lessons and a free set of clubs. We played in a mini tournament. (Where by the way my team came in 1st place). We had fun we learned something about golf. (Although Diary during the orientation the 1st week we were told by the 2nd week we would be watching the Golf Channel I have to say ain't gonna happen.) It was however a chance for comradery. A chance to bond. A chance to forget the TV channels you usually watch.

So Diary I will golf again. I will hit balls that do not move and follow them to where ever they may travel.

I will not wish you golf but I will always wish you horses!

Karl









## FARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THREE

### FREE SPECIAL EVENTS

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OUTING

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS FOR SOME SPECIAL TREATS AT THE MVP PICNIC





#### 36 STAR AMERICAN FLAG

Putnam County now has an authentic "Ragged Old Flag".

This past Memorial Day at the Watchfires this wonderful flag was discovered in a black garbage bag full of flags to be retired. When is was pulled out of the bag the was an air of excitement. We often have unusual finds in bags of flags to be disposed. Service Flags, POW/MIA Flags, perfectly good American Flags to name a few. This year we hit the Comstock Lode!

The three guys holding the flag realized that this was something special. Many of us rushed over to see the flag. A 36 star American Flag. The cloth is so thin that one can see through it. A bit tattered by the stripes. But an American Flag nonetheless.

Quickly everyone googled "36 Star American Flag". It was the flag that recognized the admission of Nevada to the Union and would

36TH

have flown between July 4, 1865 and July 4, 1867.

By law, a star is added to the U.S. flag on the 4th of July following the admission of a state to the

union. This flag represents the addition of the state of Nevada. Nevada became a state October 31. 1864 so the 36th star would be added to Old Glory July 4, 1965. The

Civil War ended April 9, 1865 so while Nevada was a state during the Civil War the 36 star flag was not part of that war. Nebraska became the 37th state March 1, 1867 so the 36 star flag flew until July 4, 1867. Nevada became the second of two states added to the Union during the Civil War (the first being West Virginia) and became known as the

While this is about the rescued flag. The history that allowed the 36th star

"Battle Born State" as a result of

when it achieved statehood.

to be added to the constellation that is America is fascinating. President Lincoln needed another term to help pass the 13th Amendment ending slavery. The admission of Nevada insured that he would have the support in con-

gress to pass the amendment.

Interesting trivia point the longest and most expensive telegram ever sent was the Nevada Constitution sent to Washington, DC at cost of \$3,416.77.



So now we are in possession of this historic flag. It is safely ensconced at the Putnam County Historians office. County Historian Jennifer Cassidy has advised us that they have folded the flag with acid free tissue and placed it in an archival box in the temperature and

humidity controlled Archival Room of the historians office. We are working with antiques dealers who specialize in American Flags. Further we are consulting textile conservators to help preserve this flag.



Interesting on the hoist of the flag the name "W. Robinson" was written. This may lead to owner and more of the actual history of this flag. As we develop information about this wonderful piece of American

history we will share. Also in anyone has an clues let us know.



I walked through a county courthouse square On a park bench, an old man was sitting there. I said, Your old court house is kinda run down, He said, Naw, it'll do for our little town. I said, Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit, And that's a ragged old flag you got hanging on it. He said, Have a seat, and I sat down, Is this the first time you've been to our little town I said, I think it is He said I don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of That Ragged Old Flag You see, we got a little hole in that flag there, When Washington took it across the Delaware, and It got powder burned the night Francis Scott Key sat watching it, writing Say Can You See It got a rip in New Orleans, with Packingham & Jackson tugging at its seams. and It almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas flag, But she waved on though. She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville, And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill. There was Robert E. Lee and Beauregard and Bragg, And the south wind blew hard on That Ragged Old Flag On Flanders Field in World War I, She got a big hole from a Bertha Gun, She turned blood red in World War II She hung limp, and low, a time or two, She was in Korea, Vietnam, She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam. She waved from our ships upon the briny foam and now they've about quit waving back here at home in her own good land here She's been abused, She's been burned, dishonoured, denied an' refused, And the government for which she stands Has been scandalized throughout out the land. And she's getting thread bare, and she's wearing thin, But she's in good shape, for the shape she's in. Cause she's been through the fire before and 1 believe she can take a whole lot more. So we raise her up every morning And we bring her down slow every night, We don't let her touch the ground, And we fold her up right. On second thought I do like to brag Cause I'm mighty proud of That Ragged Old Flag Volume 12 Issue 7 Page 5

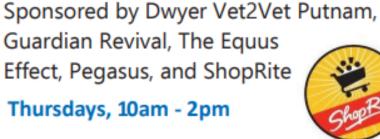


## A Powerful Veterans Program

Our focus in this 5-session program is on helping Veterans rebuild healthy relationships. Our horses and facilitators will support you and your journey with respect and skill. Activities are non-riding. No horse experience is necessary.



"I learned how to handle stress and to help anger management issues I have. I learned the way of the horse. It's changed my life, there's no doubt about it."- Art H



9/8 ~ 9/15 ~ 9/29 ~ 10/6 ~ 10/13 (October 20th as a make-up date, if needed)



## \*No cost to participants\*

Hosted at our beautiful Pegasus Farm therapeutic riding center (address below). Bring a bagged lunch and water bottle. Participants must attend all five sessions.

Megan Castellano Dwyer Vet2Vet Putnam/ Guardian Revival, Inc. megancastellano@guardianrevival.org





# Are you enrolled with VA?

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System is on a mission to provide high-quality health care to America's heroes.

For more information and to register with VA, call us at

(845) 831-2000 ext. 215100 or 217721





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