

Annual Polo Cup blends business with pleasure

By MICHAEL KORB
For The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Of all of the events, social activities and gatherings taking place in town every summer, the annual David N. Deutsch Polo Cup and Saratoga Weekend stands head and shoulders above the rest.

It's not just a party — it's a three-day package that includes professional roundtables with some of America's top business minds, an opening reception, panel discussions, breakfast briefings, the polo cup at Saratoga Polo and a day at Saratoga Race Course featuring the David N. Deutsch & Company Classic. An invitation to one is an invitation to all. Invites are coveted, not because the weekend is exclusive, but rather because it is *inclusive*.

Deutsch goes out of his way to bring business associates and their families here from around the country (and world in many cases) to his childhood home to mingle with local friends and family in a setting that, now in its seventh year, feels increasingly like a reunion — a feeling everyone loves.

Among the highlights of the weekend, which took place last week: a breakfast business discussion Friday morning featuring "A Conversation with Walt

Robb," the local venture capitalist who made a fortune through General Electric Medical Systems and is credited with hiring Jack Welch at GE. (Robb also owns the Albany River Rats.) Later that same morning, attendees talked with one of this nation's top orthopedists, Dr. Jordan Metzl.

But the gem of the weekend is always the polo match sponsored by Deutsch. Although it competes against the Saratoga Automobile Museum benefit each year, it still drew close to 270 guests for family fun and top-notch polo on a drizzly evening. It's one of the few events where children are welcome and even encouraged.

Deutsch and his wife, Lisa (a neuro psychologist) have three young children. He invited Patrice Mastrianni of Creative Sparks to organize activities for the nearly three dozen children in attendance. This year, the kids made their own stuffed animals and T-shirts while their parents and other guests sampled a fantastic offering from David Britton (of Springwater Bistro and Saratoga Polo Catering and Events). The menu included crispy-skinned Atlantic salmon, sausage polenta-stuffed chicken roulade and smoke roasted slow-cooked prime rib.



Photo courtesy of Capturing Photography/Thomas A. Sullivan Sr.
David N. Deutsch, center, holds the Polo Cup with members of Estrella, the winning team.

Oh yeah, there was a polo match, too. Estrella beat Sugar Maple, 10 to 8.

As guests left, they were given collapsible stools marked with the DND & Co. logo in Deutsch's signature blue.

Among those enjoying the match were Norm Bernstein (a prominent environmental attorney out of NYC and Wash-

ington D.C.), his wife, Michele Braun (with the federal reserve) and their daughter, Sara Judith; Elaina Richardson (president of Yaddo), her husband, writer Kevin Richardson and their daughter, Caity; Dr. Eileen Hilton (CEO of Biomedical Research Alliance of N.Y.) and her husband, Dr. Leonard Roffoff (the

couple live in the former home of Charles Schultz of "Peanuts" fame on Long Island); Herb Fixler and his wife Susan Marber of New York City; Steve Ritterbush (of Fairfax Partners and a trustee of Union College) with his wife Karen; Mark Riser (who runs the bio firm, Hamilton Robinson) and his wife Harriet, of Connecticut;

Murray Forseter (editor of "Chain Store Age," the leading publication among retailers) and his wife, Gilda, of Westchester; Carlos Otlavaro (once considered the top stockbroker on the planet but now retired — he recently created WallStreet E) and his wife Sonia, and their daughter, Nina; Kevin Ettrich, area horse breeder and director of the New York State Naval Militia; Joe Ehrlich (with the Owens Group Ltd.) and Kate Rosman, a writer with the Wall Street Journal; Susan and Bill Dake; Ann Robb (wife of Walt); Chet Opalka (co-founded Albany Molecular Research, and was the prime mover behind the drug Allegra) and his wife Karen; Dr. Cynthia McIntyre and her husband, Rayton Gerald (who runs a NYC-based investment fund); Dan Nolan, top level executive at AYCO, and his wife Sally; Tabitha and Will Orthwein; Susan and John Jacobs of Glens Falls (owners of Reliable Racing, ski racing equipment); Mary Lou and Jeff Wait (and their daughters, Jen, Arielle and Kate); Larry Simon of Los Angeles with Anne Bohraus of New York City; Karen and Ken Klotz; Kate and Frazier Caner of Connecticut; Leslie and Peter Fallon; and real estate investor John Forester.