

Mustang and Burro Trails On Delmarva

A newsletter by the Delmarva Chapter of the American Mustang and Burro Association

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NEWS & NOTES

Happy New Year

To all our friends in the horse world. We hope that you have a rewarding year with all of your "critters."

Please note our new e-mail address:

markLdavis@hughes.net

We have gone to satellite. Our dial-up was so slow that our computer was bogging down daily as it tried to download e-mails. We finally gave up and went to a satellite connection. Cable is unavailable in our location. This is the reason why many of you did not receive the November - December Newsletter and there has been silence for the past couple of months. In making necessary changes we lost our very large address book. However, Mark has been able to retrieve most of it.

The next meeting of the Delmarva Chapter will be January 22 at Smithers' Restaurant in Dover, Delaware at 7 PM. Come by 6 to order dinner or snacks.

Reminder:

Dues to AMBA are due in January and run through December 07. Please keep your dues current.

Dates to Remember 2007

January 22 – Regular meeting
February 26 – Regular meeting
March 23 – Delaware Equine Council
Dinner Dance “ A Casual Country Affair”
Delaware State Fairgrounds
March 24 – Delaware Horse Expo
Delaware State Fairgrounds
April 23 – Regular meeting
May 20 – Fun Show
May 28 – Regular meeting
June 25 – Regular meeting
July 23 – Regular meeting
August 17-19 – Western States Wild Horse
and Burro Expo, Reno, Nevada
August 27 – Regular meeting
September 9 & 10 – Tuckahoe Outlaw Days
September 15 & 16 - Mid Atlantic Wild
Horse and Burro Show
September 24 – Regular meeting
October 22 – Regular meeting

JOINT EFFORT PRODUCE RESULTS

AMBA members from the Delmarva Chapter along with members in 4 New England States, the National Office of the AMBA, the Mustang Heritage Foundation, the 1st State Resource and Development Council and the BLM all contributed in sponsoring a highly successful booth at the 4 day Massachusetts Equine Affaire on November 9-12, 2006. The all equine event brings in approximately 200,000 visitors. An

entire building is devoted to breed associations and most of these associations exhibit live examples of their particular breed. Several members brought a mustang or burro to exhibit in a stall adjacent to the booth.

The AMBA booth was busy all day every day. The "Wild" mustangs and burros shown at our booth proved to be a crowd pleaser and people were amazed that these animals were truly "wild" at one time. Approximately 800 adoption brochures were picked up by visitors along with other materials that were available and the interest and enthusiasm expressed by members for the public was a pleasant surprise.

Many thanks for a job well done to members Brenda Hedges (VY), Kurt and Kerry Comisky (CT), Kim and Bud Dore (CT) Sue and John Booth (NH), Mona Jerome (ME), Judy Hausler (CT), Laura Ellenwood (VT) and Debbie McConnell (CT).

The Stuff of Legends Nevada Joe

Nevada Joe, a mustang captured in the Nevada desert in 2000, has become a celebrity in the therapeutic riding world as well as in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association.

Joe, a classic solid bay mustang, began his life with the Fox Lake Herd in Nevada. As a part of BLM's Wild Horse Project, he was taken to the Wahl Corporation's equestrian center after capture where he was initially trained. He is owned and trained by Diane and Ernie Purcelli of the Shooting Star Ranch in Darby, MT.

Many horse enthusiasts followed Joe's progress in the 2002 issues of Horse Illustrated magazine. While this talented horse has the ability to complete in a number of equine disciplines, he deeps Diane and Ernie busy training him for new events. In 2003 he was featured at the Dodge

World Toughest Rodeos where he competed in barrel racing. Later he found cowboy-mounted shooting a new challenge and won a reserve championship in the ladies 1 DMSA Nationals in Mississippi with Diane. This past year Joe and Ernie placed at the Arizona State Finals Mounted Shooting Competition. (Members of the Delmarva Chapter AMBA, who attended the Wild Horse and Burro Expo in Reno, NV in August 2006 met Joe, Diane and Ernie. Our Delaware and Maryland members also witnessed an awesome mounted shooting exhibition by Joe and Diane.) In addition to his skills as a competitor in mounted shooting and as a therapeutic riding horse, Joe participates in trick riding and has competed in the Montana Junior Rodeo circuit in Goat Tying where he won 3rd place at the end of the season. With the cooperation of CMSA Ernie has developed a "shootout" for his Special Olympics class. This focuses on skills that develop hand-eye coordination using dowel rods in the place of guns and balloons.

Presently Joe is a therapeutic riding horse at Shooting Star Ranch and was the 2006 ambassador for the NRHA. The Purcellis say that Joe is one of the most trusted horses in the barn. They credit his big heart, his innate intelligence and his ability to care for himself to his experiences running wild. Where domestic horses sometimes freak out at unfamiliar circumstances, Joe takes it all in stride.

Joe has his very own Bryer horse doll, is featured on every package of Wahl clippers and often appears in Wahl advertising. He also has his own Tucker Nevada Joe saddle.

His stable mates at Shooting Star Ranch are a miniature horse and a border collie but most important are his people friends. He has touched the hearts of many children with serious disabilities. Among his biggest fans are an 8 year old girl who has had two heart transplants and an 11 year old boy who has been diagnosed with high functioning autism.

