

Mustang and Burro Trails On Delmarva

*A newsletter by the Delmarva Chapter of The American Mustang and Burro Association, Inc.
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May-June 2006

NEWS AND NOTES

The **Fun Show** is scheduled for May 21 from 10 to 4 at Gene Dill's barn northwest of Felton. This one day show has been popular with members and friends alike. Emphasis is on having fun with our horses and burros as well as getting the animals accustomed to other horses/burros in the ring. This is an all breed show and anyone is welcome to participate. The fee is \$25 for the day per horse/rider unit. A negative Coggins is required. Alycia Hovey is show manager.

Great news! Ashley Harrell has volunteered to head an effort to have our own Color Guard and Drill Team. Alycia Hovey is co-chairperson. These gals have been busy making plans for matching saddle pads, uniforms and tack. This will take some work and practice but it will certainly be worth it as we strive to promote America's wild horses and burros as beautiful and useful animals. A series of meetings and practice sessions are planned. The first meeting will be on April 30 at 11 a.m. at Alycia Hovey's, 190 Thompsonville Road, Milford, Delaware. The second meeting will be on May 14 at 11 a.m. at Red Cedar Farm, Milford. The third meeting will be at Gene Dill's barn near Felton, at 10:30 a.m. All members are welcome and it is not necessary to be riding a Mustang. It is important that all persons interested in participating let Ashley know. She can be reached at justkidding65730@aol.com or 302-266-0268.

Congratulations to Stephanie Bailey who won 2nd place in the Judged Pleasure Ride – Benefit for the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center on April 1 at the Center. Stephanie earned a score of 124 in the Open Youth category. Way to go, Stephanie!

Robin Rivello, AMBA State Coordinator for New Jersey, was featured in "Veterinary Sciences Vision" a Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company news magazine by and for its Veterinary Sciences employees. Robin has been a Laboratory Animal Technician for the past 15

years. The article tells of her work with her 3 BLM adopted mustangs along with a picture of Robin and the mustang, Skye. Robin has also put together a how-to document on gentling and training. She offers this free to fellow adopters.

Wendy Bailey and Alycia Hovey will be attending the Wild Horse Expo in Reno in August.

An adoption was held April 7-9 in Annville, Pennsylvania. Friday was beautiful but Saturday was a wash out with pouring rain and cold windy temperatures. As a result, the number of animals adopted was relatively small. Mark and Marge attended this adoption where they set up an AMBA table. Robin Rivello was also in attendance along with her 3 year old mustang, "Skye." Skye delighted onlookers by doing some tricks.

Barbara Conner is in charge of the Chapter's new "Let's Ride" program. This will be a contest for riders, drivers and trainers of BLM branded mustangs and burros. This program will begin in June.

Unfortunately, the Scott Purdum all mustang clinic has been cancelled for lack of interest. Perhaps a reason for this was that the clinic was scheduled for Mother's Day weekend. Scott has been highly recommended by some of our members and the cost of the clinic was very reasonable. It is hoped that he will try again at a later date.

A big "Thank You" to Gloria Purvis for making a new parade and event banner for the Chapter.

A new magazine devoted to wild horses is being published in Spokane, Washington. The bi-monthly magazine, "Living Legends" began in 2006 and issues have been published thus far. Subscriptions are \$12.50 per year and persons can subscribe on line at www.livinglegendsmagazine.com or by calling toll free at 877-668-5906.

The University of Nevada Press has published a new book "Honest Horses of the Great Basin" by Paula Morin. This is a comprehensive and impartial examination of the history and impact of wild mustangs in the Great Basin of Nevada. It can be ordered from the University of Nevada Press at \$24.95 paper bound and \$49.95 cloth bound. www.unpress.nevada.edu

COMING EVENTS

May 21, Fun Show at Gene Dill's barn, 10 to 4

June 2 Barrel Racing Clinic
Sunset Stables, Bear, DE 302-834-7588

June 4 DeSpooking Clinic
Sunset Stables, Bear, DE 302-834-7588

June 10, Kid's Fest at Delaware State Fairgrounds
The Chapter will have a table promoting adoptions.
Please come and help out!

July 4, Chapter members will participate in the Dover or Smyrna parade, perhaps both. You'll be hearing more about this as the time approaches.

August 12, 10 a.m. Chestertown, Maryland Parade
Chapter members will participate. Ashley Harrell is Parade Chairperson.

August 18-20, Wild Horse and Burro Expo, Livestock Events Center, Reno, NV

September 9-10, Tuckahoe Outlaw Days

September 16-17, Mid-Atlantic Wild Horse and Burro Show, Tailwinds Farm, North East, Maryland

The Stuff of Legends

Missy

Missy, a shiny black mare with a tiny white spot on her off hind foot, was adopted from the BLM as a 3 year old to a family that didn't know much about horses and found her too much for them to handle. She was subsequently sold to a horse trader who, in turn, sold her to a feedlot where she was trained to work cattle. She excelled at this and her owner, thinking she would make a good pleasure riding horse

sold her again. But somewhere along the line, she learned some very bad habits. She liked to bite, kick, buck, and was hard to catch. Only a very severe bit was able to keep her from being a runaway.

Meanwhile, Lynn Allen worked at a livestock auction where horses were used to move and sort cattle. It was there that he met Missy. She was evidently put to work here by her owners as a means of further training. This is difficult work for a young horse with a great deal of banging and clanging, tight quarters and loudspeakers. Missy excelled. As long as Missy was working she was happy. Lynn reported that while everyone else needed three or four horses in a day, he only needed Missy and one other. She had incredible stamina, spirit and work ethic and won the admiration of all the cowboys at the auction.

When Missy was sent home after six months she quickly reverted to her old ways. She hated short pleasure rides, kicked, bucked, ran away and was worse than ever. Her owners sent her back to Lynn and he tried working her on ranches thinking that open space might be her problem. On the ranch she worked happily without argument with either Lynn or anyone else on board. It became clear that she would never make a pleasure horse and her owners, not interested in ranch work, eventing or endurance, decided to sell. Lynn could not afford another horse therefore Missy went to auction and predictably to the killer buyers for \$350. It broke Lynn's heart.

About a year later while Lynn was working on a different ranch another cowboy told of an 11 year old neighbor kid, Chris, and his horse. He reported that the horse, a mustang mare, was the "toughest thing on four feet." Evidently Chris had worn out several other horses and his folks thought they would never find something tough enough until they picked this mustang out of the killer pen for almost nothing. When Chris wasn't in school, he was riding - as much as 10 hours a day. The cowboy saw Chris and his mare some 15 miles from home and half way to town where he was headed to spend the night with a friend. The mare was loping along, happy and "not blowing a bit."

Upon hearing this story and with his heart in his mouth, Lynn asked for a description of the mare. The answer was that she was glossy black with a tiny white spot on her off hind foot.

I found this sad story with a happy ending by Lynn Allen in "Chicken Soup for the Horse Lovers Soul" pages 157-160 entitled "A Job for Missy."

