

## From the Vice President Hans Shull

Welcome to the first edition of the “Pony Express” the newsletter of our Association. I thought for this first newsletter you might like to know a little about the officers. Well my name is Hans F. Shull and I live in Chester NH with my Wife Joanne and our 3 Mustangs and 2 cats. I got my first Mustang in Dec. of 2008 so you can see that I am pretty new to Mustangs. It did not take me long to figure out that the Mustang would be my mount of choice for the rest of my life and being one that tends to dive in, I started looking for ways to promote the Mustang to others

I started working as a volunteer for the BLM doing anything I could to be a help. I worked my first adoption in Jun 2008 at Somersworth NH. I can honestly say that I had never had such a good time before. I was hot, sunburned, and tired when it was all over, but the feeling I had inside almost brought tears to my eyes. It was a feeling of really doing something that made a difference in the lives of these great horses. It was not a feeling of personal achievement, or of self worth, but a feeling that was much bigger than myself

We had a home run at that adoption, all the animals were adopted or fostered and we sent the trucks home to the BLM empty. I was on cloud nine for days after that.

Before the adoption I spent about 3 months letting everyone I could know about the adoption. My Mustang Vinny and I did TV, Newspaper, and Radio interviews, we went to tack and feed stores to post and pass out flyers about the event. I was not alone; many other people in the area worked hard to promote the event and came out to volunteer at the adoption.

I met some of the best folks I have ever known at the adoption. The volunteers came from all over the North East with one goal in mind. Get as many Mustangs and Burros adopted out as possible.

Not long after the adoption I was contacted by Robin and Mike asking if I would like to help get a Mustang Association off the ground. I jumped at the chance and asked what I could do. I got some tasks from them to do and got to work. Soon a new slogan kept coming my way. It was “under the bus”. I spent a lot of time under the bus and just when I thought I was clear, I was thrown under again!

Well, one night Robin called and told me, not asked me mind you, but told me that I was the Vice-President of the USWHBA. I was flabbergasted to say the least. Not in a bad way but in a humbled way. I was the new guy and I had been made the VP of this association. I felt honored as I have never felt in my life. I said fine with me, what do you need me to do, and I got the lowdown of a long hard road ahead.

Today as you read our first newsletter, the USWHBA is a reality! It was a long hard journey to get here and the hard work is far from over. We now have an association up and running, but this is not the end, just the start. As Vice-President, and a member of

USWHBA, I pledge to you all that I will work as hard as I can to make the USWHBA the best horse association it can be!

To all our members, I say get used to the expression “thrown under the bus” as in the months to come all members will be asked to step up and help. There will be no pay, no fame, and no rest, but the rewards are beyond imagination! I am thrilled and excited about what is in our future and I want all our members to feel what I felt after working my first adoption. I want our members to be proud of the USWHBA and what we are doing for America’s wild equine.

We have all come together here because we all share the same love of the Wild Mustangs and Burros. We are of like mind and unlike other associations; we are made up of people that discourage breeding of our animals. We know there are plenty out there already that need good loving homes, without home breeding more. We know a good horse when we see one, the Mustang is as good as any breed horse, and can do anything they can. We know that Mother Nature breeds horses and humans step in and screw it all up

I ask that all of our members keep Mustang information with them and pass it out to anyone you speak with about horses. The more we can educate, the better it will be for all wild equine. The BLM can provide brochures and we at USWHBA national will have information as well. Your efforts do not have to be monumental. Something as simple as talking about Mustangs with a single person at a trail ride, or equine event can have a deep impact.

Thank you all for being members, and thank you for the support and work I know all of you will provide in the future. Let’s get busy gang!!!!

Sincerely,

Hans Shull

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