



Pryor Mountain
WILD MUSTANG CENTER

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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Summer Time on the Pryors



The bands of Duke and Prince graze near Pen's Meadow in July 2011.

Summer is a busy and exciting time to observe the wild horses. Summer 2011 has been especially rewarding because of the abundant rainfall this spring. Even the Dry-head area stayed green through much of June and July which kept those horses visible. Visitors to Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area were shown lots of action as the harem stallions and the numerous bachelors interacted on Mustang Flats. The mountain horses showed their typical pattern of following the receding snowline up to the higher elevations of the Pryors. During the months of June and July it wasn't unusual to see close to 100 horses grazing in and around Pen's Meadow. It will be interesting to watch the horses make adjustments to the new Forest Service fence and a number of water guzzlers.

Wild Horse Numbers

The winter of 2010-2011 was one of the hardest for the herd in years. Since last fall, around 17 horses are believed to be or have been found deceased. Currently, the wild horse population on the Range is estimated to be around 158 adults. 17 foals have been born in 2011; this is lower than average due to the effects of the immun contraceptive vaccine PZP.

Admiral and Kapitan

Tragedy struck the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses in the early morning hours of July 24th when Admiral and his son Kapitan were hit and killed by a driver. Believed to be the first time that a Pryor horse has been killed by a vehicle, the case is currently in the court system. Admiral's harem, Hightail and Seneca, have been joined by Admiral and Seneca's 2009 son, Jesse James, and Hickok. A memorial with photos of Admiral and Kapitan is on display at the Center. We will post any news regarding the investigation and updates on the mares on our website. Special thanks to Christine Reed who took the photo of Admiral and Kapitan shortly before their deaths.



Kapitan and Admiral

Admiral—His Story

Born in 2000, Admiral was among the group of foals that brought the herd into the 21st Century. He was born to Sam and Hightail and lived nearly his entire life in the Crooked Creek Bay area. As a young stallion, Admiral was eye-catching with his solid bay color and his stocky conformation. He boldly traveled up and down the Dryhead with other bachelors. In December 2006, Admiral successfully overpowered Sitting Bull to capture Seneca and her filly, Ghost Dancer. Taking no chances on his competition, he ousted Seneca's 2004 colt, Exhilaration from the band (see related story). Admiral's dam, Hightail, joined up with her son after the death of Sam. Three colts were born to Admiral and Seneca: Iroquois was born in 2008, Jesse James in 2009, and Kapitan in 2010. Admiral's story began and ended on the mountain where he lived his life as a Pryor Mountain Wild Horse, and his legacy will long live on.

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is fully supported by donations, gift shop sales, and small grants. In order to continue on with our work to preserve and promote the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses, we depend on the generosity of people who share our concern for these animals. We have established a number of ways that you can help.

Be A Member of the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center!

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center Board of Directors is excited to announce our new membership campaign. For a donation of only \$30.00 you can become a member of the PMWMC. You will receive one of our beautiful personally designed membership cards, a post card of one of the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustangs, a logo magnet, a 10% off coupon for our gift shop, and our newsletters.

Foster Horse Program

Give yourself, or someone you love, a gift of a unique connection to a Pryor Mountain Wild Horse. For \$30 you can select an available horse and receive a beautiful full-color photograph along with interesting information about the it. (More horses will be added soon!) The profits from this program will be used to fund projects on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range.

Don't forget, you can order items from our gift shop, and we can mail them to you. We have PMWMC logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, photo cards of the wild horses, and other items available. Please contact us for more information and to place an order!

Wind Drinker 1000

*When they run it
looks like they are
drinking the wind.
Reverend Floyd Schwieger*



The Wind Drinker 1000 program has been an exciting fund raising program for the Mustang Center. The Wind Drinker 1000 Donor Board fills a large space on one side of the Center. Every time a donation of \$100 is made to this fund, a metal plaque is added to the board with the name and place of residence of the donor. So far we have 504 plaques proudly displayed on our Wind Drinker 1000 board. Each time a donation is made, a certificate and Wind Drinker photo is given to honor the gift. Help us reach our goal of 1000!

Donations may be made online at <http://www.pryormustangs.org>, over the telephone, or through the mail. Please mail the form below to:

**Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center
P.O. Box 385
Lovell, WY 82431**

Enclosed is my contribution of \$10 \$50 \$250 \$1,000
 \$30 Membership \$25 \$100 \$500 (Other) \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

For a gift of \$100 or more, you will receive a personalized plate on a permanent display in the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center. Please write how you would like your plate to read below. *(Generally, the top line is used for names and the bottom for locations.)*

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Exhilaration

Exhilaration was a very familiar horse on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. He was born in May 2004 near Crooked Creek Bay to the mare Seneca, who was with Sitting Bull's band. He quickly gained attention from the first days



of his life with his red bay coat and distinct tomahawk-shaped blaze. Throughout the first years of his life Exhilaration and his band were frequently visible right near the entrance to the horse range.

When Exhilaration was 2 years old, the young stallion, Admiral, overpowered Sitting Bull and captured the harem. As often happens, Admiral ran Exhilaration out of the band. The outcast colt tagged behind his mother's band for quite some time but gradually became a loner. Typically the young stallions join up in bachelor bands, yet Exhilaration never stayed long when he did come into contact with other bachelors. He also suffered a pretty serious injury which made his very existence questionable. And then he discovered a new home off-range with a herd of domestic mares. Despite numerous attempts to return him to the Range, he kept returning to the domestic mares. The tendency for Exhilaration to live off range eventually posed a problem for the owners of the mares, and the BLM was given little choice except to remove Exhilaration from the range. He was removed in January 2011 and put up for adoption in February 2011.

Steve and Nancy Cerroni (PMWMC Board Member) adopted him and took him home to their place near Lovell, WY. Nancy had watched Exhilaration from the first days of his life. Nancy stated, "Exhilaration and I both became part of the Pryor horses in 2004. It was important to me that he always stay close to his Pryor home." Exhilaration has adjusted well and has no problem socializing with the Cerroni's quarter horses. In fact, he is quite content!

Open House 2011

The Center had an open house on June 25, 2011 during the Lovell Mustang Days Celebration. Lynne Pomeranz held a book signing ([Among Wild Horses](#)) and had photo cards and prints for sale. Sydney was in charge of the children's activity making sand art. Approximately 80 visitors stopped by that day to share in the activities and learn about the Pryor horses. The Center would like to thank everyone for helping to make this day a success.

Guest Corner

We're excited to have our first Guest Corner as part of the Newsletter. Five years ago our new director, Lori Graham, took her adopted daughter, Heidi Messmer, and Heidi's son, Hunter to see the Pryor Horses. As a result, Heidi wrote the poem, [Not All Who Wander Are Lost](#).

Not All Who Wander Are Lost

By Heidi Messmer

**What is wild, what is free?
The wandering notion of where to be...
Man has changed what God has sent
Knowledge is knowing what that meant.**

**There are no papers, there is no name,
The harems running far from tame.
The rumble of silence, the pound of a hoof,
The stallion is circling, the protective mother and hootch.**

**The circle of life is all the same.
The natural instinct of life to rein.
For nothing it seems is really free,
Out on the range trying to be.**

**On the horizon, a mustang's silhouette does stand
Proud and prancing with hope of man.**

Kids...Check This Out!



Writing Contest

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center will be holding an essay, poem or short story contest for all children and teens.

Theme: Anything that has to do with Pryor Mountain Wild Horses
Age Groups: One winner for each age group
8-11 12-15
Length: Essay, poem, or short story no longer than 500 words
Send entries to:
Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center
P.O. Box 385
Lovell, WY 82431

Changes at the Center

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center has gone through some changes this past year. One was the resignation of director Matthew Dillon. The new Director, Lori Graham, is doing a great job keeping the Center as it was and taking things in a positive direction. Matt is still very involved with the Center and now serves on the Board of Directors. He will continue to monitor the horses and the Range and share his experiences through the blog on our website.

Another change was with the hiring of Sydney Tyacke through the work force services. Sydney is a very aspiring young lady who brings her love of horses and knowledge of the Pryor horses to the Center. We feel fortunate to have Sydney at the Center this summer.

Three Mustang Center Board Members also retired this year. Dale and Daphne Hartman worked closely with Reverend Schwieger and have been involved with the Pryor horses for years. The Hartmans were instrumental in the establishment of the Mustang Center and shared their Pryor horses with the public at special events. Kathy Johnsey has served many years on the Board of Directors. She has an avid interest in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses and was invaluable in the start up of the Mustang Center.



Sydney Tyacke in front of the "Stiles" silhouette at the entrance of the Mustang Center.

A Note from the New Director- Lori Graham

For the past eight years my husband and I have lived in Lovell, Wyoming. We moved here from Florida in 2003, but have visited Lovell every year since 1994. I was a Wildlife Rehabilitator prior to moving to Wyoming. I have always



loved animals, especially horses and had dreamed of owning my own for what seemed like a lifetime. On one of our visits to Lovell, some friends took us up to the Pryor Mountains to go sightseeing. While we were on the very top of the mountain a band of wild horses caught my eye. It seemed as though they were flying on air as they raced across the meadows. There, in that moment began my passion for these Pryor Mountain Wild Mustangs, my quest to find out everything I could about them, and my need to help protect them for generations to come. We now proudly own two Pryor Mountain Mustangs, and I am honored to be the Director of the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center. I will do my best to protect the Pryor Mountain Wild

Horses and the Range that they live on and to lead the PMWMC in a positive direction. I believe that everyone should be as fortunate as me and have the opportunity to observe these unique wild horses in their natural environment. It is a sight to behold.

Pryor Wild...An Eye on the Horses

The PMWMC's blog, Pryor Wild, has been active for over four years now. It has been exciting for the PMWMC to continue to provide up-to-date, accurate information on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses to a growing number of readers from around the world. Also, a comment section allows readers to ask questions and share their thoughts on the wild horse updates. Please visit our website to find a link to Pryor Wild.



One of the recent blog posts tells of Kerry, a young filly, who had been missing and recently showed up on Mustang Flats with Durango.

2012 Calendar

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center's 2012 calendar is now available. The calendar features photographs by Matthew Dillon of the wild horses taken in each month of the year in 2010 and 2011. The calendars are available for \$12.00. All proceeds from the calendars benefit the PMWMC.



Our Mission:

The Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the Pryor Mountain Mustangs, their history, habitat needs and historical significance.