

CHINCOTEAGUE

beachcomber

JULY 22, 2011

WWW.DELMARVANOW.COM



Minnow the painting pony returns to island

Chincoteague-born pony shares his art at Pony Penning 2011

CHINCOTEAGUE — He's coming back. It seems that if you have saltwater in your veins you just can't stay away from Chincoteague Island for too long. The same must be true for ponies as well, because Minnow, the painting pony, will again be making his trek to Chincoteague for Pony Penning. He will appear at the Chincoteague Pony Centre and demonstrate his skills as a master artist during the week.

His brushstrokes flow effortlessly across the canvas as he stands attentive and focused, waiting to be handed a new brush dripping with paint. With each stroke, his tail swishes back and forth in a pleased and content manner. Finally, his masterpiece is complete.

The canvas is filled with colorful abstract brushstrokes that seem to resemble a flock of birds or perhaps a band of wild horses. The artist is Chincoteague Minnow and he is a 1993 island-born Chincoteague pony that loves to paint.

Minnow has been painting since January 2007 and each painting is an original work of art created solely from his imagination. Minnow has sold hundreds of paintings all over the world through his website, www.PaintingPony.com. Through the sale of his works, he has raised money to help numerous animal rescues and charities. Each painting is a one-of-a-kind

original that comes signed by the artist and includes a certificate of authenticity.

Minnow, under the direction of his owner/trainer Kyle DiLuigi of Downingtown, Pa., will be appearing in the pony show at the Chincoteague Pony Centre Monday through Thursday at 4 and 8 p.m. and on Friday at the 4 p.m. show. In addition to painting before the show (so come early to see him paint), a painting will be auctioned off to the highest bidder during

each performance. A portion of the proceeds will go to charity. Minnow and DiLuigi will also be performing tricks as part of the daily pony show that showcases both Misty family ponies and veterans of the swim.

After winning the 2010 Equine Extravaganza Talent Contest with his trusty sidekick, Ammo the Dachshund, Minnow has revamped his trick performance for Pony Penning in 2011. This year's performance at the Chincoteague Pony Centre promises to be even more thrilling, with new tricks that will keep you laughing all week.

After developing

ringbone (a form of equine arthritis) at the young age of 15, Minnow was facing a very early retirement from his riding career as a successful mounted games pony. But DiLuigi knew he was destined for greatness and began training Minnow to perform tricks as a way to keep his mind active. Four years later and Minnow has been showcasing his talents across the country and making people everywhere smile.

Minnow and Ammo even appeared on Animal Planet's "America's Cutest Dogs" in 2009.

Now Minnow is passing along his talents to his

younger brothers, Chesapeake Lightning and Chesapeake Boomerang. With the great Minnow as their teacher, these young Chincoteague ponies have been blazing a path of their own. This past February, Boomerang competed in Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Race at the Horse World Expo in Harrisburg, Pa. Placing in the Top 6, Boomerang, a Surfer Dude grandson, wowed the crowd as he

navigated obstacles in his bitless bridle — showing everyone just how talented these Chincoteague ponies can be.

Chincoteague Minnow is an alumnus of the Chincoteague Pony Centre, where he resided in years past. The Pony Centre not only breeds, raises and trains quality Chincoteague ponies but also sells foals to fully

See MINNOW, Page 6

A Must Visit!



**Osprey Nest Art Gallery Presents...
28th Annual Pony Penning Poster
By Resident Artist,
Kevin McBride**

"Wild & Free"

This years poster is sure to be one of Kevin's most popular! It features the famous stallion **"Copper Moses"** and his Northend herd running through the waters of Assateague with the sun shining through the loblolly pines. **"Copper Moses"** sired a beautiful buckskin foal this year sure to be a big hit at this years Pony Penning Auction. Kevin will be unveiling his original 24x40 oil painting on **Wednesday afternoon, July 27th.**

Refreshments and cake will be served for Kevin's Birthday and 28th poster celebration. On Thursday the 28th Kevin will have his legendary Chincoteague Stallion **"Cezanne"** at the gallery. We look forward to seeing you at The Osprey Nest Art Gallery for this special event!

Limited Edition Prints & Only 25 One of a kind Artist Proof/Remarques Available

THE OSPREY NEST ART GALLERY
4096 MAIN STREET, CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND
757-336-6042 • 757-894-5590 (CELL)



Pony Swim Week Events

@ Sundial Books

Books & Authors

Saltwater Cowboy

a Chincoteague Romance by Laura Rudacille
Saturday, July 23, 7:00pm
Wednesday, July 27, 7:00pm

Somebody Stole the Cornbread from My Dressing

North meets south in the kitchen by Susanne Reed
Sunday, July 24, 1:00pm

Sweetheart's Gift

a Chincoteague Pony saves a little girl by Peggy Jaegly
Reading/Book Signing with musical harp
Monday, July 25, 1:00pm & Friday, July 29, 11:00am

Playing With Fire

Pakistan at war with itself
by Washington Post correspondent Pamela Constable
Tuesday, July 26, 7:00pm

Kirk Mariner

Local author of Once Upon an Island, Off 13 and more
Thursday, July 28, 1:00pm

Live Music

Greg Shupe & Men with Issues

Thursday, July 28, 7:00pm

Special! Handmade Pony Jewelry

4065 Main St.

Chincoteague Island

757.336.5825

www.sundialbooks.net

MD-000056257

MD-000056257

Minnow

Continued from Page 5

trained ponies. The Pony Centre features both veterans of the swim as well as Misty family ponies.

The Chincoteague Pony Centre is located on Chicken City Road, one half block south of Maddox Boulevard. In addition to the daily Pony Shows, the center is hosting riding lessons on Chincoteague ponies, pony rides, seminars and silent auctions, daily pony care camps, and much more with a wide variety of items in its gift shoppe. For more information, contact the Pony Centre at 757-336-2776.

Minnow the painting pony will again be making his trek to Chincoteague for Pony Penning. He will appear at the Chincoteague Pony Centre and demonstrate his skills as a master artist during the week.

