

# **ACCESS ADVENTURE**

*Challenging the Limits of Disability*



*February 2010*



## **Golden Parachute**

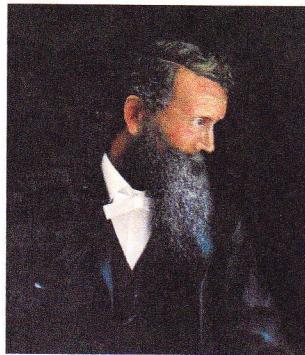
Spotlight on Reba and Ruby

Publicity is the wind that fills the sails of *Access Adventure*. People need to know about the work we do in order to enjoy our services. We recruit new volunteers with inspirational stories. When we touch someone's heart, they can be moved to donate to our worthy cause.

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When Guideposts Magazine published a story about us in 2007, it reached 2.4 million readers. Among them were Jim and JoAnn Warren of Wyoming. Michael got a call one day from Mr. Warren who said, "I'm retiring from the horse business and selling seventy head. I own the best-broke team of Percheron mares in the state, and I don't want to sell them. I want to give them to you!"



"So extraordinary is Nature with her choicest treasures."

John Muir

## February Calendar

Feb. 3, Wednesday, 9:30 AM, Golden Hills School at Rush Ranch

Feb. 6, Saturday, 9AM, "Get Dirty" Work Day, Staff Meeting: "Recruiting, training and keeping Volunteers", Rush Ranch

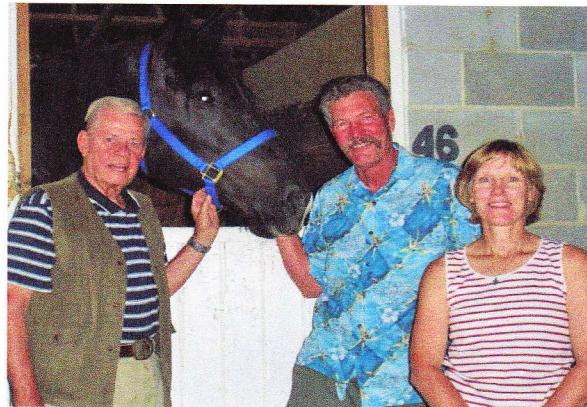
Feb. 10, Wednesday, 9:30 AM, Golden Hills School at Rush Ranch

Feb. 17, Wednesday, 9:30 AM, Golden Hills School at Rush Ranch

Feb. 19-21, USEF Champion/Judge Marsoe LaRose clinic with Apollo, Wilton

Feb. 20, Saturday, 9AM, Staff Meeting: "Friendraising/Fundraising", 11AM-1PM carriage rides, blacksmithing, Rush Ranch

*Access Adventure* volunteer Susan Hassett arranged a sweetheart deal on a plane ticket through her daughter, the airline pilot, and caught the next flight out. Reba and Ruby passed muster and were on their way to Winnemucca, Nevada. Mike and Cathy O'Shea took "Jethro" (our newly donated truck) out for his maiden run, hooked to "Ellie Mae" (the horse trailer donated by Simpson Percherons). They headed east over the Sierra for the appointed rendezvous.



Jim and JoAnn Warren with Michael

Our respective rigs arrived simultaneously. We got our first look at the lovely (and very plump) sisters who would become the backbone of *Access Adventure*. They arrived in California with barely enough time to touch up their feet before heading out to their first job, pulling the Thornlea trolley for the Xenophon family picnic. This was the first of countless events where Reba and Ruby have performed loyally and with distinction. Many of our volunteers have learned to drive with the patient assistance of this good team. These girls have served us well.



Reba & Ruby at Work

Feb. 24, Wednesday, 9:30 AM, Golden Hills School at Rush Ranch

Feb. 28, Sunday, Dressage at Leap of Faith Farm, Walnut Creek

### **Follow our news and action packed calendar**

### **IMPORTANT LINKS**

[Email](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Website](#)

[Check out our photos](#)

[You Tube 1](#);

[You Tube 2](#);

[You Tube 3](#)

### **And the Winner Is...**

Or should we say, "and the winners are..."

*Access Adventure recently offered a wonderful incentive to the first donor of \$1,000. Our prize was a complete boxed set of "Our National Parks, America's Best Idea" signed by Ken Burns. We had two sets through the courtesy of Florentine Films and two clear winners:*

*Thank you to Peggy Price of Coronado, California. Peggy is a veteran of two Anywhere Wild!/Sierra Club trips and signed up for our first spring adventure, "A Muir Returns to Old California". Peggy is now the proud sponsor of our broodmare*

The calendar of events for *Access Adventure* continues to grow, ranging across our beautiful state.

The time has come when the miles before us are beginning to look a little long for our gracefully aging mares. We are seeking a new home, a golden parachute with a lighter workload for their golden years. Are you looking for the perfect pair to sharpen your driving skills? Can you offer a loving home to this fine team?

Call 707-432-0152 for an appointment to meet the mares that will steal your heart, as they have won ours. You won't be disappointed.

[Reba & Ruby at work for Access Adventure](#)

[Reba & Ruby at work for Anywhere Wild!](#)

### **Taking Action**

We have formed the *Access Adventure* Action Group with twenty veteran volunteers. They have agreed to serve as an interim Board of Directors to guide *Access Adventure*. Our program continues to develop, serving more people in a growing variety of ways. It is challenging to do this demanding level of work with an all-volunteer team. The outlook is promising, with our early work demonstrating steady hands on the tiller as we sail into the future.

Our first order of business was to wrestle with the many facets of our work. We need to hone our focus, establishing the priorities that will determine its emphasis given to each program. Every person with an established commitment to *Access Adventure* has a voice.

**First Priority:** Serving people with disabilities and other under-served members of our community. We are developing a growing list of exciting programs to meet our highest goal, including:

- Outdoor recreation at Rush Ranch and other Solano Land Trust properties
- Anywhere Wild! multi-day, accessible camping trips to remote, scenic, wilderness areas of California, as well as other events closer to home in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Stonewall Fantasia and eagerly joins the crew in looking forward to her next foal in April.

Thank you to Ross and Gladys Hanna of Dixon, California who have steadfastly supported *Access Adventure* since our beginning. We are deeply grateful that you have helped us grow into an organization serving many overlooked people in our community. Our work depends on people like you.

We are proud to honor our winners with Life Memberships in *Access Adventure*. Thank you!

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## In Memorium

Ian Mackey Newman



Ian and his mother, Jennifer Mackey, were among the first friends and supporters of *Access Adventure*. Ian lived life with courage, determination and a sense of adventure. He will be sorely missed by his many friends and loving family.

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

- Golden Hills School program, a transitional high school for students with special needs
- Equine Facilitated Therapies at Rush Ranch and the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy in Woodside, including Therapeutic Riding, Therapeutic Driving, Hippotherapy, Equine Facilitated Learning and Therapeutic Recreation
- Special Events partnering with other organizations, including Sierra Club, Solano Land Trust, Muir Heritage Land Trust, John Muir Association, Access Adventure Sonoma, Bay Area Outreach Recreation Program, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, East Bay Regional Parks, Point Reyes National Seashore
- Youth Programs: 4-H, FFA, Youth Interns and Volunteers
- Training and certification of proficiency for carriage drivers and driving instructors. Training for people with disabilities and for working with under-served members of our community.

**Second Priority:** Fundraising and grant writing to support the work of *Access Adventure*. Develop a reliable source of revenue to maintain our programs. Fund paid staff including Executive Director, Office Manager and Ranch Manager. Outreach and promotion.

**Third Priority:** Recruiting, training and keeping volunteers

**Fourth Priority:** Breeding, training and sale of horses

**Fifth Priority:** Equestrian competition for riders and drivers with disabilities and volunteers.

This is an ambitious undertaking for a young organization. We expect to establish our own 501(c)(3) status, independent of the Solano Land Trust as our fiscal agent (but continuing our active partnership with that organization). We are also actively seeking and recruiting a

Board of Directors to help guide our growth  
into the future.

Mission: Enriching the lives of people with disabilities and underserved members  
of our community by providing outdoor recreation, open space access, education  
and therapy through a working partnership with horses.

