

**ACCESS ADVENTURE/ANYWHERE WILD! Dog Days of Summer  
JULY/AUGUST 2009**

**“Many people have sighed for the 'good old days' and regretted the 'passing of the horse,' but today, when only those who like horses own them, it is a far better time for horses.” ~C.W. Anderson**

Dear Friends,

**“Celebrate Adventure!” the Walk with Rock and Horse Fair  
Saturday, October 10, 2009  
Rush Ranch**

Access Adventure needs your help! In order to continue serving our community and accomplishing our mission to provide recreational and educational programs for people with mobility challenges and underserved youth, we need a steady funding stream. We depend on our annual “Celebrate Adventure” event to pay for horse feed, transportation, and program costs.

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, we will “Celebrate Adventure” with a major fundraising Walkathon and Horse Fair at the Access Adventure headquarters, the Solano Land Trust’s Rush Ranch near Suisun City. The gentle giant Rock, the largest Percheron draft horse in North America, will lead the 2.5 mile walk. The venue is the historic 2070 acre ranch located within the largest estuarine marsh in North America. The scenery, the antique farm equipment, the recently dedicated Nature Center and Native American displays are only surpassed by the opportunities for bird watching. All combine to make the 2.5 miles a pleasant hike. The walkathon will be followed by a fun-filled afternoon at the Horse Fair. Lunch, auction, entertainment and exhibitions including draft horse, mule and oxen hitches, wagon rides, traditional horse farming, antique carriages, and demonstrations of various equestrian disciplines will enhance the celebration.

Access Adventure is seeking corporate sponsorship to underwrite this annual event, as well as teams of participants to join the 2.5 mile walk. Your support will establish your company’s reputation as committed to caring for the needs of the disabled and our many youth programs. Last year’s walkathon at Lynch Canyon was well received and we expect an even larger turnout at the Rush Ranch. Sponsors will be prominently listed on all promotional materials. As an individual, you too, can help. Plan to attend the walkathon, ask your friends to sponsor you, win an award for having the largest team, or collecting the most sponsors. Donations from individuals unable to attend are welcome. Flyer attached.

**Drive the Rails**

Access Adventure volunteers and their families had incredible experiences on one of California's most beautiful Rails to Trails routes, the Bizz Johnson Trail in Lassen County. From our camp at Papoose Meadows Campground, we drove a few miles to the Ronald McDonald Camp on Eagle Lake. Ronald McDonald greeted us upon our arrival. Over 70 campers and counselors enthusiastically boarded the carriages powered by Ruby and Reba, and Stuart Schroeder's Betsy and Bonnie. Many were developmentally disabled adults, some using wheelchairs for getting around. Our reward was seeing the smiles on all their faces and the excitement our visit generated. We promised to return next year. Upon returning to our campground we again marveled at the beauty around us. Papoose Meadows Campground is a beautiful, isolated spot with a legend attached. The story is that settlers were approached by a group of Indians and feeling threatened they promptly slaughtered the group. Later a tiny baby was found that had survived the massacre, thus the name Papoose Meadows. Still located in the area is a homestead, including a corral.

The carriages hit the trail for the drive to our next camp at Gomaz Campground. Although it is approximately an 18 mile drive, the horses were fresh and eager to move. The Bizz Johnson trail lives up to its reputation. Part of the trail is in view of the river which added to the spectacular scenery. The driving surface is perfect for horses, and undaunted, they crossed the bridge and went through the tunnel. There were a few hills to climb, so to lighten the load the passengers hiked, following the example of our ancestors as they traveled across the country back before cars, trucks and motorhomes. Storm clouds threatened, but we only had a light sprinkling of rain. It could have been our imaginations but we could swear we heard a train whistle (ghost of the days when trains used the track?) Upon arrival at the campground we set up camp, high-lined and fed the horses and settled down for a great dinner and our customary time around the campfire. We had a special visitor, Richard Burrill, a local historian who recounted tales of the region and joined us in a songfest.

Our thanks to Grayson Sorrels who has scouted and planned previous trips to the Humbug Valley and once again came through for this new adventure. The BLM was especially helpful, and encouraged us to return next year. For pictures of this trip follow this link to our SmugMug albums

[http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/gallery/8893269\\_keHXB#589855897\\_MdQoh](http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/gallery/8893269_keHXB#589855897_MdQoh).

## **THE TEST RESULTS ARE IN**

Apollo has performed admirably as a sire this year. Of the mares he serviced we have confirmed pregnancies on all but the most recently bred three mares. We are delighted! Come spring 2010, we expect to see some magnificent foals.

## **YOUTH DAY**

The youth of Access Adventure are involved as Youth Interns, in our 4-H draft horse project and FFA. The Golden Hills School students are learning to care for, to train and to drive our horses. Each year we present our youth with Certificates of Achievement for their accomplishments. Congratulations to each and every one of them. In particular we want to mention three outstanding young people. Kyla, has a successful business as a farrier, and in fact takes care of our horses. Jestine will be serving as Youth Representative on our Board of Directors. Brianne will be starting UC Davis this fall majoring in Animal Science and hopes to help Access Adventure in the future. Some of the Access Adventure youth are pictured in the attached Youth Pages.

## **PREPARATIONS FOR 2010 WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES**

Michael is up at dawn working the horses as they train for participation in the World Equestrian Games in ridden dressage and World Championship for Drivers with Disabilities combined driving. He and Pam Seifert traveled to Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville, Washington for a USEF Para Equestrian Dressage Training Session. Pam competed in dressage until a stroke, and leg amputation affected her ability to ride. She returned to riding and under the direction of her coach is polishing her dressage performance. Both Michael and Pam attended USEF training sessions, conducted by Missy Ranshousen, USEF Para Equestrian Team Coach. Steve McKenzie MS, PT provided the opportunity to get the National Classification required for them to compete in para equestrian competitions and at the World Equestrian Games.

## **BARN UPDATE**

The question of the year is “Are we building a barn or a house?” The barn was in stalled mode as we navigated the frustrating world of permits and inspections. In spite of the architectural and engineering plans having been approved and followed by our capable contractor, the inspector came up with some changes he wanted made. The mounting structure, wash rack and hitch rail have finally received permit approvals. Designed by architect Pam Seifert and engineered by her husband Steve Harvey, the structure cannot be constructed until the barn is completed. We are underway in the capable hands of Steve and his dedicated band of volunteers to bring this project to the finish. Come to the dedication October 10<sup>th</sup>!

**“Horse Boy”, a story of love - see attachment**

**Watch the movie trailer <http://www.horseboymovie.com/trailer-only.php>**

**For a revised Special Events Calendar**

**<http://www.access-adventure.org/calendar.html>**

**ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! Events**

Visit to Yountville VA Veterans Home, July 15

Humboldt Scouting trip, July 22-26 (tentative)  
Del Valle camping event with BORP, Livermore, July 31-August 1  
John Muir Mountain Day Camp August 6 and 13  
Memories of Muir, September 13-19  
“Celebrate Adventure!” the Walk with Rock, & Horse Fair, Rush Ranch, October 10

### **Rush Ranch**

Benicia School for special needs students, July 1  
Scout Camp, July 8-10  
Golden Hills Summer Program, July 9, 16, 18, 23  
Milestones, July 23  
Solano Land Trust Business Partners in Conservation at Rush Ranch, July 29  
Get Dirty Work day, August 1  
Access Adventure Volunteer Training, July 11, August 8, 29  
Access Adventure Monthly Staff and Committee Meetings, July 25, August 22  
Carriage rides and blacksmith demonstrations, July 18, August 15  
“Alive” (Futures Explored), August 21

### ***Michael Muir and the Volunteers of ACCESS ADVENTURE***

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Attachments: Youth, WWR flyer, Horse Boy