

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! June Jamboree 2009

And Allah took a handful of southerly wind, blew His breath over it, and created the horse.... Thou shall fly without wings, and conquer without any sword. Oh, horse.
~Bedouin Legend

Dear Friends

Friesians, Friesians, Friesians!

Allah may have brought the horse to the Bedouins, but it was the Dutch who took the horse, refined it and created the Friesians. What a magnificent creation! Beautiful, responsive, receptive to training and unsurpassed in qualities too numerous to mention. Fandango, son of Apollo and Fanny, is causing quite a flurry of attention, with people making contact to find out what the plans are for his future. Is he for sale? Will you be breeding him? We will be putting together a photo album to document his development but for now, a more recent photograph is attached. At this early age he is like a big dog, eager for attention – a good back scratch, or one behind the ear, and an affinity for human contact. He is being trained to lead, to accept his feet being picked up, and now that he has four front teeth, not to bite. Fanny continues to be a doting, but vigilant mother as witnessed when they joined another mare and foal in the pasture. She is still very protective and cautious around the new arrivals, but in time Fandango will enjoy more freedom to play with someone his own age.

The breeding season for Apollo will be completed the end of June, so he has a very busy sex life to look forward to. Waiting in line for his attention are several few-spot mares that will be producing foals with Friesian and Stonewall Sporthorse qualities, much like Fandango. In spite of his duties as a stud, Apollo continues combined driving training and that along with competitions will occupy his time when breeding season is over. If you haven't already done so, contact Michael at 707-432-0152 to schedule a breeding date with Apollo.

Torben, a Friesian stallion also imported from Holland, has joined Apollo, and geldings Mercury and Jochem. He is a beauty, eleven years old, 17.1 hands. Trained to the fourth level of Dressage, Torben has won many competitions in the United States and Europe. To see photos of Apollo and Torben, follow the link to the Royal Friesians website from www.access-adventure.org.

Accessibility

We are working to educate ourselves on how to provide user-friendly camping events and adjustments at the ranch to develop a model of accessible facilities. The “kit house” at Rush Ranch already is easily entered by an attractive and functional ramp and deck. A recent visitor suggested the picnic area could be improved by simple changes to the picnic tables and benches. The national parks are a good example of what can be done. They are working on wheelchair friendly trails, interpretive signage lowered to be easily read from a wheelchair and by children, and Braille for the sight-impaired. There are wheelchair accessible tents and cots on the market, wheelchairs that can be driven across a beach, but what are sorely lacking are camping toilets that a person can transfer to from their wheelchair. Our Thornlea carriages are good examples of an adaptation that works, not only for wheelchair users but also by those aided by walkers or with difficulty going up steps. The wheelchair ramp and hitch rail under construction at Rush Ranch

enables anyone to mount a horse and will be used in our Equine Facilitated Therapy programs and for equestrians visiting the ranch at events.

“Celebrate Adventure!” the Walk with Rock and Horse Fair

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.

Stay-cations

Access Adventure is joining the trend toward “stay-cation” rather than vacation away from home. The “Bizz Johnson Drive the Rails” Anywhere Wild trip this month will be the last far-away trip for Access Adventure this year. The Sierra Club Memories of Muir adventure in the Sierra is unaffected by this change. Unfortunately that means we will not be going to one of our favorite locations, Humboldt County, where we have an incredible group of volunteers and record numbers of people that join us on the carriages. We have decided that our budget and those of our volunteers who dig deep into their pockets to pay for the food and gas, need to be carefully managed until the economy improves. Instead, we will be planning day trips and camping at locations closer to home. It will also provide Access Adventure exposure in the Bay Area counties, and continue to serve people with disabilities with great wilderness experiences. We have been invited to camp at Del Valle, an East Bay Regional Park near Livermore, with BARP (Bay Area Outreach and Recreation), an organization that frequently visits us at the Rush Ranch. The park district is striving to make their many parks fully accessible and is facilitating this venture. If you can recommend locations that are user-friendly to horses, carriages and folks with mobility issues we would appreciate your input.

Drive the Rails with ACCESS ADVENTURE, June 17-21

Bizz Johnson Trail and Visit to Camp Ronald McDonald

Grayson Sorrels has planned an incredible Anywhere Wild! adventure on the Bizz Johnson Trail in Lassen County. Grayson is responsible for our previous trips to the Humbug Valley, and has scouted this Rails-to-Trails route and Forest Service campsites for our band of intrepid travelers. The trip will begin with a stop at the Ronald McDonald Camp at Eagle Lake where we will drive the horses for the campers. For more information, updated descriptions of "Drive the Rails" are attached. If you would like to join this Anywhere Wild! adventure, please call or email Cathy O'Shea so you can be included in the planning. 707-386-7415, nacathyr@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATES!

For a revised Special Events Calendar see
<http://www.access-adventure.org/calendar.html>

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! Events

Driving the Rails, Lassen County, June 17-21, June 18 visit to Ronald McDonald Camp

Visit to Yountville VA, date in July TBD

Humboldt Scouting trip TBD

NOTE: Redwood Rendezvous, Humboldt County, cancelled

Del Valle camping event with BORP, Livermore, July 31-August 1

Memories of Muir, September 13-19

"Celebrate Adventure!" the Walk with Rock, & Horse Fair, Rush Ranch, October 10

Rush Ranch

Access Adventure "Get Dirty Work Day, Saturday, June 6

"Golden Hills Youth Group, Thursday, June 4, 11

Access Adventure Volunteer Training, Saturday, June 13, July 11

Jacobsen Birthday Picnic, June 14

Access Adventure Monthly Staff Meeting, Saturday, June 27 (short!), July 25

4-H Graduation/Youth Day, Saturday, June 27

Michael Muir and the Volunteers of ACCESS ADVENTURE

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attached: Drive the Rails info, WWR flyer, Pics of Fandango