

ACCESS ADVENTURE * November * Thanksgiving 2009

"I saw a child who couldn't walk, sit on a horse, laugh and talk... I saw a child who could only crawl, mount a horse and sit up tall. I saw a child born into strife, take up and hold the reins of life. And that same child was heard to say, Thank God for showing me the way." -- John Anthony Davis

Dear Friends,

The ACCESS ADVENTURE TEAM has much to be thankful for as we review our fourth year as a program devoted to serving our community. Our volunteers are incredible! They are responsible for horse care, ranch maintenance, fundraising, training new volunteers, activity planning/implementation and many other tasks. In spite of the economic crisis we are all facing, donations continue to trickle in, keeping our program alive. To our donors we also give thanks. Happy Thanksgiving!

Michael Muir, Director

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

Celebrate Adventure! The Walk with Rock and Horse Fair was held on a beautiful October day at the historic Rush Ranch, headquarters for Access Adventure. The day began with the mighty horse Rock and owner Danielle Simpson leading the walkers and carriage passengers on the Marsh Trail. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful views of the Suisun Marsh. Rock's stride was long and quick so everyone completed the 2.5 mile route in record time. Access Adventure's Percheron mares, Reba and Ruby, powered the wheelchair accessible carriage filled with people, so everyone could enjoy the walkathon. Throughout the day the carriage took guests on tours of the ranch.

While the walkathon was underway, the auction and raffle offerings, the Solano Land Trust and Rush Ranch Education Council displays, and a special activity table for kids staffed by counselors from the John Muir Mountain Day Camp were set up and made ready for our guests. A popular attraction was the contest to win a ride on Rock by guessing his weight. Our volunteer Jim Carr was the lucky winner, happily galloping Rock around the arena. Check it out!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeUHitA6ejk>

William Stewart was awarded the #1 Team Leader, recruiting the most walkers and pledges. #1 Donor was Molly's Angels of Napa, with a generous \$2500 contribution. Molly's Angels were in attendance supporting the event, soliciting new memberships (and buying auction items!).

Picnic tables near the Syar Arena were convenient to the food in the Nature Center and provided good seating for the Horse Fair. Lloyd Stueve's Percheron team showed us how logging is done the old fashioned way. George Cabral's mule, Molly, going round and round in a circle provided the power for the sawmill. Apollo, our beautiful Friesian stallion strutted his stuff in the arena with owner, John Eisenbart. Apollo's dazzling son, Fandango, was introduced to the crowd by handler Jim Carr. We all enjoyed draft horse demonstrations with Belgians, Clydesdales and Percherons represented. Terri Riley and Jordan Dahlquist brought their horses Joel, Sarah and Sadie; Robin Mettler with Sally, Jan and Bud; Kelly Karstens with bouncing baby Bob and Cheryl Pritchett with the lovely Rosebud.

All of us at Access Adventure send our thanks to everyone who made this event a success. To view photos of The Walk with Rock, click on http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/Events/2009/CelebrateAdventure/10111214_KnCve#694647814_v4xGM

Point Reyes National Seashore

Our first scheduled trip to Point Reyes was cancelled by six inches of rain. The forecast for our second attempt on October 19 was "showers";

clearing the next day. We left Rush Ranch in a drenching rain storm, wondering if we would again have to postpone or cancel our trip. By the time we reached Marin County, the rain had stopped. Volunteers, Randie and Robert Boardman settled in at the Stewart's Horse Camp with our loyal mares Reba and Ruby. The rest of us set up at the Olema Ranch Campground near the Bear Valley Visitors' Center.

The morning of the 20th brought sun burning through the dissipating fog. Stuart Schroeder with his team Bonnie and Betsy met with the Access Adventure team for the drive on the Coastal Trail. John Fazel scouted this beautiful section of the American Discovery Trail. The Coastal Trail overlooks the beaches and ocean, the Bear Valley Trail we traveled the next day is deep in the serene forest. So different, but both spectacular! Outriders from the Morgan Horse Ranch rode with us both days. Joining our group was Johnny Dodd, and Theodore Rigby, writer and photographer for People Magazine.

This event would not have been possible if it weren't for Point Reyes Superintendent, Don Neubacher, and his staff. We are grateful for their assistance!

To view photos of our trip to Point Reyes, click on:

http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/Anywhere-Wild/2009/Point-Reyes-National-Seashore/10113291_dJ2y8#694798363_pdNpe

Barn Update

Just in time for the winter rains, we happily announce that the reconstruction of the ranch stallion barn is almost completed. Steve Harvey as construction engineer, Jon Duncan as his assistant, and crews of volunteers from community service groups are responsible for its transformation. We'll miss our western movie set, but look forward to the completion of the beautiful new stable. It will provide excellent shelter for the horses, as well as a tack room and carriage house. The **Syar Foundation** has provided the majority of funding for all of our new equestrian facilities. To see the transformation, click on:

http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/Other/New-Stallion-Barn/10232888_fXAU4#705545930_89c4L

Extraordinary Opportunity for New Members!

By special arrangement with Florentine Films, *ACCESS ADVENTURE* offers the DVD of “Our National Parks, America’s Best Idea”, personally autographed by producer Ken Burns.

The influence John Muir had on the world is portrayed in this epic film. His vision and determination to make the natural world accessible to everyone, is carried on by his great-grandson, Michael, Founder and Director of *ACCESS ADVENTURE*. We are offering this autographed copy of the series DVD to the first donor of \$1,000 during our membership drive. Attached is the Membership Brochure.

Therapeutic Driving in Woodside

Access Adventure volunteer Tineke Jacobsen and Director Michael Muir have started a weekly program of therapeutic driving at The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy in Woodside. They have four new students already, in addition to Tineke’s current patients participating in hippotherapy and other equine facilitated therapies. Access Adventure is looking to offer all of these expanded forms of therapy at our Rush Ranch headquarters in 2010.

SAVE THE ACCESS ADVENTURE DATES!

Our “official” season ended October 31st, but we will be busy until our 2010 season begins in April. New volunteers will be welcomed and trained, horses will be worked according to a regular schedule and ranch maintenance will continue.

- 11/4 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group
- 11/6-11/8 Friday-Sunday: Tulare Draft Horse and Equipment Sale

- 11/7 Saturday, 9:00AM: Rush Ranch “Get Dirty” work day
- 11/11 Wednesday: NCEFT Therapeutic Driving, Woodside
- 11/11 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group
- 11/14 Saturday, 9:00AM: Staff Meeting – review the year and plan for future
- 11/18 Wednesday: NCEFT Therapeutic Driving, Woodside
- 11/18 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group
- 11/21 Saturday, 9AM: Staff Meeting, Carriage Rides, Blacksmithing
- 11/25 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group
- 11/28 Saturday, 9:00AM: Staff Meeting – review the year and plan for future

Michael Muir and the Volunteers of ACCESS ADVENTURE

P. O. Box 2852

Fairfield, CA 94533

info@access-adventure.org

707-432-0152

www.access-adventure.org