

## ACCESS ADVENTURE September Stampede 2009

“A horse is the projection of peoples' dreams about themselves - strong, powerful, beautiful - and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence.” ~ Pam Brown

### **Accessible Staycation**

Del Valle Park, near Livermore, was the venue for our biggest camping trip yet, with more than eighty campers. We arrived the evening of Friday, July 31. BORP (Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program) with their busloads of campers settled at the Wild Turkey group campground. Twenty-two Access Adventure volunteers arrived with trucks, trailers, our horses and wheelchair accessible carriage to set up camp at Caballo Loco, Del Valle's aptly named horse camp.

The event was Access Adventure's first “staycation”, a way to lower the expenses for our multi-day Anywhere Wild! wilderness trips and still be able to provide our services to people with mobility challenges. BORP has visited the Access Adventure headquarters at Rush Ranch several times. We decided it was time to find new places to explore.

Saturday morning we transported our team and carriage to Eagle View staging area. The BORP folks were beautifully organized and arrived in shifts in their new accessible bus. More than forty passengers rode our carriage on the trails at Del Valle. We returned to Caballo Loco, donned beach wear and headed for the lake to cool off. Several people went canoeing; others fished, but most just enjoyed floating off the day's dust in the water.

The East Bay Regional Parks District is working to make their parks more accessible to people with disabilities. They were very helpful in planning this event, purchasing heavy duty cots that facilitate transferring from a wheelchair and providing a specially designed wheelchair to traverse sandy beaches. Park district staff members were on hand to make the event comfortable for everyone. We look forward to future adventures in the parks of the East Bay. Planning next year's events begins this fall. For pictures click on [http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/Anywhere-Wild/2009/Del-Valle-with-BORP/9305521\\_szgu3#621931458\\_Y3YgY](http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/Anywhere-Wild/2009/Del-Valle-with-BORP/9305521_szgu3#621931458_Y3YgY)

### **Apollo Marches On**

The breeding season is over. Apollo proved to be highly fertile, a “STUD” in the truest sense of the word! We're looking forward to a beautiful crop of foals next season to join our gorgeous Fandango. With his season of love behind him, Apollo's training has assumed a new intensity. Mike, Abigail and Randie meet early each morning at Rush Ranch to start the day with training. Physical Therapist

and coach, Tineke Jacobsen, volunteers her time twice a week to great effect. Dressage judge and trainer Robyn Davidson has resumed coaching duties. Apollo is almost ready to go on the road (to glory!).

The Friesian geldings Mercury and Jochem, and the Friesian mare Grace have joined Apollo in the daily training regimen. Mike rides the lovely Grace before he works the powerful Apollo. Merc and Jochem are prospects for Abigail's debut in combined driving competition. Watching Abigail work the big, bold moving Friesians from her wheelchair is a breath-taking experience. Randie is ground driving them. They will be ready to hook to the carriage soon. Everyone is excited about the prospects of our first multiple hitches of our dazzling Friesian horses.

### **Pam and Finnie**

Pam Seifert, her lovely mare Finnie and her dressage coach/trainer Susan Routson continue their march toward the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Pam has emerged as the "Most Improved" rider in her last two tests under saddle. Pam, her husband Steve Harvey and Finnie are headed next to the Shea Equestrian Center in San Juan Capistrano for additional training under the direction of the United States Equestrian Federation. Pam's confidence is growing, but we're not surprised at her success. Keep up the good work!

### **Celebrate Adventure! The Walk with Rock Saturday, October, 10**

The walkathon and horse fair at Rush Ranch will be a great day for friends and families. Everyone is invited to attend even if you don't want to participate in the walkathon. Enjoy a delicious lunch, auctions, raffles, entertainment and exhibitions including antique carriages, draft horse, mule and oxen hitches, wagon rides, traditional horse farming, and equestrian demonstrations. The event is our major fundraiser which will enable us to continue serving our community and to fulfill our mission to provide recreational, therapeutic and educational programs for people with mobility challenges and disabled, disadvantaged and under-served youth. For more information click <http://access-adventure.org/calendar3.html>

**Hope to see you there!**

### **SAVE THE ACCESS ADVENTURE DATES!**

- September 4-5 / Camping, training and driving at Stone Farm, with Access Adventure Sonoma
- September 7 / McCormack Ranch, Rio Vista, picnic drive
- September 12 / Yosemite filming and photo shoot for Apollo/Access Adventure,

- September 13-19 / Sierra National Forest, “Memories of Muir” camping trip with the Sierra Club
- October 10 / “Celebrate Adventure! Walk with Rock”, walkathon fundraiser & horse fair at Rush Ranch

#### Other Rush Ranch September Events

- September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 / Golden Hills School.
- September 5 / Get Dirty Volunteer Work day
- September 12, 19, 26 / Access Adventure Staff, Volunteer and Walk with Rock Committee Meetings
- September 19 / Rush Ranch open house, 4-H youth group, carriage rides and blacksmith demonstrations
- September 19 / Volunteer field safety training
- September 23 / Paradise Valley Estates, Quail Creek group
- September 26 / Solano Land Trust Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
- September 28 / Ken Burns film program/fundraiser

For a revised Special Events Calendar see  
[www.access-adventure.org/calendar.html](http://www.access-adventure.org/calendar.html)

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

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Attached: Walk With Rock Flyer