

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! August 2008 Update

Dear Friends,

The **Redwood Rendezvous** was amazing! Our first event was staged from Southern Humboldt Community Park near Garberville. The historic ranch is a reminder of the active role cattle had and still have in Humboldt County. Comfortable paddocks for our horses made it an ideal site. While harnessing the horses was still underway, the vans full of riders started arriving. For five hours we drove the carriages and reveled in the beauty of the park, its extensive meadows and hardwood forests. Some of our riders stayed aboard for several rides, obviously enjoying themselves. After dinner we showed the film about the Journey Across America, then headed to our next campsite, Cuneo Equestrian Camp, deep in the redwoods. By then it was dark and the trip was slow, but we were rewarded at our destination by a model campground, complete with private paddocks for the horses and showers for the Anywhere Wild! volunteers and guests.

From Cuneo Creek we shipped horses and carriages to our next staging area located near the legendary redwood groves and the Eel River. Once again the vans of riders kept arriving, the horses were willing and the carriages kept moving all day. Back at Cuneo Campground we were treated to a delicious Thai meal. Those Humboldt folks sure know how to prepare food! The generosity of local people who donated fresh veggies, and brought food potluck for our meals once again kept us well-fueled.

Horses, carriages and volunteers hit the road again for Mad River Park near Arcata. Thanks to extensive newspaper coverage and phone calls to care homes and riders from last year, we once again had lines of riders waiting to board the carriages. Driving through the flat lands and onto the beach everyone had a spectacular time. Our last night was spent at the beautiful Freshwater Farms.

The stated mission of Access Adventure/Anywhere Wild! is to make “wild places accessible to people with disabilities”. One hundred and twenty-seven riders experienced wild places in Humboldt County. Whatever limited their ability to do so on their own was put aside as they enjoyed the beauty of nature from the carriages powered by Reba, Ruby, Betsy, Bonnie and Johnnie Swamper. Thank you to Sawyer and the Humboldt volunteers, who made our adventure one to remember.

Michael Muir has a vision, one we are working as volunteers to bring to life. Michael, is seriously ill, and we need your help. We are in the midst of planning a fundraiser, “Celebrate Adventure”, the Walk with Rock, on September 27th. Now we may have to postpone the event, knowing that although he thinks he will be well by then, it may not be so. That leaves a dilemma – how do we feed the horses, fuel the trucks and keep the program going without the fundraiser? Please send a card or letter to Michael and if possible, a donation to the Solano Land Trust/Access Adventure, 1001 Texas St., Ste. C, Fairfield, CA 94533. Your donation will be gratefully received, and Michael will be cheered by your good wishes.

The Volunteers of ACCESS ADVENTURE