

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! September 2008 Update

Dear Friends,

September flew by with a hectic schedule that kept volunteers and supporters busy planning and attending the events.

Fifteen adventurers, including Access Adventure volunteers, met in the Soquel Basin area of the Sierra Nevada National Forest for the second annual week-long **Memories of Muir**. We explored the area with visits to places such as the Shadow of the Giants interpretive trail and Nelder Grove, eventually moving on to the Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway and their second camp in the high country bordering the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The group hiked and rode the trolley to explore the serene forests and granite overlooks and concluded the trip on day seven at the high Sierra campsite. Thank you to Lloyd Stueve for once again permitting his Percheron team, Danni and Peggy, to moonlight for Access Adventure.

The Draft Horse Classic provided a special outing for our 4-H group and Youth Interns. They were on hand to see some of the drivers and horses that came to our Horse Fair in April compete. Congratulations to Simpson Percherons and Shinn Percherons on their wins!

Thank you to the community and Access Adventure volunteers and donors for making “**Celebrate Adventure**”, the **Walk with Rock** a resounding success, both in terms of funds received and the fun we had and new friends we met. Lynch Canyon was a beautiful venue for an event and the trail was scenic and challenging, especially when led by Danielle Simpson and the magnificent Rock. All age groups and folks including those with mobility challenges participated in the walk. For those unable to travel the trail by foot, we drove the trolley powered by our beautiful team, Ruby and Reba. A touch of the wild was the appearance of a wily coyote. The local cattle watched our progress with curious interest. To celebrate the completion of the walkathon, we enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch, competed for auction items and relaxed to the bluegrass music of The Jammers. We plan to repeat this event next year and hope you will join us.

Access Adventure and the Solano Land Trust have received a second grant from the **Syar Foundation** which will provide additional funding to rebuild the stallion barn at Rush Ranch. Syar’s original grant built the new fences for the pastures, shelters and paddocks, but once the barn dismantling began it was obvious that the basic structure was inadequate and renovation would be more complicated and costly than had been anticipated. We look forward to seeing the construction underway soon. The Syar Foundation contributions have been instrumental in making Rush Ranch a safe place for visitors and the horses and we are grateful for their generosity. If you visit Rush Ranch you can’t miss what remains of the barn after volunteers started taking it apart. All work was ceased when a mother owl flew in and it was discovered that she had set up a nest for her new brood in the barn. Her babies have flown away and now the barn stands there, looking like a building from a movie set.

The stated “season” for Access Adventure is completed the end of October, but we will continue volunteer training, our 4-H and Youth Intern program and will be on hand for the third Saturday events at Rush Ranch giving carriage rides (weather permitting).

Attached are pictures of the Memories of Muir, (photo by David Thompson) and the Walk with Rock (photo by Wendy Williams). Hope you enjoy them.

Michael Muir and the Volunteers of Access Adventure

