



NASS NEWS



North American Shagya-Arabian Society

Fall 2022

Journeys

To Yosemite and Beyond
By Rachel Miura, SW Region



Heading up Lyell Canyon, Potter Point is the peak on the right

On July 1, *Theodore the Wonder Horse* (Bold Bravo AF x Nadeja ox) and I took a fun and scenic loop in the Yosemite high country! We spent the night before in Groveland, then left early the day of the ride to drive two hours to Tuolumne Meadows. The National Park Service is doing extensive road work, so in addition to the two hours of driving we also had construction delays of 45 minutes. We parked in the Dog Lake lot, which had a few pull-through spots still available by the time we arrived. One of my biggest concerns was finding parking given that it's summer, and construction has closed many parking areas. For that reason we went on a weekday

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and started out extra early, arriving about 7:30AM.

We headed up Lyell Canyon on the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail, which is relatively flat and sandy and parallels the Tuolumne River. Sometimes this area can be muddy well into the summer, but given our dry winter that was not the case this year. After a few miles we headed toward Ireland Lake and the trail climbed via switch backs (from about 8,900' to about 10,600'). Fortunately most of the climb was shaded by conifers, and there were lots of small creeks to cross so there was plenty of water.

We then spent a few miles traversing high alpine basins, each with their own lake. At this point we were near the tree line, sometimes traversing stretches of exposed granite. We just went extra slow and *Theo* did fine. This section of the ride had the best views of many peaks in all directions! After the basins we started to descend, passing the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. The camps are closed this year, so there were very few people on the trail. Yosemite also doesn't get a lot of horses, so everyone we did see was excited to see us, including the rangers!