



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

# BACK AT THE RANCH...

June 2013

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**Last month was full of events.** In the middle of the month we hosted a neighborhood BBQ and visited and met with 12 of our neighbors! It was a great day of networking and sharing, and we now have each other's phone numbers and know each other's faces for those times when we just want to visit, and those times when you really need someone nearby to help. This event was partly prompted by an event earlier in the month. You read last month how I fell and badly twisted my knee--I hobbled around on it for 2 weeks, icing it and trying to just stay still (which, by the way, on a ranch is pretty hard to do). Thankfully, it has now mostly healed, but just two days after that incident when my knee was swollen and painful, another event happened that really required some major help for three reasons: I was home alone (Steve was traveling in California), my knee was still very painful, and I was inexperienced. Here's how it went down: I had gotten up early that morning to feed Mac, clean the paddock, and get the cats and Zac all fed before I had to clock into work at 7 a.m. It was a gorgeous morning with very light winds and aside from my aching knee, I was enjoying just being on the ranch. I went about my chores and was just about to leave the paddock when I noticed the salt lick I had gotten for Mac a few days earlier had broken in two and was now lying in the sand. I went back into the barn, grabbed a bucket and glanced over at Mac who was contentedly grazing on his hay. I had left the stall door ajar as all I was going to do was quickly put the salt in the bucket and tie it up on the railing. I heard a rustling behind me and hey!! Suddenly Mac was outside the paddock. How in the world? He had seen an opportunity for freedom and took it! I made 3 phone calls (keep in mind it is now about 6:40 a.m.): One to our trusted friend Randy who without hesitation said he'd be right over, one to a new friend whom I awoke from a sound sleep who also agreed to come over, and one to Steve (who talked me through a few ideas on how I might catch our wandering gelding). Zac barked excitedly, then trotted off, oblivious of my predicament and despite my request that he help me get Mac back into the barn. By the time Randy arrived Mac had trotted (far from his usual moseying) not just to the base of the property but well beyond--half a mile or more. Long story short, Randy saved the day by catching Mac with his horse smarts and we began the long walk home. Our friend arrived on horseback after having some issues of his own shortly after Mac had been re-stabled. From start to finish, Mac had about 45 minutes of freedom and yet was very content to be returned home. I was late for work that day, but I gained a new perspective on what it means to have friends and neighbors like the ones we have here! ZR



**ZAC TAILS:** I noticed a comment in the article above about my not being any help with catching Mac. Well, truthfully, I was kinda happy that he could get out and stretch his legs a little. It woulda been fun to chase some

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

cars with him and show him around the property. I barked some encouragement to him and ran around a bit, but it was early morning and I had other things I needed to be checking on, so I left him to enjoy his time out. That said, one thing that had me a little annoyed, but I'm over it now as I have made some routing changes, is



the fact that my running field has been littered with a fence that prevents me from running all the way to the top of the property. Fortunately, the side fencing is such that I can crawl under to get to the other side and continue the chase if it is familiar car or one that is particularly worth the chase for a variety of reasons which I won't go into here. I realized a few days later, that the fencing was actually for Mac, so now he gets some pasture time most every day and can enjoy some freedom with boundaries. Boundaries, I'm learning, are a good thing. It's good to know how far you can go:

whose toys you can chew (why those kittens insist on chewing my squirrel I will never understand), which roads you can cross (in my case, none of them), and whose food you can eat (only mine, but sometimes I get a swipe of Mr. Baggins' breakfast, and Mac's beat pulp is pretty tasty, too). You can test those boundaries, for sure, but when you've gone too far things can get a little scary or uncomfortable. I think Mac was ready to be caught as he was in unknown territory and out of sight of the things he was growing comfortable with. While at first they may seem unreasonable, inconvenient, or debatable, boundaries (like that fence that popped up in my running route) have great benefits like safety and security, and you realize that the one who created that boundary has your best interests at heart. ZR

**Today you are you, that is truer than true.  
There is no one alive who is youer than you. ~Dr. Seuss**

ZR

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give  
you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:3-4

ZR

**Our mission/vision:** To provide free equine experiences for youth in a safe, loving, and encouraging environment that is fun for both children and horses.

ZR

**OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS:** Seems like there is always something happening here at the ranch...and everything has purpose. As I texted someone just the other day, "another day at the ranch, mixing up fly spray for Mac and installing a screen door." No task is too small, but those tasks are even more fun when they are shared with good friends. Earlier this month a gang of friends from Portland came out to work on some beautification and wedding prep projects. We laughed, caught up, and got lots done--it was fun being a team again after years of working together. The thing I loved most is that these people gave up their Saturday to be here on the ranch and be part of the ongoing mission. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



**If you know someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at:**  
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