



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

December 2013

No. 11, Volume 2



*Merry Christmas from ZP Ranch!* In just a few days we will be celebrating the end of our first year here at the ranch. It's been a busy time of growing learning, building and creating. We've made a lot of new friends, established ourselves with the veterinarians in town, built fencing for two pastures, purchased hay and feed for the winter, and installed water heaters in the water troughs as we have literally had freezing weather every day since Thanksgiving. We were blessed with a beautiful

Arabian that was donated to us by a believer in our mission, and we acquired two horses that needed rescuing from a destitute situation. We have some great volunteers, Shaylee and Shawn, who help run things when we have to spend time away from the ranch and who have contributed many extra hours doing chores and helping us learn how to ride. The newest development is that we were acquainted with a horse trainer in a "small world" way, and she will be working with Gracie this spring. Then, to add a small miracle to that, she introduced us to a family that was looking for a place to connect their kids with a program involving horses. We are pleased to announce our first two participants, Andrew and Rebekah, have joined with ZP Ranch and are helping to develop our program from the ground up. Mac is happy to oblige their brushing, hoof picking, and paddock cleaning. He gets taken for walks, fed his grains, and seems to enjoy the pampering. During the winter months they will come out a couple of times a month (despite the subfreezing weather) and we hope to start working on an expanded program so that when the warmer weather starts we can open things up to additional participants! We feel so blessed the way things have developed and know that we are traveling on the road that we were meant to be on. Thank you all for your good wishes, thoughts and prayers. It has been a good year and we are looking forward to whatever 2014 has in store for us! Merry Christmas!!



**ZAC TAILS:** We have now been here for 12 months...all four seasons of rain, wind, sun and mud. Oh, and snow...which we should be experiencing at any moment now. I have been honing my herding skills with the horses during feeding time (though they still don't really seem to appreciate my abilities), and have been having a grand time chasing the ever-growing population of birds in our barn. The barn now is the place where Mulan and Mr. Baggins are spending more and more of their time. It is out of the elements, and with all the hay there it provides a bit of warmth. Speaking of barns, I noticed that my people have put up a lot of lights and things around the house.



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

Just the other day they found a box that they spent a lot of time unwrapping and setting up on top of a table. It has a baby and a mom and a dad, along with an angel and some sheep and 3 men with gifts. I overheard them reciting the story of a baby that was born in a barn that grew to be the Savior of the world. He brings comfort and peace and joy. And now, on this silent night, with the stars lit brightly above us and the full moon on the horizon, I am happy to be in this place full of love and peace and joy. I just can't figure out how come there is a cow in the loft?

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**There are those who look at things the way they are and ask "why"... I dream things that never were and ask "why not?" ~JFK**

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Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, A Savior who is Christ the Lord."

~ Luke 2:10-11

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**.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.**

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**OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS:** Our Website [www.ZPRanch.org](http://www.ZPRanch.org) is now up and available (there are still some pages under construction so pardon the dust). Although our Facebook page keeps you more up-to-date with the daily happenings at the Ranch, the website will let people know who we are, what we do, and provide other pertinent information. ♦ The run in shed has been completed and Gracie and Hope have actually figured out that if they stand there they can get out of the wind and inclement weather! ♦ One of the reasons this newsletter was slightly delayed was because we wanted to share an important event concerning Hope. It was thought that her teeth had never been floated (a necessary yearly event that helps keep horses' teeth flat so that chewing is effective), so we scheduled some time for the vet to come out and perform the procedure. Marianne was out bright and early one morning this week and successfully sedated and filed down Hope's teeth...there were some pretty sharp teeth in the back which undoubtedly had been making chewing her food somewhat difficult! She also checked Mac's teeth and said they should be fine until springtime. ♦ Our new farrier, Nick, came by shortly after Marianne finished up with Hope and expertly trimmed down each of her hooves and gave them a nice sheen. He said Mac's hooves looked great and he would check them the next time he was out. We are happy to report that Nick has joined our team and donated his time and labor!

**During the winter months we hope to build up our emergency vet care account so that we will be prepared for anything that may come up in the next few months. If you would like to help, please send donations to ZP Ranch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620. ZP Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.**



**LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND GET THE WORD OUT!!**

Email us at: [robin@zpranch.org](mailto:robin@zpranch.org) or [steve@zpranch.org](mailto:steve@zpranch.org)

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