



BACK AT THE RANCH...

January 2014

No. 1, Volume 3

So far, January is showing itself to be a quiet month, which is actually a good thing. The weather is quiet (low 40s, mostly clear skies, no wind), the house is quiet (Robin working at home, Steve commuting to Grandview), the animals are quiet (well, as quiet as Gracie can be when she gets impatient about feeding time), and even the ground is quiet (morning fog, dormant plants). The only thing that isn't quiet is Mulan--she is the most talkative cat we have ever had! We are just sort of in hibernation mode, and quietly planning, praying and laying plans for the busy months ahead. Planning for the new year has brought a new adjustment with Steve's new job AND the major improvement in our internet service, which gives us the opportunity to contemplate how best to move forward as we begin our second year on the property we are so privileged to live on. In the months ahead we hope to make additional contacts in the community, build another pasture, make additional improvements inside the barn, and send Gracie for some training. All the more reason to just enjoy the quiet of January!



ZAC TAILS: I know they say that we have been here at the ranch for a year now, but I really don't know what that means exactly. But, I do remember the freezing temperatures and just the other day the first of those little white dots started falling out of the sky and I know I will be busy chasing those around in the weeks ahead. Ever since we moved here, one of my major responsibilities is to greet people as they arrive at the homestead. There is one big box on wheels that shows up every now and then. He brings smaller boxes out of his big box, hands it to my people, and then goes on his way. But did I mention the great thing about this? No? Well, the great thing about this whole transaction is that we have an understanding. He knows that I have a job to do, and I know that he has a job to do. I escort him as he circles around the courtyard and direct him with barks to make sure he remembers to stop in front of the walkway where he gets out and brings the smaller boxes out of his big box. I sit by the door of the box and watch to make sure everything transpires properly. After chatting with my people and handing over their boxes, he stops to acknowledge me. He reaches into his pocket, hands me a biscuit, pats me on the head, and climbs back into the big box. With that, I trot back off to my post and watch him drive away. Until next time, Mr. Big Box man--thanks for doing such a great job, thanks for the treats, and I'll see you next time! Oh, and Happy New Year to all your furry friends!



LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND GET THE WORD OUT!!
Email us at: robin@zpranch.org or steve@zpranch.org



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

*Courage is not about knowing the path,
it is about taking the first step.*

Katie Davis, author of Kisses from Katie

ZP

**Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord
which He will accomplish for you today.**

Exodus 14:13

ZP

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.

ZP

OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS: Remember the mention of "no wind" in the first article? The writing of our newsletters usually spans several weeks. We begin working on the next newsletter within days of completing the last one. Just a few days after the first article about our "quiet" January was completed, a violent wind storm hit Goldendale. It started on a Thursday night just as we were heading to bed. First it was just a constant blowing, but as the morning hours dragged on it grew stronger and stronger. By 3:30 a.m. I was wide awake and listening to the rattling of the windows and wondering what damage was being done to the property. We have had winds here before, but nothing like this. On and on it blew. What were the horses doing, I wondered. Is the run-in shed still there for the horses to take refuge in, Steve wondered? What types of things would need to be replaced and repaired? Since sunrise was still several hours away and we both had early morning commitments for work, we had a long wait before we could get outside and take stock. A garbage can was missing and some boards we had affixed to the paddock to help shelter Mac had been ripped away. The electric fence was no longer electric. Some damage was also done to several of the barn doors. The Christmas tree we had set behind the back of the barn for future disposal was now several acres away. But, the horses seemed no worse for the wear and were happy to be fed. I checked our weather station readings. The highest gusts had been as high as 85 mph! Had those winds been sustained we would have been experiencing an F-1 tornado! It had never occurred to us that perhaps we should considered digging a storm cellar! Steve quickly made the repairs to everything later that afternoon when he returned from work. After a few emails back and forth with our favorite Portland meteorologist, Matt Zaffino, we knew we were going to be in for another storm even bigger than the first within the next 24 hours. By 6 a.m. Saturday, the winds were again gusting into the high 70 mph range, but all the repairs held. It took a wind storm to shows us our "weak links" but things are now fortified.



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.

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