



# BACK AT THE RANCH...

August 2014

No. 8, Volume 3



It has been another amazing month at the ranch! The garden is in full glory-- there is actually corn in the stalks (a first for us), lots of tomatoes ready to ripen, and several zucchini we have already harvested. Our first chicken egg was plucked from the nest a few days ago, and 9 tons of hay are already stored in the barn. We have both managed to find more time to ride amidst our busy schedules and the continued very hot weather (mid 90s most every day). We



have had 8 youth participate in the program this summer, most on a regular basis. Not only has it been rewarding for us, but it has also been a blessing to the kids and their parents as you will see by the following short story by one of our teen riders.

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## **SADDLE STORIES:** By Alyssa Massie



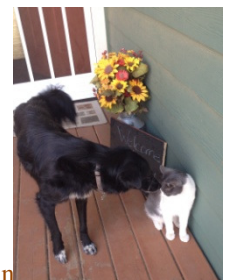
My favorite thing at Zephaniah's Promise Ranch is getting to ride Shana. The reason why I like riding Shana is because she is easier for me to tell her what way I want to go. I also like putting the saddle on. I liked Shana when I first laid my eyes on her.

My other favorite thing about the Zephaniah's Promise Ranch is giving the horses a treat and petting them. Every time that I go out there I look forward to riding Shana. Since I have been going, my favorite part is getting to lead her and getting to ride her by myself.

I have also made so many fun and good memories out at the Ranch. My other favorite part is seeing the Helping Hands Wall and seeing the horses roll!

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**ZAC TAILS:** I tried to tell him. I tried to warn him. That cat eats anything and everything. I've seen him eat cantaloupe and raspberries. I've seen him eat a mushroom and yogurt from a spoon. Once I caught him licking the remnants of my bowl, which is practically unforgiveable in my mind. It's bad enough he eats crickets and beetles and mice, but when I saw that spider, I really did try to distract him and get him to just leave it



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

alone. "Don't eat that thing," I said. "You'll regret it later." But did he listen? Nope. Just like a cat. Sure enough a little while later I came inside and found him quivering on the floor and he looked really sad and sick. My people put him in a little carrying box and took him to the vet. I wondered if he would be coming back. When he did come back later that day he was all back to normal--luckily the vet knew just what to do! Archi is like all of us. Sometimes we think we know what's best for us. Luckily there is Someone Who cares for us, catches us when we fall, and provides just what we need. That doesn't mean we don't suffer the consequences of our actions and have to take our medicine. (It's pretty much a hoot watching Archi have to take his!) Next time I will try much harder to keep him from eating something nasty like that--even if it means letting him lick my bowl.

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Conversation overheard on a rerun of an old Criminal Minds show. Hotch: "Try again, fail again, fail better. Samuel Beckett." Derek: "Try not. Do or do not. Yoda."

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Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ~Hebrews 4:16

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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:** We had visits from The Gents and more of our Mock family members this past month and have a few more visits from friends and family scheduled this fall. With the summer program winding down and new schedule changes we will ease into fall with quiet joy and reflection on how God provided us with a very successful first summer as His plan for us continues to unfold. We received a donation of riding helmets from the Moro Fire Department thanks to the Massie family. We are so grateful for the donations of all kinds that have come in these past few months, and are excited to see what God has planned for us next.



**UPDATES:** ♦ We continue to search for a good home for Gracie where she can receive the training she needs and deserves. ♦ Shana's stifle injury has continued to heal and we have been using her in the program. ♦ Archi suffered an allergic reaction to something that either bit or stung him or perhaps he swallowed. He has made a full recovery. ♦ The hay shed project is slowly moving forward and there are plans to install another run-in shed in the south pasture in preparation for this winter.

**Financial support: We have purchased about 1/2 the hay we need for the year. Since our hay shed construction has not yet begun, our supplier has graciously allowed us to keep the rest of the hay in his storage for us until we are ready to pick it up next March. One ton of hay is \$225. We will be building another run-in shed for the horses for the upcoming winter which costs about \$1000. 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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Email us at: [robin@zpranch.org](mailto:robin@zpranch.org) or [steve@zpranch.org](mailto:steve@zpranch.org)

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