



BACK AT THE RANCH...

Fall 2014

No. 9, Volume 3



Yes, it has been a lazy fall here at the ranch. Lazy not in the respect of not working on projects--those are still in full swing--but more in that life in general is back in synch with daily life and slowing down just a little bit. Here's what we have been up to: September was a month of resting and rejuvenation here at the ranch. After a fun and joyful closing BBQ at the beginning of the month September, Steve and I took a much-needed camping vacation!



We were so blessed to have Rachel come and stay for 9 days at the ranch, caring for everything from watering the gardens, caring for the chickens, and also doing all the graining, cleaning, and maintenance of the horses. The garden reached it's full glory at the end of September. There was actually corn in the stalks (a first for us), lots of ripening tomatoes, zucchini, green beans and lettuce. Our first chicken egg was plucked from the nest at the end of September, and 9 tons of hay were stored in the barn. In October Steve had the plans and permits for the hayshed and began building. The hardest part was getting through all the rock, so some adapting had to be done (under the guidance of the building department). Now we have posts in the ground, and Steve is ready to begin putting the beams for the roof in. Jen and Dave Veenbaas, Chris and Steph Mock, and Ron and Melanie Mock and their sons Ben and Sam came visit on two successive working weekends. Thanks to all their help the 2nd run-in shed was erected and painted, more sand was spread in the newly expanded round pen (nice job, Melanie!!), and our Helping Hands Wall had a couple of new hands added to it! Now it is November, with snow in this week's forecast. (?) Our heavy winter coats have been dusted off and our hats and warm gloves have found their way out of the storage boxes. Last week we actually had to break the ice on the water troughs and I noticed that all my flowers had finally given up for the season. Time to start working on projects inside the barn! This winter we will work on indoor projects such as cleaning up the loft and garage--not nearly as fun as gardening and pushing dirt around with the tractor!



Happy Thanksgiving!!

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



SADDLE STORIES: Zephaniah's Promise Ranch is a place where you work with rescued horses and you learn the basics of how to take care of them. My personal favorite part was riding and also combing out the horses' manes. And my least favorite part was horse dung clean up. In my opinion, it was gross.

I forgot to mention where Zephaniah's Promise Ranch is located. It is a few miles out of Goldendale. If you are unfamiliar with the place [you can find them on FaceBook or their website]. For about a year, once a week, on Tuesdays, in the afternoon, my sister and I went out to the ranch.

I built and painted my first bird house at the ranch. There is a garden and a chicken house. The ranch dog, Zac, love to chase cars and birds. And there are a couple of barn cats as well.

~ contributed by Andrew Murray



ZAC TAILS: Weather is a funny thing...or rather I should say people's reaction to weather is a funny thing. It is the season for changing weather here at the ranch. Some days the sun is out, some days the wind is whipping, and some days it is raining. We even got some snow a few days ago. In the summer, I heard people complaining about how hot it was and they wished it would cool down. When it snowed a few days ago, I heard "It's snowing, how beautiful!" and then the next day, "I can't drive anywhere, I wish this snow would go away." When it has been dry for several months, "it's too dusty around here" and when it rains, "it's too muddy to do anything outside." When it gets cold, out come the blankets for the horses. I even saw a dog with a blanket fitted over him to keep him warm. What a disgrace to the canine race...must have been a city dog. Me, I like the changing weather. When it rains, one of my favorite things to do is chase the raindrops. Snow is even better, I can see the snowflakes, makes them easier to catch. Mud? No problem. What's better than running through some mud puddles. Chasing the horses around in the rain is great fun. Hope even changes colors from white and brown to brown and brown. I just wish my people didn't insist on wiping my feet with a towel every time I come in the house on rainy days. That's humiliating. Living up here in the northwest, I've learned that if you don't like the weather, wait, it will change. The rain will always fall, the sun will always come out, and there will always be snowflakes to chase.



Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart;
wait, I say, on the Lord!

~Psalm 27:14



.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.



OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS: 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 completely resolved. ♦ The hay shed project continues to move forward--permits have been received, posts are firmly installed in the ground, and gravel has been added to fill in and level the entire area. ♦ A run-in shed has been built and painted in the south pasture. ♦ Heaters are in the troughs and are turned on when temps dip below freezing. ♦ Our "Chicklette's Coop" is now in production and although not quite at full production but we are happily donating



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eggs to neighbors and the community as we are able. ♦ We have random fall/winter work days scheduled as weather permits. If you are interested in being on a list to come out and spend an afternoon at the ranch, please let us know!!

Financial support: We have purchased 2/3 of the hay we need for the year. Since our hay shed construction is ongoing, 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. The vet and farrier have been called out to the ranch to trim hooves and vaccinate. A hoof trim for one horse is \$30. One set of vaccinations is \$80. 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 or steve@zpranch.org

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