



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

# BACK AT THE RANCH...

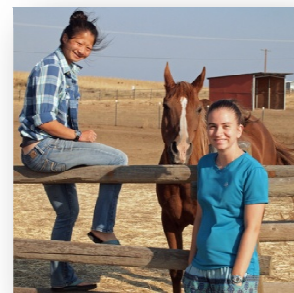
August 2015

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As many of you who have visited the ranch may know, I often play the game of "you know it's \_\_\_ when\_\_\_." My latest game is "You know it's August when..." and the answers are: You see a praying mantis enjoying the shade of your flowers. You see a lizard scurry across the floor of the barn. You see the first bot fly hovering around your horse. You see a plume of smoke in the distance. Yes, it's fire season again, and there have been several big ones within a 30 mile radius of the ranch. The latest one had me pulling my suitcase down from the top shelf of the closet and reviewing the contents of our "ready bag." It was with great relief just hours later that I was able to set my fears aside and have a good night's sleep. It continues to be extremely smoky and we are keeping windows closed and the air conditioning on. We pray for rain on a daily basis.

This month is busy with many scheduled sessions with new and returning kids. We continue to delight in their enjoyment, their many questions, and their love and passion for the horses and the ranch in general. It has been a very rewarding summer in that regard. Sadly, we had to postpone our Horsemanship Clinic to next year--we do know that there is interest out there, though, and hopefully by next Spring, weather permitting, we will be able to advertise and make this come to fruition. It was the planning of the clinic, however, that prompted us to build and complete the arena, and we have loved being able to use it for sessions and ground work training this summer.

After a long wait, we were finally blessed with Rachel and her friend Cora's summertime visit! They helped us out with pasture cleanup, gave instruction to me caring for and riding Remy, and participated in our program with several sessions. They were so much fun to be with and kept us laughing and entertained as well as providing much needed assistance with projects. Thank you, Rachel and Cora!



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



**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.



**ZAC TAILS:** Living with three cats means you have to compromise a lot. In the cold of winter, I compromise by sharing my bed. The cats all jump in and I am left to find a spot on the cold hardwood floor. My water bowl seems to me a community watering spot with the cats drinking out of it whenever they want. So imagine my surprise when I am scolded for taking a drink from the cat's water dish. I mean, come on, they drink out of mine, why shouldn't I be able to drink out of theirs? These cats are pretty spoiled. They have food in their dish all day long. They can eat whenever they want. Not to mention all the mice they eat. I only get food twice a day and I eat every bit of it, afraid that if I leave some for a snack later, some cat will have come in and helped themselves. But I digress, back to the water bowl. OK, their bowl is very small. It takes me about 3 laps to drink it dry. But hey, I'm a thirsty dog. It's a big job keeping track of all the goings-on on this ranch. Is it my fault that cats lie around all day and don't have to drink much? All I'm saying is share and share alike... well maybe that's not the right attitude to have. After all, my water bowl is pretty big and it always seems to have water in it whenever I am thirsty. What's that saying, "if a man asks you for your coat, give him your shirt also"? I suppose I should let the cats drink from my water bowl and not empty theirs. But do I really have to give up my bed in the cold of winter?



**And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.  
Matthew 5:41 (NKJV)**



This is my Father's world:  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let earth be glad!  
~ Maltbie D. Babcock



**SADDLE STORIES:** Back again briefly as the summer winds down, we have a few stories to share about our horses. Since we adopted Remy at the end of May, I have been working to establish my leadership skills with her. I have walked her around much of the property, done some ground work with her in the arena, and walked the obstacle course with her. I have also been teaching her to come to a whistle, and it is so fun now to see

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her look up and nicker when I whistle. While I have ridden her a few times since we got her, I basically went back to ground training because I felt like we needed to bond a bit more and establish mutual respect. Finally last week everything came together. Not only did I find a bridle that she responded well to, but with Rachel's guidance and suggestions I was able to guide her calmly and safely around the arena. In fact, we even did some trotting and backing up--two things I had had difficulty with previously. I am excited about continuing our team work and look forward to deepening our bond.

One other quick story that happened just recently (if you are on FB you may have already read this) that I wanted to share: Sometimes on the ranch there are moments that are so special you cannot overlook them. We had a session with a young lady who was sitting on the arena fencing, trying to decide what she wanted to do...walk a horse around the arena or not. As her conflicting emotions rose to the surface, she became unable to communicate her thoughts and for a moment I thought she might cry. In the most tender and sweetest of moments, our precious Shana stepped forward and brushed her nose against the girl as if asking her if she might be able to help her make a decision, and in that moment I felt God's reassurance and confirmation that THIS is why we are here. A smile came across the girl's face, her decision made, and the happiest of sessions ensued. This was the first and only child this summer who has ridden Shana--she has been groomed and pampered plenty, but with her arthritic knees we had decided not to use her for riding sessions. Somehow that day though, everything just seemed right and it was a glorious and joyful thing to see.



### OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS :



We had what we can only imagine to be a mini-tornado cross our property last week and it took Remy's run-in shed out--completely lifted it up off the posts in the ground (concreted 18" deep!) and flipped it upside down. Unfortunately it is a total loss--screws were stripped, wood destroyed, and much of the framing bent. Fortunately there were no injuries--it happened well after dark and we didn't see the damage until early



the next morning. Remy seemed oblivious of her near miss.



**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** We received our first quarterly check from Fred Meyer Community Rewards!!! Thank you so much for signing up for this program--it is just one more way for you to help us with our budget! If you haven't signed up yet, you can go to <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>, sign in, go to "my account" and down to Community Rewards, then Enroll and use our rewards #82619.

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We are unable at this point to rebuild the run in shed that was destroyed in the wind gust that blew through the property—with farrier and veterinarian bills plus the ongoing purchase of grains, we are currently tapped out for the remainder of the year. We are praying for some special donations to help us through the end of the year. We recently had a new family commit to partnering with us to make a monthly contribution—that is such a wonderful encouragement to us!! **If you would like to help, even \$20 or \$50 will make a big difference! Donations can be sent to ZP Ranch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620. ZP Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. You can also donate through GuideStar—just click on the link below.**



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

We are currently at 191 likes! We would love to see that number rise to over 200--please spread the word about us!!

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