

# Little guy wins big at summer show

**SUNRISE, SUNSET. SWIFTLY** fly the years.

Seems like it was just yesterday when Agnew's **Sam** and **Donna Parks** were seen hauling their young children to barrel races and junior rodeos.

At the time, Papa Sam was more interested in roping off his horses than barrel racing.

After their children grew up and moved away to forge their adult lives, Sam and Donna, who is a recently retired mail carrier, continued to play pivotal roles in running and organizing the annual Peninsula Junior Rodeo held at Clallam County Fairgrounds.

During the past 10 years, Sam, who is a lineman for Clallam County PUD, got hooked on the adrenaline rush of racing in timed patterned speed horse events, wrangling times fast enough to consistently place him in the top 10 of his division — and qualifying him to compete at the Patterned Speed Horse Association state finals and the interstate competition against Oregon several years in a row.

Naturally, soon after grandson **Duncan** was born, Grandpa joyfully shared his passion for horses by holding the boy on the back of his own pony, and then another pony, whenever he got the chance.

It took a couple years to find to find a pony good-natured enough for Sam to trust Duncan on to ride by himself.

Duncan began competing in PSHA events two years ago.

He started by being led through events by his grandpa and Super Senior division competitor Sam.

This summer was the first time Duncan started competing in events on his own.

In July, the young rider and his pony, Shadow, won their first big trophy: high point winner of the weekend in the Buckaroo Boy division at a show in Maple Valley.

"He was so excited!" said Grandma Donna.

## PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

**Karen Griffiths**



Donna, who runs the concession stand at PSHA's Olympic Peninsula Region shows, said Shadow takes pretty good care of Duncan, but the pony doesn't give the boy an easy walk through

the course.

The boy has to really hang on and guide the pony through events.

That takes courage and perseverance.

"We never dreamed that Duncan would love riding this so much," said Donna. "We thought if Duncan just rode by himself this year at a walk, instead of being led by Sam, it would be great."

Not to be. This 4-year-old has kicked it up to a full (but slow) gallop.

"I believe this all happened because Shadow bucked him off once and he didn't get hurt," said Donna of the boy's confidence in riding.

"He jumped up and announced to the crowd, 'I'm OK, I have my helmet on!'"

Of course, everyone cheered him on, and now he is addicted to riding."

He also has very supportive parents. Dad Jamie Parks joined PSHA so he could help work at the shows, even attaining his timer's and judge's card.

Duncan has four buddies he hangs with at the shows, ranging in age from 4 to 6 years.

Donna said it's amazing how the little buddies cheer each other on.

At the Maple Valley show, she said, another member's grandson, also 4, strode over to their camp asking for the "little boy who rode the pony," telling Donna, "I just wanted to tell him what a

great job he is doing."

"How cool is that?" said Donna.

"Of course, now they are great friends. PSHA is just the best organization a family with the love of horses could be involved in."

## Top-dress

According to Alayne Blickle, [www.horsesforleanwater.com](http://www.horsesforleanwater.com), between Labor Day and mid-October is the best time to fertilize your pastures because it will help your grass plants get through the winter and be more productive in the spring.

She says spreading compost later in the fall or during the winter won't do any good because then grass plants are dormant and soils are either frozen or saturated.

Composted horse manure is a good fertilizer. Composting kills the parasites in manure.

Spreading raw manure on pastures increases the risk your horse will ingest the live parasites.

You may want to let it compost over the winter and spread it next spring.

## Events

■ Saturday, 10 a.m., Backcountry Horsemen Peninsula Chapter VIP ride at Mount Muller.

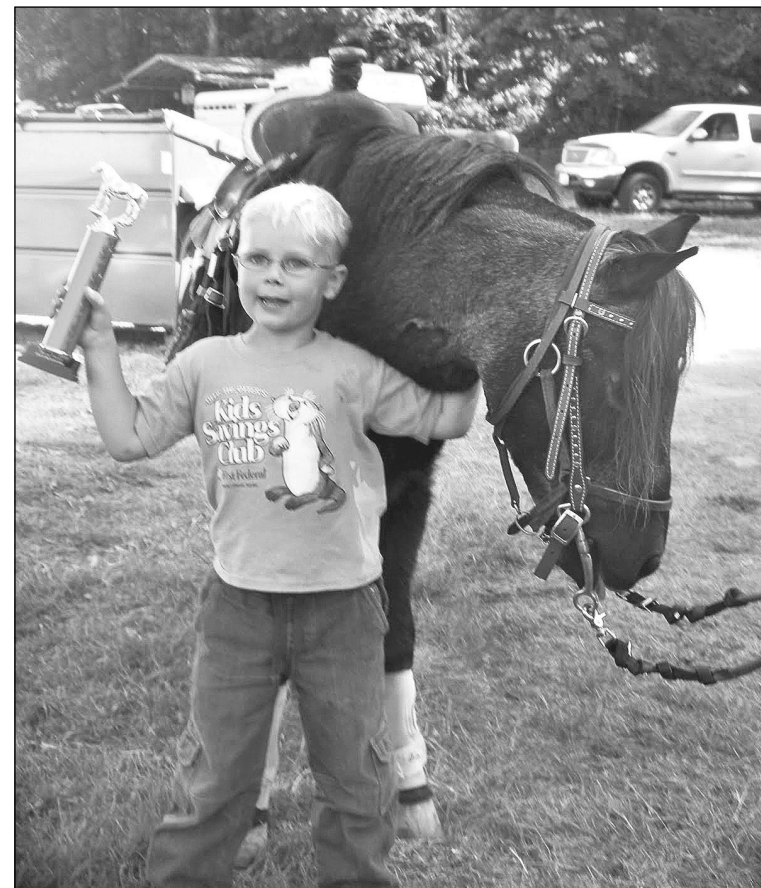
Join them the evening before and camp in the horse camp.

There are two rides originating from this trailhead: one to the top of Snyder Ridge with great views of the Straits and the Olympics, and another fairly flat trail out to the Rock House and back.

Once on top of Snyder Ridge, you also can go west to Kloshe Nanitch and back.

However, be advised that the ridge ride is recommended only for stock and riders in top condition.

This is the group's annual VIP ride, steak potluck dinner and auction.



**Young Duncan Parks, grandson of Agnew's Sam and Donna Parks, proudly holds his high point overall Buckaroo Boy division trophy— his first big win with his pony, Shadow — at the Patterned Speed Horse Association show in Maple Valley.**

RSVP to Kat Sample at 457-0225.

■ Freedom Farm events: Saturday, Hoof Beats Trail ride and picnic; Sept. 22-26, cow working clinic with Dave Ellis; Oct. 2, Harvest Day Farm Tour (bring the kids). For more information, contact Mary Gallagher at 360-457-4897 or [freedomf@olypen.com](mailto:freedomf@olypen.com). Freedom Farm is at 493 Spring Road, Port Angeles.

■ Oct. 9-10, 9:30 a.m., patterned speed horse show at the Crosby arena, 122 Franson Road, Port Angeles. Phone Pam Crosby 360-670-3906.

■ Baker Stables Winter Buckle Series schooling shows are at 9 a.m. Oct. 31, Nov. 14,

Feb. 13, March 13 and April 17; \$6 per class; sign up at the show. Located at 164 Four Winds Road in Port Angeles; phone 360-460-7832.

■ Backcountry Horsemen Peninsula Chapter meetings are the fourth Monday of the month, 6 p.m.; Clallam County Courthouse; phone Betsy Wyatt 360-457-3102.

Karen Griffiths' column, Peninsula Horseplay, appears every other Wednesday.

If you have a horse event, clinic or seminar you would like listed, please e-mail Griffiths at [horse.play.kbg@olympus.net](mailto:horse.play.kbg@olympus.net) at least two weeks in advance. You can also write Griffiths at PDN, P.O. Box 1330, Port Angeles, WA 98362.