

Peninsula riders garner state honors

IT'S NOT A secret anymore — the news is out among the National American Quarter Horse Association show circuit that these ladies from the tiny town of Sequim are helping to make our Peninsula known as a region with top-notch competitors.

Looking back at 2008 in review, **Terri Winters**, who also coaches the Sequim High School equestrian team, achieved the great honor of being AQHA's overall 2008 high points novice amateur for the state of Washington.

Winters and her horse achieved numerous circuit, class and NSBA awards throughout the year.

Her trainer is **Jeanne Wolfe**.

Wolfe has also trained or given lessons to most of the winners listed today.

So this column is a bit of an opportunity for Wolfe to thank her clients and to acknowledge their wonderful successes this year.

All in the family

Keeping success in the family, **Tina Johnson**, Winters' sister, campaigned herself and horse to numerous individual awards throughout the past show season.

Johnson's horse won the high points junior horse award three out of three horse shows, winning an impressive amount of prizes.

Johnson also won individual novice amateur high points at the Emerald Masters fall show.

It was her first time competing in the all-around events.

Winters' horse wasn't far behind, earning the reserve high points junior horse slot three times.

More local riders who won at these same competitions were **Christina Morgenson Overby**, winning the youth reining division on her horse, Reining In Seattle.

PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



This up-and-coming youth has purchased a new horse to head out this year and branch out into other events.

Reining in Seattle, himself a local horse star, has earned his owner, **Larry Johnson**, numerous awards and more than \$15,000 in cash winnings.

Larry Johnson and Reining in Seattle won the overall high points working horse awards at the Monroe circuit and finished the year out winning a beautiful buckle at the fall reining competition in Wenatchee.

A good horse is always in demand, and Reining in Seattle was sold this year and is now making his mark down in Houston with his new family.

Cindy Bryant of Port Angeles also went out and competed at the breed level with her horse, Coonami.

Coonami finished third in the prestigious paint Triple Crown, 3-year-old western futurities held in Medford, Ore.

Olivia Pluard's horse, Presley, was reserve in the Western Pleasure Maturity class at the spring Monroe AQHA show, winning himself and his owners more than \$1,000 in cash.

Peninsula zone

Locally, Washington State Horsemen Olympic Peninsula Zone performance horse riders took home several trophies, along with numerous high points at the local shows.

All the publicity from local riders winning top awards at national shows is helping to fuel the fire for Jefferson Equestrian



KAREN GRIFFITHS/FOR PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

During their first year of competing at the national American Quarter Horse Association breed show, local horsewomen, from left, Tina Johnson riding "Flashin My Style" (Pockets), Terri Winters riding "Gimmy the Gold" (Malibu) and trainer Jeanne Wolfe-Johnson won several high points awards with Winters achieving overall 2008 high points novice amateur for the state of Washington.

Association's dream of developing a public equestrian center with an indoor and outdoor riding arena, trails and a cross-country course.

Hopefully, it won't be too much longer before we can host nationally ranking horse shows in our region.

To find out more or donate to the cause, visit JEA's Web site at www.jeffersonequestrian.org.

Good-byes, get wells

Sad news on the horse front is that former 4-H leader **Jean Iverson** died on Jan. 24 in South Dakota.

There will be a memorial celebration of life on

March 7 at the Kingsway Church on Kitchen-Dick Road.

Good news is farrier **Duane Ctract** has recovered from his long illness and is back to shoeing horses again.

Yea, Duane!

Freedom Farm news

Freedom Farm's owner **Mary Gallagher** says they work hard to bring the best in horsemanship to the public.

One way is through its horsemen's library, where it has a vast selection of horsemanship books and DVDs available to the public.

The farm doesn't charge a fee for the use of the

library. It only asks that once an item is checked out that it be returned in good condition and in a timely manner.

Another opportunity Freedom Farm offers to the public is its play days.

The games are geared toward developing components fundamental in good horsemanship no matter what the discipline.

There are no prizes, but the games are fun and the riders have an opportunity to give their horses some exposure while picking up some valuable techniques in their horsemanship.

There is an arena fee of \$10, and riders can play all day.

Freedom Farm focuses on:

■ Building a seat that is functional and creates relaxation in the horse.

■ Equalizing horses' whoa and go.

■ Expanding the safe environment of the horse diagonals and leads.

■ Making a plan and riding a plan through obstacles

Play days

The next play days is March 7 at 11 a.m.

Horse decorating and costumes are encouraged, so come at 9:30 a.m. for dressing up and picking teams.

For more information, phone Freedom Farm at 360-4574897 or e-mail freedomf@olypen.com.

Events

■ **Feb. 28, 2 p.m.** — Tryouts for Peninsula Junior Rodeo Royalty, 1370 Woodcock Road, Port Angeles.

For information, phone Teresa Ballou at 360-928-9691 or e-mail teresaballou@q.com.

■ **Third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.** — OPZ meetings, Baker Stables Clubhouse, 164 Four Winds Road, Port Angeles.

■ **March 29, May 3, June 21, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6** — OPZ show dates, Baker Stables, 164 Four Winds Road, Port Angeles.

For more information, e-mail krystal@olypen.com.

■ **April 22, 25 and June 7** — Show dates, Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

■ **July 11-12** — OPZ annual benefit show, Clallam County Fairgrounds.

Karen Griffiths' column, Peninsula Horse Play, appears every other Wednesday.

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