

# PA horse gallops past competition

## GIGANTIC CONGRATULATIONS TO

Port Angeles-based horse Reining in Seattle, otherwise known as Sparky, for his first place win against 58 entries at the San Antonio Ranch Geldings Stakes in Texas on Feb. 15.

The double-judged timed competition included six events — reining, roping and cattle work — and Sparky's composite score of 157 was a full three points higher than the second place winner.

Owner Port Angeles Veterinarian **Chuck Schramm**, says full credit goes to event rider and Sparky's trainer **Shawn Holden** of Texas because he only had six weeks to prepare a horse — who had virtually no cattle or roping experience — for this competition.

## Genes and training

Sparky's great bloodlines and the excellent training foundation when a 2 and 3 years by **Matt and Tiff McCauslin** of Arlington, are attributed with getting Sparky's winning career off to a great start.

Shawn and Sparky's winnings at San Antonio were just under \$3,000, plus a trophy saddle and breast collar.

It is a huge feat for a Washington horse like Sparky to go to the heart of Texas cattle country, compete against 58 of its finest ranch horses and come home with the championship.

Prior to Schramm, Reining in Seattle earned owner and rider, **Larry Johnson** of Port Angeles, numerous awards in reining events and more than \$15,000 in cash winnings.

Presently, Sparky is resting in Weatherford, Texas, before he begins his trip home to Baker Stables in Port Angeles.

Along the way, he will stop in Scottsdale, Ariz., to compete at the Cactus Reining Classic, one of the largest reining competitions in the West.

## Sad news

I'm filled with grief as I share the news of **Ady Crosby's** horse, Sonny, passed away after a brief, but difficult, fight against colic last week.

Many might remember reading about Ady and

## PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



Sonny's record breaking runs, high-point wins and championship awards during the past 11 years when they competed

together in 4-H, Washington State Horseman, Patterned Speed Horse events and Washington State High School Equestrian Team.

The duo won high point over all as junior competitors in WSH and Intermediate riders in PSHA.

Last year, they were high-point winners in Omoxie in Monroe.

Sonny, a well-muscled, studly looking blond palomino, often competed in team events against his "girlfriend" Lacey, a pretty palomino ridden by **Brooke Stromberg**.

I'll forever cherish a photo from last October's PSHA Interstate event in which Sonny and Lacey entered the arena side-by-side with matching strides, both with flowing blond manes being ridden by young women with flowing blond hair.

## Words fail

Words seemed to fail me as I try to describe the bond and love these two shared with each other.

While Ady is away attending her first year in college at Western Washington University, she continued to come home regularly on weekends to be with Sonny and arranged for her good friend and fellow horsemen, **Clara Duncan**, to ride, care and fuss over him while she was away.

In fact, Clara, along with Ady's mom and grandparents were with him through the night as the veterinarian worked hard to save him.

To view a few pictures of Ady and Sonny visit the Web site, [www.patterned-speedhorse.com/news.html](http://www.patterned-speedhorse.com/news.html).

## Events

■ **Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.** — Arab Club Meeting, Poulsbo, 25374 Street Highway 3 NW. Phone 360-598-6669.

■ **Saturday, 10 a.m.** — Washington State Horsemen Peninsula Chapter ride starting at **Jennifer Eastburn's** property on Cassidy Creek Road.

Directions: From Port Angeles, east on U.S. Highway 101, turn right onto Sherbourne Road. Turn left onto Atterberry Road. Turn right onto Cassidy Road. Turn left onto Cassidy Creek Road.

From Sequim, west on U.S. Highway 101, turn left onto Hooker Road. Turn right onto Atterberry Road. Turn left onto Cassidy Road. Turn left onto Cassidy Creek Road.

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

For information, phone Teresa Ballou at 360-928-9691 or e-mail [teresaballou@q.com](mailto:teresaballou@q.com).

■ **March 7, Saturday, 11 a.m.** — Freedom Farm play day. Horse decorating and costumes are encouraged so come early at 9:30 a.m. for dressing up and picking teams.

For more information, phone Freedom Farm at 360-457-4897 or e-mail [freedomf@olympen.com](mailto:freedomf@olympen.com).

■ **March 7, Saturday** — BCH Buckhorn Range Chapter Work Party.

For more information and upcoming rides, check the Web site [www.olympus.net/community/buckhornbchw](http://www.olympus.net/community/buckhornbchw).

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

For more information, e-mail [krystal@olympen.com](mailto:krystal@olympen.com).

■ **Third Wednesdays of month, 7 p.m.** — OPZ meetings, Baker Stables clubhouse, 164 Four Winds Road.

March zone meeting with the annual potluck before the meeting.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dollar to help support the zone.

It's a great way to meet people and learn more about Olympic Peninsula Zone.

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](mailto: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.