

# New log bridge crosses Dungeness trail

A FEW WEEKS ago, my horse, Indy, and I accompanied a group of friends hiking the Upper Dungeness Trail up to Heather Creek.

Friends **Mitch** and **Patty Grice**, their grandson, **Presley Grice**, 6, **Christian Kettel**, 13, and **Matt Anderson**, were spending the weekend camping at Heather Creek.

I was just riding up and back for the day, which is about a 6-mile trip one way.

To get to Heather Creek, we crossed fast waters of the Upper Dungeness River twice.

Since we weren't following a more experienced horse, I was a bit worried how Indy would react to the river because there are times when he can throw a tantrum.

## Easy crossing

Turns out crossing a river was a breeze with Indy. Even though he had trouble getting his footing on the slick, mossy covered rocks, he didn't hesitate to cross — in fact he seemed to enjoy it.

My hiking friends were sure there was a solid foot bridge for the first crossing, but not about the second.

For more than 10 years, the second crossing has been a bit hazardous because the former bridge was destroyed in a storm years ago.

We were pleasantly surprised to arrive at the second crossing just as the crew from Forest Access, owner **David Buzzanco**, **Tyler Carlin**, **Wes Palmer** and **Allie Mag-**

## PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen  
Griffiths



gio, were completing a new foot bridge.

Using all hand tools, including a cross-cut saw, they fell a 180-foot tree that was

251 years old to make the new bridge.

When the cut tree fell, it broke, leaving one piece 64 feet long — just long enough to bridge the river.

The crew used cables, winches and blocks to set the new bridge in place, and then they flattened out the top using axes and saws.

A handrail was later added for safety.

While Indy and I crossed the river several times below, my friends waited an hour before having the honor of being the very first to cross the new bridge.

## Two weeks

The project took the Forest Service crew about two weeks to complete.

Tom Mix of Sequim packed their tools, food and other supplies back and forth for the project.

The hike up the Heather Creek is a relatively easy trail, and with the new foot bridge in place, I highly recommend it for novice campers and those with younger children.

For more information and for permits, visit Olympic National Park for permits at <http://tinyurl.com>.



TOM MIX

**A new log bridge crosses Upper Dungeness River on the Upper Dungeness Trail to Heather Creek. The tree was felled and the bridge built using old fashioned techniques and hand tools by Forest Access.**

[com/olympiccamping.com](http://olympiccamping.com).

## Events

■ **Sundays, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6** — Because of poor turnout the OPZ performance shows at Baker Stables have been canceled.

For more information, phone 360-457-6039 or e-mail [bakerstablespa@gmail.com](mailto:bakerstablespa@gmail.com).

■ **Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 20-23** — Clallam County Fair.

■ **Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 29-30** — Peninsula Junior Rodeo at Clallam County Fairgrounds. For more information, phone **Jamie** at 360-452-8491.

■ **Sunday, Oct. 25** — Baker Stables, 164 Four Winds Road, Port Angeles, first schooling show of the season, plus the costume class.

For more information, visit <http://www.bakerstablespa.net>.

[stablespa.net](http://stablespa.net).

■ **Fourth Monday of each month, 6 p.m.** — Backcountry Horsemen Peninsula Chapter meetings, Clallam County Fairgrounds kitchen.

For more information, e-mail **Marc Reinertson** at [almostaranch@olympus.net](mailto:almostaranch@olympus.net).

■ **Second Thursday of each month** — BCH Buckhorn Range Chapter meetings

For more information, phone **Bob Hoyle** at 360-531-2337.

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.