

# Owner's gaffe comes as shock to horse

**I WAS STUPID**, again. Were it not for the GFI, or ground-fault circuit interrupter outlet, my haphazardness could have resulted in my horse receiving a deadly electrical shock.

During the summer, I made some changes to the property, including the location of water troughs.

Unfortunately, I didn't get around to completing my winter-watering setup.

When freezing weather arrived and I plugged in my stock-tank de-icers, part of the electric extension cord running through the pasture was left exposed to the horses.

Indy, my big bay who likes to play with and put his mouth on anything he can find decided to amuse himself with the cord.

He bit down on it.

The weather at the time was alternating rain and snow.

It took little effort for Indy's teeth to touch and expose the wire.

Thankfully, since I had plugged it into a GFI outlet he only received a brief, minor shock.

It could have been worse. Like I said, I was stupid.

An easy fix was to run the extension cord inside PVC pipe, keep the pipe as hidden as possible, and squirt it with bitter "No Chew" doggie spray.

Always the character, Indy's given me much joy for most of his seven years.

Last summer, he threw a couple of quick tantrums, the power of such left me lying flat on the ground.

Since then, I've been telling him I was upset with him for hurting me, and it was his job to keep me safe — plus he got more training from my neighbor, **Jeanne Wolfe Johnson**.

Well, I'm not sure if it was my firm words, or Jeanne's training, or both. But for the first time,

## PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



late last month Indy didn't react by springing up, down and sideways when I put my foot in the stirrup in an attempt to

climb in the saddle with a loose cinch.

As the saddle slipped to his side I saw him plant his feet firmly on the ground, and with a resolved look that seem to say, "I'm standing still so she won't fall."

Either that or he was too shocked to move after taking a bite out of the electrical cord.

## 4-H news

I'm excited to share the news that last November, Jeanne, along with husband **Larry Johnson**, and assistant **Krystal Braise**, started a new 4-H group, Mane Attraction, in Sequim.

Her group gets the benefit of being taught by a professional trainer (with her own indoor arena) who also knows what it's like to be a 4-H youth.

So far, members **Gabby Fors, Justine Roads, Taylor Roads, Brianna Albright, Emma Albright, Rachel Hendry, Jolene Millsap, Joslyn Millsap, Tidjra Tolliver, Christina Overby, Jadyn Overby, Emma Barrell** and **Shannon Robins** have performed some community service by hosting a Christmas party at Olympic Medical Center.

Mane Attraction meetings focus on planning work days and horse shows at the Jeanne's barn, fundraisers, field trips and community service. They are looking forward to partici-



**Members of the new 4-H club Mane Attraction practice horsemanship classes at the indoor arena. They are Jeanne Johnson, front left, with member Taylor Roads. Back row, from left, are Christina Overby, Jadyn Overby, Justine Roads, Brianna Albright, Shannon Robins and Gabby Fors.**

pating in Clallam County Fair in August.

"Now is an extremely important time to support 4-H," said Jeanne, noting that other counties are closing their 4-H programs due to lack of interest.

"Our goal is to get people fired up about 4-H again and to spread the word how important the program is for youths."

She remembers, during her 4-H years, there were so many youths in horse 4-H there was a waiting list to get a horse stall at fair.

"Now the leaders are bringing horses out of pastures to fill stalls because of the lack of kids — and we want to put a stop to that," said Jeanne.

"As a leader I want to make 4-H fun and interesting, along with teaching the kids skills and have life experiences they will look back on positively in their life."

She doesn't want any kids to feel left out or overlooked.

In fact, even if a child doesn't know how to ride or have a horse, Jeanne, like most 4-H leaders, can help find a horse for your child to use in 4-H.

I know for a fact there are a lot of horses in the area whose owners would love to have them used in 4-H.

To find out more, contact Jeanne at 360-683-3809 or [sylvesterwolfe@saol.com](mailto:sylvesterwolfe@saol.com).

## Winning combination

Congratulations to **Tina Johnson**, with her horse Flashin My Style, aka Pockets, for winning overall high-point novice amateur last month at the Washington State Quarter Horse year-end award banquet.

The prize was a silver buckle.

Jeanne, who's been her horse trainer and friend for 15 years, says "it was her first buckle and she was super excited to win it."

As high-point winners in trail, hunter under saddle, hunt seat equitation and reserve high point in Western Pleasure, horsemanship and showmanship, Tina and her 5-year-old gelding won several other prizes, including custom irons, horse blankets, a sweatshirt, gift certificates and an engraved knife.

She plans on trying to win the buckle again next year, along with traveling the paint-and-pinto show circuit with a young paint filly she's bred and raised.

All the best to you Tina.

## Events:

On **Jan. 15, 7 p.m.**, Buckhorn Range Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington meet-

ing at Chimacum Grange Hall (across from the Tri-Area Community Center).

A slide show of the Red Rock Ride vacation in southwest Utah will be presented.

Horse enthusiasts and those interested in keeping trails on public lands open for equestrian use are welcome to attend. Call Bob or Judith at 360-732-5042.

On **Jan. 24, 6 p.m.**, Patterned Speed Horse Association regional award ceremony and dinner at Islander Pizza in Sequim. Please confirm attendance with Waynora at 360-683-3902.

**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 [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.