

# Memorial, benefit show big success

**BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS** and sweat thrown in with a lot of love and a big heart was the reason Clallam County Fairgrounds was ablaze with action last weekend for the first **Jean Iverson Memorial and Zone Benefit Show**. "Jean's passing away a

## PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



couple years ago was a huge loss. She was a wonderful person who gave her whole heart and soul to helping youths in 4-H," says **Nancy Johnson**, one of the show's

organizer's.

"I think this was the biggest horse show turnout we've had here in five years — the fairgrounds were packed with more horse trailers and participants than you could shake a stick at."

Since 1968, Jean and her husband, **Darrel "Dee" Iverson**, were one of the region's foremost organizers of youth horse events and activities.

## Family involvement

Initially, Jean became a 4-H horse leader as a family activity for her three boys and daughter.

When her children grew too old for 4-H (it's for 18 and younger) she briefly stepped down as a leader.

She became a leader again when her grandchildren and then great-grandchildren — joined 4-H.

Most recently, she was Neon Rider's leader until the couple moved to South Dakota in 2006 when Jean was 68 and Dee, 73 — a move initiated by a substantial property tax increase.

The raise left them unable to afford their home on their limited retirement funds.

Washington State Horseman's Olympic Peninsula Zone has held a two-day show in July for many years.

After Jean passed away, Nancy suggested the club hold the show in remembrance of Jean.

Members readily agreed.

Money was also raised to build a memorial bench for Jean.



KAREN GRIFFITHS/FOR PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

**Supporters of Olympic Peninsula Zone and members of the Iverson family gather in front of the new Jean Iverson Memorial Bench at the first Jean Iverson Memorial and Zone Benefit Show last weekend at the Clallam County Fairgrounds.**

Two years later, the bench was finished and set in concrete adjacent to the barn assigned to Jean's 4-H group during the annual county fair.

"We invited Dee to announce the show and be here for the bench's dedication," says Nancy.

"He traveled all the way here from South Dakota, and it was wonderful to hear his voice over the microphone again."

The show opened Saturday with a eulogy to Jean and an unveiling of the new bench.

Dee's gravely voice once again announced the show.

Noticeably missing was his wife, who'd spend years by his side keeping track of points earned by participants.

Also helping to organize the show was the Iverson daughter, **Wendy Peterson**, a horse trainer, reiner and active member of the horse community, along with her husband, **Justin Peterson**.

On Saturday evening at the show, past and present members of the horse community gathered for a potluck dinner, live band, auction and "fun horse," says Nancy.

"At the auction, a pie actually sold for \$200, with proceeds going to the Zone's year-end awards.

"This weekend's been more successful than I ever dreamed."

## Lively ride

On Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m., the Wild Angels 4-H Horse Club of Jefferson County is hosting an Open Competitive Trail Trial.

The Trail Trial Competition will be held off Discovery Road between state Highway 20 (4 Corners Road) and Discovery Golf Club in Port Townsend.

According to its organizers, there will be signs directing parking for horse trailers and to the start of the event.

Trails will consist of obstacles along the trail. Scoring is based on how well horse and rider negotiate each obstacle.

Early Bird pricing is \$20 per person. Entry forms should be postmarked by July 17.

Cost after July 17th and on the day of competition is \$25.

Awards will be presented after the last rider finishes the course.

Concessions will be

available for purchase.

Entry forms are available at most Feed & Tack stores and Washington State University extension office in Port Hadlock.

For more information or entry forms, please phone **Marian Gilliland** at 360-385-6313 or 301-5433.

## Events

■ **Saturday and Sunday, July 18 to 19** — Annual Open and 4-H pre-fair show at Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Early bird entries must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, July 14.

Performance classes start at 9 a.m. Saturday, and games are 10 a.m. Sunday.

For more information, phone **Betty Mysak** at 360-379-6931 or e-mail [mysak@cablespeed.com](mailto:mysak@cablespeed.com).

■ **Sunday, July 19, noon to 2 p.m.** — Freedom Farms Mini Beats Play Day.

The farm has set aside a special time just for little folks to experience horses.

The games will develop confidence and balance on and around horses.

All ages are welcome, however, the riding experience will be limited to chil-

dren fewer than 100 pounds.

The event is free, but participants are asked to bring a food donation.

Freedom Farms is at 493 Spring Road, off Old Olympic Highway in Port Angeles.

For more information phone Mary Gallagher at 360 457 4897 or e-mail [freedomf@olypen.com](mailto:freedomf@olypen.com).

■ **Sunday, July 19** — 4-H pre-fair show at Clallam County Fairgrounds.

For more information, phone **Theresa Whitney** at 360-457-6028.

■ **Wednesday, July 22** — 6:30 p.m. Arabian Horse Club meeting in Kingston.

For more information, e-mail Jeanette Leino at [JMLeino@centurytel.net](mailto:JMLeino@centurytel.net).

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

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

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

■ **Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 29 and 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 [www.bakerstablespa.net](http://www.bakerstablespa.net).

■ **Fourth Monday of each month, 6 p.m.** — Backcountry Horsemen Peninsula Chapter meetings at 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.