

Group head honored with humiliation

IS IT JUST me, or are other horsemen frustrated by November's string of dark and gloomy days?

Staying indoors is driving me crazy, but I guess I am inside by choice.

I could be spending more time outdoors — if I wanted to be laden down with rain gear while I sloshed through the pouring rain.

Fall is the time of year many horse associations hold award ceremonies and organizational meetings.

A couple weekends ago my friend, **Beth Lahren**, and I traveled east to Lake Chelan where we spent the weekend with members of the Patterned Speed Horse Association.

Two years ago, friend **Pam Crosby** persuaded me to go to a meeting.

Her daughter and my niece compete in team events together.

While I agreed to become PSHA's Web master (www.patternedspeedhorse.com) and newsletter coordinator — I still do not remember saying yes — it was the start of steady e-mails between PSHA President **Lesla Bland** and me.

Last year, I chose not to take the six-hour drive to the meeting.

This year, Lesla, who has a fun and outgoing personality, said she wanted me to attend so people could see the "face of the person who is doing a fantastic job on the Web site."

Flattery got me there, and she paid for my room.

Any organization's success depends on level-headed, hardworking and

PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



dependable volunteers.

Together, and with a shared keen sense of humor, Lesla and I have formed a Mutual

Admiration Society.

Lesla began the Saturday evening program by thanking key volunteers.

Thanking me last, she added: "Karen is the one who gives me the most grief."

I took Lesla's words as my cue to stand up from my seat and wave my hands in the air to get her attention.

She shot me an alarmed look: "What's the matter Karen . . . is there a fire?"

"No . . . um," I said as I gathered my gift, hidden with a hotel blanket.

Speaking loudly over the top of the crowd I weaved my way through the tables and chairs to reach her.

"I just want to tell this group I think they did a heck of a job by voting you president, because no one could do it better than you."

I stood close: "You are a great example of what a fair and motivating leader should be. Who else could get me to jump through so many hoops to do so much for them? This time I've got something for you to do for me."

"What's that Karen?"



KATHY KRATZER

At the Patterned Speed Horse Association's end-of-year award ceremony, which took place earlier this month in Lake Chelan, Peninsula Daily News columnist Karen Griffiths, right, gave association president Lesla Bland a hula hoop. In jest, she complained about jumping through too many hoops for Bland, and just this once said she wanted to see the president jump through a hoop for her.

I unveiled my gift; a pink hula hoop: "In front of everyone here I just want to ask you to jump through a hoop for me."

With a horrified expression she tried backing away, stammering, "I can't hula hoop. I can't."

Nevertheless, I handed her the hoop.

She attempted one hula but could not swing her hips enough for the hoop to twirl.

She tried to quit, but I was not about to let her off

the hook.

"You can and you will," I pointed a finger at her in a mock scolding manner.

Chanting to the tune of "Johnny B Good," I shouted: "Go! Go! Go Baby Go, Go, Go!"

The group began chanting the song with me, telling Lesla to "Go!"

Demonstrating what a good sport she is, Lesla swiveled her hips, making several attempts to twirl the hula around her belly.

She did not lie: She was

horrible with the hula hoop.

It was fun — she was fun.

I am ready to take our show on the road.

Events

■ Backcountry Horsemen Peninsula Chapter meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Clallam County Fairgrounds kitchen.

Contact Marc Reinertson at almostaranch@

olympus.net.

■ BCH Buckhorn Range Chapter meetings are held the second Thursday of the month.

Contact Bob Hoyle at 360-531-2337.

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 play.kbg@olympus.net at least two weeks in advance. You can also write Griffiths at PDN, P.O. Box 1330, Port Angeles, WA 98362.