

Dust off your cowboy hat, polish your boots

Enjoy western weekend at 70th annual Long Beach Rodeo

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Come and join all the cowgirls and cowboys at the Peninsula Saddle Club for the 70th annual Long Beach Rodeo, co-sponsored by Brims Farm and Garden, set for Friday to Sunday, July 24 to July 26.

This local event is the longest-running rodeo on the northwest coast.

It was started by several local businessmen who felt there was a need to showcase the Long Beach Peninsula with a

rodeo. Originally held on property on North Seventh Street in Long Beach, the rodeo moved to its current location at 6407 Sandridge Road in 1957.

The rodeo kicks off with a parade in downtown Long Beach at 6:30 p.m. Friday. This parade features cowboys and cowgirls all on horses, led by Long Beach Mayor Bob Andrew and Police Chief Flint Wright. Entertainment will be provided by rodeo clown Kyle Bode, from Quincy.

Fuel up with a cowboy breakfast at the clubhouse before the rodeo starts. It starts at 7 a.m. and runs until 11 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

The big event starts at 1 p.m. Saturday with top competitors from the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association. These competitors travel from all over Washington, Oregon and Idaho to compete for more than \$18,000 in prize money.

Stock will again be provided by Gold Buckle Rodeo Compa-

ny from Roosevelt, Washington. The rodeo will showcase the talented Skagit Rein Riders Drill team from Acme, Washington, who will be performing each day.

Directly after the Saturday rodeo, there will be a free family night for children. Some of the events include stick horse races and tug of war. There will be prizes for all who participate.

Come back for breakfast Sunday morning, and watch the slack (where overfill contestants run their performances).

The Sunday show starts again at 1 p.m. and will feature Miss NPRA, Sydney Butler from Boise, Idaho.



Photo by Damian Mulinix

Saddle bronc rider Johnny Espeland leaps from his horse just after clearing the gate at last year's Long Beach Rodeo.

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