

Cycle-racing family joins Kitsap Sports Hall of Fame

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

Dave Raines always preferred the iron horse to the flesh-and-blood incarnations his wife and children loved.

"The horses always went up when I went down," Raines recalled. "(My wife) Shirley and the kids loved 4-H and the horses, but the horses didn't seem to like me."

Not long after Raines and his wife moved their family of six from rural Port Orchard to an 80-acre piece of property off Old Belfair Highway, Raines decided to buy a motorcycle.

"I always wanted to ride, but being a family man, I couldn't afford to," he said. "I just loved it. I liked to go and I liked to go fast."

Raines' burgeoning passion for racing developed into a full-fledged family affair — he and his sons, Doug and Darrell, and later his grandson, Jason Raines, became well-known throughout the motorcycle racing community, garnering regional, state and national titles.

The family was honored Jan. 24 at the Kitsap Sports Hall of Fame Banquet in Poulsbo, where they were inducted into the 2014 class.

"We were very surprised and very honored," Doug Raines said. "We just love the enjoyment of riding motorcycles. It's a good group of people."

Dave Raines and his family moved to Belfair in 1956, and around 1962, he bought his first motorcycle, a Triumph TR6 Trophy.

Before long he was riding a Ducati, around the same time he became a charter member of the Bremerton Cruisers Mo-

torcycle Club.

"We were a family-oriented group of trail riders," Dave Raines recalled. "We got together with the families and camped in the Tahuya forest. Once in awhile, we'd do a hill climb. It was a good bunch of people, a good bunch of family men."

Doug Raines remembers riding the trails with his father and the club. He was around 11 when he started to develop an interest in motorcycles (but he still loved his horse).

"Riding was always a good time," he said. "In my first race with my dad, we battled pretty hard. I was 16 and it was a club event, a five- or six-lap thing. He really didn't want me to beat him."

While Dave Raines preferred trail racing, his sons became more interested in motocross, a type of off-road racing held in enclosed off-road circuits.

Once he realized his sons were serious about racing, Raines did all he could to support them: "From then on, I was nothing but a pit man and a taxi for them," he said.

In 1970, Doug Raines won his first race, a motocross race at Minterbrook Park in Port Orchard.

"I was 17 when I won that race," Doug Raines said. "So after that, you're hooked."

The Raines brothers raced practically every weekend at any opportunity they could find.

"You do a couple a week," Doug Raines said. "We'd race in Monroe Friday nights and then do a race all day Saturday. It didn't matter if it rained. Normally it was horrible weather."

Doug paid for his motorcycles with money from delivering newspapers for five years on a paper route for the Bremer-

ton Sun. (His father reiterates: "Doug made every nickel himself. I was just his taxi.")

Between 1971-76, Doug Raines worked for and was sponsored in his races by Cliff's Cycle Center.

"They put a Sachs 125 under me in 1970," he said.

His brother Darrell found a sponsorship with what was then Bremerton Cycle.

"We had both sides of the market covered," Doug Raines said.

Darrell Raines earned the No. 1 spot at the Pacific Northwest Motorcycle Association's annual motocross race, and over the years the brothers would travel throughout Washington and the United States, sometimes to Canada, to garner more titles.



PHOTO BY ARLA SHEPHARD

Dave Raines, left, and his son, Doug Raines, along with Doug's brother Darrell and Darrell's son, Jason Raines, were honored in the Kitsap Sports Hall of Fame for the family's achievements in off-road motorcycle racing. Dave Raines bought his first motorcycle in 1962, setting off a love of racing that extends to his children and grandchildren.


They participated in the Puyallup Trans Am race, and Doug Raines got second place at the popular Hangtown Motocross

Classic outside of Sacramento in 1975.

"You just get some trophies and plaques here and there," said Doug

Raines, in an effort to recall the various accomplishments his family has

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