



Karen Stallings and NMSU Truckin Chex keep on truckin' with their third Amateur Working Cow Horse World Championship in a row.

(Right) Melinda Susan Horn rode to the Amateur World Reserve Championship on Heza Nuther Digger.



ing an appearance and eighth-place finishing during the previous week's Junior Reining competition with a solid 218.

"He had never been a reiner in his life, other than at the cow horse shows," McLaughlin said. "When I trotted him into the middle, he'd never seen a judge's chair. When I trotted into the middle, he wasn't sure what to do, but he was good all the way through."

Genuine Masterpiece will now enjoy some time off before competing again in 2011. He struggled at times during 2010 with a sore suspensory, McLaughlin said, but added the horse was clearly at his best while ending the season in Oklahoma City.

"That horse was as good as he could be," McLaughlin said. "He gave me everything he had. He's never one time quit trying for me, ever. I've quit trying on him a few times because I didn't want to hurt him. He felt great [before the AQHA World show] and we went."

Reserve World Champion rider

Ron Ralls and Solano Cat dominated the fence work part of the event with a spectacular 224.5, but they couldn't quite overcome their 213 in reining. Solano Cat, a prior career earner of \$88,277, picked up another \$7,825 at the show.

Ralls also placed third in the Junior Cow Horse finals with a 219.5/214.5/434 aboard 5-year-old stallion Ima Smoking Mister (Mister Dual Pep x Miss Smoking Remedy x Master Remedy). Solano Cat's owners, Shannon and Herschell Reid, also own Ima Smoking Remedy.

"I had a great day," Ralls said. "I had a really great show here. I got a little worried I was going to run out of horse [in the fence work], but we got through it. We got it done. Those cows are strong and really powerful. I'll take it [second and third at the World Finals] and I'm happy to have it."

If not for a few mistakes during the rein work, Ralls said Solano Cat might have won.

"We had a scotch on that one stop there. It didn't help. But that

happens," Ralls said. "It did today."
—MT

Amateur Working Cow Horse

"Elvis" doesn't have much left to prove. His achievements include more than \$152,973 in **Equi-Stat** earnings, a 2004 NRCHA World Championship in Open Bridle, a 2007 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Non-Pro Bridle Championship and a 2008 NRCHA Non-Pro Bridle World Championship.

Now for the third year in row, NMSU Truckin Chex, aka "Elvis," has claimed the AQHA Amateur Working Cow Horse World Championship and \$3,599 with owner Karen Stallings.

Stallings said everything was right on during the rein work, as Elvis made simple, easy circles and perfect lead changes. His run-and-stops were spot-on, and Stallings was feeling pretty good. In fact, Stallings was a little "jacked up" after the rein work, so she had to tell herself to slow down and not overdo the cow work.

But the remarkable 12-year-old stallion (Nu Chex To Cash x NMSU Doc Truckle CJ x CJ Sugar) and the Tucson, Ariz., cowgirl, with her signature ponytail flying, had a super-sharp run in the cow work and marked a huge score of 225. With the 214.5 they scored in the rein work, their composite of 439.5 beat the next closest competitors by 5 1/2 points.

"If you just stay out of his way, he'll do his job," Stallings said. "He is one of the truly great horses in the world, and we're so fortunate to have him."

Stallings attributes the horse's longevity to his want-to-please attitude. He's now 12 and is still mentally and physically sound, she said.

"He's so much fun to show. I kind of don't know how to retire him," Stallings laughed. "When we take the trailer to shows and we leave him at home, he actually gets upset. So, I don't know."

NMSU Truckin Chex was bred by New Mexico State University, and Stallings and her husband, Kevin, have owned the bay stallion since

early 2005.

A true work horse, Karen showed NMSU Truckin Chex at the Senior Working Cow Horse Amateur Cutting and the Cutting, as well. Stallings competed in the Junior Working Cow Horse aboard Chexy Little, a 4-year-old mare sired by Truckin Chex. Kevin Stallings competed in Junior Working Cow Horse with two other 4-year-old horses, the champion stallion.

"He [Kevin] is who keeps me together," Karen Stallings said. "Everybody says that Elvis is a little more, but there's no way I can do what I've done on him if it weren't for Kevin. He's the band, Kevin, wasn't there, and I'm riding Elvis along with me and riding Elvis along with me." "I owe everything to Kevin and to Elvis."

Stallings has qualified for the AQHA World Show Amateur Working Cow Horse finals in a row, and she has \$100,000 in lifetime earnings.

Reserve Champions were Susan Horn and Heza Nuther Digger (Diggers Rest x Hotroddin Colonel Hotrodder) as they scored a 212.5 in the rein work and a score of 434. Horn said her old gelding, known as "Maverick," didn't warm up very good before, and she just wanted to win. "I just wanted to win," she said laughing.

"I've had him six years," Horn said. "I bought him from Miller in Colorado. His name is Maverick and that's exactly how he is, a maverick. He's himself loose. He'll get out of anything."

Horn, Maxwell, N.M., trained by Don Murphy. She also showed at the Amateur Barrel Racing World Championship in Amateur Working Cow Horse is her highest placement at any event at the AQHA World Show. She works for her parent company, Horn Ranch in New Mexico.

Making it an all-girl team, Horn's top three spots, the barrel racing was won by Gay Lenz, Okla., and her 6-year-old Musical Jazzy (Spooks Ja Musical E Jackie x Zan Pe

—SW