



In his last run as an open cow horse, Peppys Prize Freckle goes out in style, earning the Limited Open Bridle Reserve World Championship with Tucker Clark aboard.



Genuine Masterpiece rebounded from colic surgery to capture the Open Two-Rein World Championship under Jay McLaughlin's guidance. (Inset) Jay McLaughlin —Photo by Erin Haynes



(Left) Kiss My Shiny Lips and Caldwell, Idaho, trainer Jake Telford get tough down the fence for the Open Two-Rein Reserve Championship.

owner carefully guarded Chic from fatigue.

"We body clipped him because he got so tired last year. He only got about five minutes of warm-up before I showed him, and then, we just swapped saddles and did another light warm-up for Christina," Troxel said. "We just want to do the easiest thing for him."

Leading non-pro Annie Reynolds, King Hill, Idaho, raised and trained the veteran gelding. She started off his **Equi-Stat** record with a finals appearance in the 2003 Snaffle Bit Futurity Non-Pro. His show record now exceeds \$47,500.

Allen will be less involved with Chic in the future; she recently

moved to California to work alongside Russell Dilday at his facility in Porterville, Calif. Allen, who previously lived in Idaho, worked under Reynolds for three years and leading professional Jake Telford for three years. It was time for a change of pace, she said.

"To be able to ride with different people and learn – I think I'm going to advance quicker," Allen said.

Since winning her first cow horse check in 2006, Allen has accumulated nearly \$35,000 in show earnings, according to **Equi-Stat**.

The Limited Open Bridle Reserve Champion was Peppys Prize Freckle (Smart Peppy Lena x Freckles Prize x Colonel Freckles), shown by Tucker Clark for Rogers Heaven Sent Ranch. Clark guided the 1996 gelding to a 213 score in the reined work and a 211 in the cow work. The placing paid \$2,937. Peppys Prize Freckle has earned nearly \$25,000 since his show career began in 2006. Just over \$2,000 of those earnings came with Clark at the reins.

It wasn't part of the original plan to show Peppys Prize Freckle in San Angelo; he was ready to retire from open competition and embrace his new role as a full-time non-pro mount for owner Don Rogers. Rogers also owns Rogers Bandalero Ranch, where Clark's employer, leading NRCHA Professional Kevin Stallings, bases his training operation.

"We weren't going to take [Peppys Prize Freckle], but we decided it was going to be his last hurrah with me, so I was just real lucky I was even able to take him," Clark said. "He pretty much was as good, or better, than he's ever been for me."

Clark, 24, a Wyoming native with a team roping background, has worked as an assistant trainer to Kevin Stallings, Tucson, Ariz., for the past three years. Clark met Stallings through his brother, who shoes Stallings' horses.

Working for Stallings "is pretty awesome," Clark said. "I get a lot of opportunities to show a lot of nice horses."

Clark is just starting his horse show career. **Equi-Stat** recorded

his first paycheck in 2009, and his lifetime cow horse money is now just over then \$10,000 mark. —SD

Open Two-Rein

In the weeks leading up to the Celebration of Champions, it seemed unlikely that Genuine Masterpiece (Shining Spark x Kings Masterpiece x Peppy San Badger) would compete at all, let alone win a World Championship.

The 6-year-old palomino stallion, owned by Wagonhound Land and Livestock, Douglas, Wyo., underwent life-saving colic surgery last November, three days after winning the 2010 American Quarter Horse Association Junior Working Cow Horse World Championship with Jay McLaughlin in the saddle.

"I didn't think he was going to go to the [NRCHA] World Championships, to be honest," McLaughlin said.

Thanks to a post-operative regime at Oklahoma Equine Hospital, which included swim therapy, "G-Man" grew steadily stronger. He returned to training with McLaughlin at Carol Rose Quarter Horses, Gainesville, Texas, about two weeks before the Celebration of Champions.

Genuine Masterpiece was ready to ride, but would he be ready to show? McLaughlin didn't want to over-work the stallion, and he didn't practice on cattle at all before the trip to San Angelo.

"He got to work two cows – one was in the [World Championship] prelims, and one was in the finals," McLaughlin said. "We kind of rode by the seat of our pants."

Looking like he had never missed a day, Genuine Masterpiece won the preliminaries (rein-217.5/cow-225). He worked his way to the top again in the finals, upping the ante to a 221 in the reined work and scoring a 215.5 down the fence against a difficult cow.

"I couldn't have asked for him to be any better in the prelims. Had we drawn that cow in the finals, I would have felt a lot better about it. I drew a pretty crummy cow in the finals, and thank goodness, he's so good in the reined work. He's



Last in the draw but first on the results sheet, Solano Cat and Ron Ralls claimed the Open Hackamore Championship. (Inset) Ron Ralls —Photo by Stephanie Duquette



Open Hackamore Reserve Champion Shiney N Sporty, shown by Jay McLaughlin, made the dirt fly in the reined work.

a good horse. He always gives me everything he's got," McLaughlin said.

The win paid \$3,892, elevating Genuine Masterpiece's reining and cow horse earnings just over \$62,000. The stallion, who never missed the finals at a major event, is now retired from the show pen. He will stand at stud, alongside Wagonhound Land and Livestock's other stallion, WR This Cats Smart (High Brow Cat x The Smart Look x Smart Little Lena).

McLaughlin moved from

Missouri early in 2009 to become Carol Rose Quarter Horses' head trainer. He has earned more than \$750,000 and multiple AQHA, National Reining Horse Association and NRCHA titles. However, one of his most memorable show moments happened when he was on the sidelines in San Angelo. McLaughlin's 7-year-old son, Cutter, qualified for the Youth Limited World Championship finals, riding Carol Rose's mare, Play A Masterpiece (Freckles Playboy x Doc's Masterpiece x Doc Bar). Cutter placed seventh and earned the high-scoring cow work, a 217.

"I've won 10 world championships in my life, and that was better than any of them, to be honest with you. To have my 7-year-old son be the highest score in the cow work, out of all those kids. The closest kid in age to him was 12. I was pretty ecstatic about that," McLaughlin said.

The Open Two-Rein Reserve Champion was Kiss My Shiny Lips (Shining Spark x Lipschic x Smart Chic Olena), shown by leading NRCHA Professional Jake Telford, Caldwell, Idaho. The 7-year-old mare earned a 217 in the reined work and a 217.5 in the cow work

for a \$3,244 payday.

Kiss My Shiny Lips is owned by Holy Cow Performance Horses, Santa Ynez, Calif. Her lifetime earnings exceed \$37,000. Last year, the mare also earned the elite title of NRCHA Supreme Reined Cow Horse, an award reserved for cow horses with significant earnings in all phases of cow horse competition: snaffle bit, hackamore and bridle. —SD

Open Hackamore

Superior performances and one of the show's most exciting conclusions made the Open Hackamore World Championship a class to remember.

Working eighth in the 11-horse finals, Shiney N Sporty (Shining Spark x Starlight O Lena x Paddys Irish Whiskey), shown by Jay McLaughlin, had vaulted into the lead with a 437 composite score. The mare's 216 in the reined work and 221 in the cow work would be tough to beat. She was still sitting first when Solano Cat (High Brow Cat x Smartest Solano x Smart Little Lena), the last horse in the draw, trotted into the pen.

Ron Ralls, Gainesville, Texas, showing Solano Cat for owners Shannon and Hershel Reid, Pilot Point, Texas, maneuvered the 6-year-old stallion to a 215.5 reined work score — a half-point shy of Shiney N Sporty's. The win wasn't out of reach, but Ralls and Solano Cat needed a brilliant cow work to take away the Championship.

As soon as his cow entered the pen, Ralls knew the fence run would end in glory — or disaster. The bovine didn't just step through the gate. It catapulted as if shot by cannon and never slowed down.

"That cow came way out, away from the gate, and just hit me hard, right and left, several times. He had it in mind to go down the pen, right down the middle," Ralls said.

The crowd fired up, hooting and hollering as the cow sprinted from wall to wall. Solano Cat dug in hard, holding the unruly critter until it weakened and turned away for a split second, offering Ralls the perfect opportunity to drive it down

the fence.

"It all just worked out from there. It was just what I needed. I needed a tough cow to get in the lead," Ralls said. "If that cow would have stayed with me, just back and forth like that, two things could have happened. My horse would have run out of gas and probably the cow too, and the run would have just deteriorated. Or else my horse would have run out of gas, and the cow would have went on, and I'd have got outrun. It was a tough cow, but it turned out perfect to make a big score."

The 225 fence score resulted in a 440.5 total — more than enough to seal the World Championship. The \$8,645 paycheck pushed Solano Cat's earnings to nearly \$105,000.

Ralls and McLaughlin also tied for third place in the class, each earning another \$4,477 for their dual 435.5 composite scores. McLaughlin rode Shiney Sushi (Shining Spark x Docs Sulena x Doc O'Lena) for Carol Rose Quarter Horses, and Ralls showed another horse owned by the Reids, Ima Smoking Mister (Mister Dual Pep x Miss Smoking Remedy x Master Remedy).

"I am so blessed and so fortunate to have [the Reids] as owners. They are so supportive of me. They've shown horses themselves, and they know stuff happens. That makes it so nice for me as a trainer because if I don't do well, they're not dragging their chin in the dirt for a week, upset about it. They're just really awesome people," Ralls said.

Ralls arrived in San Angelo with prior earnings of more than \$842,000, according to **Equi-Stat**. He won back-to-back World's Greatest Horseman Championships, the first in 2003, riding Cowgirls Are Smart (Smart Chic Olena x Sweet San Badger x Peppy San Badger), and again in 2004, aboard A Chic In Time (Smart Chic Olena x Paula Tari x Tari Glo).

Solano Cat, affectionately called "Gato," also was entered in the World's Greatest with Ralls but missed the finals. He will continue showing in the bridle division, and