

The Official Publication of the National Reined Cow Horse Association

Stock Horse News

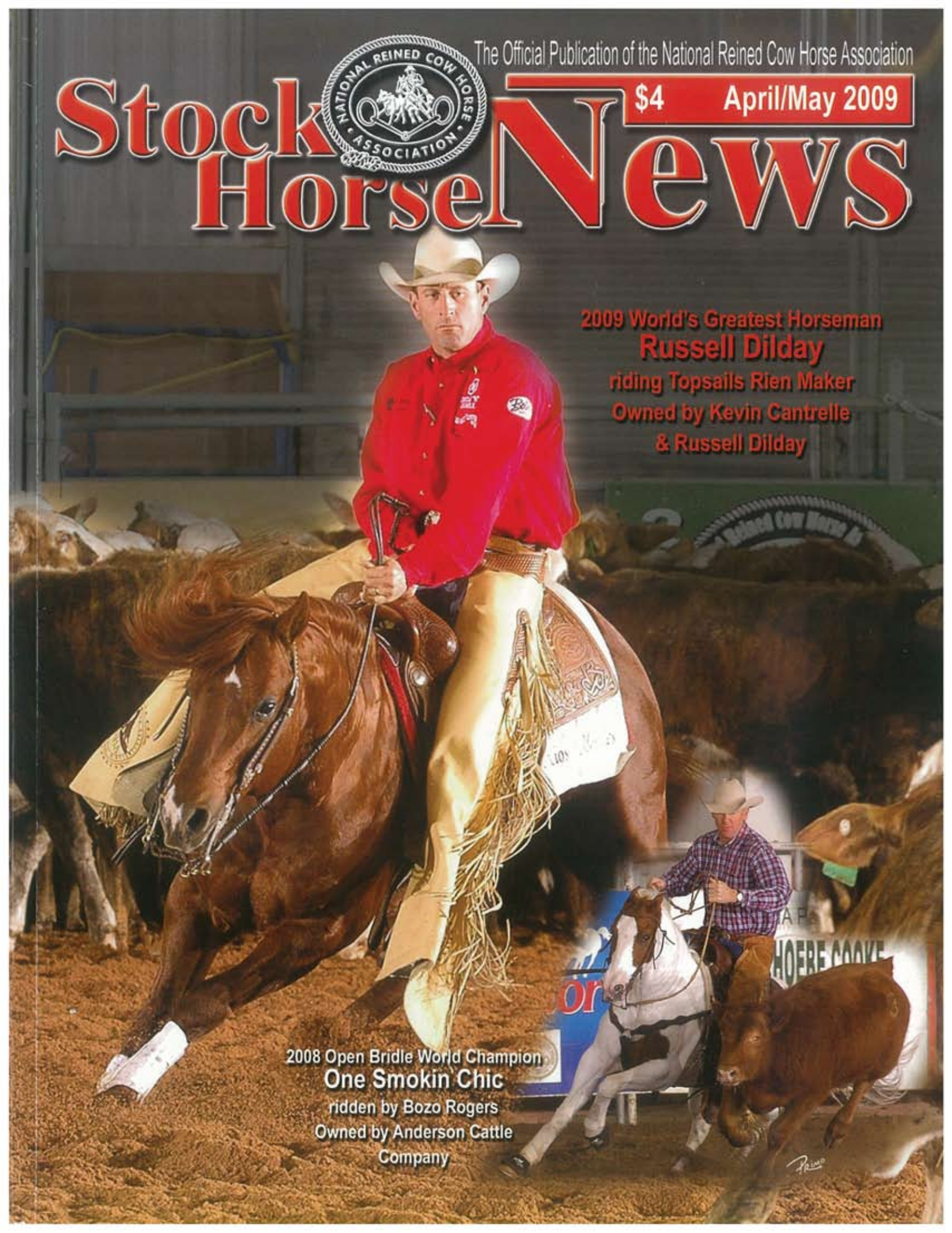
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April/May 2009



**2009 World's Greatest Horseman
Russell Dilday**
riding **Topsails Rien Maker**
Owned by Kevin Cantrelle
& Russell Dilday

2008 Open Bridle World Champion
One Smokin Chic
ridden by Bozo Rogers
Owned by Anderson Cattle
Company



*Congratulations Russell Dilday
World's Greatest Horseman*

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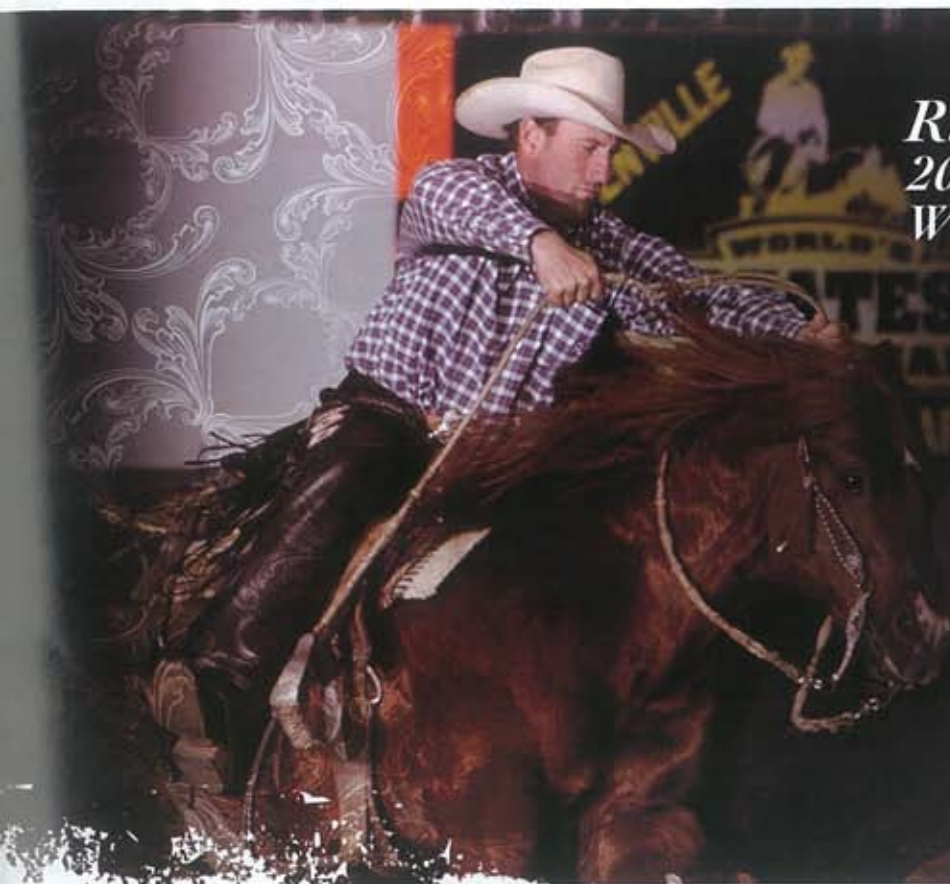
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Russell Dilday
2008 & 2009
World's Greatest Horseman



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One Horse, One Rider, One Record Breaking World's Greatest Horseman!

It could be argued that the 2009 edition of the National Reined Cow Horse Association World's Greatest Horseman competition was the toughest, ever. The preliminary competition featured 31 of the top horses and riders in NRCHA history. Every former World's Greatest Horseman Champion had a horse entered, and even former Champion horses came out to compete with new riders.

For the first time, ever, a Canadian rider made the finals. He was in the company of three former World's Greatest Horseman Champions, two former Snaffle Bit Futurity Champions, a few NRCHA World and National Champions, and a couple American Quarter Horse Association World Champions. The list of contestants not earning a final's berth was equally impressive – an affirmation of the caliber of all the entries.

The combined lifetime earnings of the horses in the finals exceeded \$1.1 million, with the top two finishers contributing more than \$450,000.

The World's Greatest Horseman finals also marked the end of a long and distinguished show career for Roo Star, who was ridden to ninth place by Brad Lund for Melissa Miller. More than \$110,000 was paid out in the finals, along with \$20,000 in the preliminary competition.

Dilday Riens In Second World's Greatest Horseman Title

Russell Dilday made reined cow horse history on February 8 during the World's Greatest Horseman finals. Riding his great horse, Topsails Rien Maker, he became the first rider to ever win back-to-back World's Greatest Horseman Championships on the same horse. But with a final score of 884, Dilday set another record - the highest composite score ever in World's Greatest Horseman history. Bob Avila and Chics Magic Potion earned the Reserve Championship with an 883.5 – tying for the closest margin between the two titles.

Dilday and Topsails Rien Maker initially won the World's Greatest Horseman in 2008 after besting Robbie Schroeder and Shine By The Bay, who took the Reserve. The charismatic trainer was more than thrilled to shed that image after narrowly missing the blue ribbon twice – in 2004 and 2005 – when he and Scott and Darnell Trueblood's mare, Miss Plain Plain, were the Reserve Champions. Dilday admitted he returned in 2009 with high hopes. "To win it again was phenomenal. I can't tell you how neat it is," he said. "But really, my little horse deserves it. He is awesome, and I would definitely be broke without him."

The Porterville, California, trainer led the competition from the beginning, leading the preliminary competition by two points to make the finals. "It's the first time I didn't have to rely on my cow work to get into the finals," he admitted. Dilday began the World's Greatest Horseman final's competition with a score of 216 in the herd work, tying for third. "My herd work has always been the weakest area. I worked on that a lot this year," he admitted. "My first cow was not what I wanted, but the second cow was one I had my eye on. It worked better than I had hoped, and I stayed on it so long I barely got my last cow cut."

The charismatic trainer followed that with a rein work score of 227 – the highest of the finals, which pushed him into the lead. "I knew I'd have to be good, because I was showing behind Bob Avila. I just stayed calm and everything felt great, because Slider (Topsails Rien Maker) was there for me."



2009 World's Greatest Horseman - Russell Dilday riding Topsails Rien Maker, owned by Kevin Cantrelle & Russell Dilday.

Next came a 223 in the steer stopping. "Some of the steers didn't run that hard in the steer stopping, so I let mine out pretty far. It ran, and we had to catch up, but that made a great run," he explained. "When we got to the cow work, I knew Bob was coming up and he had a chance, so I knew that I couldn't play it safe. The cow didn't have the feel I wanted, and when she started for the fence I took that chance. Our first turn wasn't as tight as I wanted, but the rest of the run was perfect." The run netted a 218 score, and the Championship.

Along with a check for \$30,000, Dilday and Topsails Rien Maker's co-owner, Kevin Cantrelle, were awarded a Bob's Custom Saddle from the 6666 Ranch, a Gist custom buckle from Wagonhound Land & Livestock, a pair of custom ostrich boots from Rios of Mercedes, and a monogrammed ESP saddle pad from Classic Equine.

These Rios of Mercedes Boots Were Made For...

Many competitors and participants at the World's Greatest Horseman noticed Dilday even before he entered the arena, thanks to his Rios of Mercedes boots that he wore over his jeans.

The boots, which were red and black, showed four aces on the front of the left boot, and two Colt 45 hand guns on the front of the right boot.

During the press conference following the win, Dilday explained their meaning. "When I won this last year, I received a set of custom-made boots. Trainer Evans, who owns Rios of Mercedes, and David Solum, of Rios, asked me what my dream boots would be. I've always liked Aces, and told them I really admired a pair of boots an outlaw wore on the old movie, Tombstone. They had two aces on each boot."

Then Solum and Evans asked him, if he couldn't have those boots,

what he would want. "My son's names are Colt and Ace, and I said I'd like to have a pair with Colt 45s and Aces. When they gave me the boots, Trainer told me I'd have to wear my jeans tucked in them when I showed. I figured I'd just go ahead and tuck them in all the time, because they are so cool."

