

In the money

Topsails Rien Maker and Dilday have been in the money since the stallion was a 3-year-old. In 2002, they began by winning \$10,872 for a fourth-place finish in the Fresno Open Futurity/Spectacular, and it's been pretty much uphill ever since.

In 2004, they placed third in the NRCHA Derby, which they followed by winning the NRCHA Open Hackamore World Championship the following year. In 2006, they placed fourth in Open Bridle at the National Stock Horse Association show in Paso Robles, Calif., where in 2007 they placed third.

Last year was particularly positive for the pair, whose accomplishments included Reserves in Open Bridle at the NRCHA Derby and at the Magnificent 7. The talented stallion had more than \$140,000 in lifetime earnings by the end of the year.

"He was the top-earning Topsail Cody son, so the World's Greatest will put him up there in the national all-time NRCHA earnings," Dilday said.

Dilday knew the stallion was special after Dana Roulet, Jackson, Calif., asked him to start Slider when he was a youngster.

"Dana got him in a three-in-one — a mare, him and another sibling," he said. "She rode him for about 30 days and brought him to me. I just loved him. When she thought about selling him as a 4-year-old, I went to John Ward, who had a really good broodmare, and we traded and traded."

Roulet knew how to drive a hard bargain, but Ward and Dilday finally bought Topsails Rien Maker in 2003.

"At the time, she got the best of us," Dilday said with a laugh. "She got the broodmare, two babies and nine breedings. But as it turned out, I think we got the better end."

Dilday and Ward were partners in the horse for a while, with Dilday doing all of the stallion's training. But he said he didn't do a particularly good job schooling Slider when the horse was young.

"I never really got him broke, even in the hackamore, because I just trust him," he explained. "The same thing in the two rein."

"Finally, I decided I needed to get him softer in the face. I was turning him loose too much. He's so smart. A lot of people I ride with helped me with little things here and there. Now I feel like it's all come together."

Ward sold Topsails Rien Maker in 2004 to Kevin Cantrelle, a friend of Tanna Dilday's family who was looking for a stallion. Dilday and Cantrelle became partners, and it's been a happy alliance, Dilday said.

"Kevin's been a great partner," he explained. "He pays all the bills, but



Despite some strong turns, Robbie Schroeder and Shine By The Bay marked a 204 in the cow work to end up as Reserve Champions.



Schroeder, on Shine By The Bay, is joined by his wife, Joan, and well-wishers for the winning photo.



SUSAN MORRISON

Russell Dilday and Robbie Schroeder were all smiles after surviving some tough cattle to emerge as World's Greatest Horseman title holders.

we don't have any vet bills to speak of because Slider has been very sound.

"Part of that is because he's so easy to train. I don't have to do any grinding on him. Now I don't know what it would take to buy him. I don't think anyone could buy my half."

Dilday planned to show Slider in other bridle events after the World's Greatest Horseman was over. The stallion will also make trips to the breeding barn. Dilday is excited about riding a filly, owned by Cantrelle, by Topsails Rien Maker and out of Miss Plain Plain.

"She got started when I came to Stephenville, and I can hardly wait to ride her. I plan to show her at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity," he said with a big grin. "If she doesn't make it, it's my fault!"—RO

A chance to shine

Robbie Schroeder acknowledged that the cattle in Stephenville were "pretty tough." That was an understatement, as rider after rider got knocked out of contention by uncooperative cattle.

But Schroeder and Shine By The Bay were tough enough themselves to end the day as Reserve Champions with a combined score of 860.5. The rider and horse have a long history together, and the World's Greatest Horseman competition offered Schroeder an irresistible chance to prove their teamwork is still strong.

Shine By The Bay drew second in the herd work, following Topsails Rien Maker and Russell Dilday, who marked a 211. Their run started out with a cow that took the bay stallion from one side of the arena to the other.

"She never would really look at me," Schroeder said. "The second cow was a nice cow and the third one, she was pretty wild. I didn't get her cut as clean in the middle as I would have liked. It was pretty tough getting one to head much. I lost her right after the buzzer."

After a score of 213, they came back in the reining to mark a solid 216.5.

"My horse was really good in his circles. He came out of lead on my second fast circle, but he stopped really good, turned around good," Schroeder said. "My last stop, I don't know if he caught

SUSAN MORRISON

himself or hit a bad spot in the ground, he kind of came out of it.”

Their total score after two events was a 429.5, which was tied for second with Jon Roeser and Diamond J Star. But the roping is where the pair really showed off their talent. Schroeder is quick with a loop, and Shine By The Bay knows his job. In just a few seconds, the pair had caught its steer and the result was the high score of 227, for a total of 656.5.

“I had a good steer that ran on a little bit and let me leave the box. He’s a big-time stopper,” Schroeder said of Shine By The Bay.

Going into the fence work, he and the stallion were in the lead by half a point over Dilday and Topsails Rien Maker. But the cattle again proved to be uncooperative. After a solid boxing, Schroeder pointed his horse down the fence after what turned out to be an obstinate cow.

“He was really good on the end. Then down the fence I had a good first turn, and then it went downhill!” he said with a laugh. “I got a lot of arena time.”

The result was a disappointing score of 204, putting their total at 860.5, but it was strong enough to hold on for the Reserve Championship.

Schroeder, 49, whose lifetime earnings add up to \$133,863, has a special place in his heart for Shine By The Bay, who was bred by Eric Storey, Henagar, Ala.

“This is the first horse I took to the Snaffle Bit Futurity,” said Schroeder, who owned the horse with his wife, Joan, from 2000 to 2001, and then in another partnership for about six months.

Schroeder rode Shine By The Bay to the Limited Open Reserve Championship at the 2001 event, and then placed fifth in the Open at the 2001 NRHA Futurity.

The 10-year-old stallion, by Shining Spark out of Metermaid To Order by Doc O’Lena, was then shown at the NRCHA Stallion Stakes by trainer Bob Avila, who filled in while Schroeder took care of other show obligations. The horse won the event and was purchased there by Rhodes River Ranch, Arlington, Wash. But Schroeder and Avila continued to share the wins on Shine By The Bay.

From there he went on to Oklahoma City, where he was third in Junior Reining with Avila riding. In 2003, with Avila showing in cow horse and reining, and Schroeder at the reins in roping classes, Shine By The Bay was a Superhorse contender at the World Show, and finished second. But the same year, he took home a World Championship in the Junior Working Cow Horse. The next year, he won the World Championship in Senior Working Cow Horse, also with Avila riding.

Shine By The Bay, who has earned \$106,797, stood at Rhodes River Ranch



Jake Telford rode CD Survivor to a 222.5, the high score in the reined work.

until last year. He had been retired – albeit temporarily – from competition. When the ranch decided to sell him – the horse is now owned by Shine By The Bay Partnership, Elverson, Pa. – one of Schroeder’s customers helped Schroeder “get the deal done where I get to show him,” he said. And the Gainesville, Texas, trainer was thrilled with that deal.

“He’s a great horse,” he said. “When he was a 2- and 3-year-old, he probably taught me as much as any horse. As they say, a good horse often makes a trainer, more than a trainer makes good horses. He’s an outstanding horse.”

The trainer said he was especially pleased that Shine By The Bay returned to fighting form so quickly.

“He’s not been shown for about two years, when Bobby [Avila] showed him at the World,” he said. “I took him to Florida and roped on him and showed him in the cow horse a couple of times. For a big event like this, he came back pretty much like he used to be.

“I was pretty confident. I knew that I had the horse to win it with, if I could just have a little luck.”

Shine By The Bay will stand the 2008 breeding season at Bowman Ranch, Walton, Ky. His oldest foals are 3-year-olds.

Schroeder has numerous top-10 finishes at the AQHA World Championship Show, and also has World Championships and Reserve World Championships to his credit in roping events and Western pleasure. In 1999, he was named AQHA’s Professional Horseman of the Year.

He rode Smokin Chic Olena (PT), a 1994 stallion by Smart Chic Olena out of Smokin Wildfire (PT) by Titans Cool Cat (PT), to the 2001 APHA World Championship in Senior Working Cow Horse. In 2002, he rode Lena Spark, a 1999 stallion by Shining Spark out of Chelsea Lena by Smart Peppy Doc, to



Lance Johnston and Cee Mr Hickory posted the high score of 219 in the herd work.



Robbie Schroeder and Shine By The Bay were rewarded with a 227, the highest score in the steer stopping.



T.J. Good and Lenas San Lena worked their cow to the high score of 217.5 in the cow work.

win the Limited Open at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity. Schroeder has shown both those horses in World’s Greatest Horseman competition, but had never made the finals. In 2006, Schroeder rode Cant Skipa Blaze to

the AQHA World Championship in Senior Heading. The gelding is owned by the Schroeders’ son, Ryan, and is sired by the family’s stallion, Blazing Hot, and out of Smooth Lil Star by Skipa Star. —SM