

BY KAREN SHEDLAUSKAS

2010 NRHA WORLD CHAMPIONS

NRHA LIMITED OPEN WORLD CHAMPION

# Gun Dealer

OWNED BY TIM AND LISA STANTON, PICKERING, ONTARIO, CAN  
RIDDEN BY LISA STANTON

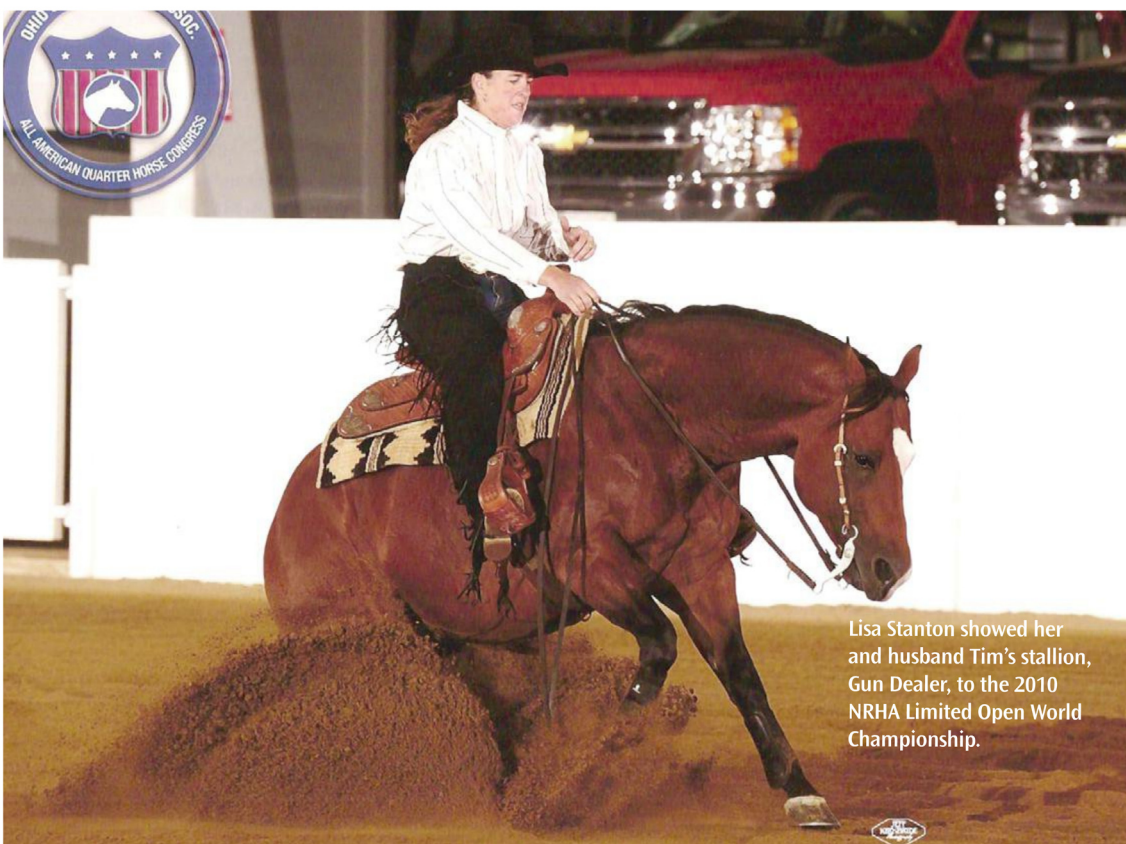
- BRED BY PAUL/PAM ROHUS, DOUBLE PR RANCH, ROYSE CITY, TX
- 2002 STALLION BY BY GUNNER X PEPPY OAK.
- 2010 NRHA LIMITED OPEN EARNINGS: \$4,141.08

**A**T THE START OF THE 2010 SHOW SEASON LISA Stanton, Pickering, Ontario, Canada, never dreamed she would finish the year as an NRHA World Champion. Actually a world champion title haul was in the plans for the 2011 show season, but circumstances forced her to make a last minute change that proved very wise. "I was planning on hauling Gun Dealer for the limited open title in 2011," explained Lisa. "But I was showing a derby horse this year in Quebec and we won four divisions, so I was looking at winning my way out of the limited open division in 2010 instead of 2011 as planned."

Lisa had already been paying a little attention to the 2010 limited open race because she was interested in pur-

suing the title the following year. So after her derby wins in July, she began to dig a little deeper. "I took a look at the standings in July and the number of shows left on the show calendar and thought that I might be able to win the title this year if everything went as planned." Lisa and the talented stallion showed every weekend but two from August 1 through November 8, 2010.

With a basic plan mapped out, Lisa, her husband Tim, who's an NRHA Professional, and Gun Dealer hit the road. They picked up their first limited open paycheck as a team on July 31 and began their pursuit of the world championship. "I was very fortunate to have such a nice horse to show," Lisa said. "He was great because I could pick how I would show him. If I needed more horse, it was always



Lisa Stanton showed her and husband Tim's stallion, Gun Dealer, to the 2010 NRHA Limited Open World Championship.

JEFF KIRKBRIDE



there, but he also let me show him quietly when it was possible. I believe this is one of the reasons he stayed so fresh for me, especially with a very full show schedule."

Due to their late start, Stanton and Gun Dealer didn't have the luxury of time off. They had four months to catch the competition, get ahead of them, and stay ahead. "We had a lot of fun this year, but I was lucky that I didn't have to start in January. There is a lot to a haul like this. It takes a lot of planning and organizing in order to keep things running smoothly. We hit eight shows in 16 days and traveled from Quebec to Gowanda, New York, to Columbus, Ohio, to London, Ontario, Canada, and then to Midland, Michigan."

A definite highlight of the show season for Stanton was winning the NRHA limited open class at the All American Quarter Horse Congress. "He really showed great there and it's always special to win the Congress."

"After the Congress, we had another group of shows that kept us running. We went to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and then headed back home to Ontario for our fall futurity show. We kept getting asked why we would run back up there before going to Williamston, North Carolina, but we had students and futurity horses that needed to go to that show. It kept us running, but we did enjoy the travel and the people."

Gun Dealer seemed to handle the time on the road well, too. "He really didn't seem to mind all the showing at all," Lisa explained. "The only time it seemed to bother him was when we went from Ontario at the end of October to Williamston. He was starting to grow a little hair because it was colder up north and when we arrived in North Carolina it was over 85 degrees. I couldn't really blame him!"

Another highlight of the show season came at the second to last show of the year. "Tim and I went to the International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, and it was quite an experience," Lisa laughed. "With the expo going on it was like taking a trail ride to get from the barn to the show pen. But it was one of our best runs, and we marked a 73.5. It was a nice way to finish up the year."

Gun Dealer is a nine-year-old stallion by NRHA Hall of Famer and Two Million Dollar Sire Gunner (AQHA Colonels Smoking Gun) and out of Peppy Oak by Doc's Oak. The Stantons spotted the fancy bay on their first and only trip to the NRHA Futurity in Oklahoma City in 2005.

The bay stallion had a successful futurity year by making the Congress Reining Futurity open finals with Two Million Dollar Rider and Hall of Fame member Tim McQuay in the saddle and then earned the NRHA Futurity limited open reserve championship with Stefano Calcagnini riding.

"We saw him and really liked him, so we inquired about him and found we couldn't afford him. Tim and I were talking about him about a year later, and I decided to look him up on the computer and see what he had done and discovered that he hadn't been shown much." So Lisa called the owners and discovered they were interested in selling. A deal was struck and the Stantons became the owner of Gun Dealer in September, 2006.

Since that time Tim has been showing and winning with Gun Dealer in open Category 2 competition and qualified for the 2010 Team Canada selection competition. However, when the Stantons discovered the finals were to be held in British Columbia, which was a four-day drive, they decided not to go.

Gun Dealer now boasts NRHA Lifetime Earnings of \$40,072, and Lisa hopes to show him in some intermediate open classes in 2011. "All that showing last fall gave a lot of people an opportunity to see him," Lisa said. "We've been breeding a small group of mares for the last few years, but we have had a lot of calls already this year about breeding to him. We're really excited about the group of five three-year-olds by him that Tim is riding this year. These are the oldest of his colts, and they all seem to be really nice horses."

The Stantons own and operate StoneRidge Farm, which is a training facility and includes a lessons program. "We give beginner to advanced basic riding lessons. If the students become interested in Reining and have enough riding lessons under their belts, Tim takes over and gives the reining lessons." The Stantons are also sought after clinicians and travel to many NRHA events throughout the year. "We've got a great group of people who we work with, and we really enjoy what we do!" ♦

#### ABOUT THE WRITER:

*Karen Shedlauskas is an active NRHA non pro competitor. She's a two-time NRHA intermediate non pro world champion and many times non pro reserve champion at the All American Quarter Horse Congress. She's a member of the NRHA youth committee and has served on the NRHA Hall of Fame and marketing committees. Currently she's the NRHA Sire & Dam representative. She lives in Austintown, Ohio.*

