



One highlight of Alisa Bernhard's year was when she and Fleetstreet Max surpassed the record for earning the most APHA world championship titles.

## A RECORD-BREAKING FINALE

Winning another Number 1 Classic Amateur title, Alisa Bernhard and Fleetstreet Max close their final Amateur year in style.

By JESSICA HEIN

With the goal of making 2008 her last Amateur season, Alisa Bernhard of Germantown, Wisconsin, wanted the year to be memorable. However, even Bernhard was taken by surprise with the record-breaking success she generated with Fleetstreet Max, her 1997 sorrel overo gelding.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself," said Bernhard, "knowing that I wanted to make this my last year. I wanted to make sure that I had a great year, and you can't always count on that happening. You've got to have some luck."

Luck was certainly on her side. Only competing with "Max" from January to July, Bernhard racked up 921 Amateur points in 2008—523 of which counted as qualifying points toward her Top 20 rank.

"I started off going to two of the biggest shows—the Denver National Stock Show and Tulsa March Mania—and we got some really good points," said Bernhard. "After that, I mostly stayed local. I just wanted to get enough practice in for the Paint World."

Bernhard's strategy paid off at the APHA World Show in Fort Worth, Texas. The duo netted five world championship titles: in Amateur equitation over fences and hunter hack, and Classic Amateur trail, hunt-seat equitation and working hunter. They also won the show's All-Around Amateur award. Her proudest moment of the year came during the World Show when she helped Max tie, and then surpass, the APHA record for most world championship titles won by an individual horse.

"[Breaking the record] had been a long-time goal of mine throughout Max's life because I knew he was so talented in so many classes," said Bernhard. "I knew that I needed to win three [titles] to tie the record, and then I won two extra."

Max now owns 28 world or reserve world champion titles in events ranging from equitation over fences to Western riding. Making the record even more special to Bernhard is the fact that she has been the gelding's primary trainer his entire life and helped him win each championship. Over the years, they have developed a deep understanding.

"He's 12 this year, and I'm the one that broke him out as a 2-year-old," she said. "Friendships grow—our relationship is something that's very natural now. We know each other so well, and we've developed a bond."

Bernhard recently announced her decision to become a professional horse trainer. Splitting her time between Wisconsin and Texas, she hopes to help others achieve their own success.

"I've had so much success as a non-pro, I just wanted to take the next step and try to help people reach their non-pro goals," Bernhard said.

Though Bernhard will be busy with clients' horses, Max's saddle won't be put away for good. She plans to compete occasionally in Open classes with the "young-spirited" gelding.

"I would love to see Max continue to show, and I would love to show him in

some Open classes," she said. "Not in every Open class and not at every show, but he definitely has many years of showing left." n



Bernhard and "Max" won five world championships at the 2008 World Show.

### BEHIND THE BLOODLINES

Fleetstreet Max	Fleet Machine	Mr Norfleet
	Cash Bar Maiden AQHA	Red Sonny Sissy AQHA
		Bar P Straw AQHA
		Lady Veta AQHA

Fleetstreet Max is an exceptional athlete, but the 1997 sorrel overo gelding's talent is not without roots. "Max's" family tree includes many successful Paint Horses, including sire Fleet Machine—who is by Mr Norfleet.

Fleet Machine, a 1991 sorrel overo stallion, earned 776 lifetime points—all in Western pleasure—and three world championships in the event. In addition to Max—who is Fleet Machine's highest point-earning get—other notable offspring include Undeeflected, Fleets Serenity, Caddys Dream Machine, Zippos Machine and In Good Company.

"Fleet Machine sired a lot of really great all-around horses," said Max's owner, Alisa Bernhard. "People who remember the days when Fleet Machine showed tell me that Max really reminds them of Fleet Machine. But Max is a lot like his mother too, so it was just a really good cross."

Bred by Susan Bernhard of Germantown, Wisconsin, Max is out of Cash Bar Maiden AQHA.

"The mare herself is exceptional in her own way," said Alisa. "She never really went on to be a show horse, but she was very special in the way she moved and all of her babies have been very nice."