



CH BREAKING NEWS

WORLD'S GRAND CHAMPION FIVE-GAITED

Saddle & Bridle proudly features on our October front cover, the popular and newly crowned Five-Gaited World's Grand Champion, CH Breaking News, and his devoted trainer, Peter Cowart. This big-going ten-year-old gelding is by CH The Talk Of The Town, a son of World's Grand Champion Yorktown, and out of Reedann's Cascade, whose second dam is also by WGC Yorktown. "News" hails from the breeding program of Dr. Alan Raun, Cumming, Iowa.

Beth Arndt and Peter and Kim Cowart chose this dynamic horse for Beth's talented granddaughter, Megan McClure, in the fall of 2002. What a surprise he was for Megan at the West Wind Stables Christmas party that year. Megan stepped up to the challenge of this game horse and proved hard to beat on the tough Carolinas circuit. They brought home a coveted blue ribbon from Louisville in 2004, winning the junior exhibitor five-gaited class for riders 16-17. Then it was off to college for Megan. News was asked for more, as Megan was now entering the amateur division. This well-matched team proved up to the challenge, winning highly competitive amateur classes in the best of competition, with Peter taking News into the open and stake classes when Megan's schedule did not allow her to be at the shows.

The 2008 season began for this "horse with the big heart" and Peter with a tri-color win at the Asheville Lions Club Benefit Show (often called "Little Louisville") in May. Then it was on to a thrilling win of a 17-entry five-gaited gelding class on Monday night at the Lexington Junior League Show. News and Peter came back for Lexington's five-gaited championship Saturday night beneath the stars, and with an impressive win made their declaration for the "Big Stake" in Freedom Hall. Many horse lovers who were at Lexington for the classes and both thrilling workouts that followed, zproclaimed this horse "ready, willing, and able!"

On to Louisville where Wednesday night's gelding stake was a red ribbon finish for News and Peter, but that red ribbon came with a first place vote.

Saturday night and the final class arrived and News and Peter answered the horn blower's call for the Five-Gaited Grand Championship. They excelled in this the biggest of all the five-gaited classes! When it came time for the highly anticipated workout of the top five horses of the judges' choosing, News responded with more and more speed as Peter called on him at the trot and rack, with the crowd's applause growing louder with each pass.

Then the magic words were spoken "the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship goes back to North Carolina." News and Peter were at the top of the world of the American Saddlebred with a unanimous win, and Beth Arndt and Megan McClure were excited beyond words! Kim Cowart and News' dedicated caretakers ran into center ring to prepare for "the victory pass," as the celebrating at West Wind Stables began! Memories to cherish for a lifetime were made on this Saturday night in Freedom Hall! John and Anita Cowart would be oh so proud of their youngest son!

—Brenda Pulis

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