

T OP OF THE WORLD



Compiled by Kate Bradley Byars • Photography by Primo Morales

In frigid Fort Worth, Texas, 15 competitors took home world champion crowns from the 2021 Celebration of Champions.

For 10 days in February, hundreds of National Reined Cow Horse Association members from across the United States and from Canada vied for their shot at a world championship event final. It was the culmination of years of work, show-season challenges and thousands of miles traveled.

When the dust settled in John Justin Arena, all of the hard work put in during the 2020 show year brought one horse- and-rider team a new title at the 2021 Celebration of Champions. Fifteen different Open and Non Pro world champions went home with a slew of prizes, and capped off a successful year. Finals judges were Jeff Allen, Chris Benedict, Tom Buckingham, Bozo Rogers and Todd Williamson. Here are your 2020 NRCHA World and Reserve World Champion horse and rider pairs.

**a full awards list is located on page 102.*

OPEN BRIDLE & INTERMEDIATE OPEN BRIDLE



CHAMPION

Its Time To Smokum (One Time Pepto x Smokum Chic x Smart Chic Olena) and Mark Sigler took the World Champion title for the Dominic L. Conicelli Estate with a 444.5 (R:224/C:220.5). The win earned \$9,492. For the Intermediate Open Bridle win, which was awarded concurrently with the Open Bridle preliminaries, Sigler and the red-roan stallion marked a 298 (R:147/C:151), earning an additional \$1,620.

OPEN BRIDLE RESERVE CHAMPION

Peptos Smart Cookie (Cookin Merada x Uvaldes Cow Smart x Peptosmart), a 2014 stallion, and Oregon trainer Shane Steffen rode to reserve with a 441.5 (R:218.5/C:223), earning owner Finally Farm Paints \$7,458.

INTERMEDIATE OPEN BRIDLE RESERVE CHAMPION (TIE)

Splitting reserve titles and each earning \$1,134 were Clint Swales riding Shawna Wolfe's 2012 stallion Lets Go Higher (High Sign Nugget x Ima Little Prescript x Ima Little Lena (ApHC), and Christian Lybbert riding Patricia Wilmoth's 2014 stallion Metallic Snowflakes (Metallic Cat x SmartLittleSnowflake x Smart Little Lena), each marking a 296.5.