

# Williamston WINNER

## Whale Of A Whiz wins Carolina Classic with Matt Palmer in the driver's seat.

By Karen Shedlauskas • Photos by Moliken

**W**hale Of A Whiz and Matt Palmer are now two-for-two at the Senator Bob Martin show complex in Williamston, N.C. They won the Southeastern Reining Horse Association's Spring Celebration Derby in April and returned in May to collect another win in the Carolina Classic Derby.

This was the 19th annual Carolina Classic. The event has been chaired and promoted for every one of those years by Mike Hancock, Rocky Mount, N.C.

"Our biggest year was in 2002, but the entries declined for the next six years," Hancock said. "This year, we experienced a 10 percent growth over the 2008 event, and we are seeing a significant growth in entries in the Atlantic Breeders Incentive (ABI) divisions."

The 2009 event boasted a total Carolina Classic Derby purse of \$97,632, as well as NRHA bronze trophies and fabulous prizes.

Two years ago, Hancock moved the event to the Williamston facility.

"This is such a nice facility and very well maintained," he said. "The arena is

huge and the ground is as good as any ground in the country."

Hancock is looking forward to the 2010 event and celebrating the Carolina Classic's 20-year anniversary.

### Good buy

When Joan and Guy Palmer, Elverson, Pa., bought Whale Of A Whiz (Topsail Whiz x Pappita Sunrise x Hollywood Jac 86) at the 2008 NRHA Marketplace Sale, they never dreamed he would bring their son, Matt, his biggest win to date.

"As I watched the first go-round, I thought to myself, there are a lot of really nice horses here," Guy Palmer said. "I knew we had a nice horse, but I was really just hoping we could get a piece of it. I didn't dream that our horse would be the winner."

However, with a steady performance in the preliminary go-round and a phenomenal run in the finals, Matt Palmer and Whale Of A Whiz dominated, winning the Open by three points with a 227.

"I always felt like I had enough horse, but didn't know if I could pull it all together," Matt said after his run. "But I have really started to trust this



Whale Of A Whiz, ridden by Matt Palmer for his parents, Guy and Joan, won the Open and Intermediate Open divisions of the Carolina Classic.



Starry Future, ridden by Wayne LaFortune, was the Reserve Champion in the Open and Intermediate Open divisions and won both the Open and Intermediate Open divisions of the ABI Derby.

horse. I've only shown him a few times, but he hasn't let me down yet."

The 6-year-old gelding was a proven show horse, earning steady checks with

Tanya Jenkins showing for previous owner Manntana South LLC – including Open Reserve Championships at the Cactus Reining Classic and

## Carolina Classic Derby

May 14-17, 2009 — Williamston, NC • 239 Entries — \$55,500 Added — \$97,632 Total Purse

Event	Horse	Rider	Owner	Score	Money
<b>Open</b>	Whale Of A Whiz	Matt Palmer	Guy & Joan Palmer	227	\$6,275
48 Entries	03G (Topsail Whiz x Pappita Sunrise x Hollywood Jac 86)				
\$17,500 Added	Starry Future	Wayne LaFortune	Garvin Tankersley Jr	224	\$4,016
\$31,375 TP	05M (Mr Boomerjac x Dun Its Miss Kali x Hollywood Dun It)				
<b>Int. Open</b>	Whale Of A Whiz	Matt Palmer	Guy & Joan Palmer	227	\$4,334
34 Entries	03G (Topsail Whiz x Pappita Sunrise x Hollywood Jac 86)				
\$12,500 Added	Starry Future	Wayne LaFortune	Garvin Tankersley Jr	224	\$3,167
\$20,836 TP	05M (Mr Boomerjac x Dun Its Miss Kali x Hollywood Dun It)				
<b>Ltd. Open</b>	Nu Docs Cash	Dave Moore	Javier Melo	218	\$1,324
23 Entries	04S (Nu Chex To Cash x Nus Double Doc x Nu Bar)				
\$3,000 Added	Chic Olena Star	Thomas Milnes	Thomas Milnes	217	\$910
\$5,171 TP	04M (Hickory Chic Olena x Joettes Okie Paul x Okie Paul Quixote)				

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<b>Non-Pro</b>	Kickit In The Bud	Marcia Cole Walker	Marcia Cole Walker	220.5	\$3,896
47 Entries	03G (Nic It In The Bud x Peppys Little Orphan x A Little Shady Jac)				
\$12,500 Added	Sonata Spot (PT)	Sarah Johnson	Burdette Johnson	219	\$2,493
\$19,478 TP	05G (Mark This Spot [PT] x Sonata Sorrel [PT] x Colonels Smoking Gun)				
<b>Int. Non-Pro</b>	Kickit In The Bud	Marcia Cole Walker	Marcia Cole Walker	220.5	\$2,385
41 Entries	03G (Nic It In The Bud x Peppys Little Orphan x A Little Shady Jac)				
\$5,000 Added	SLJ Hope Its A Juice	Mike Hancock	Mike Hancock	218	\$1,622
\$11,926 TP	04G (Smart Like Juice x Navahope x Doc Quixote)				
<b>Ltd. Non-Pro</b>	Kickit In The Bud	Marcia Cole Walker	Marcia Cole Walker	220.5	\$1,252
27 Entries	03G (Nic It In The Bud x Peppys Little Orphan x A Little Shady Jac)				
\$3,000 Added	Sugars Good N Plenty	Carin Valcich	Carin Valcich	215.5	\$984
\$5,589 TP	03M (Lenas Sugarman x Homecoming Chic x Smart Chic Olena)				
<b>Prime Time NP</b>	SLJ Hope Its A Juice	Mike Hancock	Mike Hancock	218	\$834
19 Entries	04G (Smart Like Juice x Navahope x Doc Quixote)				
\$2,000 Added	Electric Razor	Bill Bradley	Bill Bradley	214	\$573
\$3,257 TP	05G (Jacs Electric Spark x GVS Cherokee Jac x Hollywood Jac 86)				