**AWARDS DEFINITIONS**

**American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) Awards for Affiliate Clubs and Members**

**Yearly Club Awards**

**Expansion Award**: presented to the club which has acquired the most new members within the calendar year. This information is available to the Points Secretary (PS) of ASA.

**Busy Bee Award**: presented to the club which has participated in the most events, with at least 5 members of the club in attendance. The events must have been pre-scheduled, and can include shows, parades, demonstrations, clinics, mounted practice sessions, working socials, club member social events, and trail/over-land events. This information is available to the PS of ASA.

**Betty Skelton Award**: presented to a member or to a club for submission of an archival memory of a sidesaddle event or a piece of information that must be preserved for the good of the club and the art of aside riding. Entries must be submitted by January 5th of the new year that follows the award year. If a submitted entry does not win, it can be saved and sent in again the following year. All entries must be in a format that can be retained in the ASA Library (paper, film, data stick). The PS and persons (at least three) who are not club members, but who are interested in equine activities will judge the entries. Archived information is maintained in the ASA Library.

**Nominated Awards for Individual Members**

**Helping Hands Award**: for going above and beyond the call of duty to help another rider, horse, or event venue, so as to make a performance come off safely and well.Letters of nomination must be received by January 5th. The PS and persons (at least three) who are not club members, but who are interested in equine events will serve as the judges.

**Bottoms Up Award**: for the most spectacular unplanned dismount, not resulting in serious injury. This must have been witnessed and an account by a witness must be included. Photos or video are a bonus. Letters of nomination must be received by January 5th. The PS and persons (at least three) who are not members but who are interested in equine events will serve as the judges.

**Velcro Award:** for a witnessed ‘almost unseating’ type event that did not result in a fall. This must have been witnessed and an account by the witness must be included. Photos or video are a bonus. Letters of nomination must be received by January 5th. The PS and non-members (at least three) who are interested in equine events will serve as the judges.

**Tom Tom Award:** for the best story of heroism, adventure, hardship, or weather extremes while traveling to or from a sidesaddle event. A member can self-report this in writing. Letters of nomination must be received by January 5th. The PS and non-members (at least three) who are interested in equine events will serve as the judges.

**Rookie Award:** for the tale of the greatest adventure or progress. The rookie can be a member or can be the member’s horse. The first year of showing or starting a new discipline aside will be considered. A member can self-report this in writing. Letters of nomination from the rookie or fellow member must be received by January 5th. The PS and non-members (at least three) who are interested in equine events will serve as the judges.

**Route 66 Award:** for the greatest distance traveled one-way from barn to a sidesaddle event, using the most direct route via MapQuest. Documentation of attendance at the event will serve as proof. The member can self-nominate. The PS will compare all entry miles and determine the winner.

**Sanity Clause Award:** for the greatest number of miles traveled to all sidesaddle events in the year, barn to event (one-way). A log, most direct route via MapQuest, must be submitted. The member can self-nominate. The PS will compare all entry miles and determine the winner.

**Wet Saddle Blanket:** a special recognition for members who spend many hours preparing and training, whether or not they actually compete. The member must submit a log of actual aside riding time (time in saddle with forward motion) for the entire year. Motion time in sidesaddle at events of all types and pleasure riding can be counted. This is an honesty award and a simple diary or log will count. This will also be judged by the PS.

**High Point Affiliate Club Member:** for each individual member of each affiliate club who has accumulated the most points for the year. The PS will tally the club points to ascertain the high point winners.

**Individual Member Competition Awards**

Any breed of equine (horse, mule, pony, donkey, zebra) is acceptable for aside riding. For a member to obtain consideration for the ‘most points earned’ in a category, valid point sheets or alternative submissions that include the pertinent information about the event must be sent to the PS of ASA within three months of the event, or for late events, by the end of the calendar year or by January 5th of the next year. The PS will do unannounced spot checks throughout the year to validate the honesty of the overall submission process; thus, contact information for officials or persons who can testify as to the validity of the event is required. Awards in each of the following classes are given separately for junior competitors (under the age of 18 as of January 1st of the award year). Age cut-off follows 4-H rules. The PS will tally and judge.

**Overall Grand Champion:** awarded to the junior and the senior member with the highest number of accrued points for all the types of events. The PS will do the tally based on submitted points.

**Overall Reserve Grand Champion:** awarded to the second place junior and senior member as above.

**Show-Off Award (Horse Show):** for greatest number of horse shows for the year. One point per day is given, regardless of the number of classes entered. A member who serves as groom or as work crew can also be given a point for the day.

**Street Cruiser (Parade):** for the most parade points. One point per parade can be given to a rider aside or to a member who serves as safety walker or crew (banner carrier, pooper scooper, rig driver, caterer, etc.). An astride rider who is part of a sidesaddle group in a parade can also be given a point so long as the astride rider wears dress and tack that highlights or is in congruence to the costume of aside riders.

**Exhibitionist (Demo):** for the greatest number of days exhibiting and/or demonstrating to the public, either on horseback, by lecture, show and tell, or in an exhibit hall setting. The program must be pre-scheduled and members who assist in booth set-up, equipment hauling, modeling, booth work, or tear-down may be given a point for the day. Public outreach to promote aside riding is the essential aspect to obtain this ‘demo’ point. Drill team performances are counted as demonstrations.

**Overland and Trail Mileage (Trail):** for the greatest number of miles on trail-type events. These include pleasure trail, competitive trail, endurance trail, ride-and-tie (both participants), pace events. Verifiable paperwork with the official person’s contact information is required. No ‘partial mileage’ will be given for any of these events, and if the competitor withdraws or is eliminated for any reason, no miles will be given. Standard rules of trail ride competition apply; however, if the event has more than one section with different mileages, and the competitor is permitted by ride rules to choose one or the other section at any point in the ride, then, actual mileage completed will count. Hunting (fox, drag, stag, clean boot, mounted bassetting or beageling, etc) is counted in this section for each hunt. In order to acquire the maximum mileage (10) for a hunt, the horse and rider must complete either 2 hrs minimum or the entire hunt (exception: if the competitor can prove mileage greater than 10 on a hunt, such as via GPS records, the verified total miles will be counted). Planned pleasure trail rides will be assumed to be 5 miles unless otherwise noted.

**Practice Makes Perfect (Practice):** for **pre-planned practice sessions**, such as drill team, parade and other demonstration routines for the public. At least **three members** must be present for a drill team or parade unit practice. While all the submitted practice sessions are tallied for the Practice Makes Perfect category award, only three points/practice sessions are counted toward the final year-end ASA overall point tally.

**Clinic Care (Clinic):** for teaching purposes for aside riding and sidesaddle fitting. Novices or seasoned aside riders who want to improve their skills may obtain one point per day for riding as students. Members who are teaching in the clinic (teachers must have acquired Judge/Instructor/Clinician (JIC) status with ASA) will also receive one point per day. Members who assist with the clinic as grooms, set-up, helpers, caterers, haulers, or clean-up may be given one point per day as well.

**Writers Reach (Writing):** for members who attain publication of advertisements/fliers, articles, books, blogs, press releases, or marketed audio-visuals can receive one point per publication. The publication must be considered to be of interest to or as a target for the public, in order to promote aside riding. A copy must be seen by or submitted to the PS.

**Social Butterfly (Social):** for the member who attends the most events related to sidesaddle, but not actually riding. These include club parties, get-togethers, business meetings, and teleconferences.