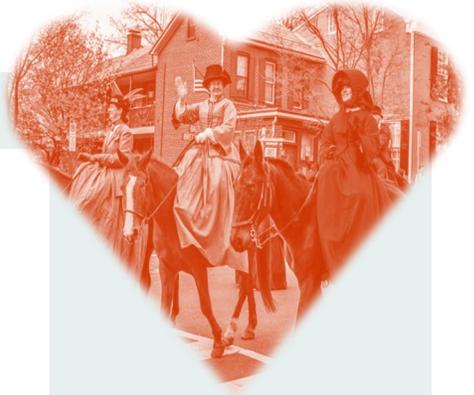


*Happy Valentine's Day!*

Winter Newsletter  
2022



*Lighting the way aside.*



# THE PHOENIX

## NEWSLETTER

### FOR THE LOVE OF SIDESADDLE RIDING

#### BY GAEL ORR

Hey Everyone! Because it's Valentines month, it's caused me to reflect on what I love most about sidesaddle riding. I asked myself: Is it the history? The ride? The vintage tack? The riding habits? NO! While I love it all, it's not what I love the most. I hope my answer is of no real surprise to you and that you have experienced this for yourself. I can't help but marvel at all the wonderful people I've met BECAUSE I ride aside. This past year has been an incredible journey of meeting new people through this association, and making so many new friends, it's almost hard to count them all! It's not uncommon to make friends when being involved in equestrian sports, but when it comes to horseback riding, typically the team you spend the most time with, is simply you and the horse. Yet somehow, that is not the case in the sport of sidesaddle riding. I can think of fewer other equestrian activities (with the exception of perhaps polo) where the community is at the forefront. When I think about what I love the most about riding aside, what I love the most, is YOU!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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You may email content to: Gael Orr [marketing@amsidesaddle.com](mailto:marketing@amsidesaddle.com)



## BOOK REPORT FROM THE ASA LIBRARY

By Vicki Pritchard



Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey, by Lillian Schlissel; to order this book for loan, contact the librarian Vicki Pritchard at: [librarian@amsidesaddle.com](mailto:librarian@amsidesaddle.com)

This fascinating book is based on the diaries of the overland women who braved the passage to the early western territories. These women participated in one of the greatest migrations in human history. They were peasant proprietors and were hard working and self-sacrificing. Many of the women did ride aside

on the trail, that is, when they were not driving a team of oxen or walking along in rough territory. Most of the women stuck to their traditional way of dressing, as much as possible, when wearing pants or the garb of native women would have been more comfortable and practical. While this book is not about sidesaddles, we know that once settled in and stable in their new lives, the women once again took up the more civilized female mode of individual transportation, the sidesaddle.

*“Many of the women did ride aside on the trail, that is, when they were not driving a team of oxen or walking along in rough territory.”*

## THE LOVELY STANDARDBRED

By Gael Orr

Last Autumn I adopted a 17 hands high mare named Black Brinny, who I lovingly nicknamed Bunny. I was looking for a large horse, as I'm quite tall and am a sidesaddle rider, so a long-backed horse was a must-have. I was also looking for a horse I could use for historical reenactments and parades. The Standardbred Retirement Foundation (SRF) connected me with Bunny, who was living with a wonderful foster-lady, Kim Sloan, in Ohio. I made the adoption of the horse, sight unseen, other than photos and some videos. Kim and Aubrey at the SRF were extremely transparent about Bunny's health, age, and condition and the horse was “guaranteed” that if she didn't work out for me I could swap her for a different horse.

At first, I wasn't sure if she was going to be courageous enough for the high-stimulation environments I had in store for her, but she has more than exceeded my expectations. With less than two dozen rides on her, I rode her in her very first sidesaddle clinic, and then a few weeks later, rode her in two back-to-back Christmas parades. While she was apprehensive of some of the stimulation, she mostly just wanted to do her job and was nothing short of marvelous; just like her attitude during training. Her jet black coloring was a real crowd pleaser too. I'm almost a little angry at myself that I never considered the standardbred breed a lot sooner, and that I didn't adopt horses decades ago. I was turned onto the breed from riding sidesaddle. In my opinion, the standardbred is one of the nicest breeds used for riding aside because of their calm temperament, thoroughbred-like topline (for saddle fit), and intelligence. Adoption is an incredible way to save a life, get a dynamic horse, and have the diversity of equine athletic ability, all in one breed. Bunny is truly one of the most beautiful horses I've ever had and I'm hoping someday in the future, I'll adopt another standardbred from the SRF. This charity truly cares about matching riders and horses, and most of all, they care that the horses have the best possible quality of life opportunities. Christmas came early for me this year, it came in October.



Gael riding Bunny at the November clinic. To adopt a horse like Bunny, or make a donation to SRF visit website: [www.adoptahorse.org](http://www.adoptahorse.org)

## CLUB PINS– WEAR THEM PROUDLY!

By Vicki Pritchard

Exciting news ladies! We have the American Sidesaddle Association's club pins ready to order! These pins are super cute and quite colorful, and let's face it, they help support a great cause, our Association! If you'd like one, we are ready to distribute them to members. It's simple to get one really, just send us \$15.00 to defray the cost of the pin, packaging, and mailing. Please send us your donation via PayPal to: [Amsidesaddletreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Amsidesaddletreasurer@gmail.com). Remember to write the comment "club pin" in the comments section when you send your \$15.00.



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## BROKEN ARROW APPALOOSA ASSOCIATION SHOW

By Deborah Knudson from Southern Ohio club and the West Virginia Clubs

These pics (shown right) were taken at the Broken Arrow Association this past year at one of their appaloosa horse shows. The show was located near St. Louis Missouri at the St. Claire Saddle Club arena. The Association offers a sidesaddle class along with the usual halter, western pleasure, hunter under saddle, game classes, jumping and driving at their appaloosa shows. The horse I am on is a registered appaloosa mare that is 21 years old. She is by the appaloosa leading sire All Hands on Zip who is by the quarter horse stallion Zippo Jack Bar. Her name is Hands Off Gingersnap aka Ginger. She had earned a Versatility Championship Award this year which, is awarded by the Appaloosa Horse Club when a horse achieves 5 Register of Merit Awards. A horse receives a Register of Merit when they have earned 10 national points in an event. Ginger has gotten Register of Merits in hunter in hand, hunter under saddle, barrels, poles and keyhole. The saddle is a Martin and Martin. Kim Rumpsa and Julie Cobb from the Broken Arrow Association also show their appaloosas in sidesaddle at this show.





**Photo Credit:**

**[Ciara Costly](#) and her horse  
*Finn-is-in-again.***

**WNY Chapter**

## Virtual Photo Horse Show!

The WNY Sidesaddle Chapter presents a "Love Your Horse" Virtual Show. Submit your favorite pictures for the chance to win a show ribbon!

The Virtual Horse Show is taking place on Facebook from February 1st-28th.

Judging will take place March 1st - 3rd.

10 classes with "Love Theme" Ribbons to be awarded. Registration costs just \$30.00 per person to enter as many classes as you want! A portion of the proceeds will go to the American Sidesaddle Association.

Your images do NOT have to be sidesaddle-related! Be creative and please invite your friends!

Watch for registration links on the ASA Member-only Facebook group and page or register by [clicking here](#) or visiting our page:

[www.facebook.com/groups/wnysidesaddlechaptervirtualshow/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wnysidesaddlechaptervirtualshow/)



Classes/Categories are:

- ♥ Lost Love (a horse in your past)
- ♥ First Love (your first horse)
- ♥ So Loved (toy horse or horse item)
- ♥ Love-Hate (your horse being naughty)
- ♥ Most creative (costume class)
- ♥ Selfie Love ( selfie of you and your horse)
- ♥ Something Pink (something pink in the picture)
- ♥ My Horse Loves It (a picture of your horse's favorite thing)
- ♥ Forbidden Love (the horse you never thought you would like)
- ♥ Love is Hard Work (your biggest accomplishment with your horse)



**Anderson Studio**

**Pam Anderson**

*Mid-South Equine Photographer*

**(901) 237-0721**

[pam@andersonstudiophotography.com](mailto:pam@andersonstudiophotography.com)

[www.andersonstudiophoto.com](http://www.andersonstudiophoto.com)



## Spring into Action Virtual Riding Challenge!

What is the Spring into Action Challenge? It's a virtual show that is designed to help get you and your horse get back into action after a long winter of hibernating! We want to help you achieve your horse goals and have some fun too! We want you to stay accountable by recording your horse-related activities in our Action Challenge Activity Log- and more than riding counts! Anytime (except chores) you spend with our horse

counts. For example, if you lunge your horse, do groundwork, go on a trail ride, or hitch up your horse and drive, it all applies! You can join our special Facebook group once you register, and there is where you may share photos of you and your horse and your progress! We would like you to work with your horse at least 30 times from March 1-May 15<sup>th</sup>. Action Challenge logs are due at midnight EST on May 15<sup>th</sup>. **Entrants will receive a beautiful ribbon** with the ASA logo on it upon completion of this event. The cost to participate is just \$40.00 and benefits both the American Sidesaddle Association and the Western New York Sidesaddle Chapter. So have fun with your horse, and support a great cause! Our objective is for you to have 30 fun-filled horse interactions with your equine buddy.



### The Rules

The Spring into Action Challenge is open to all styles of riding whether you ride sidesaddle, English, Western, or you don't ride at all and are spending quality time with your horse, time with your horse is what counts!

Q: What qualifies for time? A: Riding, driving, and groundwork count towards this challenge!

Q: What doesn't qualify? A: Chores, teaching riding lessons to others. This is about you and your horse; we want you to bond with your horse and spend that time with the two of you together. Riding with friends counts!

Q: How much time should I spend? A: 30 minutes or more per activity session.

Q: How many activities can I count per day? A: You can count up to 2 activities per horse per day with at least 4 hours between each session.

Q: How many horses can I use? A: Use one or multiple horses to complete the challenge. If you want a ribbon for each horse you will have to register separately for each one.

Q: Do I need to provide evidence that I rode? A: This is the honor system, simply fill out your activity log and submit that to us. We'd love for you to share your photos with us on our Facebook page. That helps to keep everyone in our challenge motivated and makes this even more enjoyable for everyone who is participating.

To register for this event and view more details, go to: <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/riding-challenge/>



## YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT WORK

By Vicki Pritchard and Gael Orr

The ASA Board members and officers have been working on improving the ASA as a modern organization, dedicated to better serving the members and the essence of aside riding. Completed projects include, but are not limited to:

### Website Improvements

- ♥ Greater web site development and useful enhancements on the site that facilitate the entry of participation points and new member sign-ups
- ♥ Instructor map for JIC's
- ♥ Donation link
- ♥ Membership online registration process
- ♥ History Timeline
- ♥ Newsroom
- ♥ Email addresses under a new domain name

### Marketing Materials Development

- ♥ The ASA newsletter
- ♥ Branding our hand outs and educational tools (like the tri-fold and the new member packet) letterhead creation
- ♥ Sidesaddle history document

### Social Media Enhancements

- ♥ All ASA Facebook pages have been renamed to follow a system for Search Engine Optimization enhancement.
- ♥ YouTube channel created
- ♥ Content timeline for social media releases created
- ♥ New podcast, Horses in the Morning

### Strategy Development- Marketing Plan

Development and Execution in Process

- ♥ Mission and Vision statement– Purpose for this development of a mission and vision statement that better reflect our commitments to service and safety for the historical preservation of the sidesaddle and the on-going use by our members and help drive marketing activities so we are all in sync.
- ♥ Improving our insurance and our clinic opportunities, increasing the clinics across the nation
- ♥ Revenue increases (dues, JIC fees, and insurance fees, ads in the newsletter, for example). Fundraisers, as usual.
- ♥ Improving the Membership Coordinator position by establishing a team to handle the work

There is still much to be done and we have identified several areas of restructuring that will take place over the up and coming year. Some of the action items include, but aren't limited to:

- ♥ Professional photography
- ♥ Member surveys
- ♥ High resolution for our logo
- ♥ completion of the *Dress and Tack* booklet
- ♥ Recruitment and retention strategies
- ♥ Possible web site sales of our own apron pattern and other items
- ♥ Continuing enhancement of the welcome packet with photos of officers and the like
- Content additions to our new YouTube channel and
- Consideration of a podcast on established horse radio network.

## ABOUT OUR MISSION STATEMENT

By Gael Orr

As Vicki Pritchard reported, we have been very busy these last few months updating brochures, marketing documents, and materials and so much more. One of the things our board accomplished, was working through the process of developing both mission and vision statements. Our mission statement tells the world, who we are, what we do, and why we exist.

The vision statement is typically a short-term goal or goals of any organization, usually just 2-3 years at most, that helps to provide a cohesive approach to strategy development. It gets everyone on the same page, so that we are all pulling together to achieve the same objectives. Our next steps will be to take our vision statement and develop strategies by which we can achieve our vision. For example,

looking at our vision, we highlight fundraising initiatives as one of the things we need to do, that could look like (but isn't limited to) supporting horse shows, parades, events, and clinics. Just as recruitment strategies could take on organizing event-activities that increase our pool of horse-oriented people to contact and ask them to join our association. This could happen by collecting names through an event raffle, as one example. Here is what our board has developed:



**VISION:** To make the American Sidesaddle Association financially sustainable and profitable through recruitment, fundraising initiatives, and membership support.

### MISSION OF THE AMERICAN SIDESADDLE ASSOCIATION

The American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) was formed to preserve, promote, and expand the elegance and historical art of riding sidesaddle. The ASA wishes to promote enthusiasm for sidesaddle riding among the equestrian public. Founded in 2008, the ASA is a network of regional sidesaddle clubs located throughout the nation. The Association supports all forms of riding and rider safety; we honor the women who came before us but are also inclusive of all people throughout society.

## From the President's Desk

**Maggie Herlensky**

I hope everyone had happy holidays with family and friends and are surviving winter, wherever you are. I am hibernating until spring! We had an incredibly busy fall. I taught a clinic, went to Equine Affaire in Massachusetts, made a Civil War era riding habit with a slat bonnet helmet cover, and rode in five parades in less than six weeks. Along the way I got to see friends I hadn't seen in awhile and made lots of new friends.

I had the pleasure of co-teaching a clinic with Gael Orr in early November. She got to ride her new Standardbred mare, Bunny, who will be a great sidesaddle horse with just a little more practice. It was a fun day with a great group of people and horses. Audrey Sears successfully completed her instructor certification by teaching individual and small group lessons, finishing up the riding portion, and taking the written exam. She did a lovely presentation on the history of her saddle for her lecture portion. Congratulations, Audrey!

The next day, Gael and I drove our horses to a nearby state forest [Rattlesnake Hill] for a trail ride. Bunny and Nancy both did well. Nancy has probably not been ridden that long in her life as a buggy horse. Bunny did so well, she decided to lead the way for much of the ride and surprised Gael with her jumping ability! We spent one evening with Liz Morrow filming short how-to videos for ASA's new [YouTube channel](#). We may have to post a blooper video, too. If anyone would like to submit a short video, please send them to [Audrey](#), Gael or me.

Equine Affaire was nice. It was disappointing to see quite a few empty booths and many vendors didn't have nearly the merchandise usually seen. We met many enthusiastic ladies, though, and several became ASA members. Kelley McCarty did a great job doing her first public sidesaddle demonstrations.

I got to spend three days at home before heading out again for Gettysburg. It was a great weekend. Once again, I want to go back when I have more time. Maybe we can all get together for something in summer? Two days at home and then off again, this time for the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade. Many thanks to Diana Kocunik and her father, Daniel Kocunik, for helping make it happen. It

was great seeing so many new faces riding with us this year. Kristina Brereton and Erin Peterson came from Wisconsin. Skyelur Festa flew in from Florida! Linda Klein, from West Virginia, has been riding with us quite a bit this year, but this was her first Thanksgiving Parade in the windy city.

We didn't stay in Chicago after the parade this year, but headed home with Erin Peterson tagging along for a Thanksgiving dinner at my mom, Vicki Pritchard's home. Thanks Mom. The day after that adventure saw us all in Dayton, joined by new member Nancy Murnyack. She was accompanied by her husband and beautiful standard poodle. It was a nice parade, but a little colder than Chicago, I think. The cold air just makes the lights on the costumes shine brighter for this night parade.

We got a whole week at home before Bryan McAllister, his granddaughter Katie, and I rode with Samantha and Morgan Reeves in the Lexington Christmas Parade. It was windy, but warm. The horses handled impromptu desensitization training just fine. The Lexington PD was parked next to us awaiting their assignments, so we asked them to light up the cruiser and turn on the sirens. The horses just gave that look of boredom. Vexxin licked the cruiser. That's not a typo.

Less than a week after Lexington, we got to do a parade that was a whole 20 minutes from home! We haven't been able to do the Waverly Christmas parade in several years, since it is usually the same day as Gettysburg. It was great to have Hannah Perkins riding with us and great to see her mom, Andria, helping out. Hannah's little girl, Aliah, loved helping us get ready. Another new member, Diana Jackson-Charlino, got to experience sidesaddle all at once. She had wanted to try riding aside, but didn't want to wait until spring. As many ladies before her, she got her first lesson in the parking lot before the parade. She did fine, of course.

So now I'm hibernating. I'll see you all in the spring. This will give me a chance to get caught up on all the exciting projects we are working on to modernize ASA and offer more to our members. Happy Valentine's Day!



January 3, 2021

*Lighting the way aside.*



Dear ASA Member,

I trust you are happy and well.

Starting January 1, 2022, we have a number of changes impacting membership and clinics this year. We are offering a few different types of memberships this year. A full membership, social membership for students and spectators at events, and a family membership.

Our new full membership rate is just \$25.00 per person. We are also going to be offering a social membership for event spectators and students (this includes full membership benefits for anyone under the age of 18). Also eligible for social membership are college students, regardless of age. We are also offering a family discount for members of families living within the same household of just \$20.00 per person.

Another change that is happening is our event insurance. In the past we have offered insurance at \$100 per event, but this is going to be changing to a flat rate of 25.00 per participant and 10.00 per spectator. We are asking that as you are planning on future events, you keep these rates in mind and pass along those fees to your participants. The insurance rates are in addition to membership fees. Our membership packages include:

- ♥ Newsletter subscription and advertisement opportunities
- ♥ Access to our online tack room and tack consignment
- ♥ Access to our lending library
- ♥ Calendar of events
- ♥ Family member discount
- ♥ Access to print-offs and downloadable files for your events and activities
- ♥ Social media exclusive access
- ♥ Access to our YouTube how-to instructional videos
- ♥ Access to instructor resources
- ♥ Points awards
- ♥ Chapter membership

Kindest regards,

Maggie Herlensky

ASA President



## Poem Title: Pack Horse Librarians

Book: [A Place so Deep Inside America It can't Be Seen](#)

**By Kari Gunter-Seymour**

Ohio Poet Laureate

Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship  
2021

Ohio Poet of the Year 2020



### Pack Horse Librarians

I mean no disrespect when I say, during the Great Depression Eastern Kentucky was a sundered area. Surrounded by mountains and waterways, no easy access in or out, nor any proper education, until the WPA employed our grandmothers to packsaddle literacy to the undeserved.

This would be the only good thing coal would do for Kentucky, coal and the Presbyterians, donating books and endowment, twenty-eight dollars a month to any woman with a horse or mule, and the spunk to stand up for progress, brave the weather, backwaters and hollers, to deliver emancipation by means of bound dissertation.

You need to understand, this was Appalachia, just before the war to end all wars. Only women of disrepute were considered working women by the church. Christian women labored in the kitchen and fields, birthed, prayed, died in them, albeit many Christian women were taught to read, if for no other reasons than the Lord's word could be used to hold her back.

But this was the New Deal and all bets were off. Imagine my grandmother, top of her head barely level with the saddle's front rigging dee, flaming red hair, a brand of sass all her own. Packing up the Pine Mountain Settlement School, Harlan County, creek beds as roads, on foot, single file, across crag and clifftop, sleeping in barns or lean-tos against the cold. Deliberate as the lineman or mail carrier, every treatise she carried, a nugget of gold inside her saddlebags.

### About Kari Gunter-Seymour

In a time of inflated posturing and relentless self-promotion, Kari Gunter-Seymour's poems offer a refuge. The work is firmly and unapologetically attached to her home soil, and is an examination of the long-lasting effects of stereotype and false narratives surrounding native Appalachians. More than merely commenting, her work dares to search for meaning.

Gunter-Seymour is a ninth generation Appalachian and editor the Women of Appalachia Project™ anthologies, "Women Speak," volumes 1-5 and "Essentially Athens Ohio," an anthology focused on landmarks, tales and experiences of those living in or deeply connected to Athens county. She holds a B.F.A. in graphic design and an M.A. in commercial photography and is a retired instructor in the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. A poem she wrote in support of families living in poverty in Athens County, OH, went viral and has been seen by over 100,000 people, resulting in thousands of dollars donated to her local food pantry. She is the Poet Laureate of Ohio.

Kari is the founder/executive director of the "Women of Appalachia Project," an arts organization she created to address discrimination directed at women from the Appalachian region by encouraging participation from women artists (spoken word and fine art ) of diverse backgrounds, ages and experiences to come together, embrace the stereotype, show the whole woman; beyond the superficial factors people use to judge her. ([www.womenofappalachia.com](http://www.womenofappalachia.com)).

# Gratitude for the love and strength of women...



## About Pack Horse Librarians

By Joan Vannorsdall

<https://blueridgecountry.com/>

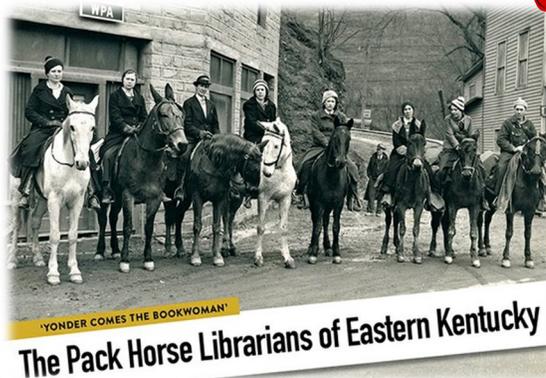
By 1933, unemployment in Appalachia had risen to 40%. Hundreds of coal mines had been closed in response to the shutdown of factories nationwide; thousands of miners were out of work. A few years into the Great Depression, reporter Lorena Hickock traveled to Appalachia and witnessed infant starvation, rampant pellagra and a severe lack of sanitation. Poor rocky soil made growing food difficult. Desperate times in the mountains.

In response, FDR's Works Progress Administration (WPA) program set out to put people to work. Putting people back to work most often meant putting men back to work, and most WPA jobs involved heavy manual labor. Roads and schools and parks were built; tunnels were dug; buildings were constructed. As the Depression intensified, men abandoned their families, leaving many women as heads of households. In response, WPA jobs were created that were seen as more "seemly" for women—sewing, the creation of Braille books, work in schools and cafeterias. And the Pack Horse Librarians project.

Book delivery? That could be accomplished by women. Never mind that it often meant traveling by horse or mule (or by foot) up a nearly invisible trail, covering 18-20 miles a day. Never mind that one Pack Horse Librarian, Mrs. Mary Littrell, recalls rainy-day roads that were knee-deep in mud. ("I'd have to hold my feet out to the sides of the horse, the mud was so deep on the roads....And the horse would have to swim the creek when it rained. Old Pearl took me every place that I wanted to go.") It's no surprise that Kentucky was home to one of the earliest pack horse library programs: the state was notoriously under-booked at the start of the Depression, with 63% of its residents having no access to public libraries.

The first Pack Horse Library program was established in 1934 in Leslie County. Within two years, nearby Harlan, Clay, Whitley,

Jackson, Owsley and Lee Counties had their own programs. Eleanor Roosevelt was a strong advocate of the Pack Horse Library project: "If the women are willing to do things because it's going to help their neighbors, I think we'll win out." [Read more by clicking here.](#)



During the Depression, they delivered books and other reading materials in remote rural areas, to people with no other access to the world of reading.



The pack horse librarians faced daunting terrain in their daily rounds, sometimes riding 18 miles a day.

# WNY Chapter- Rings in the New Year with a Kentucky Derby Style Tea Party

By Jen Rogers

On December 31st the WNY Sidesaddle Chapter had a morning sidesaddle ride, tea party, and chapter meeting. Our chapter president, Gael Orr, was good enough to offer up her lovely home as our meeting place. She was a gracious host and made sure all of the members were well fed and comfortable. A delicious lunch of lasagna, garlic bread, and various sweet treats for dessert were served by Gael's husband Mike.



Left to right, Gael Orr, Chris Gibson, Leigh Semilof, Jen Rogers, Suzzanna Richardson, Deb McNicholas, Audrey Sears. Back row: Sandy and Liz Morrow

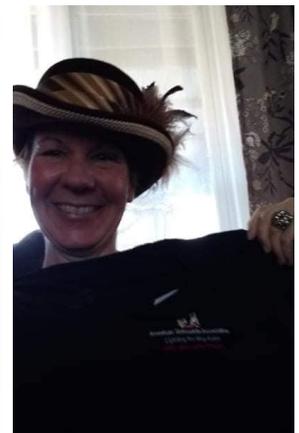
After lunch the members gathered together and played a romping round of "Dirty Santa". There was a good trade over the book, Sidesaddles and Geysers by M. Mark Miller and a beautiful pewter side saddle pin. Nearly all of the gifts were horse related in some way. A few gifts were bottles of wine. After gift trades were made, the chapter meeting was called to order. The WNY Sidesaddle Chapter discussed several new ideas for future events. We also discussed starting a sidesaddle drill team and a couple of virtual horse shows. After much socializing and good laughs The splendid afternoon came to an end.



Deb MicNicholas



Leigh Semilof



Jen Rogers



Liz Morrow



Audrey Sears



Suzzanna Richardson



Mike Orr makes his famous crock pot lasagna for the ladies in WNY Chapter

## 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### Winter

**March 19-20**, Western New York [Equifest](#), Hamburg NY, contact [Maggie Pritchard Herlensky](#) or [Gael Orr](#)  
**March 31-April 3**, Indiana Equine Roundup, Cloverdale IN, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky or Becky Goode

### Spring

**April 7-10**, Equine Affaire, Columbus OH, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**April 22-24**, Midwest Horse Fair, Madison WI, contact Diana Kocunik  
**April 30**, Land Rover Kentucky 3-Day Event, Lexington KY  
**May 1**, Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade, Louisville KY, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**May 14**, West Virginia Strawberry Festival, Buckhannon WV, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**May 21**, [Sidesaddle Clinic](#), Conesus NY, contact [Gael Orr](#)  
**May 22**, Sidesaddle Clinic, Schenectady NY, contact Kelley McCarty

### Summer

**June 3-5**, North Dakota Horse Expo, Minot ND, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**June 7-11**, Germantown Charity Horse Show, Memphis TN, contact Laura Shifflette Lawson  
**July 15-17**, Breyerfest, Lexington KY, contact Samantha Reeves

### Autumn

**September 11**, All Horse Parade, Delaware OH, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**October 16**, Fall Festival of Leaves Parade, Bainbridge OH, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**November 10-13**, Equine Affaire, West Springfield MA, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky  
**November 19**, [Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg PA](#), contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky or Holly Ray  
**November 25**, Dayton Children's Parade, Dayton OH, contact Maggie Pritchard Herlensky



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ALLIE FLEITZ



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PH: (812) 786-0508

ALLISONFLEITZ@YAHOO.COM



Houghton Show  
September, 2021



Sluggo's Ribbons  
Houghton Show



Sluggo Goes Aside

## My Side Journey

By Audrey Sears, ASA Board Member and WNY Chapter Member

In late November 2020, my brother-in-law came by my house to drop off a deer for us (my family) to butcher and put up for the winter. We got to chatting about hunting, tractors and eventually my horses. He said, "I get the feeling your horses and you are like me and my tractors; you need them because you're good at it and it gives you the quiet time you need to be refreshed and recharged." Those words stuck with me. Shortly after Christmas I decided to make a New Year's resolution. I was either going to try and ride at a hunt or learn to ride sidesaddle in 2021. Both goals were going to be a huge trick, as my horses were in Oklahoma while I was with my family in New York.

So I went online (Facebook) and found my nearest two hunts and found a group called 'Sidesaddle Fun' and messaged a lady not far from me in the mentorship group. She told me she would love to help but was in the middle of a move to the Carolinas. She told me to talk to Maggie Herlensky, and that she was the lady I needed to talk to. So by late January, I started a chatline with Maggie.

Through the recommendation of Maggie, I purchased 3 sidesaddle books in February. I ate them up! I absolutely loved them and continued to learn as much as I could. In the quest to learn more, many people pointed me to the American Sidesaddle Association website; but I could never get on it. After chatting more with Maggie, I had let her know I had experience in website building and had made several sites before, I knew how to write code and even had a degree in mass communications. I told her that maybe I could help get the ASA site back up and running. I have been working on the website ever since and I absolutely love it!

Come March, my husband and I made the HUGE financial decision to get a sidesaddle. So the hunt began. I called my parents in Oklahoma and talked them through a saddle tracing over a video chat. They pulled my college mount and cornerstone schooling master, Sluggo, out of the pasture and threw the wire on his back. They asked me about my horse Red (my ex-show and hunt Morgan horse) but I said let's start with Sluggo at least. By the end of March, after mailing wither tracings and considerable back-and-forth dealings with a fantastic lady in Kentucky, I bought a 1920's Champion and Wilton saddle. The saddle is named "Bonnie" after the lady it was made for. That's about the same time that Maggie told me about a sidesaddle clinic in May that was going to be in my area. This started the clock ticking! We made arrangements for the "sidesaddle express" to bring "Bonnie" to the clinic. Now here's some info about my horse.

I took a long weekend over my kids' spring break and drove to Oklahoma (22hrs 1 way) to pick up my horses. I got to Oklahoma to find my horse, Red, dying in front of my eyes- he literally was waiting for me to come and say good bye. My heart broke. Red had been my Equine partner for more than 20 years. He'd carried me on the hunt field, in national dressage shows, in Pony Club, in Olympic instructor certification, through college, in an international competition. He even helped me win a rodeo queen title for a weekend. I couldn't bear to drag him on a 22hr trailer ride; he was done and tired, so I made the decision to put him down. His comfort was bigger than my goal of riding to hounds. He is buried on our family land next to my 1st pony, Gandolf, his favorite pasture buddy. And thank you again to Maggie and the Southern Ohio Ladies Aside Chapter for sending me a card on his passing.

**My Side Journey Continued...** So with that heart ache, I loaded up my Sluggo and made the trek back to New York just 3 weeks before the clinic. I was a mess. Here was Sluggo my horse from college- a trained reining and working cow horse who had spent seven years teaching walk-trot lessons to kids. After having almost three years total pasture retirement, he was now expecting to go aside! Well I sucked it up, literally, as I found my favorite pair of breeches (after having 6 kids) my breeches didn't like me anymore. I spent my leftover birthday money on a new riding shirt and breeches, gave Sluggo the grooming of his life, and loaded up for the hour drive to the May sidesaddle clinic. The clinic was Amazing! I met so many wonderful equestrians in my area and finally met Maggie in person. I got my sidesaddle off the sidesaddle express to find it fit my Sluggo perfectly! (If my non horsey parents can make a wither tracing via video chat you can, too!) I got to ride, and for the first time ever my 15 year old rollie pollie cow pony jumped! It was amazing. After the clinic I went home hooked!

While at the clinic I met, Gael Orr, our hostess at Sweetwater Equestrian Center. It had turned out she was taking her instructor certification that same weekend and I was just so amazed by the information she knew and had to demonstrate. I decided that maybe my goal of riding at a hunt could change, and maybe I could just try to show again, and maybe I could do it aside.

Shortly after the clinic in June I reached out to Gael and set up some sidesaddle lessons throughout the summer. After riding in her lessons a small local-ish dressage group was mentioned and back online I went. I found a very small, very informal, not-too-far away dressage show. I said, "Sure let's do it!" And away I went. For Sluggo's first dressage test ever, I was quite pleased and decided, "You know what? I can do this sidesaddle!" The following 2 shows we did just that. We rode sidesaddle, both in Intro level and at training level. I continued my lessons with Gael through the summer. It's then that I decided with her help I could start studying for instructor certification too, and maybe by the year 2022, I could start the process.

A lady I met at the clinic in May tagged me in a very close to home horse trial for late September. I remembered my first trainer telling me that trials and hunter paces are good places to start if you want to hunt. So I thought, I'd give it a try. I registered for the event. Three days later the show secretary emailed me asking, "Were you the lady who rode aside at the local shows all summer? You're welcome to ride aside here too!" We did. Sluggo finished third in our division riding sidesaddle. We finished fifth at the same show riding astride. Sluggo likes sidesaddle better.

After that news, my husband said why not go for your instructor certification this fall at the next clinic. I kept saying, "No I'm not ready." Maggie sent me a few more book recommendations and told me to take my written in November and just get the process started. So I sent my paperwork in. October our WNY Sidesaddle Chapter was invited to attend a living history museum and demonstrate sidesaddle riding. That rainy day I was scared stiff, but Sluggo and I braved the rain and I even finally got mounted and talked to a small crowd about my saddle, my apron, and listened to Gael's amazing insight on sidesaddle history.

November popped up, and between my husband and Gael's encouragement, and Maggie's persistence, Sluggo and I went to the November Clinic and PASSED my ASA Instructor Certification! We also attended the Remembrance Day Parade and ball in Gettysburg, PA last November.

I went from knowing nothing about sidesaddle, to being an instructor and even riding in a reenactment parade in a year! I did all of this on a budget while being a stay at home mom of six kids (ages 7,5,4,2, and twin 18m olds). I lost my equine partner of 20 years and found an amazing 2nd career for my western gelding. I didn't fulfill both of my goals -but I took one goal further than expected. I thank my husband and brothers-in-law for supporting me and watching the kids so I could run off and do horse things. I thank Maggie and Gael and my trainer in Oklahoma for helping me through fears, doubts, and helping me learn. I thank my kids, especially my two oldest ones, for being my grooms this summer at the shows. They did things like, handing me my apron and whip when I needed it, and taking my pictures. I thank the lady in Kentucky who sold me "Bonnie" and trusting me with its full history. And lastly, I thank my Sluggo "pony" for being so awesome and doing his best to now be a Ladies Sidesaddle Mount.



Audrey's husband Bryan and her horse, Sluggo in Gettysburg, PA

## MAGICAL GETTYSBURG

By Gael Orr

I almost hate to confess this, but I'd never been to Gettysburg before this last November. Maggie Herlensky invited me to participate in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade. I'm a bit of a globe trotter having traveled all



over Africa, Central and South America and Europe, but this remarkable historical place that resides just 250 miles away from my home, Gettysburg, I'd never visited. Audrey Sears, Liz Morrow and I representing the Western New York Chapter attended, bringing our loved ones along for a unique weekend. I had the opportunity to do a little sight-seeing making it a point to travel a couple of days early so I could seize that opportunity. My husband, Mike and I took a tour of the Shriver House, which is definitely a "must-see" if you decide to go to Gettysburg in the future. Tillie Pearce (who lived next door to the Shriver's) wrote a book called [At Gettysburg, What a Girl Saw and Heard Of the Battle.](#) Her book is considered the historical authority on the civilian experience. She was friends with the Shriver's and at the young age of 15, Tillie provided water and food to the soldiers and assisted surgeons and nurses who were caring for the wounded soldiers. Her home is now a bed and breakfast you could stay in, if you wanted to, but be forewarned it's allegedly haunted!

And speaking of spirits, what journey would Gettysburg be if I didn't go on a ghost tour? A group of us attended a historic tour in the evening with an incredible guide who regaled us with the tales of downtown Gettysburg and shared a few paranormal ghost stories along the way. His entertaining style made history come alive. Ultimately he convinced me he should educate 7th grade history instructors in how to teach American history, across the nation. And while I (thankfully) didn't see any ghosts, I did walk away with an incredible respect for the sacrifices of all of the families discussed during the ghost tour. For it was families, who suffered terribly in the losses of lives and limbs, and who were undoubtedly traumatized by the carnage and clean-up efforts.



Holly Ray gives a historical tour of the battlefields of Gettysburg to about eight of us from ASA.



## Magical Gettysburg continued...

The following day all of us prepped for the parade. It was a bit of an adventure finding the parade start, ALL of the roads were closed, but ultimately we arrived and got tacked up. I marveled at all of the amazing sidesaddle riding habits handmade by everyone. They were exceptionally beautiful! When the parade began I found I was really enjoying myself and having fun waving to the kids who giggled at my borrowed horse's wagging-tongue that kept hanging out (you gotta love Maggie's horse, Wyatt!).

But I had this very surreal moment when the realization washed over me, that I was riding down the streets of Gettysburg in honor and remembrance of the thousands of people who lost their lives. I couldn't help but also think about the thousands of people who lost their family members or watched them suffer in pain, or went through life maimed, in a horrific war. I know quite a bit about grief, unfortunately, and the thought of losing a loved one this way, made my heart sink. I went immediately from a place of joy, to one of immediate sadness. The juxtaposition of emotions haunted me the next day too, when we horseback rode on the battle field with, Dr. Holly Ray who gave us a history tour. I struggled with those conflicting emotions and resolved myself to possess the emotion of extreme compassion.

But I digress, after the parade, we had a few hours to freshen up and headed to a Civil War era-inspired ball. One of my favorite moments was when Liz Morrow, Audrey Sears and I stepped into an elevator at the hotel and our hoops cornered and trapped a man on the elevator who was hopeless to do much more travel with us to the lobby! He was frozen into a tiny space in the corner! It was hilarious! The evening consisted of live music and dancing (with instruction), sipping some wine, lots of laughter, and chatter about our amazing horses earlier that day in the parade.

The following day, Dr. Holly Ray took us on a horseback tour of the battlefield. The weather was nearly perfect for November and again I struggled with the polarizing emotions of riding through some beautiful scenery while listening to Holly share the solemn history of people's living nightmares. Simply put, we tread upon hallowed ground. Gettysburg changed me. I left that magical place in awe of the civilians who rose to the challenges of perilous assistance to fallen soldiers. I marveled at the history and testimonies of those who came before us and I wondered if there could ever be a better way, a less violent way, to resolve conflict. I pray I never have to know the pain, fear, and trauma of going through any experiences similar to what I had learned about, but if I must, I hope I have the strength and courage of our predecessors. I left Gettysburg a more appreciative person of the life I currently have, a more conscientious person, and definitely a more compassionate one.



Audrey, Brian, Gael, Liz



David and Holly



Mike, Gael, Liz, Audrey, Bryan



Maggie, Katie, Erica, and Brian

## Honoring our Ancestors at Gettysburg, 2021

By Dr. Holly Ray

My husband, David Walker, and I have had nearly life-long passions for the study of the American Civil War. For over a decade, he has adopted the persona of Jefferson Davis, President, CSA, speaking at countless living history venues across several states. It naturally followed that I would study and portray his wife, Varina, and this has been a very rewarding and challenging pursuit to tell her life's story. The reenacting group to which we both belong is called Civil War Historical Impressions and is based in Virginia. Both of the Davises were accomplished equestrians and there is ample documentation that they would often race each other "if the road was straight and long." The Davises had a fine breeding stable, many of the horses being Thoroughbreds, although Jefferson's favorite horse was a grey Arabian named Tartar.



David Walker and Dr. Holly Ray

Just like Jefferson, my husband is quite tall, and certainly not suited for my grey Arabian, Osiris. I wanted a quiet mount for David, and we adopted a 17.1 hand Standardbred that we named Stonewall, after the great Stonewall Jackson. Several months ago, I had the idea that it would be fantastic if we could ride the horses in the Remembrance Day Parade this year, instead of walking. The purpose of Remembrance Day is to commemorate the Nov. 19, 1863 delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and also to pay respect to those who died. With David being a beginner, I knew that we really needed to practice, so preparation started over the summer; David seemed like a natural and was a great student with the lessons I gave him. Stonewall was such a racing failure, he had never even made it to the track. His preferred speed is to plod along, even though he is only 5 years old. Neither Stonewall nor Osiris had ever been in any parade, and David has always walked, so I was a little apprehensive, my first priority being the safety of my husband. I had ridden in this parade a few times, although on a different mount.



The parade was larger this year than it had been in a few years, and fife and drum filled the air with military music. Osiris, unlike his Mommy, was not impressed with sight or sound and was a bundle of nerves. We were with the CWHI contingent, and at the last minute, our dear friends Pam Root and Cheryl Wunderle

decided to walk along with us, knowing that I was completely occupied with Osiris and could not keep my eyes on David. Stonewall ambled along beautifully, and Osiris pulled out some fancy moves that I did not know he possessed. Along the way, kids were exclaiming, "look at the dancing horse!" and someone asked Pam if he was a Lippizan. If he was not cantering in place, he was prancing along, and I was exhausted by the end of the parade, although I was proud of Osiris that he held it together and was a crowd-pleaser. I was also proud of David and Stonewall, as they looked like seasoned parade participants. Gettysburg is my favorite place on Earth, and it was an honor to be able to join the ranks as we paid homage to those that gave "the last full measure."

## For the Love of Horses-Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade

By Maggie Herlensky, President of ASA



All of these horses have stories. I don't know the story of Audrey Isidore Sears horse, Sluggo (far right), but here is the rest of the group who carried their riders in the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg PA last weekend.

From the far left, kind of behind, is Cafe Bar, ridden by Linda Pickholtz Klein, dressed in a Union artillery uniform. Cafe found herself needing rescue in Florida. Starting Gaits Standardbred Transition Program helped her and her herd mates find homes in Ohio. She is a standardbred mare who had a successful race career and then raised several babies, some of whom are still on the track. USS Fortunato is next in line, ridden by one of his favorite humans, Erica Parriott, in the very long skirt. Lucky, as he is known, is an Arab/quarter horse cross. He was orphaned when only a few days old and raised in my laundry room. I couldn't get a vet to come help me, so friends in medical services donated expired supplies to keep him alive. The one vet told me to just keep him comfortable until he died. Joke is on you, Lucky is now 25 years old.

In the back is Make Me Blush, another standardbred mare. She is ridden by Terrill Sessions in the blue habit. Blush came from Hearts and Hooves rescue. She was pulled from a kill pen where her next stop would have been a slaughterhouse in Canada. She had just had a foal weaned, her last of a long career as a broodmare. Several of her foals are exceptionally successful on the track. I can't understand why her owner sold her that way. She is a wonderful mare.

Next is Red Fern, a standardbred/Hackney horse cross. I am her rider, in the tan habit. Fern came to me from an Amish gentleman who found her too

slow for their spread out community. She had been well cared-for, but had lost an eye in an accident. At auction, she probably wouldn't have gotten a good home. Crimson Tide is the appaloosa mare, ridden by Bryan McAllister and owned by Heather Shoop. Crimson also came from Hearts and Hooves. She was in a kill pen in Tennessee, probably on her way to Mexico. She will sell her soul for a Brach's butterscotch. SB Quents Knight, standardbred gelding, is ridden by Katie Mcallister in the pink habit. Q, as he is known, was donated to Starting Gaits by his owner, to keep him from needing rescued. He raced over 100 times during his career. He is a good boy as long as he doesn't have to get his feet wet. Next is Wyatt, another standardbred gelding, ridden by Gael Orr [who begged to keep him]. Wyatt also came from Starting Gaits, donated by his owner. He earned over a half million dollars in his racing career. He makes my butt look small when I ride him.

Rebel Star is next, better known as Fancy Nancy, ridden by Elizabeth Morrow. Nancy was given to me by an Amish lady who didn't want her to have the fate that many former Amish horses have, a slaughterhouse in Canada. She is 25 years old and loves to have something to do. She went home with Audrey Isidore Sears to become a first horse for the Sears children. Last in line is Sluggo, Audrey's horse. He tries to be a good boy, but sometimes there are just so many options. Walking with us were Terrill's grandchildren Zion and Naomi on the far left, and Audrey's husband, Bryan, holding Sluggo. Not pictured is Nancy Cecil, who walked the entire route in her beautiful Civil War era day dress. Liz's mother, Sandy, took the photo.



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# Horses in the Morning

By Maggie Herlensky



Something new! American Sidesaddle Association has been asked to host an episode of the daily podcast, Horses In The Morning. Our episode will be on the first Tuesday of the month for the next six months, starting in March. If you've never listened, go to [www.horseradionetwork.com](http://www.horseradionetwork.com). You can listen every weekday morning live from the website or recorded on your favorite podcast player. If you have Alexa, just tell her to "play the podcast Horses In The Morning".

Horses In The Morning, or HITM as regular listeners call it, is produced by Horse Radio Network. HRN is the leading podcast network for horse lovers worldwide. With many equine podcasts to choose from you are sure to find something you will love! Entertaining, fun and you can listen when and where you want. Listen on the HRN PHONE APP, it is free and easy to use!

**HORSES IN THE MORNING** is the only live morning show with an equine theme and is the most popular podcast in the horse world. It's a light, lively, entertaining daily look at the horse world and the people in it. The show includes entertaining conversation, out of the ordinary guests, numerous regular horse related segments, listener call in, contests, giveaways and so much more.

We need sponsors. If you would like to help sponsor the show, contact Maggie Herlensky. We have a couple of options for business sponsors from fully sponsoring an episode to sponsoring an ad during the show. Both options include ad space in the Phoenix magazine. Individuals can help by donating as much or as little as you like. We will give you a shoutout on the show and a thank you in the magazine. As a reminder, we are a 501c3 non-profit, so all donations are tax-deductible.

We need guests! Who would you like to hear on the radio? We'd like to interview interesting people about their sidesaddle experiences.

## About Horses in the Morning

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/horses-in-the-morning/id399998714>

*The world's leading daily morning podcast for the horse world with listeners in over 90 countries. A light, lively, entertaining look at the horse world and the people in it. The show includes entertaining conversation, out of the ordinary guests, numerous regular horse related segments, training tips, health segments, listener call ins, contests, giveaways and so much more.*

## Letter to the Phoenix- More on sidesaddle gloves, by Jo Rench

This is to enhance what Amy Magee wrote about appointments and rain gloves in the Autumn ASA Newsletter. Since most of our modern riding stems from cowboys or foxhunting, we need to go back to the roots for our Corinthian or appointments class necessities. Rain gloves need to be bigger than your leather gloves. In case of rain, they were pulled on over your leather gloves. There is seldom time on a hunt to stop, take off your leather gloves, deposit them in a safe place, extricate your rain gloves, and pull them on. As for your sandwich case, please, please have a fresh sandwich, and no mayonnaise or lettuce. Sliced chicken, with butter on crustless bread is appropriate. Judges have been known to take a bite, and you wouldn't want to be responsible for Ptomaine poisoning.

By the way, many of you probably have never heard of a Corinthian class. This appointments class is designed for members of a hunt on an "agreeable mount to hounds" that has been hunted, and it requires a letter from the MFH stating the fact. Another requirement is that you must be able to crack your whip, and not have your horse shy. Some "hot doggers" have been known to crack their whip while going over a jump. Although I can't think of a time when this might be necessary.

Bear in mind, that you will probably have more judges with a hunt background than a side saddle background. So be prepared.

## MEET CAROL JO RENCH, PREFERRED NAME, "JO"

**Which ASA Chapter are you a part of?**  
Sidesaddle Sisters of Oklahoma (SSSO)

**What got you interested in sidesaddle riding?** I had a friend, back in the 1950's, who picked up a sidesaddle as a curiosity. It interested me and I determined to learn to ride in it. With no training and no knowledge, I started my sidesaddle career, learning as I went. I did a lot of showing before I was actually properly trained and fitted. Luckily, I was a small size then and didn't sore the horse. For my 15th birthday, my parents bought me my own sidesaddle for \$15.

**Tell us about your favorite horse or horses.** I've had other horses, but Snapper is my horse of a lifetime. He's a 20 year-old Morgan gelding, still in my barn. His registered name is Grandlee High and Mighty.

**Who was the horse or person who taught you the most?** Snapper and Maggie Herlensky. I watched Maggie work at clinics and parades and I picked up a lot. She made sure I read the proper books on the subject, especially, "The Sidesaddle Legacy".

**What is your teaching philosophy and what sets you apart?** Anything you can do astride, you can do aside. Safety is something I stress constantly. I am a fan of

western helmets too.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself** Here is a sample of the things I have done aside: pole, barrel, team sorting, competitive trail, relaxing trail, eventing, hunt, English show, western show, parades, demonstrations, clinics.

**What kind of sidesaddle do you ride in or have you always wanted to own?** I have 7 sidesaddles. (Maggie is not the only saddle-a-holic in the ASA.) My go-to saddle now, because of my health problems, is a Royal King. I have had nearly the entire saddle remade, re-stuffed, re-rigged. It is not reinforced for jumping, but I am only doing parades now-a-days. The saddle is not really a good saddle because, despite all my efforts at reinventing it, it still has a bit of a twist. However, it is good and deep and more comfortable for me for parades.

**Tell us more about you:** I have received many awards for my aside riding. I was Grand Champion ASA for several years, and a high point ISSO member. I have 2 full scrapbooks of pictures and articles of myself at events. Snapper has 2 full scrapbooks as well. These books are precious to me and I am going to donate them to the ASA Library when the time comes.

***Fun facts about Jo Rench: She is also a pilot, has flown a helicopter, and has gone skydiving and bungee jumping!!!***



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## Meet new member: Jennifer Rogers

**Who was the horse or person who taught you the most?** The horse that taught me the most was my 19 hand, 2,250 pound Belgian named, Mickey. To be honest though, every horse I've worked with extensively has taught me something. The more knowledge I gain the more I realize I have so much yet to learn (and that's after working with horses for over 25 years). In other words, I'm open to learning new things with horses.

**What surprised you the most about riding sidesaddle?** I have only ever sat on a sidesaddle. I haven't actually ever ridden on one on a horse.

**What are you hoping to learn about sidesaddle over the next year?** I love to learn about all facets of something new to me like sidesaddle. I would like to learn not only about the saddles and how to ride in them, but also about the history and fashions that went with it.

**Where did you attend your first sidesaddle clinic or lesson?** At Sweetwater Equestrian Center in Conesus, NY with Gael Orr.

**What got you interested in sidesaddle riding?** Speaking with Gael Orr at her sidesaddle clinic and speaking with a sidesaddle representative at the Massachusetts Equine Affaire. That's where I became a club member.

**Tell us about your favorite horse or horses** I love draft horses and miniature horses. I have one Percheron draft horse and two miniature horses. My Percheron, Merlin, is my riding horse. We trail ride, practice dressage, do low level eventing, and LOVE to go on hunter paces and jump the cross country jumps. My miniature horses, Chip and Dale, are Pet Partners therapy horses. I also drive both boys. I'm hoping next year I will be able to train them to drive as a pair.

## New Member Highlights

**Tell us a fun fact?** Fun fact about me: I hate country music even though I love horses. People always find that strange. I love to sew and make costumes for me and my horses. I make Halloween and Christmas costumes every year.

*Editors note: Jen's first month as a new member she coordinated a social ride for our chapter inviting us to ride around the Village of Spencerport during Christmas. My favorite stop was outside a nursing home where we were able to wave to the residents.*



Tina Burrage with her horse Tiffany WNY Chapter

## Meet New Member: Tina Burrage



**What got you interested in sidesaddle riding?** I always romanticized horse riding and my vision always included a beautiful horse and a riding habit and side saddle. After getting the gypsy vanner of my dreams I started doing some research and tried a friend's sidesaddle, I was hooked after that and will be attending my first clinic November 2021

**Tell us about your favorite horse or horses.** My mare Lexlins Breakfast at Tiffany "Tiff" is my coming 9 year old gypsy vanner. She is the love of my life. 15'1 gray (almost all white now)

**Who was the horse or person who taught you the most?** Definitely my mare Tiffany and her trainer Heather Payne. She was sent as a 5 year old for 10 month of training to Nash Hill Equestrian center with trainer

Heather Payne. She came home push buttons allowing me to practice and improve my riding.

**What surprised you the most about riding sidesaddle?** I've only tried it once so far but it felt very comfortable with my back issues.

**Tell us more about you:** I have only been riding horses for 11 years other than trail riding and going to a few lessons with friends as a kid. I crashed my Iron horse (Harley Davidson) in April 2010. I became very nervous with riding. In August 2010, hubby and I went on our honeymoon to Montana and took several trail rides. So when I got home I sold my iron horse and bought 2 hay burners for myself and hubby and so began my obsession with horses.

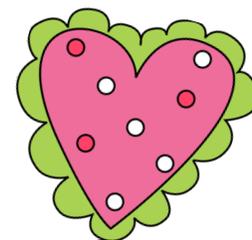
**Tell us a fun fact about yourself** I'm a big time crafter and reader (I'm at about 100 books for 2021)

**What are you hoping to learn about sidesaddle over the next year?** As much as I can. I've been trying for over a year to make it to a clinic with my horse.

*Editors note: Tina volunteered her first month of membership to work all day long at our table set up at the Genesee Country Museum.*

# Welcome

## New Members



### **GSS**

Madeline Zacharkow  
Kim Healy  
Patricia Wecht



### **NEWS**

Kathryn Basta  
Sela Fine  
Ann Bonneville  
Robin Morris  
Kaylee Amons



Elyse Brady  
Anna Breen  
Susan Crow  
Linda Foshay  
Meghan Gibbons  
Jayne Haggard  
Abigail Haggard



Virginia McMahon  
Samantha Tuechler  
Caitlyn Tymula  
Katelynn and Charlene Stevens  
Cynthia Mercier  
Margit Albentz



Suzanne Brammerts  
Jen Brolin  
Lisa Cowan  
Paula Decker  
Allegra Dufresne



Sydney Jones  
Ella Gorman  
Sarah McDonald  
Alexander Felicity Nerino  
Ariane Tanski



### **SOLA**

Diana Charlino



### **GALA**

Skyelur Festa

### **NEOLA**

Nancy Murnyard  
Galina Benek  
Michelle Cattari  
Diane Virostko  
Diane Millard  
Donna Moore

### **ARLA**

Andrea Garlapati  
Gwenyth Sutphin  
Alissa Turner

### **CA\_Aside**

Lisa Hirahara

### **LSSA**

Emily Hopkins  
Beth Walz  
Tammy LeBleu  
Kathy Ellerbeck  
Kelly McGary  
Lisa Hirahara  
Elisabeth Crabtree  
Emilia Carangelo  
Claire Stervinou  
Amada Ryes

### **WNY**

Stephanie Archambo  
Suzanne Richardson  
Laura Fronczak  
Debra McNicholas  
Jennifer Rogers

### **WISS**

Erin Peterson

### **SANE**

Margaret Bailey  
Amy Dudley  
Ashley Hill  
Carla Robidas

### **AZA**

Hannah Barker

### **FOW**

Janel Mundt

### **OLA**

Crystal Pabizer

### **NILS**

Betti Wielenger

### **MSS (Michigan Side Saddle)**

Amber Barker  
Diane Brady  
Kristina Brown  
Jill Caudill  
Molly Gilbert  
Laura Johnson  
Jennifer McClain  
Lisa Mensch  
Mogan Oghor  
Sandy Patmore  
Kirstie Perez  
Kathy Pew  
Leslie Wallace  
Alissa Smith  
Kate Tees  
Kristyn Textar

## Rig Maintenance

Submitted by Vicki Pritchard

I was looking through the ASA library and found a nice article in Western Horseman's August 2015 issue, written by Sara Gugelmeyer. She explained her personal checklist to prevent breakdowns along the road.



- ♥ Check the tire pressure and ensure tight lug nuts on the truck and trailer. Trailer tires must have pressure within the tire manufacturer range and the tires must all be the same pressure. Uneven pressures cause uneven wear and lead to blowouts.
- ♥ Check the tire tread for wear spots and condition. Put a penny in the tire tread groove with the Lincoln head upside down. If you can see his whole head, you need new tires. Tires that have not been used much can also develop cracks due to age. Have old tires inspected by a professional.
- ♥ Check truck fluid levels. In general, conventional oil should be changed every 3,500 miles and synthetic oil should be changed every 5,000.
- ♥ Air filters clog easily, especially if gravel roads are traveled. Remove the housing to see if it is visibly dirty. If it is, replace it. Fuel filters are changed at every oil change.
- ♥ Hook up the trailer and be sure all the lights work: Turn signals, brake, hazard, running lights, headlights.
- ♥ Trailer bearings need to be cleaned, checked, and repacked with grease at least yearly. The grease can get old even if the trailer has not been moved. A mechanic should do this and check the wheels and brakes at the same time.
- ♥ Trailer brakes need to be inspected by a mechanic yearly at the least. You can check them in between by slowly applying the emergency brake control in the truck. You should be able to feel the brakes slowing the rig.
- ♥ Once a year, pull up the trailer floor mats and clean and inspect the floor. Steel trailers have wooden floors that can rot and break. Aluminum floors can develop holes. Also, hinges and dividers should be inspected for sharp broken areas.
- ♥ Inspect the trailer hitch, looking for signs of wear. Be sure it is greased and that the latches show no signs of wear. Check safety chains and breakaway systems.
- ♥ Keep mud and grime cleaned off the truck and trailer to be sure you can always see a problem before it gets too far gone.
- ♥ Keep tools and emergency supplies in the truck and trailer at all times. Do a trial run at changing a tire. Always have wrenches, pickup jack, jiffy jack, toolbox with hammer, pliers, screwdrivers, flashlights with fresh batteries, and tire pressure gauge. A test light kit helps isolate an electrical problem.
- ♥ An emergency kit with flares, reflectors, or cones is essential when pulled off on the side of the road. Extra horse supplies like halters, lead ropes, buckets, and feed should be carried at all times in case of being stranded.

## Fulfilling a Dream

By Diana Charlino

The road to fulfilling a dream can be a long and twisting one. My dream of riding aside began in 1955, at one month old, when, according to family lore, my grandmother gave me a stuffed horse for my first Christmas. In the '60s my parents bought me my first horse (I think because they were embarrassed by me eating grass on all fours in the front yard!). During that time, I saw my first sidesaddle riders, as our vacations were spent at Civil War battlefields during the centennial years.



By the '70s I was fascinated by Victorian fashion and I filled sketchbooks with costume designs, including more than 1 habit. In the '80s I bought a sidesaddle—I can still remember the pounding of my heart as the hammer fell on my final bid of \$65.00 (\$15.00 over the limit I had set for myself)! After a hiatus from riding, I began riding again in the '90s; this time dressage instead of the Western style of my youth. I also began collecting Victorian era fashion plates and photos. While an ambro, daguerro, or CDV of a sidesaddle rider alluded me, my walls began to fill with ladies in habits.



During the 2000s I had the good fortune to remarry and move only a half hour away from the horse mecca of Loudoun County, Virginia. Annual pilgrimages to the Saturday sidesaddle classes at the Upperville horse show, the Christmas parade in Middleburg, and multiple seminars at the National Sporting Library & Museum fueled my desire to ride aside, as did acquiring an OTTB through my husband, a race horse trainer at Charles Town. But working full-time and helping my husband, as an unpaid groom and hot-walker for our racehorses, left me with no time to learn a new discipline.

When circumstances brought me back to Ohio in 2016, I thought my sidesaddle dream was over. Then, in 2021, in an AutoZone parking lot, I met Charlotte Stephenson, who put me in touch with Maggie Herlensky. Just like that, my lifelong dream became a magic reality. On a horse owned by Maggie, in a costume made by Maggie, in a saddle provided by Maggie, with a few quick tips on how to ride aside, I rode the entire Waverly Christmas Parade in a blissful haze of joy. The feel of Fern under my seat, the sound of jingle bells and people oohing and ahhhing along the route, the blaze of lights on the horses and along the way mesmerized me so I didn't even feel the rain coming down.



I pinch myself daily at the good fortune that came my way in meeting Charlotte and Maggie. They gave me a Christmas present that I will never forget—and hopefully the start of living my dream!

## Advertise with us!

If you'd like to run an ad in the American Sidesaddle Association newsletter, *The Phoenix* it's super easy!

- ♥ A business card sized ad 3.5"x2" is \$20.00 per issue or 75.00 per year.
- ♥ A quarter page sized ad 4"x 5" is \$30.00 per issue or \$115.00 per year.
- ♥ A half page ad sized 8" x 5.25" is \$50.00 per issue or \$195.00 per year
- ♥ A full page ad 8"x 10.5" is \$75.00 per issue or \$295.00 per year.



Simply email your artwork or advertising details to: [marketing@amsidesaddle.com](mailto:marketing@amsidesaddle.com) and your payment may be made via PayPal to Monica Chapman our treasurer at [amsidesaddletreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:amsidesaddletreasurer@gmail.com).

## 2022 New Points Form

The new points form is ready for you to fill out for your activities this year. In the past, we have always had a paper form, but now we also offer the opportunity for to fill out our points form online! What counts for points? Almost anything sidesaddle related that your chapter or ASA is hosting.

For points related questions, be invited to reach out to Vicki Pritchard at [librarian@amsidesaddle.com](mailto:librarian@amsidesaddle.com)

To fill out our points form online, click here: [The new 2022 Points form](#)



### 2022 ASA Riding/Activity Point Form

Please submit only one event at a time-and only one member per form. For example, if there were a few of you participating in the same event, each person needs to fill out their own form. See awards rules for specific information. Also, evidence of the event needs to be apparent (such as the newsletter) or documentation emailed to Vicki Pritchard at: [cvp1193@twc.com](mailto:cvp1193@twc.com) acceptable evidence is a brochure, photos, a signature of attendance, etc.

Email \*

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)



## American Sidesaddle Association, High Point Awards: 2021, Top Winners Summary

### Competitive Awards

#### **Grand Champion, Senior**

Herlensky, Maggie (not accepting award)

Orr, Gael (WNY)

#### **Grand Champion, Junior**

Kenney, Aiden

#### **Reserve Grand, Senior**

Kenney, Delaney (OLA)

#### **Reserve Grand, Junior**

McAllister, Kathryn (SOLA)

### Top Ten Ribbons (above one point)

#### **Senior**

1. Herlensky, Maggie (SOLA)
2. Orr, Gael (WNY)
3. Kenney, Delaney (OLA)
4. Blaire, Pat (OLA)
5. McAllister, Bryan (SOLA)
6. Murphy, (OLA)
7. Baum, Barbara (OLA)
8. Musselwhite, Lisa (OLA)
9. Pritchard, Vicki (SOLA)
10. Morrow, Elizabeth (WNY)

#### **Junior**

1. Kenney, Aiden (OLA)
2. McAllister, Kathryn (SOLA)
3. Kenney, Kathleen (FOW)

For the total list of winners (which is 3 pages long) by point categories, refer to 'ASA Members Only' on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/asamembersonly/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/asamembersonly/) or on our website: [www.AmSideSaddle.com](http://www.AmSideSaddle.com).



**Our annual banquet will be held this Memorial Day Weekend in Philadelphia. Details will be posted in the up and coming weeks on our website and Facebook pages. We will also send out an email blast to our member list.**



To learn more about Pfunnane- You can follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pfunananequestrian> or you may visit or donate on their website: <https://pfunanane.org/>

## PFUNNANE EQUESTRIAN CENTER S. AFRICA ABOUT SARAH HAVER TERWEY

By Gael Orr

Sarah Terwey has to be one of the most remarkable ladies I have ever known. Sarah studied at Houghton College and took her horse she raised from a foal, Oklahoma Pie or "Opie", to college with her. I met Sarah at a farm where she became one of my riding instructors. She took a vacation from lessons and traveled to Africa. While there, she spent a couple of weeks volunteering at an orphanage, school, and equestrian center. It forever changed her life. When she returned from her trip to Namibia, she decided she was needed there and sold everything she owned. In fact, she sold the most precious thing she owned...her beloved horse Opie. Her experiences in Namibia soon led her to a school in South Africa in the nick of time, as the executive director at Pfunnane had just passed away a few days before her arrival. Stressed out and desperate to help, she relocated from Namibia to South Africa and took over the program. In the more than ten years that she has been there, she started an equestrian center, adopted more than a dozen orphaned children, got married and had a couple of biological children too! She's a remarkable lady and is always looking for people who are willing to travel there and help out for a couple of weeks at a time. When she was in Namibia, I visited her and trained horses for a week and volunteered to be a judge so they could have a horse show for the kids. If you ever wanted to go to Africa, I enthusiastically recommend you visit Sarah.



## PFUNNANE EQUESTRIAN CENTER S. AFRICA

By Gael Orr

Have you ever wanted to go to South Africa? Here's your big chance! My friends, Sarah and Mark Terwey run an equestrian center and educational academy in South Africa called Pfunnane. They have adopted over a dozen children throughout the years and are always in need of horse-oriented people, who also love kids, to come and volunteer.



I personally volunteered for a week when Sarah was working Namibia, and it was an experience I'll never forget.

The Pfunnane program is all about helping orphaned, abused, and neglected children. They do this by creating a loving environment in which the kids can thrive. They use horses to rebuild trusting relationships with children who have become emotionally shut down from the abuse they have suffered. Pfunnane is located in the town of Modjadjiskloof.

If you would like to go and volunteer, simply reach out to Sarah Terwey to learn how. [terweyfam@gmail.com](mailto:terweyfam@gmail.com)

# Our Equine Affaire Adventure

By Kelley McCarty, President NEWS

## DAY 1 Wednesday, Travel Day

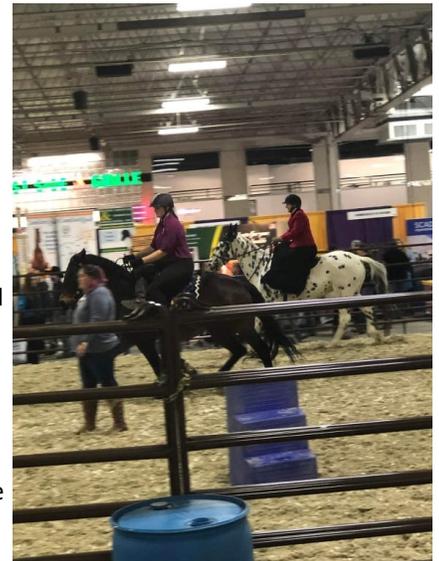
For the many times I've been to the Equine Affaire I've always entered thru the front gates, never knowing the maze of gates in the back for presenters and vendors. This year was different. We (myself and 4 students from my barn) were bringing two horses to the EA this year to participate in 2 sidesaddle demos. We arrived at the Big E late Wednesday afternoon and followed a steady line of cars, trucks and trailers thru what we surmised was the right gate...it wasn't. Thirty minutes and 3 wrong turns later we finally found E barn. We settled the horses in their stalls, unloaded and parked the trailer and set up the tack room.

Leaving Caitlin Tamula and Ceara Swartz with the horses, Meredith Colacino and I headed over to the Better Living Building to pick up the ASA's Welcome Packet. We wandered the Young Building until we found our booth space and began setting up what was to become our Home Away from Home for the next 4 days. Maggie Herlensky arrived with her bins and saddles and aprons (Oh my!) and after helping her to complete the set-up, Meredith and I went back to E Barn to exercise the horses before we called it a night. Little did we know that Wednesday was to be the easiest of our 5-day adventure.



## DAY 2 Opening Day of the Equine Affaire

A 6am wake up call, 4 women, 1 bathroom and 2 hungry horses started the day. We fed and exercised the horses, mucked and emptied buckets, changed our clothes in the tack stall and still managed to be at the ASA booth for the 9am opening. Our first demo was at 11:30; "The Basics of Riding Aside". Ceara Swartz rode Gibson, Hillcroft Stables' Percheron/Quarterhorse cross, in a modern Western sidesaddle, wearing traditional astride Western riding apparel. Meredith Colacino rode Ellie, Hillcroft's Leopard Appalosa, wearing a full side saddle skirt with a wool jacket over a chemise and corset. Her 140-year-old English side saddle was manufactured by Martin and Martin. I began the demo by explaining that anyone can ride side saddle, regardless of their current discipline, and no special apparel is required. After demonstrating two different mounting techniques (aside and astride) we covered the basics of a walk, trot and canter. Ceara even managed a flying lead change! The spectators asked questions during the entire 90-minute presentation and after showing two different types of dismounts (aside for Meredith and off the back of the horse for Ceara) our first demo was over! Meredith went back to working the ASA booth with Maggie while Ceara and Caitlin and I took the horses back to E Barn to cool off in preparation for our next (and final!) demo of the day, "Side Saddle Fitting" at 2:00.



While the girls brought Gibson and Ellie over to Mallory South (we had to use GPS to find the demo entrance) my husband and I brought various saddles and racks over to the demo ring. Meredith grabbed anything from the ASA booth she thought might be needed; saddle pads, numnahs, shims, girths and balance straps. I was so pleased to see that we had over 40 spectators waiting for us, many of whom had attended our earlier demo. With Ceara and Caitlin handling the horses, Meredith and I worked together to demonstrate proper and improper fitting saddles and ways to shim the saddle for a better fit. Our 60-minute demo ended up going into overtime due to all the questions from the audience. When it was over the horses were tucked back into their stalls and all the equipment went back from whence it came. Meredith, Ceara and Caitlin were hungry (we all missed lunch) and I had a sore throat from all the talking I had done. After grabbing snacks, we headed back to the ASA booth where Maggie, Vicki Prichard, Gael Orr and Suzanne Richardson had been having a very busy day. The booth stayed busy until closing time (7pm). Alas, that was not the end of our day. There were horses to feed and stalls to muck, and thru it all we couldn't stop talking about what a great day we'd had! Thanks to Vicki sharing her "points", we were able to shuffle some hotel rooms around and we were all looking forward to calmer morning routines.

*Equine Affaire Continued...*

### **Days 3 & 4 Friday & Saturday**

6 am wake up calls, 3 women and a kitten (Devo), 2 bathrooms, 2 hungry horses. I forgot to mention that the horses who were supposed to leave on Friday ended up staying thru Sunday because of wicked weather (monsoon like rains, thunder & lightning storms) and problems with the truck. This was how we learned about the comradery and generosity between vendors and exhibitors at the EA. Poulin and Lucerne Farms stepped up and provided grain and hi-fiber hay substitute for our horses for the duration of their stay, and the organizers of the EA delivered extra shavings to our stall.

Our mornings again consisted of feeding horses, mucking stalls and getting in some ride time, weather permitting. Then it was off to the Young Building to open the ASA Booth at 9am. We had plenty of dedicated ASA members to help staff the ASA booth this year. With so many people helping spread the word about the fun of side saddle riding we were able to make sure everyone had plenty of “shopping time”. I know, at least on our part, the shopping time was thoroughly enjoyed. By Sunday we were moving saddles around to make room for the shopping bags stored in our tack stall.



Friday evening, we enjoyed the special treat of attending Fantasia, an amazing show *featuring outstanding equine and equestrian performers*. (I couldn't find the words to describe the show, so went on the EA website. This was their description of the event.) And they were not wrong. The show was everything they described, and more. It was the perfect ending to our day.

### **Day 5 Sunday, Final Day of the Equine Affaire**

For as long as I've known Maggie she has set up the American Sidesaddle Association booth for the EA, worked all 4 days of the show and then dismantled the booth and carted everything home to Ohio. This year we gave her a reprieve. My husband helped her load up all her possessions, most of the saddles she brought, as well as saddles dropped off to sell on commission, and sent her on her way. She left Sunday morning. Meredith and I were fine with running the booth for the day and breaking it down at closing. I am pleased to say, we were unexpectedly busy. The EA closed at 5pm and we still had visitors to the booth at 5:30. We dismantled the booth and loaded everything into the back of Meredith's car. After driving back to the barn, we loaded tack, then horses, into the trailer and after a quick stop at Mc Donald's, headed home.



Throughout our entire time in West Springfield, we encountered so many amazing people. We learned the EA on-call vet was someone who had previously interned at Hillcroft Stables. She was happy to become reacquainted with our horses. We learned that in the barn, everyone was 'family'. There were always extra hands to help fill water buckets, pass out treats and hold open gates. And the food? The hardest part about lunch at the EA was deciding which food truck to visit. All were great. Dinners were a little different. After a day on our feet, talking (and shopping) continually, we were ready to sit back and be waited on. There are so many great restaurants in West Springfield and the surrounding towns; we sampled Italian, Puerto Rican and an occasional fast food.

The absolute best part of working and riding at the Equine Affaire was getting to meet, in person, so many members of the ASA. It was wonderful to work together to (as Gael Orr so eloquently put it) help “grow the sidesaddle community”.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE, Created by Audrey Sears

### Across

- 1) large square normally tooled leather around the outside of a western saddle
- 3) the final girth on an English sidesaddle used to hold flaps down
- 4) western leather strap used to tighten the cinch
- 7) named after the letter it looks like to attach English hunt cases
- 10) also known as the second pommel, invented in 1830
- 12) a strap to the right placed far back to hold the saddle still
- 13) under part of the saddle over the horses spine
- 15) the wood the saddle is built on
- 16) also called a French head
- 18) raise this to tighten the girth



### Downward

- 1) the leather under the right leg in front of the horn on the horses shoulder
- 2) a breakaway iron
- 5) the left side of an English tree that drops further than the right
- 6) furthest point top back of the seat
- 8) the edge of the seat on a Crestridge
- 9) the horn your right leg rests over
- 11) what you would tie your bedroll to
- 12) leather strap the girth buckles attach to
- 14) decorative silver or leather points on a western saddle
- 17) underside of the saddle against the horse sometimes padded with wool

