

# THE PHOENIX

American Sidesaddle Association





*Happy Valentine's Day!*

Winter Newsletter  
2023



*Lighting the way aside.*

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# THE PHOENIX

## FOR THE LOVE OF YOUR HEART HORSE

### FROM THE EDITOR, GAEL ORR

It's Valentine's month, the time of year we celebrate with the ones we love the most...our horse! Kidding aside, I hope that many of you are enjoying a "heart horse." We all know what a "heart horse" means don't we? It's that seemingly once-in-a-lifetime horse that truly understands us. (Notice I said, seemingly, more on that shortly.) It's that one horse who we connect with on some kind of mystic spiritual level. We love them the most, because they love us the most. Horses have the ability to express generosity, kindness and affection in a world where we often experience the very opposite. Their strength comforts us when we feel weak, and we reciprocate by being a safe haven for them. They can read us in a magically accurate way, better than most humans. They provide a safe place for us to share our vulnerability and they never retell our secrets. I think though what makes a horse-love so special, is that unlike a dog, a horse's trust is earned, not freely given. And what is love and friendship without earning trust and respect?

I have some good news though, your heart horse, isn't a once-in-a-lifetime horse. I've found I've had several heart-horses. I've owned ten horses in my lifetime so far, I've had three heart-horses. And in every situation, I thought that horse was, the "one and only," special horse. Imagine my surprise to find that wasn't the case! I think that is because, I've made room in my heart to love again, and again. I hope you have too. I also hope that this Valentine's Day you get some special time with the horse you love. I hope they make you laugh, I hope they take you somewhere fun, and most of all I hope they make you feel as special as you truly are. Cheers to our heart horses!



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



## VISION:

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



## MISSION OF ASA

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.



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Remember you can catch Maggie McAllister (President) and her Co-Host Audrey Sears (a JIC) on the first Tuesday of each month on The Horses In the Morning Podcast. For more information, to Sponsor an episode, or just catch up on previous episodes, you can look on the ASA website at <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/podcast/>





## From the President's Desk

By Maggie McAllister

I hope everyone had a joyous and not too stressful holiday season. We were busy here in southern Ohio.

In November, I hit the ground running, only sleeping in my own bed at home about 15 nights. I traveled to Texas for an amazing experience teaching a clinic to a fantastic group of ladies. The weather was perfect and everyone had a good time and, I hope, learned a lot. Oh, and hats off to the lady who fixed lunch. The best frijoles and carnitas I've ever had. My travels that weekend were pretty uneventful, but be sure to read about poor Gael's trip. Whew!

After a couple of days at home I drove to Massachusetts for Equine Affaire. Many thanks to Kelley McCarty and Meredith Colacino for getting the booth set up and especially to Linda Foshay for all the work she did every day of the event. She was like the Energizer bunny! I got to have lunch with my mom, Vicki Pritchard, before heading home. Who would think that her work assignment would have her within sight of the expo? After lunch, I started the long drive home. I was somewhere in western Pennsylvania when I got into snow. The weather report didn't have snow in Ohio so I thought I could press on and be home by around 3am. When I saw tracks in the snow going over the edge of the embankment and headlights at the bottom I decided that the next exit with a hotel would be a good place to stop. Just before that exit I saw the sign reading "Highest Point on I-80 East of the Mississippi". That explains a lot. By morning, the snow was gone and I was home by noon, but now I had even less time to prepare for the trip to Gettysburg. Miles to sew before I sleep!

Every year I say I'm not going to do as much sewing. Every year, my sewing machine goes all over the country with me. I knew I would be making granddaughter Katie a new ballgown. The one she wore last year has been taken in and let out for at least three different people and just doesn't have anything else to give. I had started a gown for Erin Peterson last spring that included a day bodice and a ballgown bodice. The ballgown bodice was cut out and I had started assembling it enough for her to try it on last spring, but hadn't put the lining or sleeves and other details on it. So, of course, I couldn't find the pieces cut for the sleeves and didn't have enough fabric left to make new ones. Argh! If you look at the pictures, I don't think it turned out bad at all with lace sleeves. I will have to make Katie a new riding habit for next year, but for this year I was able to just add some fabric to the side seams. This habit will be for sale if anyone wants it. 100% wool and mostly accurate to the time period. Includes slat bonnet helmet cover. While I was in Massachusetts I made sure to get to Osgood's Textiles for fabric. I kind of lost my mind in there. I had a list, but when Bob, the owner, started finding more things I needed... Well... thank goodness for the emergency credit card. It was an emergency. I got fabric to make Katie's ballgown skirt (yes, I had barely started the bodice at that point), fabric for both a new gown and a new riding habit for me for next year, fabric for a new apron to match my green hunt coat (Ralph Lauren wool and only \$17/yd!!), linen for saddle panels, and odds and ends of fabric that will get used for something someday. Really.





Gettysburg was amazing this year. Thank you, Gael, for organizing the tours and keeping track of all of the participants and the finances. The Jennie Wade tour was very interesting. I can't imagine what the people living in the town went through with a battle raging all around them for three days. Some homes were completely destroyed. We did a ghost tour again this year. It was freezing out, but we stayed huddled together and still managed to learn a lot. I got one unexpected photo. I'm not going to say it was a ghost, but I don't recall there being anyone there when I took the picture. As always, the parade was chaotic, but the crowd was appreciative, many of them in period clothing (I have learned not to call it a costume). We had a record number of sidesaddle riders this year, plus four astride riders. Many of our group were first time reenactors and did an excellent job with their impression and will be even better next year. Don't forget, ladies, the ASA library has lots of historical references including fashion magazines from the day and patterns based on those fashions. Kudos to those who braved the cold to ride out onto the battlefield. I didn't have it in me. I'd like to go back when it is warmer.

After barely two days at home, we were unpacked, repacked, and off again on another adventure. Robin Lawson and I traveled to Chicago with 5 horses for the Thanksgiving Parade. The parade people are always so organized. We knew exactly where to be and when. There were two other sidesaddle groups this year. Both were escaramuza teams. I know one was Ray of Hope Riders, but I didn't catch the name of the other one. They wore such beautiful outfits. First timer Kimber Goehl did great riding one of our standardbreds. I am so grateful to have had Robin along to keep me awake on the drive home. She had a bit of adventure that extended her visit with us. A wheel fell off of her Jeep! Thankfully, it was not far from us, so we were able to rescue her and make arrangements to have the car towed to a repair shop.

The day after Thanksgiving took us to a parade in Dayton, Ohio. Dayton is less than two hours from home so it shouldn't be too much hassle, right? Wrong! Katelynne and Char Stevens had traveled all the way from Connecticut to parade with us and got a trip they'll never forget. We got the horses unloaded, tacked up, and glittered. Both ladies got a quick introduction to their borrowed horses and sidesaddles. Char's girth wasn't quite tight enough and she got a slow-motion reminder that gravity is a law. Unhurt, she climbed back aboard, smiling. We were called to take our position and started down the street when our world came apart. A shot had been fired somewhere behind us. I wasn't sure it was a shot, but it didn't matter what caused the sound because there were a thousand people running straight at us. For a moment, I could imagine how Jack Sparrow felt with the cannibals chasing him. I yelled to the team "Shooter! Go!" and we tried to get our very well-behaved horses to go faster. Thank you to Dee Miller, our safety walker, for staying with us and trying to keep the crowd from getting stepped on or run over by a horse.

I feel like I've written a novel and I've covered less than a month! We did two other very uneventful parades in December, survived a Christmas blizzard, and oh yeah, Bryan and I finally got married. And while packing up all the mess from two months of sewing and wedding planning, I found Erin's sleeve fabric. Maybe I'll make her a matching purse out of it.

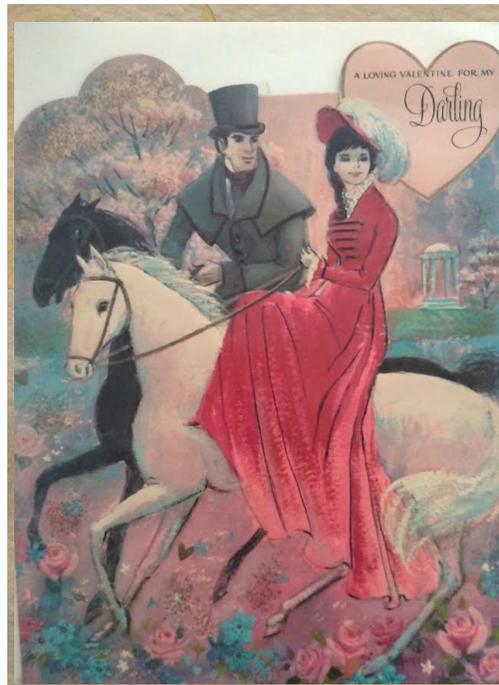
2023 is looking like it will be a busy time for ASA and her regional chapters. We are asking each chapter to try to do at least two events that either promote sidesaddle or raise money for ASA or both. If you'd like to help or have ideas, contact your regional chapter president.

Happy hibernating! I hope to see you all in spring! Be sure to check the calendar for events you might like to participate in.

Margaret McAllister, President  
American Sidesaddle Association



Photo Credit:  
[Ciara Costly](#) and her horse  
Finn-is-in-again.  
WNY Chapter



THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

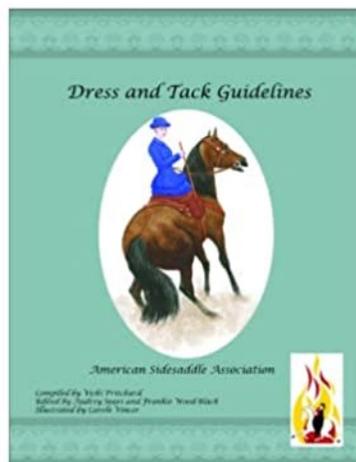
*Happy Valentines Day*

*All of our members of the*

*American Sidesaddle Association*

*XOXO*

### DRESS AND TACK BOOK FOR SALE



The American Sidesaddle Association Published a book! This book, compiled by Vicki Prichard is illustrated in full color by, Carole Vincer, and is called *Dress and Tack Guidelines*. It is a simple guide to the current rules and regulations of modern sidesaddle riding in the show ring. This is a wonderful companion for Judges and the modern horse-shower. You can find a quick link to it on the American Sidesaddle Website at <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/merchandise/>.



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## God Bless Texas!

By Gael Orr

I had the opportunity to Travel to Texas with Maggie McAllister to help out at a sidesaddle clinic with the Lonestar Sidesaddle Association. But I think they need to delete that word “Association” and replace with “Sistas!” and let me just say, those lades are sisters! I’ve never been to a clinic as fun as the one I went to in Texas.

The ladies hospitality was incredible. They set the bar high and if ever there was a clinic that was bigger and better, that clinic was Texas style, bigger and better! All day long we were serenaded by Mexican music, lunch was a spread of the best authentic Mexican food a girl could ever hope for, and just when I feared the day was over, a blender appeared in the middle of a big compound and margaritas were served in salted glasses with tortillas and salsa on the side! My favorites! But perhaps what made the clinic the best I’ve ever been to, was the new friendships. Let me tell you, these ladies know how to party with horses!

After all the saddle fitting fun was completed, the ladies mounted up, and the teaching began. But that teaching went both ways, because at the end of the day, the ladies dragged into the arena a bunch of obstacles and had an obstacle race aside! As it turns out, Texas is also the adventure state, and my adventure actually began the day before the clinic. My entire trip was one huge adventure. What should have been a 1 hour flight from my home airport in Rochester, NY to JFK was an 8 hour journey. Lost luggage, redirected flights, sprinting for gates, and driving through a tornado were all on the unplanned agenda for me!





The day of the clinic I borrowed some of Maggie's clothes. The next day, I purchased hair products and some under-things at CVS. I was in style with the my new CVS wardrobe wearing jeggings, underwear and socks, and a Hard Rock Cafe t-shirt of John Lennon. But something that is noteworthy is after styling my hair earlier that the morning, I was shocked at how effective the hairspray was. It had literally glued to my face! And imagine the continuing surprise, when I yelped out loud inside the car being equally alarmed at finding my hair had also stuck to the inside of the roof of the car! Maggie and I both burst out laughing!

I now know why there is a song that says, "God Bless Texas" because I think it takes a big blessing to be part of the adventures that Texas has to offer. But I digress, I met some of the most AMAZING ladies I could ever hope for! The clinic was a HUGE success and I made some really wonderful new friends. In fact, I'd say all the travel hardships, wardrobe and hair malfunctions were really worth it because of the new friendships. I even got to practice my Spanish a little bit, which was super fun. Thank god for the Lonestar Sidesaddle Sistas because they made me love every moment of



my weekend (except the airport). Maggie and I had a ton of fun, we went on a boat ride on the Riverwalk, ate some great food, got to play with horses all weekend and ultimately enjoyed buying some Charra saddles. Other than the airline industry and a bite from a retrained Mustang with a chip on his shoulders, it was an incredible experience. I can't wait to go back!

## Charra Saddles—From the Librarian

By Vicki Pritchard

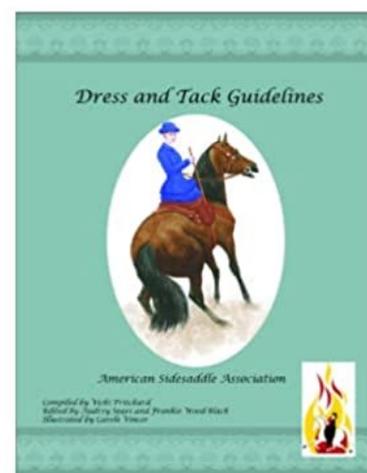
The Charra is the traditional Mexican sidesaddle that can be ridden aside or astride. The saddle is built on an astride tree with the seat slung hammock-style between the fork and the cantle. These saddles can be rigged aside or astride. Older Charras are narrow and do not generally fit modern North American horses, but modern Charra saddles are wide and fit a great variety of horses. The feel of contact with the horse is less with these suspended-seat saddles and the rider sits higher above the horse's back. There is a bit of shock-absorbing in the suspended ride. Because of the relative ease of fit for horse and rider, the Charra is a good basic saddle to use for getting acquainted with the art of aside riding. Historically, young women often rode behind their fathers or brothers, who rode in front, astride.

When they arrived at a Charreada event, the off-side stirrup was removed and the saddle was used aside by the young woman for her Escaramuza group show class. A traditional Mexican equestrian event, the class for women, known as the Escaramuza, showcases women riding aside as a group in synchronized maneuvers. The term means "skirmish" and the choreographed team-riders execute complicated exciting fast precision drill maneuvers to music. The excitement of the display is palpable and is always a crowd-pleaser. The Escaramuza is the tenth and final event in the Charreada, the national equine sport of Mexico. The ladies wear traditional Mexican outfits, full circle skirts, usually Adelita, the attire of women during the Mexican War for Independence.

The skirts are draped over both sides of the horse. The outfits are colorful, have a fitted bodice, high neckline, and often also long sleeves. Crinolines are worn underneath with white pantaloons tucked into boots. Sombreros are worn. The skirts are a safety issue because of the risk of entanglement should a fall occur. Velcro side openings can help defray some of the risk. Molding a sombrero over a safety helmet can help with the risk of head trauma for young riders. Escaramuza teams consist of 16 ladies, but only 8 at a time ride in the displays. The routines are practiced in the lienzo, the circular arena. The U.S. Nationals are held on Labor Day weekend. Grand finales are held in Mexico, with 80 total teams from both sides of the border. The Traje, the women's counterpart to men's traditional gala suits are another costume often seen for riding in other types of formal shows and parades with Charra saddles. The Traje consists of a short jacket over a blouse, and a skirt of dark suede or heavy cloth. The skirt can sometimes be replaced with a safety apron. Western style boots are worn with the Traje.

For more information about this saddle and the types of riding traditionally associated with it, members should purchase the American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) booklet titled, "Dress and Tack Guidelines" compiled by Vicki Pritchard, written with input from a great many members. It costs \$10 on Amazon or you can contact Vicki at [cvp1193@twc.com](mailto:cvp1193@twc.com) to purchase one from her. The proceeds go to ASA. You can find a quick link to it on the American Sidesaddle Website at <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/merchandise/>.

The ASA Library has a book titled, "Charrería Mexicana: An Equestrian Folk Tradition", by Kathleen M. Sands, from Tucson University of Arizona Press. This book is available for loan from the library. Contact Vicki for details.





## Charra Passion

By Gael Orr

I purchased my first charra saddle, not for myself, but for my lifelong friend Chrissy. Chrissy is a left handed person and loves to ride sidesaddle on her Polish Arabian, Tucker. I was at the Massachusetts Horse Expo in 2021 and found an offside charra saddle, surely this had to be a unicorn saddle! But I was wrong, they aren't as hard to find as you'd think. I took the chance that it might fit her horse, and brought the saddle home with me. I took it out to my barn and tossed it on my mare, Ivy, who happens to be Tucker's half sister. They are nearly identical in every way, shape, size, color, and gaits. Sure enough, the saddle was nearly a perfect fit! I had little doubt it would fit her horse, and it was offside! Perfect for a lefty like Chris! Since that purchase, my horse sustained an injury that meant she too needed an offside charra saddle. So I purchased another off-side charra saddle that I found on Ebay.

My mare Ivy had sustained an injury slipping on ice and tweaking her left hock and her back. My vet said she should probably never be ridden sidesaddle in the typical way, nearside. Fast forward another 6 months and I headed to Texas on the quest to find a charra saddle for the WNY Sidesaddle Chapter. After the ladies rode in one, they loved the seat security and the comfort the charra had to offer. And it seemed to fit the Arabian type horse and topline. I then decided to head to San Antonio to a sidesaddle clinic our Lonestar sisters were hosting in hopes of finding a charra. It was there that I actually purchased two more charra saddles. So what's all the hype about? Why are these saddles so great?

**Strengths:** Well first off, it's hard to argue with the price! Charras are super affordable starting around \$700 for a gentle used one. They are also very seat secure, you are really tucked in, and it's almost difficult to lose balance in them. They are also very comfortable to ride in, the seats are well padded. They are also very pretty! Be sure if you get one, that you make sure there is a maker's mark on the saddle (pics right). The trees are also extremely durable and these saddles are made from good quality leather and are durable. You can get your charra in either a nearside or offside set up, and if you can't find an offside set up, it's easy enough to drill into the huge tree and have a leaping horn added by a saddle fitter. The upper head is U shaped, which means these saddles are extra easy to convert to offside riding and are automatically ready to go for your preferred riding direction. Charras also have two stirrups on them so that a groomer can ride astride and deliver the horse for a lady. So this saddle already has stirrups set up on each side of the tree!

**Weaknesses:** The trees on these saddle can run a bit narrow. The seat is high off of the horse's back, which means you don't feel as much contact with the horse. The stirrups are not safety stirrups, so you will want to swap out the western stirrup before riding. These saddles typically don't have a balance strap, although some do, so you will want to use a roper's string girth to help keep the saddle from listing. These saddles are tricky to find unless you live near the Texas/Mexican border or can go to Mexico to get one. The stirrup doesn't hang under your hip, your leg actually drapes slightly behind, so you have to work at sitting upright as the saddle will want to pitch you forward slightly.

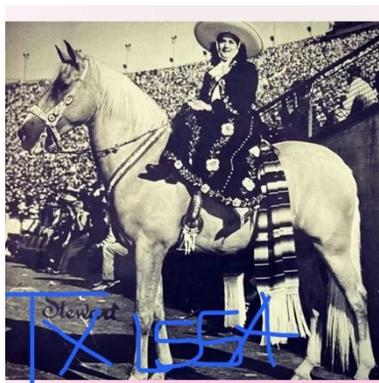


Armada Reyes is our cover photo for this month. She is from the Lonestar Sidesaddle Association riding in a charra saddle.





## Charra Saddles-The Beginning



### MONTA MEXICANA THE BEGINNING

Evolving from traditions brought from Spain in the 16th Century, the first charreadas were developed after the Mexican Revolution (November 20, 1910 - 1 February 5, 1917). The charrería is a national equestrian tradition in Mexico that was inscribed December 1, 2016 on the list of INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY. Practitioners also see this tradition as a way to transfer important social values such as respect and equality for people in the community and younger generations. Since 1942 the Charros has remained a part of the Mexican Army Reserves.



### FIRST APPEARANCES OF WOMEN

In the 1920's women began to have an official presence as the charros's elected Queen, at that time, was la señorita Ana Maria Gabucio. It was the moment when possibilities were opened for women in the Charrería. In 1937 Queen Rosita Lepe together with her father Don Filemon Lepe adapted the charro's attire/suit to be worn by women, and were not satisfied with it thus they devised a new design for the traditional saddle since for women to ride aside on the charro saddle was uncomfortable (they were secure with the right leg hugging the head of the charro saddle) and created very dangerous conditions. Resulted in creating the Albarda Charra (Mexican side saddle). The saddle for women that could now be mounted safely and with style which was built on an astride tree.



Although the Mexican National Sport has centuries worth of history, the opportunity for women to open the way came years later. First named ballet equestre (equestrian ballet), then on March 22, 1953 at the Rancho del Charro of the National Association of Charros rode the first Carrusel Charro. This team which was made up of girls and boys between 6 and 7 years old would later evolve into the Escaramuza Charra that we know today.

### ESCARAMUZA CHARRA

Is the only female equestrian event in the Mexico Charrería, the skirmish consists of a team riding horses in synchronized maneuvers choreographed to music. The women ride in albarda charra and wear traditional Mexican clothing that includes hats/sombrero charro, ranchera dresses or charra suits (faena or media gala) Jalisco boots, and matching accessories. A team would consist of up to 16 women, but today only 8 will compete and travel at a time. The routines are practiced in a circular lienzo or riding arena. Because Escaramuza dresses are based on historical clothing worn during the Mexican Revolution, there are strict guidelines for all.





### MEXICAN SIDE SADDLE - ALBARDA CHARRA

The albarda charra is built on a Charro bar tree without the large head/horn, leaping horn is required and square skirts are almost all lined with sheep, wool, or felt.

- ♥ Cinches
- ♥ Safety stirrups (2)
- ♥ Rosettes
- ♥ Saddle leather strings
- ♥ Fenders
- ♥ Front rigging
- ♥ All leather and suede seat flaps; degree of decoration can vary ex. Lisa/plain, piteada, chumeteada, with canteens.

### MEXICAN ATTIRE

- ♥ Ranchera Dress (Adelita dress)
- ♥ Faena suit
- ♥ Half Gala suit
- ♥ Gala suit
- ♥ Grand Gala or Etiquette
- ♥ China Poblana dress

The attire suitable for the Mexican Escaramuza Charra depending on the occasion is in a different style. \* Ranchera dress (inspired in the country living influences and Revolution clothing worn by Mexican Soldaderas or Adelitas) is the most popular among the others and consist of the following characteristics; circular skirt fabric cotton, poplin, linen, tergal, embroidered strip and traditional shawl or rebozo. It can be made in one piece ( full dress) or two pieces ( blouse and skirt). The size should be at the waist, not the hip. The skirt must have an olan/wave all around the lower part of it and at the end of it. Crinoline which must be made of natural fibers in white, ecru or beige and should be starched. Trousers or undergarments must be made of natural fibers, elastic at the waist, no closure, no bags, and long enough to the ankle as it is worn inside the Jalisco boots. Hair style must be low to accommodate the sombrero and hair bow.

The Jalisco boots in leather, suede, must have a horseshoe on the outside and colors according to dress or suit. Shawl or rebozo, its use is mandatory and it is worn tied at the waist with a knot on the left and on the band of the dress. The Sombrero Charro can be made in wool, felt, rabbit hair, soyate, palm, with gold, silver and alpaca pins “chaptetas”. San Luis style moderate or hacendado style with a toquilla/ trim that can be embroidered in pita, suede, gold or silver thread as well. Spur is only on the left boot.

Artes de Mexico V50, De Charros.com., Wix.com., Wikipedia

Photos of Charra Queen Rosita Lepe and her saddles are property of the Samperio Lepe Family, used by permission of Jimena Samperio Retamoza (Rosita’s granddaughter and former Queen of Federación Nacional de Charros as well in 2004)



*Pictures of Maria T. Ramirez, wearing a ranchera dress and Faena suit, founder of the Texas Side Saddle Association*

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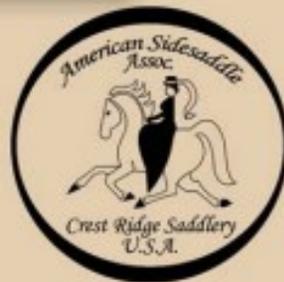


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## CLUB PINS– WEAR THEM PROUDLY!

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.



## Riding Sidesaddle at the 4th Annual Christmas in the Village Horse Parade in Lebanon Ohio.

By Teresa Runions, Southern Ohio Ladies Aside

I have been riding astride off and on all of my life. I have also always been interested in trying new riding disciplines besides my passion which is dressage. Earlier in 2022, I took part in a wonderful sidesaddle clinic and was hoping for more opportunities to ride aside. When Maggie Pritchard McAllister invited me to ride in a sidesaddle Christmas parade close to where I live, I jumped at the opportunity. I got to ride in an adorable holiday elf costume on a lovely mare named Fern. Though I was a bit nervous about riding sidesaddle for the second time, I enjoyed the entire experience. The crowd was vibrant and cheerful, as were the other people who were riding with me. They were quite helpful, and encouraging. I had a wonderful time and hope to ride sidesaddle again soon.





## Chicago Parade

By Kimber Goehl, SOLA

Long before I ever became a member of the ASA, I actually had quite fond memories of the group. Every year on Thanksgiving, my family would make the drive down to my Grandparents house to celebrate the holiday. Thanksgiving day was always accompanied by the TV being on showing the Chicago Thanksgiving Day parade. I must have been 7 or 8 years old, and as my parents and grandparents were scurrying around the kitchen and dining room to set the table and display all the food they had been preparing for the past 24 hours, I sat on the outdated living room floor with my head 2 feet away from the TV screen, watching all the parade performers go by. Right before I was called to come sit at the table to eat, I vividly remember watching a group of side saddle riders passing in the parade adorned with bright, traditional wear and an assortment of groomed and decorated mounts. Seeing those riders appear on the TV before I had to leave the room was a very specific memory that has pretty much always stuck with me.

After hearing my slightly theatrical backstory behind my history with this parade, you can imagine how elated I was when the opportunity to ride in it came up. In the weeks leading up to the parade, I excitedly got my outfit coordinated, hair dyed the appropriate Christmas colors, oiled my saddle, and made sure to go to bed early for the big day. Since I am 'young and spritely', I decided that the best course of action to get to the barn to meet up would be to simply leave at 2:30 in the morning and drive over. After 2 ½ hours of loud music and caffeine, I arrived and the group we had for the day quickly went to work cleaning stalls and packing belongings in the trailer and truck. Once all was cleaned and loaded, we were on our merry way to Chicago.

After a brief drive we found where the trailer needed to be parked, then quickly unloaded horses and began grooming. By far, the most stark thing about being in Chicago is how small you feel when surrounded by skyscrapers and massive buildings. Not being able to fully see the horizon, if at all, and the only glimpse of the sky at a direct 90° angle above your head is an experience that really cannot be replicated in any other context. That environment coupled with mounting on a horse and waiting for your positioning in the parade is something I can only describe as surreal. The stark contrast of riding in any other traditional sense, whether in a field, arena, or wooded trail, is so commonplace when you are put on a street in Chicago. Your brain can't help but think "this is very abnormal".

As we got in our correct place in line, the parade experience quickly began. People lined the street far past where we were introduced into the flow of marching bands and dancers, all eagerly watching and waving. Even from stacked apartments people watched and bided their greetings. After walking our way through the city for around 10 minutes, we got to the arguably most exciting part of the parade. The live cameras! Waiting for our cue to start walking through the filming area, I already had a huge, sincere smile on my face and started waving at everyone like I was a princess.

Once we had passed through the filing area, it was time to start a short stroll to the trailer. As I was untacking, the adrenaline had started to dissipate and I was left blissful, yet very tired! All I remember from the drive back was a brief discussion of the experience we just had, followed by me sleeping while I could.

Riding in the Chicago parade with such wonderful women was truly an honor, and I know it will be an experience I will remember and cherish fondly for years to come



## Spencerport Christmas Ride

Each year, Jen Rogers from WNY Chapter hosts a community ride to spread holiday cheer in the village of Spencerport, NY outside of Rochester. She's been hosting her ride for many years and this year was no different except this year, four local newspapers wrote a story about the tradition and published it. From year to year, she has a different sized groups that attend. Last year she had 12 horses, and this year four. The community looks forward to the horses that prance around the village dressed in holiday attire and Christmas bells. The ladies always manage to ride past the local nursing home and wave through the windows at the on-lookers. Shown right is one of the articles.



## A Soup You Will Love

### Maggie McAllister's Famous Beer Cheese Soup

You will need: one stick butter, an onion, a carrot, 1 cup flour, 2 cups milk, 1 carton chicken broth, 1 bottle of beer, 1T ponzu sauce (worcestershire or soy is ok, too), 1 pound cheddar, 1/2 pound swiss, 1 package of smoked sausage.

Melt butter in a big pot. Add a chopped onion and a chopped carrot. Cook those down a little and add flour. Whisk that in and add chicken broth, milk and beer. If you use a dark beer or IPA you get more beer flavor in the soup. For a lighter flavor, use an ale. Add ponzu sauce, wash your sister sauce, or soy sauce. Bring all that to a low boil and whisk in shredded cheddar and shredded swiss. Slice the sausage into bite-sized pieces, sizzle in a skillet for a few minutes and blot with a paper towel. Add to the soup and let it bubble on medium heat for a few minutes to get the flavors mixed in. You also add a little garlic to the first step. Salt and pepper to taste.

Soup's on! Refrigerated leftovers will be a solid. Cut off a hunk of soup and microwave.





## Tack Cleaning

By Audrey Sears

A life with horses means that you're never bored. Horses come with responsibilities and chores; they are unavoidable.

One of the chores associated with riding is cleaning tack. Cleaning tack gives you the opportunity to inspect leather for cracking, tearing, thinning, or stretching. Taking the time to care for your equipment pays dividends in prolonging its use for many years – even decades, and it gives the rider a clean, professional looking “turnout”.

Cleaning a sidesaddle has its own set of challenges. Historically, a lady's sidesaddle was often made to be “pretty” – sometimes even ornate. They commonly had stitched or tooled designs in the leather. Additionally, sometimes different types of leather or cloth were used in its construction. These would give the saddle a unique appearance or would sometimes serve a safety function. The downside to this complex construction is that this can make cleaning and repair difficult. Then consider that some of the best-made and most desirable sidesaddles are many decades old, and often neglected, and you potentially have a difficult task ahead of you.

Begin with the basics; give your saddle a wipe down using a hand towel to remove dust and any loose debris. Check the underside of the saddle. If it's flocked or has a cloth serge, use a dandy brush or a stiff brush to get rid of loose hair and dirt. If your saddle has doeskin or suede on the seat, horns, or the safe, brush these with a soft brush (a boot brush, or a horse face brush) using short, sharp, flicking strokes. DO NOT use saddle soap on doeskin or suede. It will dry it out and ruin the soft finish. You can find doeskin cream or suede cleaner online if the saddle is quite bad.

Remember that antique saddles require special attention. Many of the old stitches were made of wax covered cotton thread. After years of use, the wax wears away leaving the cotton exposed to the elements which accelerates its demise. Newer synthetic cleaners further the damage to the thread and can potentially render the saddle dangerous to use. Make sure to use a cleaner that has a natural base – like beeswax. These will help both the threads and the leather. The use of natural based leather conditioners and oils is always preferred.

If you are dealing with a saddle that has had regular care or a newer saddle, maintenance should be done as usual. Use a glycerin-based saddle soap on a tack cleaning sponge to clean the leather and use a leather moisturizer or neats foot oil to keep the leather supple. Lastly, use a toothbrush dipped in silver polish to clean silver and buckles.

Now we need to pay attention to the safety pieces such as breakaway or quick release stirrups, buckles, stirrup safety releases, and any hinges on the off side that hold saddle flaps in place. Use a very light sewing machine or hair clipper oil to lubricate the metal parts. The goal is to have no rusty spots and springs will not catch and hinges can move freely.

As you clean and check over your tack, remember that you are doing this for your own safety, the comfort of your mount, and the long life of your expensive equipment. Occasionally, you may come across loose stitching, cracked or broken leather, stiff safety releases, holes or tears. If you feel like you need help or advice, consult one of the American Sidesaddle Association's JICs. They can advise you or recommend a suitable saddler to make sure your saddle can last many more years to come.

## Cleaning Doeskin

*“Do not use saddle soap on doeskin or suede. It will dry it out and ruin the soft finish. You can find doeskin cream or suede cleaner online if the saddle is quite bad.”*



## Horses and sweet potatoes?

Ulcers, 60-90% of show/performance horses have ulcers. Humans created stall confinement, grain and commercialized feeding. Horses are meant to spend all day, outside free grazing. "In a natural grazing situation, a steady flow of acid is required for digestion, so a horse's stomach produces acid 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – up to 9 gallons of acidic fluid per day, even when not eating." So what happens to that acid when there's no roughage to break down, ulcers. How do we treat and prevent ulcers in our barn? We preventatively treat each horse with omeprazole paste the week before and during each showing. It's cheap, easy and effective!! Want further benefits? It's in the common grocery store sweet potato! Why?

On top of protein and dietary fiber sweet potatoes also have a very good selection of vitamins and minerals:

- ♥ Vitamin A – As well as boosting your horse's immune system and strengthening his bones, Vitamin A can also help to reduce the risk of cataracts.
- ♥ Vitamin C – Like Vitamin A, Vitamin C can help to improve your horse's immune system but it can also help to heal wounds and keep your horse's teeth, bones, and cartilage healthy.
- ♥ Vitamin B5 – Part of the B complex vitamin group, Vitamin B5 can help to keep your horse's coat in good condition. It also works to aid digestion, especially in the digestive tract.
- ♥ Vitamin B6 – Another B complex vitamin, it's known for its ability to reduce the symptoms of some forms of arthritis as well as keeping the eyes healthy. If your horse suffers from depression then Vitamin B6 can help with this.
- ♥ Vitamin E – Known for its ability to fight infection, Vitamin E also works to maintain healthy skin, eyes, and even a healthy coat.
- ♥ Potassium – You might not realize it but potassium is actually one of the most important minerals in the body, it works to keep a horse's muscles working properly and will also help to reduce tiredness after exercise.
- ♥ Manganese – Not only does manganese help to keep your horse's bones strong and healthy but it can also reduce inflammation. In my opinion, though the biggest role that manganese plays is in the regulation of blood sugar, this means that it may be good for horses that suffer from conditions such as Equine Cushings Disease."

Maybe you will consider adding sweet potatoes to your show horses regimen, we have, and we have seen outstanding results! Our biggest sweet tater eater in the barn is 17+ hand gentle giant He's Forrest Gump! They helped him gain over 300lbs and help to curb his proneness to colic. Thank you to Dr Mendenhall at Equine Services for your recommendation!

Source [horsefactbook.com](http://horsefactbook.com)





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## Sidesaddle Riding and Driving Devotion

By Gael Orr

It came as a big surprise to me to learn how many of our sidesaddle ladies drive horses. I know most of us all additionally ride astride, but driving to me seemed a bit out of the ordinary. You may have noticed this past year, that most of our virtual shows and challenges had a carriage driving component, and that is why, because so many of you drive! I find that to be very exciting! I can't help but speculate, is it because so many of us repurpose the standardbred race horse into sidesaddle mounts? Is that just a coincidence? I also wondered if it had to do with the elegance of both sports? There is much in common in that sense. For me, I came into the sport of driving for an entirely different reason, my lesson ponies.



I started a riding school through USA Pony Club several years ago. I found that ponies can be pretty spunky and sometimes altogether snotty. By driving or long lining my ponies, I could touch up their training, being far too large to actually ride them myself. I saw driving as a means to an end, getting my horses' minds back into the riding lesson game, so to speak. Through a sidesaddle clinic, I met a wonderful lady, also an ASA member, Tricia Anselm. (Sidebar, Trish is now a dear friend of mine who I adore in every way!) Trish saw that I was a really raw beginner at driving and it was lucky if I put the harness on my pony correctly. So she joyfully stepped in to teach me. It wasn't long after driving my key lesson pony, Danny that I acquired my former racing standardbred, Bunny. Soon after that I ended up buying a horse-sized harness for, Bunny and the new sport began, driving! I then added carriage driving as part of our challenges for ASA, almost on a whim, to see if anyone would participate in that division or if anyone would ask me why I added it. Excitedly, I found carriage drivers in ASA, and a whole lot of you, joining the driving division! And how fun that has been seeing the driving logs come in from all over the country!

Here is what I've learned in the last year driving, you can take driving lessons! Imagine?! The best trained horses are the ones that also know how to pull a cart. Driving touches up your horse's training. It helps your horse stand still at the mounting block; as the halt, is the most important gait. Driving helps the horse focus on you and they depend on you for communication. This translates to the saddle where they become better listeners. Driving enhances my rein contact and posture. Yes, posture, you didn't misread that; I have to really make sure I'm sitting and using my core in the carriage. Carriage driving breaks up the boredom and your horse has a chance to enjoy something different, and so do you. And finally, driving introduces you to new people where you make new friends, and that's always a bonus if you ask me.





## 2023 Calendar

- March 18-19** — Western New York Equifest
- March 31- May 2nd** — Indiana Equine Roundup
- April 13-16** — Equine Affaire
- April 14-16** — Midwest Horse Fair
- April 23th** — Northwest OH – Sidesaddle Clinic
- April 30** — Kentucky Derby Festival
- May 13** — West Virginia Strawberry Festival
- May 19-21** — ASA Banquet Weekend
- June 2-4** — North Dakota Horse Expo
- June 6-10** — Germantown Charity Horse Show
- July 14-16** — Breyerfest
- November 18** — Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade



### Maggie McAllister's Signature Cocktail

Drunken Girl Scout: 1 oz pre-mixed Mint Julep (with the bourbon, sugar, and mint already in it) and 7 oz chocolate milk. Purists can use their favorite Mint Julep recipe and instead of pouring over ice, add chocolate milk. Garnish with a Thin Mint. Crushed cookies on the rim is yummy. Use hot cocoa to make it a Hot Drunken Girl Scout!



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### 2022 Awards Senior Division:

**Grand Champion-** Gael Orr

**Reserve Champion-** Audrey Sears

**Clinic Care-**

Laurie Post

(tie) Gael Orr, Bryan McAllister

**Exhibitionist-**

Audrey Sears

Gael Orr

**Media Outreach-**

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

**Most Active JIC-**

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

**Overland Trail (number of events)-**

Gay Schuldt

(tie) Kristina Brereton, Erin Peterson

**Wet Saddle Blanket (Trail Mileage)**

Tina Louie

Gay Schuldt

**Trail Hours**

Tina Louie

Julie Normand

**Show off-**

Samantha Chamberlin

Deb Knudson

**Virtual Show Off-**

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

**Social Butterfly-**

Gael Orr

Jen Rogers

**Street Cruiser-**

Gael Orr

(tie) Liz Juba, Mike Orr

**Practice Makes Perfect-**

Gael Orr

(tie) Suzzanna Richardson, Delaney Kenney, Adrienne Klicker

**Draft Horse Award** (heavy workload)- Lori Volkmar, Suzzanna Richardson, Mike Orr, Bryan McAllister, Carrie Hedges

**Board Members workload-** Gael Orr, Audrey Sears, Maggie McAllister, Vicki Pritchard, Monica Chapman

**Bad Ass Award-** Tina Louie for her sidesaddle ride across the Grand Canyon

### Top Ten:

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

Suzzanna Richardson

Bryan McAllister

Jen Rogers

Elizabeth Juba

Laurie Post

Mike Orr

Delaney Kenney

Debra McNicholas

### Chapter High Point

Western New York- Gael Orr

Southern Ohio Ladies Aside- Laurie Post

Columbia River Sidesaddle Society- Delaney Kenney

Northern Illinois Sidesaddle- Diana Kocunik

Friends of the West- Samantha Chamberlin

Garden State Sidesaddle- Erica Parriot

Kentucky Sidesaddle- Linda Klein

Wisconsin Sidesaddle- Erin Peterson

Northeast Ohio Ladies Aside- Kristen Wade

North East Women's Sidesaddle- Kelley McCarty

Sidesaddle Around New England- Nancy Cecil

Tennessee Sidesaddle- Sue Duncan

Side Saddle Sisters of Oklahoma- Frankie Wood-Black

Mid-South Sidesaddle-Pam Gamble Anderson

Hoosier Ladies Aside- Sarah French

Arizona Aside- Tina Louie

Lone Star Sidesaddle Association- Jennifer Scates

California Aside- Megan Titus

Prairie Ladies Aside- Tracy Dykstra





**Junior Division:**

**Grand Champion-** Katie McAllister

**Reserve Champion-**Trenton Konzel

**Clinic Care-**

(tie) Amelia Murphy, Haley Atwood

**Exhibitionist-**

(tie) Katie McAllister, Clayton Sears

**Media Outreach-**

(tie) Clayton Sears, Maggie Tallman

**Trail-**

Katie McAllister

**Show Off-**

Katie McAllister

**Virtual Show Off-**

(tie) Cuylar West, Aiden Kenney

**Social Butterfly-**

Katie McAllister,  
Trenton Konzel,

**Street Cruiser-**

Trenton Konzel  
Katie McAllister

**Practice Makes Perfect-**

Katie McAllister  
(tie) Annabelle Reynolds, Naomi Stewart

**Draft Horse Award-** Trenton Konzel, Katie McAllister, Cuylar West

**Top Ten:**

Katie McAllister

Trenton Konzel

Cuylar West

Clayton Sears

Tytus Sears

Naomi Stewart

Maggie Tallman

Annabelle Reynolds

Aidan Kenney

(tie) Amelia Murphy, Emily King, Gabriel Stewart, Haley Atwood, Jessy Sears, Liam Benedette, Teagan Batt



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## Safety Stirrups FAQ

By Audrey Sears

**What is a Safety Stirrup?** A Safety Stirrup or a quick release stirrup or a breakaway Stirrup, is a stirrup designed to allow the rider's foot to come out of the stirrup quickly and easily in an emergency. The mechanism to release the rider's foot is normally triggered by the weight of the rider's foot hitting it in the event of a fall.



**What are some types of safety stirrups?** There are many types of safety stirrups, ranging from spring-loaded, peacock (rubber band), hinged, and even magnetic! They can come in both English and western styles.

**How do I size my stirrup?** A proper sized stirrup can help aid in the event of an emergency with a safety stirrup. A proper fitting stirrup should fit the width of the rider's foot at the ball of the foot and add an inch.



**How do I know if my safety stirrup is on correctly?** Make sure the safety release is to the outside of the foot, or that it can open/operate without catching on the horse, rider, or any other tack. If you have bought new stirrups they may come with instructions on how to install them or even care for them, you can check the companies' websites for more information on them.

**How often should safety stirrups be checked?** Safety stirrups and all safety equipment should be inspected before each use. Be sure to take time to maintain them with regular tack cleaning. The United States Pony Club recommends that rubber bands in peacock-type stirrups be changed every six months or sooner if the rubber bands display cracking or tearing.



**When should I retire my Safety Stirrup?** A safety stirrup should no longer be used if the safety feature has been compromised. If the stirrup is bent, broken, the spring or hinge will not easily release or if the magnet no longer holds. Also if the stirrup is too big or too small for the rider it should also not be used.



## My Gettysburg Adventure

By Laurie Post

After years of being an American Civil War enthusiast and reenactor, I finally made it to Gettysburg! I attended the Gettysburg Remembrance weekend with the American Sidesaddle Association. It was a wonderful weekend, filled with formal balls, the Remembrance Day parade and a tour of the Jenny Wade house. I also got to have lunch with friends from my old mounted artillery unit.



The horses stayed at Artillery Ridge Campground, which was very nice, I would love to bring Selah there in warmer weather. I rented my favorite mare, Café, for the parade. Cafe was of course wonderful as always. Thankfully, I brought my wool cape, my light California weight wool habit didn't keep the cold and wind out. Next year I'm hoping to wear a much warmer habit, but with Murphy's law it will probably be sunny and 70. I had so much fun in the parade, riding sidesaddle down the streets of Gettysburg and listening to the bands playing the Bonny Blue Flag, Dixie from the Civil War era. Some of our members went on the Ghost tour Friday evening, they were very cold but enjoyed it. Instead of the Ghost tour, I attended the ball at The Gettysburg Inn with Terrill and her grandchildren, we had a wonderful time. I haven't worn my ball gown for over 20 years, it was a joy to put it on again. I worked very hard to shed the 20 pounds needed to get back in the gown and corset, it was all worth it. Saturday I attended a second ball at the Wyndham hotel with more of the ASA ladies, it was lots of fun.

I can't wait to return to Gettysburg with the sidesaddle ladies next year. In 2023, however, I hope to allow time for more sightseeing. For ASA members that haven't attended Remembrance weekend, I highly recommend it, you won't be disappointed.





## Our Hearts In Gettysburg

By Maggie McAllister

A record number of American Sidesaddle Association members attended the festivities at Gettysburg this year, traveling from nine states. There was so much to see and do during the weekend that it was hard to decide. Along with all of the shops and museums there were a variety of balls plus tours of historic places and did I mention shopping? Many thanks to Gael Orr for organizing group tours of the Jennie Wade house and a ghost walk on Friday. I'm not saying I got a picture of a ghost, but I don't remember there being anyone in the yard of one of the homes on the tour. If you've never been to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, do the ghost walk when it is warmer. It was a very interesting tour, but it was very cold that evening. Finding out that a previous tour had found a long dead soldier's arm unearthed in the creek near one of the field hospitals was even more chilling.

Some members attended a Friday night ball at the historic Gettysburg Hotel on the town square while the rest of us were freezing. Nearly everyone attended one of the Saturday night balls, with most going to the one at the Wyndham Hotel. Everyone had a wonderful evening swirling around the dance floor. The ladies wore a rainbow of beautiful gowns and the gentlemen were dapper, including Audrey Sears' two young men, Clayton and Tytus. One of the poor little guys fell asleep sitting up in a chair. He was so tired from the day's activities.

But of course, the whole reason for the trip was the parade on Saturday. We had 17 riders in the parade, including 12 ladies riding aside, plus our safety walkers and pooper scoopers. Riders represented 9 different states. It wasn't as cold as it had been for the ghost tour, but we were all thankful for wool riding habits and extra layers. The parade went a slightly different route this year that seemed a bit longer. The sidewalks were packed with people in warm modern clothing as well as reenactors in period clothing. Riding down the street, surrounded by buildings that had witnessed the Battle of Gettysburg, and seeing so much of the crowd in period dress, one could almost imagine they were riding down a street in 1863. Reenactors of all ages were there, including several in wheelchairs. I even saw a historically correct wheelchair. After the parade, most of the group rode down a side street back to the trailers, but a few brave souls went with the mounted band down Taneytown Road to the stables.





### *Gettysburg continued...*

A few brave souls also rode out onto the battlefield Sunday morning. It was bitter cold and windy, but they were determined. Yours truly stayed at the barns and cleaned stalls. As I shoveled, I thought about how fortunate I was to be able to take part in this experience. The parade and the other events are held every year to honor and remember those from both sides who died in the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech there 159 years ago, on what would become Remembrance Day. It was less than two minutes long. It consisted of only three paragraphs.



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.



But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



## Thanksgiving on the Run

By Katelynn Stevens

Hello there! I would like to say before anything else, I have never done this before, so any mistakes in my writing are my own. One day while scrolling through Facebook, I saw that Maggie was looking for riders for the Dayton's Children's Christmas Parade. It was set to be for Friday Nov 25, 2022 at night. And I knew my family's Thanksgiving plans fell apart so I was looking for something to do. So, I threw my mom and myself into the ring. Now, we have only been to one sidesaddle clinic and we have never ridden in a parade before. But, it was something relatively new to us and we like going on adventures so my mom agreed even though it is about a ten hour drive from where we live. I start looking at places to stay, but the problem is that we usually travel with at least two dogs – most times three! As I'm sure you guys know how hard it is to travel with pets, I did find a place that was decent. But, this was the time around the Massachusetts Equine Affair and we ran into Maggie at the sidesaddle table. She graciously offered her trailer as a place to stay to save money. Maggie and I go back and forth for a few days working out details on Facebook. In end, our friend (Doug) comes along (with his dog) to help drive out to Ohio.

We leave after work on Wednesday, so we have some time to recover and rest. The drive out was not too bad, Doug did all the driving while I kept the dogs happy in the back. The only problem was that he drove to Bainbridge Township and not Bainbridge, Ohio so that added about two hours to our drive. Once we make it to the trailer we crash until morning. Thanksgiving Day was quiet. Maggie was out at the Chicago Parade and we met her fiancé, Bryan and their dogs and horses. Bryan invited us to Maggie's mother's house for a Thanksgiving Day meal. We were not sure if we would go, seeing as we had the dogs and we do not like to leave them behind. However, we were in luck, the yard was fenced in! We go and meet Maggie's mother. She was very kind to allow so many people to her house and feed everyone. I find the ASA library and look through the books (I love books; they make me feel at peace). We have a delicious meal and relax.

When it is time to leave, Maggie's mom gives me three books and a bookmark. I thank you again, they are great!

Friday rolls in and my family and I go out for breakfast. We find a local diner and find it excellent. I even tried fried bologna! If you are ever out in the Bainbridge area, I recommend The Paxton Restaurant. After breakfast, we go for a drive to check out the sites. We find the roads to be funny how they are straight, then hilly, then you find yourself running down a mountainside and into a curve. We head back to the trailer for some lunch and to let the dogs out. After lunch, we just hang around the farm and say hello to the horses while we wait to load up for the parade. We also get a tour of the saddle shop. It is amazing to see all the work that goes into the saddles. About three o'clock I help Maggie feed the horses so we can grab them out of the field. We then clean them up and load them into the trailer. We hit the road so we can get to Dayton around 6pm. Now, Maggie asked us to wear either plain green or red sweatshirts or a Christmas helmet cover so we can be elves. Which my mom and I did, we twinned it and wore the same outfit! Once in Dayton, most of the roads were closed so we had to drive around for a bit to find our spot.

Once in our place, we start unloading everything (horses, tack, parade items). Maggie assigns everyone a job. I got to put lights in the horses' manes while my mom did ribbons. Once the horses' were looking good and festive, we got the riders ready. Maggie gave everyone skirts and gloves and it was time to mount. Bryan and Maggie helped everyone to mount, especially my mom and I, seeing as this is our second time. I am given Q to ride and my mom is on Fern. We test our horses out while we wait for the parade to line up. Q seems to like to go to the opposite end of the street. All of a sudden, I hear my mom say, "I think the saddle falling off the horse!" I look over and she's hanging off the saddle sideways. Maggie is telling her to take your foot out of the stirrup and stand up. But, someone does not listen and rolls off of Fern. She hits the ground and her elbow takes the hit (and it still is a bother to this day). My mom gets back up and without any hesitation gets right back on once the girth is tightened.



The parade manager comes by and tells us it is time to line up. I am slightly nervous at this point; I've never ridden in parade so I do not know what to do. Maggie puts my mom and I in the front along with Bryan. The parade starts and we are off and going. The children are pointing at the horses and waving with big smiles on their faces. I start smiling and waving back while trying to get a feel for the saddle and Q. I quickly learned he does not really like to step on manhole covers. So, I have to try to avoid them or have the ground crew help me. The saddle itself is completely different to me but it feels secure and rideable.

Suddenly, we hear a sound like a car backfiring. Bryan's horse, Gina wants to break into a canter and he's trying to hold her back. I do not really think much of it. I live near a few cities and work in a city. So, I figure it was nothing. And then I hear Maggie scream, "Gunshot! Go!" I glance over at her and see that she is white as a ghost. I soon see why. The crowd is panicking. And it was like a wave coming toward us. I urge Q into a trot, but I do not really know how to ask for a trot in a sidesaddle, so I think he went into it because everyone else was trotting. It is sheer craziness. People are running everywhere. They are cutting in front of us. Dogs from another group are barking at us. People were leaving their chairs, blankets, etc. all around us and just trying to find safety. We make it to the corner of the parade while fighting the crowd. It is calmer, people are waving still. We start waving back too but at this point we know the parade is over, people were in their cars trying to get out. We make it back to the trailer and quickly dismount. We then tear the horses tack off and get everyone loaded up. Everyone who was in the parade made it out safely as did Doug who was watching from the sidelines.

We drive back to Maggie's trailer and I start eyeing the news sites. We made the local news! This is the first time I've been in the news and we were caught by the cameras. We also made YouTube as I later found out. The news stated, "...initial information indicates that at least two girls were fighting and a boy pulled out a weapon and fired into the air. A shell casing from a handgun was recovered. No arrests were immediately announced..." (11News, by the Associated Press). My mom and I were disappointed that the parade got cut short and the children did not get to see the whole pa-

rade, but we were glad no one was hurt. And went to bed for the night.



Next morning, we pack up for the drive home. Maggie and Bryan come out and we all decide to go out for breakfast. Over the course of breakfast, Maggie and Bryan tell us about Gettysburg, and get us interested. Perhaps this year we can give it a try! Maggie and Bryan kindly paid for breakfast and we again thank you. After breakfast, they took us to a local shop that also has a circus history room that was cool to see. I would like to check it out again someday. We were going to check out a local bakery but it was closed for the day and we had to hit the road. Honestly, I do not remember what time we got back home, but that is all right, we completed an adventure, and now it is time for the next!

Sources:

Staff, WHIO. "Police Confirm a Shot Was Fired during Dayton Children's Parade Downtown; No One Injured." WHIO TV 7 and WHIO Radio, WHIO TV 7 and WHIO Radio, 26 Nov. 2022, <https://www.whio.com/news/local/report-shot-or-shots-fired-ends-dayton-childrens-parade-downtown/XHAZ4Q5UJREOFKLBKOWZR35ZXM/>.



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# Welcome

## New Members



Arizona Aside	AZA	Nicole	James
Florida Ladies Aside	FLA	Abby	DiLecce
Florida Ladies Aside	FLA	Brandi	May
Kentucky Sidesaddle	KYSS	Liam	Benedette
Kentucky Sidesaddle	KYSS	Jessica	Orsagh
Kentucky Sidesaddle	KYSS	Hannah	Orsagh
Kentucky Sidesaddle	KYSS	Jan	Rochester
Kentucky Sidesaddle	KYSS	Gabriel	Stewart
Lone Star Sidesaddle Association	LSSA	Kadette	Fossum
Lone Star Sidesaddle Association	LSSA	Raegan	Miller
Lonestar Side Saddle Assoc	LSSA	Sarah	Durst
Lonestar Side Saddle Assoc	LSSA	Leslee Kay	Hurwitz
North East Womens Sidesaddle	NEWS	Candice	Lapierre
Northeast Womens Sidesaddle	NEWS	Lindsay	Shea
Northeast Womens Sidesaddle	NEWS	Diana	Urick
Sidesaddles Around New England	SANE	Tam	Cristman
Sidesaddles Around New England	SANE	Gabby	Smart
Souther Ohio Ladies Aside	SOLA	Christopher	Graham
Western New York Sidesaddle Chapter	WNY	Emily	Hoster
Western New York Sidesaddle Chapter	WNY	Cheyenne	Murat
Western New York Sidesaddle Chapter	WNY	Gavyn	Sears
Western New York Sidesaddle Chapter	WNY	Nikki	Tyler





## 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).



Trenton and Annabelle posing with Welsh pony, Danny - WNY Sidesaddle Junior Members



## **American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) Banquet weekend, May 19-21, 2023**

The awards banquet, held in 2023 for the previous year's awards, will be hosted by the Southern Ohio Ladies Aside (SOLA) in Chillicothe, Ohio. Chillicothe is an active restored Victorian town, on the Smithsonian's list of the top ten must-see small towns in America. One of the buildings is the oldest continuously operating theater west of the Alleghenies. The downtown area offers shopping, restaurants, antiques, and trolley transportation. During the banquet weekend, participants will receive points for each separate attended activity. Several planned events are on the agenda for Friday and Saturday. Attendees must register separately for each one. Any funds collected above the actual costs will be donated to the ASA.

### **Friday, May 19, 2023, 1PM**

Attendees may wish to arrive in time to attend the Instructor Certification and Saddle-Fit Clinic, by Maggie McAllister, ASA President. This will be held from 1PM to 4PM in the horse barn at the Ross County Fairgrounds, 344 Fairgrounds Road, Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601. Horses will be provided for the demonstration. Those who are seeking certification can lease a horse on site. If you bring your own horse, stabling must be arranged with Maggie, so be sure to contact her. There will be no jumping at the clinic. All participants must sign a waiver and, if needed, a lease agreement for horse and/or tack. The cost of the clinic will cover the venue rent. There will be a sack lunch provided. This is a separate registration. Cost per participant is \$25.

### **Hotels and Accommodations, 2 nights**

Check into your hotel or other accommodations after 3PM on Friday. The closest airbnb to the banquet venue and in the heart of downtown is the newly renovated, The Principal, 79 N. Paint St. There is off-street parking and 3 bedrooms to sleep 6. This apartment has already been paid for and reserved for ASA. The cost is \$200 per person, for the weekend, with check-in on Friday and check out on Sunday. This is a separate reservation. Be sure Vicki Pritchard [cvp1193@gmail.com](mailto:cvp1193@gmail.com) has your phone number when you make a reservation, so that Maggie, Bryan, or Vicki can be on hand to ensure that you get a smooth check-in for this apartment. There are other bed and breakfasts and airbnb's in the town, should you wish to use one. Hotels in the town's outskirts are as follows: Holiday Inn, Christopher Inn, Best Western, Hampton, Fairfield, Quality Inn, and America's Best Value. Make your own reservations for these.

### **Closest Airport**

Fly into John Glenn International, Columbus, Ohio (all major airlines) or Rickenbacker Airport (Allegiant Airlines). One of the SOLA members can pick you up at the airport. Both airports are less than one hour from Chillicothe and both have rental car venues.

### **Friday evening, 6PM**

Dinner at the ASA Library, 355 Sunset Drive, Chillicothe, Vicki Pritchard's house, where the library is housed. Enjoy a meal and beverages (alcoholic too) with the gang, peruse the library, and participate in the yearly in-person business meeting. This is a separate registration. The cost is \$25 per person for the catered meal. Please note any dietary needs. This is a separate registration.

### **Saturday, May 20 th , 11AM to 4PM**

The Annual Banquet luncheon meal will be held in the City Park at the Pump House Center for the Arts, 1 Enderlin Circle, Chillicothe. The cost is \$45 per person. Please specify dietary needs. This is a separate registration. After the meal, the earned and nominated awards from last year's high point participants will be presented. Those present will have their awards in hand and members not in attendance will have theirs mailed. There will be a White Elephant sale to benefit the club. Tickets for the raffled white elephant items will be sold. The items do not have to be equine-related. Please bring a nice item for the white elephant. Last of all, there will be a fashion show, so wear your favorite costume or riding habit. Prizes will be awarded.

### **Saturday evening and Sunday morning**

On Saturday evening, relax and visit together. Maggie will have something fun planned and several suggestions of things to do. Check-out Sunday morning. Some members may want to accompany Maggie on a tour of the Adena mansion or of the Hopewell Culture National Park.