

Inside this issue: Virtual Events, Gettysburg Registration, Hunter Trial, Saddle shipping

# THE BABY PHOENIX





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### Gettysburg Registration Open:

[https://  
americansidesaddlea  
ssociation.com/  
gettysburg-2023/](https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/gettysburg-2023/)

### SUMMER MINI NEWSLETTER 2023



*Lighting the way aside.*

### THE BABY PHOENIX

### ATTENTION ALL HORSE ENTHUSIASTS!

The American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) is buzzing with excitement, and we can't wait to share it all with you in our new (hopefully one-time issue) Baby Phoenix newsletter!

This micro-edition of our quarterly newsletter is packed with information about all the amazing things happening in ASA right now. From virtual events to the annual Gettysburg retreat, there's something for everyone.

Here are just a few of the exciting things you can look forward to:

- ♥ Virtual events galore: We're hosting a variety of virtual events throughout the remainder of this year.
- ♥ The annual Gettysburg retreat: This year's retreat is sure to be our best one yet. We'll have a battlefield ride, the Remembrance Day Parade, history tours, a ball, and plenty of time to socialize.

Fantastic things happening in chapters across the country: Our chapters are always up to something fun. Check out their websites or Facebook groups to see what's happening near you.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events! Gael

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





## WHIRLWIND OF TEACHING

### From Maggie Pritchard McAllister, President of the American Sidesaddle Association

I had a whirlwind week of teaching sidesaddle clinics and saddle fitting all over New England! Last Thursday, I was at Breakaway Farm in Grand Isle, Vermont. We had a great group of riders, and we learned a lot about sidesaddle riding and saddle fitting.

On Saturday, I was at Blazing Star Stables in Monmouth, Maine. This clinic was for youth riders, and it was so much fun to see their excitement and enthusiasm for sidesaddle. One of the auditors at the clinic brought a saddle to sell, and one of the riders brought her horse and was looking for a saddle. I was able to match them up, and they were both so happy!

On Sunday, I was at New England Equestrian Center in Athol. We had a group of 11 riders, and they all came from different riding backgrounds. It was a great opportunity to share the joy of sidesaddle with riders of all levels.

Today, I'm teaching private lessons at two barns on Long Island. I'm so excited to get back to teaching and sharing my love of sidesaddle with others. For Labor Day weekend, we will be camping with the ladies from WNY Sidesaddle Club.

I'm looking forward to a busy and exciting fall season. Gettysburg is quickly around the corner, and I look forward to joining many of you there. Giddy-up!!!







## PERFECT PARTNERSHIPS STARTS IN OCTOBER - VIRTUAL EVENT

By Karol Kafka

Define your own Challenge tasks around the unique needs of your horse. Whether it's building trust, rehabbing an injured horse, introducing skirts and costumes, or practicing for a horse show, you determine your areas of focus. Log all time spent riding aside or astride, driving and working on your chosen Challenge tasks.

Submit a short video (under 3 minutes) explaining or demonstrating your selected Challenge tasks. Have fun making your video submissions. In addition to a beautiful participation ribbon, we'll award ribbons for:

1. Most Creative and Entertaining Video Submission (under 3 minutes)
2. Most Informative Video Submission (under 3 minutes)
3. Best Historic Representation Video Submission (under 3 minutes)
4. Best Show Practice Session Video Submission (under 3 minutes)
5. Seriously in Sync Video Submission (demonstrating strong horse-to-human interaction, under 3 minutes)

This Perfect Partnerships Virtual Challenge also includes a photo contest. You can submit up to 3 photos per category:

1. Scenic Settings Photo Category-Your horse, with or without you, in beautiful natural surroundings.
2. Images with Impact Photo Category-A dramatic shot of your horse, with or without you, perhaps silhouetted at sunset, surrounded by snow crystals, or captured at peak performance by a show photographer. Feel free to creatively apply filters and/or photography/editing techniques to enhance a stunning image.
3. Your Earliest Riding Experience Photo Category-Share the oldest photo you can find of yourself/child/student riding a horse or pony.

For just a \$40 entry fee, you can participate in both the Perfect Partnerships Virtual Challenge and the Photo Contest. AND THE ENTRY FEE IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. This contest, run by CA\_Aside to benefit ASA, is scheduled to take place in October. Register here: <https://forms.gle/5jCLSw1n47d1aGkS7>  
Registration is open from September 1-October 5th.





## CAMARGO HUNTER TRIALS– JOIN US!

**By Becky Trasser**

82nd Annual event is October 7, 2023 and will include a Side Saddle division first thing in the morning. The side saddle division starts at 8:30 AM, Location is Cincinnati Ohio (45243). This is a fun day of equestrian competition and a friendly Tailgate competition as well. If you don't ride, consider getting a "Ringside" parking spot and getting in on the Tailgate judging and just enjoy the day, or there is a VIP tent with food and drink if you prefer to come and spectate!

Class description Side Saddle Hunter: Rider is judged. Horse/pony should have manners suitable for carrying a side saddle. Side Saddle Equitation Walk/Trot- Riders enter the ring together and are required to walk, trot on the right rein, followed by a change of rein through trot left before being called into line. Side Saddle Equitation Walk/Trot/Canter- Riders enter the ring together and are required to walk, trot, and canter on the right rein, followed by a change of rein through trot and canter left before being called into line. Side Saddle Equitation Jumping Cross Rail O/F – Judges consider effective horsemanship, suppleness, poise of the rider, presentation of horse/pony to the obstacle, the rider's position and the fluency and correct style of both the horse/pony and rider when over the obstacle and landing. The course comprises 4-6 fences, rustic, colored, or a mixture.

Registration and be the day of, or online <https://camargohunt.com/home/huntertrials/>.



### ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO

Meet Raelynn with her pony Gussy and her saddle named Miss Gussy. Raelynn rides with WNY Sidesaddle Club and has been in many parades this summer. This is her shown at the Phelps Parade in Phelps, NY. Raelynn just got her very first sidesaddle and is hoping to ride in it in Gettysburg this year.



## SHIPPING A SADDLE

By Sam Reeves

You thought it was the perfect saddle. On paper, everything matched up, with tracings, seat size, suitable for your discipline... but you sat in it and immediately hated it. No matter what you tried, you couldn't get comfortable. Regretfully, you listed it for sale. You bought a good saddle, though, and it sold quickly, for your asking price! Hurray! Your client is super excited, and can't wait to get their saddle. Except they're six states away. Now what?

Shipping a saddle is a daunting task. Everyone has a horror story about a package that never arrived, or arrived in so many shreds, it was barely worth calling a package any more, and that's from the big companies that ship every day. A saddle is also a large, heavy item, which makes it unfortunately expensive. With major commercial shippers, you're looking at \$60-200, depending on the service, size, and distance.

The preferred method of shipping for ASA is the "Sidesaddle Express", an informal network of people traveling. In our example, a saddle is for sale in Florida, and purchased by someone in New York. If someone is traveling from Ohio to Orlando, they might be willing to meet with a seller, pick up a saddle in Florida, and transport it home. Then someone going from Ohio could pick up the saddle for its next leg to New York. This method takes time, but the saddle never leaves experienced hands.

Your client is on a schedule, though, and needs their new saddle in hand for a show. You have no choice but to rely on a commercial shipper. You know that the local shipping store has no experience with packing something as valuable and delicate as an antique sidesaddle, so you're going to pack it at home before drop off.



The first step is to find a sturdy box. Hardware stores have large boxes for sale, but you can also find very sturdy boxes from your local big box warehouse store—check the clothing department. Check the bottom of the box for the certification stamp. It will have oodles of information about how sturdy your box actually is. This box is rated to hold 65 pounds, can take 200 pounds of pressure per square inch before it ruptures, and is made of double-wall cardboard, rather than single. It's a very sturdy box, and will meet your needs well. (This was a clothing box liberated from Costco for free, and was used to successfully ship a saddle.)





### *Shipping a Saddle Continued...*

Now that you have your box, it's time to prep the saddle. Remove anything that can be removed, such as the leaping horn, girth, balance strap, and stirrup. Bag these up, and tie it tight. A plastic grocery bag works well. Pad any edges of your saddle, including the cantle, upright, and long point. Bubble wrap or packing foam works well for these parts. Take your padded saddle and put it in a garbage bag. Take your grocery bag of parts and tape it to the garbage bag, and bag it again. If you put the saddle into the first bag pommel first, bag it cantle-first the second. In the event that your box does break, all the small pieces are contained and wrapped securely, as well as protected from moisture. As an added bit of insurance, put a shipping label inside the bag with your client's name and address, as well as your return address.

Take your bag-wrapped saddle and put it in the box. Make sure it's not too snug a fit. If the box is overly tight, any time the box is struck in the shipping process, the saddle is taking the blow, rather than the padding, and you're risking damage to the client's saddle. Pad up void space to keep it from rolling around. Empty bottles, smaller boxes, or if you're in the Midwest, raid that bag full of grocery bags for padding.



Warn your client that you'll be using clean, empty bottles to fill void space, instead of something more annoying but conventional like packing peanuts. You don't want them horrified to open a box and think they got your week's garbage by mistake!

In this image, there is an extra layer of padding between the cantle and the edge of the box as protection. The saddle is also supported from the bottom by a piece of styrofoam, so if it's dropped, the tree doesn't take the impact. More filler was used on top of the saddle and in the corners after the photo was taken.

Finally, secure your box. Use a good-quality tape. If you're aware that your local warehouse can be a bit rough, you can even go so far as to use duct tape. Tape across the center, and along both edges in an H-shape. Secure a label with your shipping information to the outside of the box.

The final step is getting the boxed saddle to the store, and shipping it out. Don't cheap out here! Insure the saddle for the full sale price. Most shippers include \$100 of insurance, but typically, you can't replace a sidesaddle for that price. Pay for the insurance, as well as tracking and signature confirmation. You don't want your hard work to be spoiled by an ambitious porch pirate! Your client can make a free account with most shippers and have the package held at their local store, if they can't be home for delivery. Send your client a copy of the receipt including tracking information, and call it mission accomplished!

Good luck and happy shipping!



## 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).

