

*The American Sidesaddle Association's*

# PHOENIX

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# The American Sidesaddle Association

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# The ASA Phoenix

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Back issues of the ASA Phoenix are available online at the ASA Members Network Yahoo Group.

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Front Cover: Youth Art Contest Winner was Michelle Litterio, NJ. Her winning entry graces our front cover on this first issue of our second year.



*NAGs at the National Historic Site, the 1800's restored house at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. Participants include, from left to right, Hal Bergstrom (Coordinator), Heppner, OR; Judy Hastings, Pomeroy, WA; Elaine Garcia, Genessee, ID; Debara Whitmore (on foot), Waitsburg, WA; Sherron Woodside, Ione, OR; Rita Bergstrom (on foot), Heppner, OR; Pam Hummell, Airway Heights, WA; Sherry Cobban, Clarkston, WA; and Mariana Subis, Lewiston, ID. Photo Submitted.*

**ASA is proud to have Northwest Aside Group (NAGs) as the newest ASA affiliate organization. Welcome them as you learn more about their adventures.**

## **NAGs Look Back at 2008**

**by Deb Whitmore**

The year started early for the Northwest Aside Group with drill team performances and a clinic at the Horse Affairs Expo in Boise, Idaho in the rather chilly month of February. NAGs determined the event a total success due to the immense response to the clinic given by the team and led by certified sidesaddle instructor Judy Hastings. Had the members not needed to pull out early on Sunday to get home for work on Monday (Boise is a very long haul for most members), the Expo management would have added a second clinic. They have asked us back and asked that we provide TWO clinics this time!

Along with smaller parades in the spring months, NAGs participated in the Spokane, WA Lilac Festival Torchlight Armed Forces Parade. This is a very large televised night parade and we put lights amongst the

flowers on the breast collars of our horses. We didn't place this year, but that just makes us more determined for next year! We then won a second night parade in Moses Lake, WA.

Northwest Aside Group currently has members from three states and the sharp increase in diesel prices necessitated some changes in our normal way of doing things. The club effectively split up—temporarily—with members representing the group at the parades closest to them. We came together at the bigger parades and at drill performances.

In August, NAG made its debut in Montana at the Wild West Fest in Helena. This fundraiser for a Living History program was really neat. Held at the historic Klefner ranch with the most amazing restored barn, it featured several vendors and many re-enactors. We were joined by a detachment of the Second Calvary, among others. Skits were performed in an area with mock up buildings each day and a Frontier Ball found four NAGs members attending in period costume. They were kept very busy on the dance floor, twirling through the old time dances.

This event also saw the return of public relations director Debara Whitmore, who had been extremely ill with

a Multiple Sclerosis attack ( and not expected to leave a hospital bed, if she survived) the previous year. She was on foot, but in costume and walking about promoting sidesaddle.

While the Oregon based NAG's started out on Thursday, spending the night at a RV park with corrals, the rest of the group met at a central location early in the morning on Friday and set out in a caravan of 6 horses and 9 people - in three gooseneck trailers and one car, to Helena, an 11-hour haul. The Northwest Aside Group is eco-friendly - we "trailer pool," taking as few rigs as possible.

While one performance was cancelled due to lightning, the audience, and management, loved the performances given! At another event a month later I found out the Wild West Fest had told the directors of the next event that they really needed to have us there! Be professional and always do your best, it truly is a small world, and word, good or bad, spreads fast.

Two weeks after the Wild West Fest the combined Northwest Aside Group rode in the Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Parade—a large parade in this part of Washington state—earning second place. It was a bit ironic when we lined up less than a block from the hospital where a member had spent months fighting to regain the ability to function, only a year prior. That member was with us, sitting sidesaddle on a 16 hand mare. She threatened to ride her horse through the hospital, "to show them what they know!"

Early September found us once again in Montana. The Montana Academy of Living History asked Instructors Debara Whitmore and Judy Hastings to give a three hour seminar during their Living History Week at the historic Grant - Kohrs Ranch—a National Historic Site—on Friday, and, conveniently, the NAGs were invited to perform at the Big Sky Draft Horse Expo at the fairgrounds across the road that weekend.

Although the class was cancelled, we did end up doing a impromptu clinic with the help of fellow NAG's, Coach Hal Bergstrom, his wife Rita—both of Heppner, OR—and Sharron Woodside of Ione, OR. After the clinic Judy, Rita, and Debara rode around the historic ranch – mounted aside of course! The tourist and the park rangers got a big kick out of this!

The Big Sky Draft Horse Show in Deer Lodge, MT, was a blast! Along with performing our drill, we were asked to have part of the team lead the Grand Entry and part ride at the end of it. We ended up with the three mules in front and the horses at the end. Rita Bergstrom and Deb Whitmore took pictures and video of the performances, posed for photos, and answered lots of questions! Leaving the waiting team prior to the first performance, they almost didn't make it into the stands in time to tape the performance, because they were stopped so many times for photos of the two of them in their Victorian walking costumes!



*The 13th Big Sky Draft Horse Expo held at Deer Lodge. The NAGs performing a close order wagon wheel. From Left, Sharron Woodside, Mariana Subis, Pam Hummel, Elaine Garcia, Judy Hastings, Sherry Cobban. Photo submitted.*

The management was kind enough to allow us to house some of our animals across the road at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. They were treated to large paddocks with automatic waterers and run-in sheds, making for very happy animals! Each day we would saddle up at the ranch, ride down a trail along the road, and cross to the Fairgrounds. It was a really nice little ride.

We were very well received at this event. They especially loved it when we circulated around in Victorian costume and answered innumerable questions about sidesaddle. We could hardly walk 5 feet without being stopped for pictures and questions! NAG also had a small display on the history of the western sidesaddle in the "Quilts and Carriages" show under the grandstands.

NAGs was blessed with permission to take photos at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, in front of the beautifully restored

Victorian house with its white picket fence. A tourist was delighted to take the photographs so we could all get in the picture. The only NAGs missing were Dick Hastings and Emily Bergstrom.

The Big Sky Draft Horse Expo was our last big event for the year. As we started looking ahead to next year, deciding what events we would like to take part in, we also decided to finally create Bylaws and join the American Sidesaddle Association.

Regardless what the new calendar looks like, we know one thing. The NAGs will be coming aside and smiling. You have been NAGged!



*Adjusting the fit of the sidesaddle. Karol Kafka in the saddle. Left to right on the ground: Ute Wirth, Wendy Martinez and Lillian Chaudhary. Photographed by Tricia Lopez and used with permission.*

## Sidesaddle Fitting Trials and Tribulations

By Karol Kafka

For many riders, locating a properly fitting sidesaddle is no simple undertaking. When I decided I wanted to start riding aside, I Googled “sidesaddle” and found lists of regional organizations with some phone numbers in nearby area codes. The first person I reached was Kari Johnson. Kari was very encouraging, told me some of the things I would need to look for and avoid in terms of fitting requirements. She explained that the

saddle not only needs to fit the horse’s back but also the rider’s thigh length and seat width (sometimes a challenge for those of us with broad undercarriages!).

Kari also told me that the expense of insurance in California has forced many former sidesaddle instructors out of business. She did give me the number of Feather Tippetts-Rosica, who fortunately happens to live close to where my horse is boarded. I contacted Feather and without hesitation, she invited me to her home to see her sidesaddles.

### The Sidesaddle Sisterhood

This was my first experience with the supportive, generous nature of the sidesaddle sisterhood. Feather took measurements to determine what seat size I would require and showed me canes, sandwich boxes and other sidesaddle accessories. She took pictures of me wearing a vintage sidesaddle apron, sitting atop one of her sidesaddles mounted on a saddle stand. Those photos served as inspiration to see me through the frustrating months ahead before I finally obtained the “right” sidesaddle that works for both me and my horse.

While I was at Feather’s house, she called saddlemaker Lillian Chaudhary. Lillian didn’t have an English saddle in my size, but referred me to Marti Friddle with Hundred Oaks. After several phone calls and looking through Marti’s online saddle catalog, I decided on the Elan.

I studied the instructions on Marti’s website and understood the concept of doing a withers tracing, but instead of using a wire coat hanger, I bought wire from the hardware store that would be more pliable. Unfortunately, the wire I used had too much flexibility and didn’t accurately hold the curve of my horse’s back. I did three withers tracings, but did not feel confident that any were very reliable. I mailed all three to Marti; two were nearly identical at the top so she went by that and shipped me an extra-wide Elan.

### My First Sidesaddle

When the Elan arrived, Feather came to my stable to take a look. Her assessment was that the saddle seemed like it “ought” to fit but nevertheless slipped decidedly to the right. Imagine my disappointment when, after several months of waiting, I was unable to even attempt mounting the saddle on my horse! Of course I had imagined that after some basic instructions and a few

practice circles around the arena, I would take off in a graceful canter aside! Clearly that did not happen.

Fortunately, Feather needed the stuffing adjusted in one of her sidesaddles so we called Lillian and arranged to meet at a point between our locations. Feather hauled our horses on what, with heavy traffic and road repairs, turned out to be a five-hour trip. We stabled the horses overnight in order to meet Lillian and her apprentice Ute Wirth for saddle fitting the following morning.

Lillian took one look at the extra-wide Elan and immediately advised sending it back for something less wide through the gullet. As a former bareback rider unfamiliar with saddles and fitting requirements, I didn't understand what she was trying to explain to me. It was very shortsighted on my part, but I was fearful of racking up a lot of expense from shipping various saddles back and forth across the country, so I pressed Lillian to just "fix" the saddle fitting issues on this end. After some persuasion, Lillian reluctantly agreed to take the Elan and rework it with an extensive list of adjustments.

In hindsight, I could have saved myself a lot of time and expense if I had heeded the advice of the professional and just exchanged the saddle!

Several months later, I met Lillian at a mid-point again to pick up the saddle. In the meantime, I had met Wendy Texler-Martinez on one of the sidesaddle boards. Wendy had recently purchased an Elan as well, so she was eager to have Lillian check the fit on her horse. We all convened prior to a hunter pace. Lillian and Ute checked our saddles and gave Wendy and me some basic riding instructions.



*Wendy Texler-Martinez and Karol Kafka trying out their Elans prior to a hunter pace. Photo by Tricia Lopez and used with permission.*

Wendy and I were so excited that we put the Elans on our horses the following morning and headed off across a cross-country course to warm up prior to the hunter pace. We trotted a little and even got in a few canter strides. Then a backfiring car startled Wendy's horse and she reared with her front hooves at least three feet off the ground. Wendy stuck in the saddle like she was glued to it and probably deserves a nomination for the Velcro award since she was so new to riding aside.

### **Not Quite Right**

I started riding the Elan but without much success. It felt wobbly, top-heavy and somehow just not "right," but since I had no other experience riding aside, I thought perhaps I just was having difficulty adjusting. I could feel (and see) that the saddle was not staying centered, however, and got confirming feedback from other riders. Wendy came down a month later to try and help me. When I rode her narrower width Elan on a thinner horse, I did feel a lot better balanced. Frustrated, I asked for advice on the various sidesaddle online boards.

Sharon Borda in Canada told about memory foam type of pads, which are supposed to bond in order to hold the saddle firmly in place. Judi Houtaling warned me that a fancy pad most likely would not fix a poorly fitting saddle. Rhonda Watts-Hettinger also offered suggestions about fitting and specialty pads. I ended up buying a Limpet pad, which helped a bit but ultimately was not effective in stabilizing my saddle.

Anne Ullius gave me a lot of information about her experience with a misfitting saddle and the discomfort and white hairs that it had caused on her horse. That helped me realize that my difficulties were probably more than just beginner's clumsiness.

I rode my first sidesaddle one last time in a hunter pace. The course had some fairly steep hills and my horse's brain seemed to disengage once the entire field of horses converged for the course walk. Once the adrenaline kicked in, Brownie started over-powering every movement, cantering laterally on the hills (when he was supposed to be walking) with me on the nearside pointing downhill. It was pretty unnerving; I felt like I was about to roll right off his left side.

Afterwards, Judi Houtaling told me the "right rein rule," explaining that whenever you start getting in trouble aside, use your right rein to turn your horse to

the right, thereby working yourself more firmly into the saddle. Unfortunately, I did not know that tip at the time and Brownie was moving laterally to the left. With his excitement and excessive movement, he quickly got sweaty, his stomach drew up and the saddle and pad both slipped precariously to the left side. I felt insecure enough at that point that I threw my right leg over the saddle and finished the course partially astride and hanging onto queen to keep from slipping off the saddle going uphill.

That experience made it abundantly clear to me that I needed a new sidesaddle. But first I needed to know what a proper fit would feel like so that I would be able to recognize it, should I be fortunate enough to encounter it.

### **Shopping Again**

Judi directed me to Maggie Herlensky's clinic in Ohio. I made a quick 24-hour trip to Ohio. I had to return home prior to the Derby week festivities, but did get to meet a few members of the sidesaddle sisterhood who had arrived early to assist with the clinic. The clinic (which was a fantastic experience!) gave me a chance to try out several saddles and learn the basics of fitting.

I concluded that the Steele English Equitation that Marti sells was likely to be a good fit for Brownie, since it is built on a Western-style tree intended for broader horses. Marti told me she had "skeleton" trial saddles without the outer leather covering so you can better see the fit. She could send me one, but again I was reluctant to get into the added expense of shipping saddles back and forth. It turned out that Marcia Miller had an older model used Steele for sale – the same model I was interested in – and she lives within driving distance of my stable.

As luck would have it, it was cold and windy the day Marcia came out with a whole car-load of sidesaddles for me to try. The wind spooked my horse and he shied and threw a shoe before Marcia even arrived. We weren't off to a good start, and Marcia was pressed for time, but I did get an opportunity to try five or six saddles, which to my surprise, seemed to fit my horse fairly well. There was not time to carefully examine the fit of any, but I ended up buying the Steele.

Initially the Steele sidesaddle seemed fine and was much more stable and comfortable for me. When I built

up my confidence and started riding harder and longer, however, the corner of tree rubbed the hair off my horse's withers. I was so disappointed and not knowledgeable enough to diagnose the problem or solution. Fortunately, Lillian's daughter, Anita Reisinger, lives considerably closer and was willing to come take a look. Anita reported back to Lillian, who then offered to make a special trip to see what she could do to fix this second saddle.



*Karol Kafka, CA goes western in an 1890 saddle that Lillian Chaudhary had rebuilt. Photo by Heather Wilson and used with permission.*

### **Finally a Fit**

We turned Lillian's trip into a CA\_Aside social event with a dinner and slumber party at my house. Lillian brought a number of her saddles and we all took turns trying them out on a saddle rack in my living room. The following morning, Lillian took her saddles to my stable and the little brown Western that she had completely rebuilt on a vintage 1890 tree fit my horse like a glove! Even though I thought I wanted an English sidesaddle, I was delighted to at last have one that fits, so I bought the Western on the spot.

Lillian took the Steele back with her, peeled back the leather and rasped off the corner of the tree. During our Elk Grove clinic, however, Lillian could see that the Steele still was not sitting level. She made me a shimmed pad that has helped to a limited degree, but I have been forced to conclude that the Steele simply is not a good a fit for my horse. When I ride it, Brownie just seems to feel "off" – he is reluctant to move out and when I insist on a canter, he lowers his head and

stretches out his neck as if he is trying to scoot out from under the saddle. He is telling me that it hurts.

I like the Steele English Equitation and since my horse tends to become overly anxious in events anyway, I am hoping to find a horse I can borrow that will be a better fit for the Steele saddle.

In the meantime, I have spent a lot of time on Lillian's little Western and am so thankful to have found a sidesaddle that fits my horse properly. It is also very comfortable for me.

time I first started shopping for sidesaddles until I finally got the right one.

Since then I have had about five months of riding with the beautiful little Western saddle that Lillian rebuilt. I feel secure enough on it that I have been practicing sliding stops, spinning turns and cow work. A friend shot some video of me and my horse working cows aside, and I am hoping to get more footage soon that I can edit into a nice enough piece to be worth posting on a site to share with others!



*Karol Kafka learns to work cattle aside with a mechanical cow. Photo by Heather Wilson and used with permission.*

### **Perseverance Pays Off**

The bottom line on sidesaddle fitting is that some people are incredibly lucky and the first saddle they buy fits their horse. But quite a few others tell me they have gone through three to five saddles before finding a proper fit. Some women even say it is easier to locate a comfortable saddle that fits the rider and then shop for a horse that will fit that sidesaddle! The fit is critical not only for the rider's safety but also for the horse's comfort and health. So be prepared to invest the time and money to ensure a proper fit.

Looking back, it took me five months to obtain my first sidesaddle and get it adjusted to the point where I could start riding on it. It took four more months of frustration to convince me that it did not fit. Then another three months to obtain two more sidesaddles: one that fits me but not my horse, and another one that works well for both of us. So all totaled, it was about a year from the



*Sue Duncan, TN on Janie Nite Tracker dressed to impress at a Halloween Costume class. Photo submitted.*

## **What's in a Fun Horse Costume?**

**by Sue Duncan**

People I see at horse shows are always amazed that I can put just about any fun costume on my horse, and

she doesn't seem to mind a bit. I am not sure how I got her used to that. Just by trying different things and adjusting the fit or placement of an object so she wasn't afraid of it, I suppose. Starting with small objects and building up her confidence and her tolerance level was the main thing. Riding her around the barn and pasture with the costume on helped, too.

Let's face it: some horses may never want to have anything put on them that sticks out, flaps, bounces, or drags. Getting a horse used to these kinds of costumes takes time. Just like bomb-proofing your horse, costume-proofing your horse ahead of time pays off.

What goes into a horse costume? A horse, you say—yes, but there is so much more. Why do we want to dress up our beautiful horses and cover them with decorations, anyway? Well, it's all about entertaining the public and making an impression that people will remember. It's all in fun. It is a way to share with your horse and bond with them so that they trust you too.

We decorate our horses to capture the attention of the public. After all, "If you've seen one horse in a parade you've seen them all," might be an attitude the non-horse public has about horses in parades. I enjoy trying to enhance my horses and make them memorable. I want to add to a fairytale image of this creature, to bring out a certain theme of an event, to let people laugh about a ridiculous costume that you know may even embarrass your horse. These kinds of costumes bring such joy to the people who watch us in a parade or a costume class at a show. Riding sidesaddle with a unique costume only makes it that much more interesting, fun, or challenging.

What about your horse? Do you want him to wear bells or a unicorn horn on his head? Will she enjoy this outfit? How do you even start to persuade her to even try anything new? Begin with small articles of costume attire like hats, bell boots, and a tail bow. Put objects on a halter and let the horse wear it. Bells and bows can be attached to the halter so that they aren't in the horse's eyes or ears. Tie dangling cords or tassels to the side of brow bands. If your horse is used to fly masks or ear nets, all the better. You can probably make a hoodie out of stretch material or buy a pre-made "slinky" and pin or hot glue images to it stamped on felt, foam, or other fabric (stars cut out for the Fourth of July, snowflakes for Christmas, pumpkins or leaves for Halloween and

fall). Painting or stamping images on the fabric works well too.



*The author's horse sports lots of glitter, bows, and sparkles on her tail and battery-operated lights on her saddle for the Cleveland Winterfest Parade. Photo by Linda Bowlby for the ASA Phoenix*

Most horses know what a saddle blanket is and how it feels. Another great way to start out is to cut felt or heavy fabric so that it can drape over the horse's back like a saddle blanket, but make it longer on each side and wider to cover their rump. You can cut holes through the fabric so the girth can slide through and be cinched. If you can't sew, felt fabric works well and can be cut with decorative edges using pinking shears so there is no sewing. Hot glue some rick-rack or seasonal trim around the edges and you have a costume.

If fabric is too much to work with, try stamping your horse with large chunky rubber stamps. Stars, snowflakes, and leaves work well done this way. Try using stencils. They usually have different ones for each season. Have someone hold the stencil down while you paint or spray either acrylic paint or seasonal colored hair spray over the stencil. The acrylic works well and eventually wears off in a good rain or with the next bath. Glitter glues work but they tend to matt down your horse's hair if he or she is in winter coat. Don't

forget to use that glitter glue, acrylic paint, or loose glitter for their hooves. The metallic acrylic paints really stand out on the horse's feet although it stays on a long time, sometimes months after the parade, even in the pasture.

Look for decorations for your horse in the discount sections of fabric stores or department stores. Wal-Mart usually discounts Christmas, Halloween, Easter, and other holiday stuff. Buy it after the holiday and put it in a box marked "horse costumes." Think large size when purchasing items. They have to be seen from a long distance and have to show up on your horse. Big bows, tassels, large ornaments, and sparkly items will show up better. Think of future places you might go where you would like to dress up your horse. Think of color schemes and group those together. Pick out one theme and buy all your props for that one costume. Draw your costume out on paper. I make sketches of what I want my horse to look like and what I am going to wear with it. You can try different color themes this way.



*Rather than painting directly on the horse, the author has chosen to paint the skeleton design on a slinky hood and blanket making it reusable. Photo submitted.*

Remember to try out any loose-fitting outfits and special props ahead of time. Put it all on the horse and then ride him around the arena or barn. If it isn't secured tightly, you can make adjustments there.

There are several ladies who do wonderful costumes like Shirley Gentry and Maggie Herlensky. Look at their horse costumes and get some pointers on how they make things stick together and fit on the horse, and how something simple can turn out to be a great costume. Be imaginative and creative. Don't be afraid to share your ideas or get better ones from someone else. The best advice is to have FUN! Before no time at all you'll be parading downtown "Put'n on the Ritz."



*Marti Friddle, NC, explaining saddle fit at the SEA Fall Demonstration and Social. Photo by Myra Daniel and used with permission.*



## South East ASIDE

by

Mellinda "Mel" Hansen-Holloway, EdD, VP  
of SEA

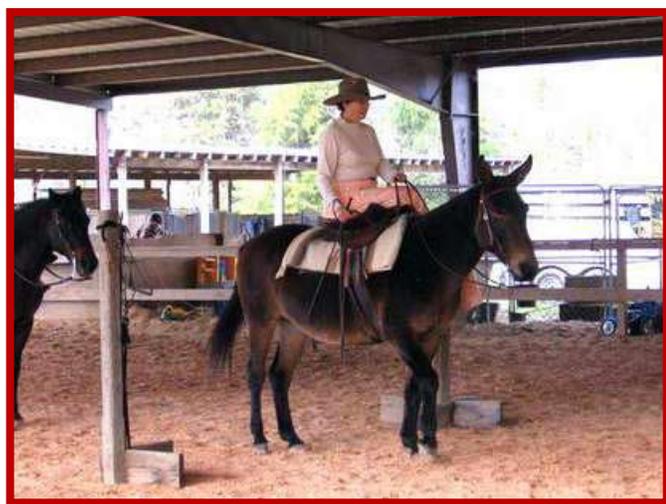
<http://www.geocities.com/southeastaside>

### SEA Fall Demo and Social

On November 10, 2008, South East Aside held its second annual fall event, The Fall Sidesaddle Demonstration and Social. This year the event focused on demonstrating the uses and safety of riding aside and fellowshiping with the newcomers to the discipline. The event was hosted by Jenny and Joel Kametz, owners of Rohan Arabians in Efland, NC. The weather was breezy, but mild, and everyone was comfortable

under Rohan's covered arena, with plenty of space for seating, food, and the port-a-pot facilities. We had 39 people in attendance, the largest crowd we have had at one of these events. There were representatives from two 4-H groups, one pony club, and several breed organizations.

All of the SEA officers participated in the event in some fashion, from offering presentations, to manning the registration booth, and riding in the demonstrations. We also had other members and their spouses help with the food, set up, riding in demonstrations, and acting as the Master of Ceremonies of the event. The gates opened at 11:30 am. Attendees were greeted at the gate by our Secretary/Treasurer, Myra Daniel, who collected money and handed out nametags. The program started at noon. A greeting and introduction was given by Mel Hansen-Holloway, the VP of SEA, who then turned the event over to Marti Friddle, the President. Marti gave an introductory presentation about the history and uses of the sidesaddle, and offered a hands-on saddle fitting demonstration. Rohan Arabian's lesson horse, Mandy, an elderly QH mare, was the model for the fitting and handled all of the attention well.



***Debbie Smith on her mule, Gus, demonstrating a trail obstacle at the SEA Fall Demonstration. Photo by Myra Daniel and used with permission.***

After the saddle fitting, three riders, Kelsie Riddell, Debbie Smith and, Mel Hansen-Holloway, offered a short sidesaddle riding demonstration on the flat. Kelsie rode her off-the-track TB, Riley, wearing an informal hunt habit in a lovely navy pinstripe. Debbie rode her mule, Gus, in western tack and wore a blaze orange trail apron. Mel rode Mandy without an apron, so that the audience could see how the rider holds onto the saddle.

While the ladies rode in a simple pattern through the walk, trot and canter, Cameron Aydlett-Cochran, our Master of Ceremonies, read a short biography about the horse and riders. Marti also offered a short explanation of the riding habits the ladies wore.



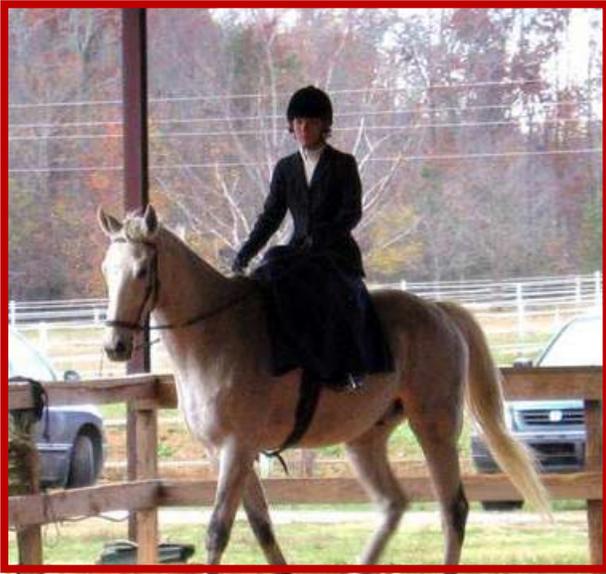
***SEA Demonstration riders and their equines: Debbie Smith on Gus, Kelsie Riddell on Riley, and Mel Hansen-Holloway on Mandy, with Marti Friddle helping to adjust the girth. Photo by Myra Daniel and used with permission.***

Following the initial ride, each rider took a turn demonstrating a particular discipline or aspect of riding aside. Mel on Mandy, with the help of Marti's commentary, demonstrated the proper riding position. As Mel said, "Mandy is known for being very obvious in expressing her displeasure when her riders use inappropriate form. Her expressions make her the best sidesaddle training horse. It is very obvious when a rider digs her heel into the side of the horse, is twisted in the saddle, or uses her right leg inappropriately." Mel offered a series of poor riding postures, and Marti and the crowd pointed out her mistakes. At the end, Mel assumed the proper position to leave a positive image in the minds of the audience, and to "make Mandy happy."

Next, Debbie rode Gus the mule through a western trail class, proving the versatility of the sidesaddle and the equines ridden with them. The obstacles included opening and closing a gate, sidestepping both directions, and backing up in a pattern among many other obstacles. Gus has an impressive show record in-harness and under saddle, both astride and aside. Debbie has been riding mules aside for many years and she and Gus were the most experienced team in our riding demo.

Following Debbie and Gus, Kelsie and Riley performed an introductory dressage pattern. Both Kelsie and Ri-

ley are new to riding aside, and this was only the second public performance aside for them. Kelsie rode the dressage pattern while navigating around the trail obstacles. Both did a very good job. After they finished the dressage pattern, the pair jumped a low cross bar, proving that one really can do anything aside that is done astride.



*Kelsie Riddell on Riley demonstrating an Introductory Dressage Test. Photo by Myra Daniel and used with permission.*

Last, but not least, Mel entered the ring again. Mel rode her five-year-old Arabian mare, Ila of Rohan (AA Manhattan X Impulse of Rohan) who is just started under saddle. At the time of the demonstration, Ila had had no more than 20 hours under saddle. Mel rode Ila for two purposes. The first was to prove that it is easy to train a horse to ride aside. The second was to prove the safety and security of the sidesaddle. Ila offered a good demonstration of both points. Ila did really well for a green horse, and handled the transitions between walk and trot, stop and backing-up beautifully. When asked to canter for the very first time, Ila offered a short bucking protest, and then proceeded with a nice canter both directions. When Ila bucked, Marti remarked, "Now that's when you hold on to the leaping horn!" Videos of all of the demonstrations were made, and once edited, will be posted on YouTube.com for instructional purposes.

Following the demonstrations, a simple English tea was offered to the crowd. The food included cucumber sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, three types of tea-cakes, cookies, and a selection of hot teas. While the attendees were enjoying the refreshments,

the demo participants and the officers of SEA answered the audience's questions which ranged from the cost of sidesaddles and sidesaddle lessons, what kind of costumes do we wear and where to do we get them, to wanting to learn how the participants became interested in the discipline. Many of the attendees of the event expressed an interested in attending a clinic. The response to the SCA Fall event was so positive that the officers and organization are considering holding a sidesaddle clinic in the spring, perhaps with the co-sponsorship of the NC horseman's Council.



*Above: Mel Hansen-Holloway answering questions about riding habits and costumes. Photo by Marti Friddle and used with permission.*

*Below: Mel Hansen-Holloway on Ila of Rohan demonstrating safety of the sidesaddle. (screen capture from video)*





# SOLA

by Maggie Herlensky

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



**SOLA at the Chillicothe Veterans' Day Parade. Left to Right: Hannah Perkins, Becca Woods, Vicky Henkel, Sue Henkel, Jenn Woods, and Maggie Herlensky. Photo by Andria Perkins and used with permission.**

During the last installment of "Travels with SOLA" we left the ladies finishing off the first of the autumn parade season in Bainbridge, Ohio. From there, SOLA traveled to Chillicothe, Ohio, for the Veterans' Day Parade at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The crowd was a bit bigger this year and really seemed to appreciate the efforts of Mary Jo Wisecup, Jane Currey-Cartee, Phil Cartee, Hannah Perkins, Maggie Herlensky, Sue Henkel, Vicky Henkel, Becca Woods, and Jennifer Woods. Many thanks to Becca and Jenn's dad, Terry Woods, for hauling two loads of horses and mules and to Hannah's mom, Andria Perkins, for being the glitter and ribbon queen and carrying our banner. The ladies wore patriotic vests with bows in equine manes and tails.

The team got one weekend off before a double header the weekend before Thanksgiving. Mary Jo, Hannah, Sue and Vicky, and Maggie rode in a very well organized parade in Lancaster, Ohio, in the morning, had lunch at Golden Corral in Chillicothe, then met up with

Becca and Jenn Woods and their mules in Waverly for the Jingle Bell Parade. The team wore our holiday outfits in shades of blue with lights on equine breastcollars. Many thanks to Hannah's and Becca and Jenn's families and to Michelle Althouse for helping dress, glitter, and ribbon the livestock and for walking the parade route with us.

It seemed like just a few days had passed before SOLA was off and running again. Oh, wait! It really was only a few days! Hannah, Becca, and Maggie were joined by Danielle Briese on a 1500 mile odyssey with Maggie's husband, David, driving. We left on Tuesday and drove to Aurora, Illinois, where the horses stayed at View Hello Farm and the humans were welcomed into Diana Kocunik's new home. Diana's home is so new that she hasn't even moved into it, yet! We inflated our air mattresses and moved in for the week. Many thanks to Diana and her parents, Dan and Kathy, for making us feel at home.



**SOLA in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade. Left to Right: Diana Kocunik, Maggie Herlensky, Hannah Perkins, Becca Woods, Danielle Briese, Bea Barry, Mary Godwin, Candy Carlson. Photo by Mike Carlson and used with permission**

Mary and Steve Godwin and Candy and Mike Carlson arrived on Wednesday. The Godwins inflated their air mattress and the Carlsons plugged in their trailer and all settled down for a brief autumn nap. We got up bright and early Thanksgiving morning and headed into Chicago for the 75th McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade. The team was made up of Candy, Bea Barry, Hannah, Becca, Danielle, Diana, Mary, and Maggie in holiday costumes. Many thanks to our husbands for driving trailers and helping us get ready, Mary for making beautiful new breastcollars for all of the horses, and to the Kocuniks for preparing a wonderful Thanksgiving feast for all of us and for taping the parade so we could

watch it over and over after dinner. One interesting training note for next year: practice making the horses walk over painted pictures on pavement. All of the equestrian units had issues with the parade logo painted in front of the reviewing stand. Some more than others. Our horses just walked around it, but one team spooked as a group!

We spent Friday sightseeing in downtown Chicago. Did you see us waving at you from the Sears Tower? Many thanks to the Kocuniks for train tickets and rides to and from the train station and for the sack lunches for on the train. It was very exciting for all of us, but especially Hannah and Becca, who had never been on a train before.

The Lundens arrived Friday evening for even more fun! Katey and daughter Elsa and Elsa's boyfriend Jonathan traded horses and sidesaddles and helped us repack for the next parade. More air mattresses were inflated and the single bathroom at Diana's was a happening place!

We had two more parades on the schedule, but transportation logistics caused us to cancel one of them and a driving snow precluded horse trailers from going to the other one.

On December 5th we were informed that out of nearly 1,500 applicants, Southern Ohio Ladies Aside had been selected to perform in the Inaugural Parade in Washington DC. The ladies of SOLA are very proud and honored to have been selected to represent Ohio at this historic event. We have been busy sewing new costumes and preparing for the trip. Twenty riders from Ohio, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and Virginia will wear a costume inspired by a Civil War era officer's wife's riding habit in navy with gold trim. We will have one gentleman riding with us, Phil Cartee, dressed as General U.S. Grant.



*Banner carriers, Betsy Phillips and Linda Bowlby lead the way for Sue Duncan and other SOLA riders in the Cleveland Winterfest Parade. Used by permission of Linda Bowlby.*



*SOLA Coordinator, Maggie Herlensky receives a Thank You gift from members at the Christmas Party. Left to Right: Treasurer Candy Carlson, Maggie Herlensky, Director Linda Bowlby. Photo by Mary Jo Wisecup and used with permission.*

Saturday saw us packed and back on the road for our next "gig". We met up with Deb and Ashley Bidlack, Suzanne and Tianna Cooper, Paula Dysinger, and Heather Hershberger from northwest Ohio and Sue Duncan of Tennessee to give us ten riders! It was good to see Betsy Phillips and Linda and Jim Bowlby again. Betsy and Linda once again carried our banner for us. Many thanks to Sue's family for helping put the lights on the breastcollars and getting us all primed and ready to go.

The news of the Inaugural selection made our Christmas Party quite a celebration! Vicki Pritchard graciously hosted the event in her home, affectionately known as Maggie's Mom's Marvelous Motel. Vicki prepared a ham and a turkey breast and everyone brought a covered dish. We had a gift exchange, door prizes, and a gift auction. The auction raised over \$200 toward parade expenses. One of the fun things about the auction was that no one knew what they were bidding on. Vicky Henkel was high bidder on a four roll pack of Charmin! She was a good sport about it, though. Thanks Vicky!

We had a very special guest at the party. Founding member, Dorothy Tolliver, was able to come. Dorothy was there, in 1991, at Janet Mills' dining room table

as we talked about how cool it would be to ride in the Inaugural Parade someday. She is all grown up now, with children of her own, and hopes to find time to ride with SOLA again. Welcome back, Dorothy! We missed you!

Several members spent the night at Maggie's Mom's and had a sewing party the next morning. We worked on Inaugural costumes and were interviewed by a reporter for the Dayton Daily News. With camera clicking away, we saddled Maggie's Bud for costume testing and a photo opportunity. Thanks to Danielle for bringing her apron and riding Bud for the test. We were able to spot some potential problems and get them worked out.

That's all of the news for now. Watch for us at the Inaugural Parade. We'll be waving at you!



# GALA

by **Stephanie Hutcherson**  
<http://www.georgialadiesaside.com/>



*GALA members, Lisa Doker, Becky Yarborough, Duffy Yarborough and Stephanie Hutcherson participated in the National Rescue Ride to raise money for horse rescues. Photo by Steve Hutcherson and used with permission.*



*Linda Bowlby and her armadillo cookie made by Shirley Gentry.*

*Below: Kate Mitchell, Maggie Herlensky and Becca Woods*



*Left: Vicky Henkel and her winning high bid. Right: Hannah Perkins enjoying the party.*



*Rebecca Henkel as pretty as a Christmas ornament.*



*Left: Kate Mitchell and Becca Woods. Right: Michelle Althouse, Dorothy Tolliver, Shirley Gentry and Vicky Pritchard discussing serious sidesaddle stuff. All Christmas Party pictures taken by Mary Jo Wisecup and used with permission.*

## GALA at the National Rescue Ride

On October 19th, 2008 GALA members participated in the National Rescue Ride, a charity trail ride. The National Rescue Ride took place in various locations throughout the United States to raise money for horse rescues. The Georgia location was the International Horse Park in Conyers, GA. The money raised at the ride went to a horse rescue organization located in Cumming, GA called the Horse Rescue Relief and Retirement Fund, [www.savethehorses.org](http://www.savethehorses.org).

Members who participated were Lisa Doker, Becky and Duffy Yarborough, and Stephanie Hutcherson. Three members rode in their sidesaddles. The other rode in her astride Western saddle.

It was a lovely fall day. We had a great time. Many of the other trail riders had not seen aside riders before, but one lady had actually seen us ride in the Newnan Parade! We can't wait for the next trail ride!





Christina Minyard and Honey having their first ride aside at the October GALA clinic. Photo by Steve Hutcherson and used with permission.

Many thanks to Maggie for being our clinician. She had a long trip here from Ohio and back. Thanks to Dana Spector of Heaven's Gate Farm for the use of her beautiful farm. Thanks to my husband, Steve, who catered the awesome lunch we had. Steve did double duty by also being GALA's official photographer. Thanks to everyone who came to the GALA clinic!



Left: GALA member Aubrey Edenfield enjoying her first ride aside.

Below: GALA member Anna Lankford enjoying her first ride aside on GALA member Duffy Yarborough's horse Chelsea. Duffy leading.

### GALA Sidesaddle Clinic

The GALA clinic with Maggie Herlensky and Stephanie Hutcherson on October 25th, 2008 was great! It was a beautiful day at the lovely Heaven's Gate Farm. We had nine riders, including GALA members and non-GALA members, participate. The riders who traveled the farthest to participate were GALA member Jennifer from Tennessee and GALA member Anna from Brunswick, GA. Anna traveled a long way to enjoy her very first ride aside! One of our junior members also enjoyed her very first ride aside. She was so enthusiastic that she walked, trotted and cantered on someone else's horse! Her mother, Rebecca, also a GALA member, rode aside with Maggie many years ago. Riders learned how to post and canter. Yet another rider learned that you can do leg yields in a sidesaddle.

All photographs for this article were taken by Steve Hutcherson and used with permission.



Below: Ohio clinician Maggie Herlensky giving a sidesaddle history talk at Heaven's Gate Farm.

We had a diverse group of horses. There was an Arabian, a POA, a Warmblood, a National Show Horse, a Quarter Horse, and a Belgian. The various shapes and sizes made saddle fitting very interesting! Everyone always learns a lot during the saddle-fitting process.

Those who were able to stay till the end of the clinic enjoyed Maggie's very informative talk on sidesaddles through history. We had enough sidesaddles at the clinic to clearly illustrate the historical changes.



Above: GALA member Michelle Allen modeling a corset. Note the t-shirt! It has a horse trailer on it that says "Pimp my ride"! Yes, there is someone like this in every group! Love ya Michelle!



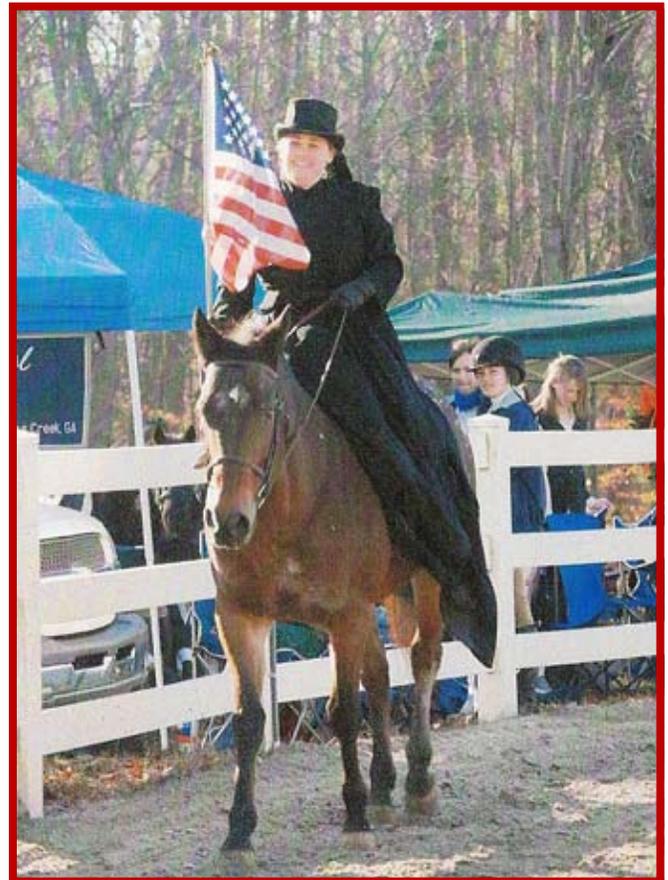
# GO GALA!



*Duffy Yarborough in the Canton, GA Christmas Parade. Photo by Steve Hutcherson and used with permission.*

### **GALA Sidesaddle Parade**

On December 6, 2008 GALA members participated in a chilly Christmas Parade in Canton, GA. Duffy Yarborough rode her Arabian mare, Chelsea. Her daughter, Becky rode her POA gelding, Kiddo. Stephanie Hutcherson rode her Appaloosa gelding, Romeo. GALA was well received by a small but receptive crowd that loved the horses, sidesaddles and the costumes. All GALA participants were festively dressed in various shades of red and green. Marie van Roekel was our side walker, and Pam James our banner carrier. Pace Yarborough was once again our very dedicated and enthusiastic pooper-scooper. Our official GALA photographer was Steve Hutcherson. Thanks to everyone for a fun-filled day!



### **Presenting the Flag Aside**

On December 13th, 2008 GALA President Stephanie Hutcherson and her Appaloosa gelding, Romeo opened the Winter Classic Interscholastic Equestrian Show at Sonora Farms in Canton, GA by presenting the colors. Stephanie and Romeo carried the American flag and rode aside to a very traditional version of the National Anthem. Stephanie rode in a reproduction black Civil War habit. Once the colors were presented Stephanie quickly changed into 21st century attire and co-coached two middle and two high school equestrian teams. Romeo was entered in one of the classes with a beginner high school girl and they received a blue ribbon in their class.



*Stephanie Hutcherson, Becky Yarborough, and Duffy Yarborough are led in the Christmas parade by banner carrier Pam James. Photo by Steve Hutcherson and used with permission.*

# **GALA Website, Sidesaddle and Authors**

**By Stephanie Hutcherson**

Just think how much sidesaddle riding has grown because of the Internet. I first became very interested in sidesaddle riding in the mid- to late-1980's when a friend of mine started riding aside and let me try it at the walk and the trot. I was hooked and I knew I wanted to do this one day on my own horse. I was busy with other equestrian disciplines, but the Internet was what renewed my interest in sidesaddle riding. So, years later and with a different horse, thanks to the Internet I was able to buy a sidesaddle, sidesaddle books, learn more about sidesaddle riding, and meet many great sidesaddle ladies.

The GALA website has a "contact" page on the website on which we receive questions about sidesaddles, lessons, membership, requests for demonstrations, and many other interesting emails. To date, GALA's website has been accessed by thirty-two countries and forty-eight states. The site is mostly viewed by those of us that are active in the sidesaddle discipline, but it can also act as a research resource for others. Recently, we were contacted by two different authors who are writing books with equestrian themes and who wanted to be historically accurate in writing about sidesaddles and sidesaddle riding.

The first author is an American man who is currently stationed in Iraq. He is writing a novel that takes place in 1867 on a ranch in Texas. He had researched sidesaddles online and found our website. He asked if someone could read what he had written about sidesaddles and sidesaddle riding to make sure that it was accurate. I gave advice on terminology and the type of sidesaddle that would be correct for his time period.

The second author lives in England. He is writing a novel about a young woman who wants to ride aside down Rotten Row in Hyde Park. He had contacted a number of different sidesaddle organizations in England and received no replies to his inquires. So he decided to "try the Americans as they are always so helpful." The reason for this response was that he had worked with

some Americans with his job years ago and thought they were "delightful." I was able to answer all of his questions and refer him to some helpful links online. In response to this email I received one of the nicest thank-you emails I have ever had from someone.

GALA is very honored to be contacted by these authors. I recently read a novel that was set in the pre-Civil War era. In this book there were some blatant errors about certain breeds of horses and horse riding in general. The authors who contacted GALA are searching for authenticity about sidesaddles and sidesaddle riding in their books. GALA is thrilled that they are writing about sidesaddle riding in their books, and even more thrilled that they want to be accurate. And it always reminds me of what a powerful and widespread medium the Internet is...and how it can quickly reach so many people!



**CA\_ASIDE**

**by Karol Kafka**

**.yahoo.com/group/CA\_Aside**

CA\_Aside participated in two holiday events in December. In early December, we were invited as guests to the lovely Woodland Stallion Station Carriage Tea. Members Shelley Chavoor and Lauren Hunter drove their carriage and took Wendy's husband and son as passengers. Members Wendy Martinez, Diane Arana, and Karol Kafka rode aside. While on a trail ride through the woods, Karol and Wendy both took their first jumps aside over a low log. Junior member Danielle Texler rode both astride and aside at various times during the event.

Wendy, Diane, and Karol gave an informal sidesaddle demo in the arena following the drive/trail ride. One of the male carriage drivers also brought along a vintage sidesaddle, which he, Wendy, and Karol took turns trying. It had a stationary third horn positioned on the right side of the right thigh, which all agreed was not very comfortable!

Diane brought a sidesaddle she rebuilt on a vantage tree – the results of her saddle-making apprenticeship training with Pete Harry.



*Sewing weekend participants: Diane Arana, Danielle Texler, Wendy Martinez, Alena Arana. Photo by Karol Kafka and used with permission.*



*Above: Diane Arana shows off vintage ballgown that she will rework into sidesaddle costume. (The deer headdress will likely not be used.) Photo by Karol Kafka and used with permission.*

*Below: Karol Kafka tries on apron. Photo by Wendy Martinez and used with permission.*

Later in December we had an apron sewing weekend, combined with a holiday social. Wendy supervised Karol's attempt to sew an apron and vest; she also taught Danielle how to knit with a loom, helping her make a shawl and gloves.

Diane and Alena Arana joined us for the holiday social part of the weekend. Diane brought several vintage ballgowns that she plans to remake into sidesaddle costumes. She also gave Karol a black and white tweed jacket with a velvet collar that will be stunning paired with a black sidesaddle apron.



*CA\_Aside Junior member Danielle Texler admires the holiday village decorations at the CA\_Aside's sidesaddle sewing weekend. Photo by Karol Kafka and used with permission.*



*Left: CA\_Aside member, Alena Arana enjoying the CA\_Aside's sidesaddle sewing weekend held in December. Photo by Karol Kafka and used with permission.*

## WHICH WOULD YOU BUY?

We're all familiar with the horse judging classes often featured in horse magazines: Side views of four horses, which you place according to conformation and type, then turn to page 24 to see how your placings (and reasons) agree with those of the expert.

So here's a new test of your sidesaddle knowledge! Pretend you are saddle shopping, and have narrowed it down to these four saddles. Assuming price is not a consideration (don't we all wish!) and that the saddle will fit your horse as well as be generally the correct size for you, place these saddles in the order you prefer them. Think about the characteristics which affect the "ride" the saddle will give you: levelness of the seat, placement of the horns and stirrup, location and type of the billets or rigging, and suitability of the saddle for the specified use.

In this class, you are looking for a sidesaddle for WESTERN divisions.

### Saddle #1:



### Saddle #2:



**Saddle #3:**



**Saddle #4:**



Become a wiser sidesaddle buyer. See what the experts say. Compare your opinions with Rhonda, Lillian, and Marti. Turn to page 24.



## **Auctioned Lesson**

**by Mary Rivers**

I put a sidesaddle lesson up for auction to benefit the local Marion County Therapeutic Riding Association and the lady that bought it really just wanted to dress up

for pictures and send them to a friend in England. The lady that won the bidding was Ms. Lori Hope of Ocala, Florida. She and two friends came with cameras and took tons of pictures. Lady Hope has a parcel of land in England that comes with a title as a birthday gift from a dear friend who lives in England.

The pictures below are of Lady Hope with our Friesian stallion, Igram B.

We had so much fun and Lori and her friends asked lots of good questions and actually learned a little while they were here for their photo shoot.

I am definitely going to offer a lesson next year as well. It was great to share our wonderful Friesian with these ladies and to give them an actual “interest” in sidesaddle for the future.



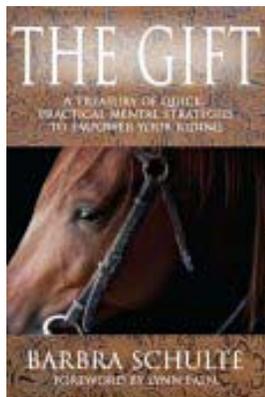
*Ms Lori Hope of Ocala, FL on Mary Rivers' Friesian stallion, Igram B. Ms Hope won the photo shoot/lesson at a charity auction. Photos by Mary Rivers and used with permission.*

## CANTLE CORRAL

In each issue of The Phoenix, we will print one or more book reviews. These may be about sidesaddle-specific books; books with historical or biographical information of interest to sidesaddle riders; or general horse books of interest to all riders.

While there will always be one or more reviews by one of our regular contributors, we welcome reviews by all ASA members. If possible, please give us the following information for our readers:

- Full title, author, publisher (address and date).
- If a modern book, the ISBN will help readers locate it!
- General content of book (could be synopsis, some chapter headings, short plot if narrative).
- Your opinions, positive and negative, and reasons.
- If you know the price, please pass it along. If you know of any good sources for purchasing the book, also good to share. Submissions may be subject to editing as necessary.



### THE GIFT by Barbra Schulte

Published by Center for Equestrian Performance, Inc,  
2000 South Market Street, Suite 219, Brenham, TX  
77833. 2007

ISBN 978-09662585-1-7

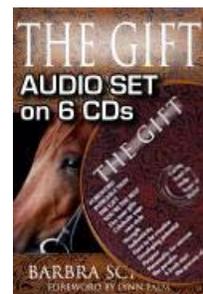
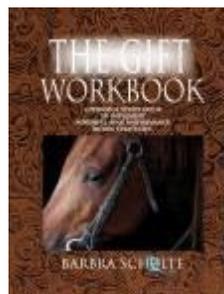
THE GIFT is a treasure chest of practical tips to develop world class mental skills for riding. This book contains seventy-two articles from Barbra's six years as a columnist for the Quarter Horse Journal. The messages are clear and powerful from setting goals, to building

great relationships, to overcoming fear, to controlling anxiety, and so much more.

The book is divided into nine sections containing the articles. Each section contains individual messages packed with practical, powerful ideas that are easy to implement in your riding, whether you are a competitive or recreational rider. The articles are easy to read, and because each article stands alone, you can read them in any order-start at the front and read it all the way through, peruse the table of contents for something that looks interesting or addresses a current need, or simply open it up anywhere and enjoy! The first segment contains a single article titled The Gift. The remaining eight sections (You're the Best, Choose the Best, It's Not Just about Being on the Horse, The Power Lies within You, I Love Challenges; Give Me More!, More Practical Tips That Work, Summing Up, and Barbra's Special Gift) contain anywhere from two to thirteen articles grouped loosely under the topic heading. The very last section, Barbra's Special Gift, is a marvelous story shared with the reader of a gift the author received after her son's passing from bone cancer.

The thing I like about this book is that it is designed to be read in any manner one chooses. A reader can open it up anywhere and read the article chosen and find inspiration and ideas that will be a true gift to your everyday life. While Barbra designed THE GIFT to be a how-to-think and how-to-feel book to improve your riding it is about learning to live with courage and confidence in the face of fear. Much of the message was inspired by the way her son, Zane, faced the challenges of cancer.

This is a book that will touch your heart and inspire and motivate you to achieve higher accomplishments in your life and with your equine friends. THE GIFT retails at \$26.95 (plus S&H) and is sold in a soft cover book only. To supplement the book, a workbook and CD version are now available.



This workbook is designed to summarize the key mental and emotional strategies within each of the nine sections of THE GIFT. It helps you apply all the valuable training concepts with poignant follow-up questions relevant to your riding and to your life. It may be used in conjunction with THE GIFT or as a stand-alone resource. The workbook retails for \$22.95.

Words from the Dad...

*"Well there goes my vacation, pension, bank account, life!"*

Words from Dad...with figures from the date of the pictures...

*"Saddle \$22, Pony \$35, A daughter with an addiction...price,never ending..."*

*\*You put you left foot in, you put your right leg over and that's how we do the sidesaddle polka\*....*

## CONTESTS

Complete the puzzle or contest found in The ASA Phoenix or in the Contest and Quizzes Section on the ASA Website and mail it to American Sidesaddle Association, PO Box 385, Annandale, MN 55302 along with your name, email address. and mailing address before February 28, 2009. All correct contest entries will be entered in a drawing. A new contest will be posted each quarter on the ASA web site.



## CAPTION CONTEST

The winner of the Caption Contest is Maggie Herlensky from Wavery, OH, with "Now, just WHERE do you put the quarter?" The people in the picture have been identified as: Vernal Marlowe (Watts), who turned 93 on 30 Dec. (and member of CA\_Aside) on Daisy, with her parents Rev. Dr. Alexander Marlowe and Anna Bach Marlowe, and sisters Rhonda and Hermia.

Other entries that caught the judges' eyes were:

*"That hem is \*not\* level--and my right foot is showing!!"*

*"Are you sure the Queen rode this way?"*

## ART WINNERS

Youth Art Contest Winner was Michelle Litterio, NJ and her winning artwork is featured on the front cover of this issue.

The Coloring Contest winner was Devin Doty, NY and we are sharing his coloring working with you below.



## PUZZLE CONTEST

Complete the Say What? Game found in The ASA Phoenix on pages 23 and 24 of this issue or in the Contest and Quizzes Section on the ASA Website and mail it to American Sidesaddle Association, PO Box 385, Annandale, MN 55302 along with your name, email address, and mailing address before February 28, 2009. All correct contest entries will be entered in a drawing to determine the winner. Our last winner was Tessa Lunden of Annandale, MN for her entry in the Word Game featured in the Winter issue of the ASA Phoenix. Answers can be obtained by emailing [editor@americansidesaddleassociation.org](mailto:editor@americansidesaddleassociation.org). Winner of the Caption Contest featured in the Fall issue is listed to the left.

# Say What?

These intriguing little puzzles require the reader to LISTEN carefully and go beyond what they are saying and on to what they are HEARING! Say each of the following words – SLOWLY – and BLEND them together as you do. Do you hear it?

ABLE OWE KNEES HAND WHICH = A Bologna Sandwich

ABE AXE TAB HER = A Back Stabber

1. AS HAND WHICH GAY ACE
2. ACHE ORDER HOE OR SAY
3. LAY DECIDING HAVE IT
4. SAY TYREL EAST HER RIP
5. SEEK TOW PAT ANVIL
6. SIGH DECIDE DOLL UPON
7. KIWI KNEE LIVES A BATH THE FURS
8. KEEN VICK TORY AH
9. AGE HAM PEON ANVIL TON
10. MAY HUES HIDE SAY DOLL
11. ON DAME IN GOULOSH SIGHED SAD DULL
12. CHAR LESS PAY LEER
13. ANODE WIN SIGHT ADD DULL
14. LILLY ANNE SHOD HURRAY
15. HUNT DRED OKAYS
16. AD MARE HE CANS HIDES ADD DOLL AS SEW SEA SHUN
17. EV E ACRE WRIST TEA
18. RYE DECIDE WHIP HYDE
19. ROCKEN ROGUE HIGH DEPART
20. PEER ODD CAUSE TOMB
21. WICK AMP ADD
22. LEI DECENT ERRAND HER SAY DULL UPON TED MINT GLASS
23. KONG COARSE DAY HELL LEG GLANCE
24. POISE TANG TEA ROT
25. HUN TWERP ACE
26. LAZY HIDES ADD DULLEST STERN PLAYS YOUR
27. APRON HOOVED SAY FEET ELEMENT
28. HAVE BITTEN THEORIST
29. PLANT HATIANS AD DELL
30. TAPE HISTORY SEA TEA
31. SAY CHILL OKAY
32. PAY CONSTANT EMU AIDES ADD DELL
33. MELD TONGUE WOO LUNCHING HANG BIT
34. SOW NIMBLED
35. AXE STAN DEAD CAN'T HER
36. HUN TUCAN TEEN
37. SIGNED SAD DULL LAY GAZE SEA
38. AWES HIDE FULL APT
39. AS HIDES ADD DILLWEED A FRIEND JETS HYDRA ALE
40. PAID DOES BOATS

41. HUN DIRTY AN AT CODED
42. FIT SWILL ANGERS
43. STEPSON HANDSOME COWL BOUY BOATS
44. BALL ANTS STIR WRAP
45. HORRORS WHOA MAIN
46. EQUAL WEST TREE ANNE
47. DOES CANS WADE SEA AT
48. ELBOW KNEE HANS HYDE SAY DELL
49. SIN CHAIN BARRYL MEL RAY ENDS
50. EQUAL DAY SHUN ENDORSEMENTS LIP

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## Which Would You Buy? Results

### Which Saddle Results - Rhonda Watts-Hettinger

#### Saddle #3:



#### Saddle #2:



#### Saddle #4:



#### Saddle #1:



The top saddle in this selection should be an obvious choice. Saddle #3 has everything—level seat with enough built out to the right to support the right thigh, stirrup hung right under the leaping head, forward-hung on-tree rigging with balance strap, horns correctly shaped and placed. This saddle would be suitable for any western activity, however strenuous or active. Some might consider that the modern-day show-ring demands some “bling,” but silver is easily added.

The placement of the middle pair of saddles could easily be switched depending on the intended use, but I went with Saddle #2, the Charra saddle, because of its stirrup placement and rigging. The stirrup is hung reasonably well forward (though not quite under the horns), and the visible on-tree rigging is solidly made. On the down side, there is no balance strap (or flank cinch which could be altered)—but this is something that could be added. The seat does appear to be somewhat higher in front, which will push the rider’s weight back, and some riders may not like the height of the seat overall, since it can lessen the “feel” of the horse as well as raise the rider’s center of gravity. The leaping horn may be placed slightly high for optimum use. (The fact that it has an offside horn, or an offside stirrup, will not affect its use—in fact this would allow the saddle to be ridden offside with the addition of an offside leaping

horn socket.) Like Saddle #3, it's also more of a working saddle without the "bling" preferred in most show circuits.

Saddle #4 is definitely a "showy" saddle, with apparently well-placed horns, and for riders who have in mind the top-class show circuit (but only quiet pleasure-type classes), that may be a deciding factor in preferring this saddle over #2. However, despite the workmanship and "finish" of this pretty saddle, there are several drawbacks which drop my placing of it. First, there is the placement of the stirrup—it's back under the middle of the seat, so that the rider will have to drop her left leg back to fish for it—and consequently, she will have a tendency to drop back the entire left hip, causing her to sit crookedly and probably slide to the left. Although it's hard to see just how the cinch rigging is attached (whether on-tree or in-skirt), it appears to be set properly forward—but there is no balance strap, though this could be added.

A fairly straightforward last in this class is Saddle #1—to start with, it can only be considered a "western pleasure" saddle, since it lacks a leaping head, so it will not be in accordance with any class rules (such as western seat equitation) which may specifically require a stock-type saddle, and of course it will not be nearly as secure as any sidesaddle with a leaping head. A second major drawback is the seat: it certainly appears to be a standard astride seat and common tree (compare it with any astride western saddle!), adapted by addition of the fixed horn and smaller offside horn. Like most astride seats, it sits high in front, which will tip the aside rider back; and like most "common" trees, it will not support the rider's right thigh. While the rigging is hung nicely forward, it is in-skirt rigging (the saddle will be far more likely to shift, especially given the common tree), rather than the far more secure on-tree style. Additionally, there is no balance strap. On the good side, the stirrup leather is hung well forward, and of course this saddle is as "showy" as anyone could desire—just use it with caution....

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The next issue of the ASA Phoenix will come out the week of April 1, 2009...NO FOOLING! Deadline for articles and ads will be March 15, 2009. BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!

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## Which Saddle Results - Lillian Chaudhary

### Saddle #3:



### Saddle #4:



### Saddle #2:



### Saddle #1:



Sidesaddle #3: This saddle has a fairly level seat. The rider sits close to the horse. The leaping horn is placed in a good position, at the knee. The stirrup leather drops at the leaping horn. Well placed for a comfortable ride. This saddle has a balance girth to stabilize the rear of the saddle. Stops the side to side shifting. Left side of the seat shows support to the rider's left hip.

Sidesaddle #4: The stirrup on this saddle is set too far back. It should be dropped right below the leaping horn so the rider's leg drops vertically down from the leaping horn to the stirrup. The leaping horn appears to have too much arch to it, making it too high to reach in case the rider needs the horn in an emergency.

There is no balance girth to stabilize the rear of the saddle from shifting from side to side. The left side of the seat appears to be low, not supporting the rider's left hip.

Sidesaddle #2: This is also a sidesaddle made on a man's stock saddle tree. It is referred to as a sling seat sidesaddle made in Mexico. This style sits the rider high off the horse. Keeping balanced and riding with the horse is difficult to do perched this high off the horse. The top horn appears short for the average rider's knee height. There is no balance girth to keep the saddle stable side to side. The leaping horn is high on the saddle for the rider to be able to reach it in case of an emergency. The stirrups are set for an astride rider, too far back for a sidesaddle rider to ride comfortably.

Sidesaddle #1: This sidesaddle was made on a man's stock saddle tree. The seat rides uphill. The seat is very short, making it difficult if not impossible for a taller rider to ride this saddle. There is no balance girth to stop lateral shifting of the rear of the saddle. There is no leaping horn. A leaping horn is recommended for safety. The in skirt rigging is excessively forward. This style is not recommended for use with sidesaddles.

## Marti Friddle's Rankings

### Saddle #3:



### Saddle #4:



### Saddle #2:



### Saddle #1:



Saddle #3 is by a well known maker. It's correctly balanced and everything is in the right place. Buy this one. It offers support for the left hip, a correctly placed upper horn and leaping horn, and the stirrup is in the right spot. The leather is heavy and it'll last a couple of lifetimes. My one critique about this saddle is that it'll be quite heavy to lift, but it will be durable!

Saddle #4 is your typical "Extremely Rare" (so called because there will be multiple photos of identical saddles on eBay, all marked 'extremely rare.' Ugh. I had one of these in the shop, and have nothing good to say about it. In fact, I did a whole article on it a few years ago, placing it side by side with an authentic Goodnight. I will preface my remarks with the comment that there are different grades of these saddles, all built on the same POS tree that has almost too many defects to list - the most noticeable being that it dumps the rider to the left. This appears to be one of the better grades. Highlights of my previous critique include: a plastic tree that will break in a heartbeat; no metal socket for

the leaping horn, just a hole drilled into the tree - can we say WHEEEEE-HAAAAA as we go sailing over the horse's head? There is possible in-skirt rigging. I'll say this once: sidesaddle rigging **MUST** be attached to the tree in order to properly stabilize the saddle. This saddle may be a notch up from the one I had in the shop, but it's still on the same defective tree. The rigging alone would disqualify it as a safe saddle in my book, but read on: It's not apparent in this photo, but the upper horn on the same saddle on which I did the comparison leaned sharply toward the center of the saddle. Not good.

I'm glad to say somebody woke up and noticed that the leaping horn was in a funny place on these saddles. This one is OK, but it's offset by the fact that the stirrup leather hangs so far back. What were they thinking??

- Like saddle #1, the maker has tried to blind the buyer with PRETTY. Add enough silver and glitter, the thinking goes, and you can sell anything. Not to our educated readers, I hope!

Saddle #2: The Charra sidesaddle is correct in Mexico. Don't use it here in the US unless you're riding a Spanish breed and want authentic tack. These saddle run narrow, and they're actually built on an astride tree, with the sidesaddle rider perched on a hammock-like seat that's suspended between the horn and cantle. Many are drawn to these saddles because they're so inexpensive. Many also regret the purchase.

They're interesting in that they can be ridden on either side (although sometimes only 1 side has the leaping horn) or astride. Why would we bother?

Saddle #1: This new-looking western sidesaddle is actually built on a very old - and very outdated - tree. Note that the seat places the rider down and back on the horse. This was the seat followed by most European horsemen and women up through the early 1900s, when forward seat riding came into vogue.

The leather is new and the silver is shiny, but look beyond that to what you're actually getting. It also lacks the leaping horn, a very important safety item for sidesaddle. It's frankly a toss-up which is worse - this saddle or the Charra. I place it either 3rd or 4th.

How did you compare to our experts? They didn't agree on all points and you probably didn't either. Use this as a learning tool so that you will soon be an expert, too.

## **Sidesaddle Sisterhood Helps Candidate Earn Her Ph.D**



Above is a photo of Mel Hansen-Holloway in her cap and gown after her graduation. It was muddy and mucky, hence the mud boots, but Mel braved the weather and saddled up her mare, Ila of Rohan, for a photo aside in honor of all of the sidesaddle ladies (and a few husbands) who helped Mel with the editing of her dissertation. Mel graduated with a Doctorate of Education from NC State University from the School of Education on December 14, 2008. Her major was Adult and Community College education.

For those who are curious about what it is that she has spent the last nine and a half years working on, here is a link to the on-line version of her dissertation, **WIGGLING THROUGH IT: A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY ON DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECOND-CAREER CLERGY STUDENTS' ROUTES TO MINISTRY.**

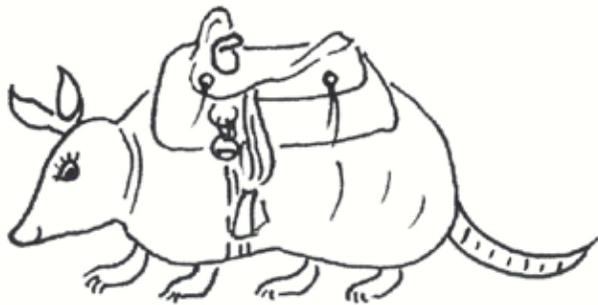
<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/theses/available/etd-03272008-181212/>

Congratulations, Mel! We are happy to have helped. Good luck in the future with your newly earned PHD.

## **Texas Sidesaddle Riders Debut at Expo**

**by Jennifer Williams, Ph.D.**

On October 11, 2008, equine enthusiasts throughout Texas and surrounding states gathered in Austin, Texas for the second annual Bluebonnet Horse Expo. The one-day event included riding and training clinics, health and horse care discussions, shopping, and a great area for vendors. Texas Sidesaddle Riders participated with an informational booth. TSR's set-up included a sidesaddle for visitors to view, a sidesaddle habit on display, photos of sidesaddle riders in various disciplines, and informational pamphlets. Special thanks goes to Spencer Williams for helping to man the booth. TSR plans to hold another booth at the 3rd Annual Bluebonnet Horse Expo and has also offered to put on a sidesaddle-riding demonstration. We're also looking for other locations to hold booths.



Above: Dilly, the Lone Star Sidesaddle Armadillo is a proposed logo for the Texas Sidesaddle Riders. Drawing was done by Rhonda Watts-Hettinger and used with permission.



## **SOLA UPCOMING 2009 EVENTS**

SOLA clinic April 25th (date pending),

Dogwood Festival Parade April 26th

Pegasus Parade Preview April 28th

Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade  
April 30th

Pegasus events will be under the ASA banner.

### **ASA Member Organizations**

#### **California Aside**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CA\\_Aside](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CA_Aside)

#### **Georgia Ladies Aside**

<http://www.georgialadiesaside.com>

**MoSSY - Minnesotans on Side Saddles  
"Y" (because we can!)**

<http://www.minnesotasidesaddle.com>

#### **Northwest Aside Group**

Contact: Deb Whitmore: [Sass@bmi.net](mailto:Sass@bmi.net)

#### **South East Aside**

<http://www.geocities.com/southeastaside>

#### **Southern Ohio Ladies Aside**

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

#### **Texas Sidesaddle Riders**

<http://www.vanbasti.com/tsr>

# CLASSIFIED ADS

ASA members can place one free classified ad per issue up to 30 words. Non-member ads are \$.30 per word.

## Fund Raiser Cookbook

**The cookbook is here!**

**In order to raise funds for the ASA Award Program, Judi Houghtaling and Mary Jo Wisecup have produced a second volume of their SIDESADDLE RIDER'S COOKBOOK.**

**The cookbook retails for \$18.00 and can be ordered through the American Lady Aside web site at [www.americanladyaside.com](http://www.americanladyaside.com) or you can contact Judi at [americanlady@americanladyaside.com](mailto:americanlady@americanladyaside.com)**

.....  
**For Sale: Mayhew jumping sidesaddle from the 1920's or 30's. It is in good condition. The linen underside has some small tears that will not hinder its use. I used it for showing and foxhunting. Would best fit a wider horse as my horse was a big Appendix: Price \$1,500 Includes three fold girth. Ph. 423-538-0157 e-mail [Sande21852@charter.net](mailto:Sande21852@charter.net)**

.....  
**Somerset Sidesaddle for sale: 18" seat, medium-narrow tree. Perfect for a junior rider. Seat has minor blemishes which do not effect the usefulness of the saddle. All new underside and billets. All other leather is original and in good used condition. Not reinforced for jumping. Very nice for gaited horses. \$350, plus shipping. Contact Maggie Herlensky 740-947-2883 [maggieszoo@hotmail.com](mailto:maggieszoo@hotmail.com) If buyer lives within 200 miles of Waverly, Ohio, I will deliver it and fit it to horse and rider for same cost as UPS shipping.**

## Hundred Oaks



Ladies' sidesaddles, several styles, new & used. Reasonably priced starting at \$895. Several tree sizes and seat lengths in stock. Hundred Oaks, Inc, P O Box 886, Graham, NC 27253 336-516-3835 Email: [sidesadl@aol.com](mailto:sidesadl@aol.com)

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Custom-made period costumes from any era. Also sidesaddle aprons. Discount for ASA members. For some examples of my work and ideas of what your new habit can look like, visit <http://picasaweb.google.com/maggieszoo2000/Costumes>. I have hundreds of patterns. References available by request. Email [maggieszoo@hotmail.com](mailto:maggieszoo@hotmail.com) or phone 740-947-2883 for more info or price quotes.

## “A Side Saddle Habit”

A new business in Minnesota featuring custom-made aprons, period clothing, and other side saddle related items. Consignments of high quality items will also be taken. If you have books, clothing, or other historical horse or riding related items for which you need an outlet, please contact Katey Lunden, at 320-260-2138, or [Katey@MinnesotaSideSaddle.com](mailto:Katey@MinnesotaSideSaddle.com).

### Heritage Tack & Saddlery Willows, CA

<http://www.snowcrest.net/sadlmakr/>



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Don't forget to send in your Say What? Word Game Contest entries by February 28, 2009!



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