

Contact Information

Web Sites

www.mwnet.com/eidea
www.usdf.org
www.usdfregion4.org
www.useventing.com

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BarbaraHall44945@aol.com

Treasurer: Jan Vlasak
Home: (319) 369-0477
vlasak@mchsi.com

Activities: Roberta Culp
Home: (319) 351-5515



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 1, 2003 7 PM

Darwin ThirtyAcres will give a round pen demonstration.
Location to be announced
For information, contact Chuck Bennett at 319-377-7868

Tuesday, August 5th, 2003 7 PM

Brooke Carliisle, Equine Nutritionist for Red Mills Horse Feed will present a lecture: "Nutrition and the Sport Horse"
AND . . . we will be voting on a new EIDEA logo!
For information, contact Chuck Bennett at 319-377-7868

Board Meetings: (3rd Wednesday of the month)

June 18th, 2003 at 7 PM at the Irish Democrat,
3207 1st Ave, SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

July 16th, 2003 at 7 PM at Panera Bread,
2665 Edgewood Road, SW Cedar Rapids, IA

August 20th, 2003 at 7 PM at CJ's Sports Bar and Grill,
62 17th Ave, SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

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June - July 2003 ~ Eastern Iowa Dressage & Eventing Association ~ Better Riding Through Better Understanding

INFO FOR ALL USDF COMPETITORS

It has come to our attention that some of our EIDEA members have not yet received their 2003 Region 4 OMNIBUS. Please be aware that the tests have been changed for 2003! If you have not gotten a copy, please call Region 4 Director Linda Landers at 1-816-836-5951. It can also be downloaded off the Region 4 web site. Also, a call today to the USDF has confirmed that 2003 membership cards have not been sent yet, but will be soon. If you wish to compete at a USDF recognized event, and do not have a Member Number, you can call Heather Henley at USDF 1-859-971-2277. Until you get your card, you will have to fill out an affidavit at the show which states that you are a member with number pending. You will have to pay \$5.00. Keep your copy!!! It is good for 60 days (you should have a card by then). After you get your Member Card, you can send in the affidavit to USDF for a \$5.00 refund.

Your GMO membership will give you a USDF number that you will need to compete at a recognized event. As a GMO member only, you will be eligible for the Rider Awards, but WILL NOT be eligible for the year end Championships.

If you wish to qualify for the Regional Championships, you must join the USDF as a PARTICIPATING MEMBER. You must also be a member of USA Equestrian. Your horse must be registered with the USDF and also recorded with USA Equestrian. Tell the USDF that you are already a member of EIDEA for 2003 and the \$10.00 that has already been paid to USDF as part of your EIDEA dues will apply toward your Participating Member dues.

USDF

220 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 510
Lexington, KY 40503
1-859-971-2277 • Web site: www.usdf.org

Central USA Dressage Region 4

Linda Landers, Director
13101 Delaware Drive
Independence, MO 64055
1-816-836-5951
landersfrm@aol.com • Web site: www.usdfregion4.org

USA Equestrian

4047 Ironworks Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511-8483
1-859-258-2472
information@equestrian.org • Web site: www.equestrian.org

Eastern Iowa Dressage & Eventing Association
A Charter Group Member Organization of the USDF.
Members become USDF Group Members.
Affiliate Eventing Association to US Eventing Association.



PLEASE HELP!!!

Hi,

My name is Nancy Bryant and I am going to be a participant in the USDF L-Program Judges program being held in Mason City Iowa June 28 & 29 as well as the final exam August 2 & 3rd.

I have just been informed that due to the distance the sponsoring GMO is from the show grounds they will not be providing scribes for the participants. I will be traveling 1200 miles from Michigan myself and I have not been able to obtain a scribe. I am hoping that you might be able to contact your members and see if anyone is interested in donating their weekend to scribing for my self as well as the other participants.

I am willing to cover hotel (shared room) and food expenses for the two days. I cannot guarantee what the other participants are able to offer. This is a desperate plea. It is vital that we as participants bring a scribe, this is a nerve racking process, and having a partner would greatly lessen the stress level.

I look forward to hearing from someone who would also learn a great deal in the process.

Thanks in advance,

Nancy Bryant
ncb0924@aol.com or (248) 417-9667

FROM THE EDITOR

Newsletter Schedule - 6 Issues, bi-monthly

Submission dates

November 15 for December/January
January 15 for February/March
March 15 for April/May
May 15 for June/July
July 15 for August/September
September 15 for October/November

Submissions are best submitted by email. Text should either be in the email or as an attached Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file. Email photos as attachments in any format – JPG, TIF, GIF are the most universal formats.

Postcards will be sent if the meeting topic / location was not in the last newsletter.

THE SIDESADDLE LESSON

By Deb Gaibraith

First of all, why would anyone want to learn to ride side-saddle?

To make a long story short, before I moved to Iowa, I lived across the street from the Chagrin Valley Runt Club in Gates Mills, Ohio outside Cleveland. The "Hunt" was often called upon to participate in parades, special events, and shows—and at special "Blessing of the Hunt" where the horses and riders filed into the churchyard to be blessed. Horses, huntsmen/women and hounds—all arrived in proper bib and tucker—manes braided, riders' boots polished, glowing tack and the red jackets (also known as "Pinks") of the hunt staff or smart black and green collared jackets of the members. With all this pageantry, I thought someone (presumably, female) should ride in sidesaddle!

Now I live in Iowa. But, with the long winters and all the time spent in an indoor arena, I thought it would be fun to learn side-saddle just to break the boredom of indoor riding.

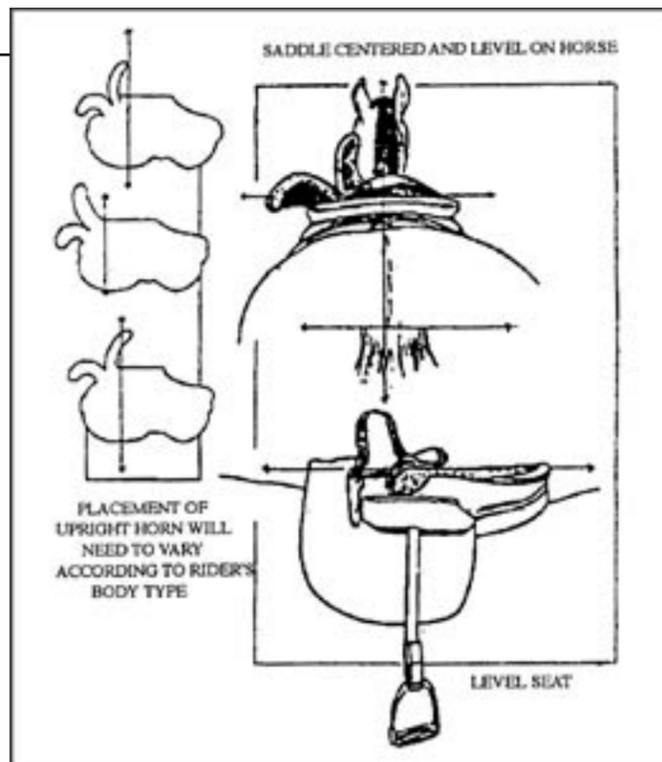
So, I went on the Internet to find information and to see if there was anyone who could teach me the basics of sidesaddle riding. I learned that there is a World Side Saddle Federation (also a U.S. and an International SS Federation). The closest certified sidesaddle instructor from the World Federation was Sandra Ricker in Holcombe, Wisconsin (straight east from Minneapolis). When I called her I found a friendly voice on the other end of the line. She told me that she and her husband also had a bed and breakfast, called "The Happy Horse" along with the equestrian center. Perfect!

Getting There

So, I drove to Holcombe—it's between Cornell and Lady-smith. The Happy Horse B & B, appeared, as promised, on the right on Highway 27—a cute Victorian farmhouse with a porch all around. Inside, I entered into a big farm kitchen with an old-fashioned cook stove—all spic and span. There were four bedrooms upstairs, and since there were no other guests, I could have my pick. Back down in the kitchen, I opened the fridge to discover a bottle of champagne and a bottle of Bailey's!

Now for the horses: Sandra has Morgans. They are zippy little trotters and can go all day. I wasn't sure about riding the one I saw in a lesson prior to mine, especially sidesaddle. But, I did ride that one and all was fine.

On my first attempt, I rode 18-year old "Dreamin'." Sandra or Sandy, as I was to call her, showed me the parts of the saddle. This was an English sidesaddle, although there are also western sidesaddles. Its main features are the "leaping horn" (a downward-turned hook) and "pommel horn" (an upward-turned hook) that are fixed in place on the left side. Also on the left side is a flap in front for the legs to rest on so as not be on the horse's shoulder. This piece is called the "safe." There is a girth and a "balance strap," which attaches from the back of the right side underneath to the front of the left side, thus providing greater security for the offside weight. No pad is needed. Or, if a pad is used, it should be non-slip. The seat itself is built up, very



padded and flat, like a chair. Sandy stressed that perfect fit is crucial to both horse and rider. That was easy to understand, as any gap between saddle and horse could be disastrous! She also mentioned that in buying a used sidesaddle; make sure it has a leaping horn, as there were also styles in the "olden days" without this feature. Sidesaddles with just a pommel horn are strictly for show and the rider should only ride at a walk.

Dreamin' met the qualifications of a good sidesaddle horse. Quiet. Content to stand still when being mounted and not spooky. Dreamin' was not trained in dressage and had more speed than I was used to, but was actually quite safe and comfortable.

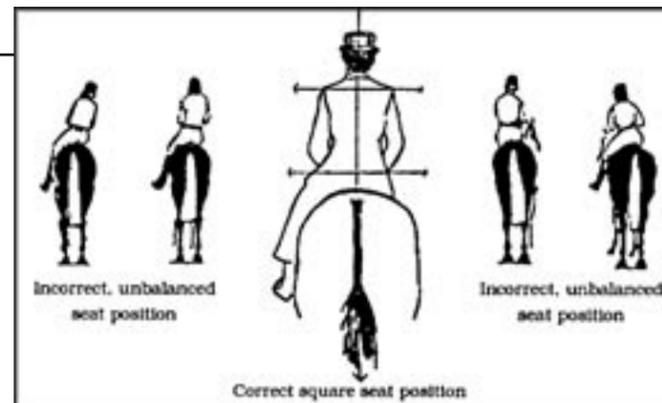
Mounting and Dismounting

There are two ways to get on. A ladder to get on astride then bring right leg over horn, or the old-fashioned way—a man—either the lady's husband, beau, or her groom to lift her into the saddle. I had to use the ladder.

Dismounting: One can take one's right leg off the pommel horn and sit sideways on the back of the saddle and jump down, or, horse willing, ride alongside the ladder and ease oneself onto it. I like the old-fashioned, quaintly phrased, way in which the lady was to "float down into the arms of her lover." Again, I had to use the ladder.

Riding

Sandy stated that it is just as easy (or "hard") to learn to ride aside as it is to learn to ride astride. The jury is still out and I can only say I felt pretty precariously perched once I got into correct position—torso straight ahead, shoulders square, hands one on either side of my leg. Left foot is daintily in the stirrup, but no weight is to be put on that stirrup or you can end up to the left. Weight should be more into right hip, without tipping



right shoulder. Right leg is over the pommel horn and the left leg is close to, but not against, the leaping horn. Except in emergencies—supposedly, if you are in trouble, you can gain "purchase" (the old term for "security" or "tightness") as you press your left leg into the leaping horn while squeezing like hell with the right leg against the pommel horn. In such cases and when jumping, it also helps to point the toes downward and tilt slightly to the right. However, I understand that there were many accidents involving women riders in the old days, and I can see why!

Since the legs are on the left side, the rider signals the horse for right leads with a "cane." If one is riding properly, it shouldn't feel too different to the horse, Sandy says. The cane is tapped near the girth as would the right foot to signal the horse to engage from the right.

I took two lessons. For the first lesson the first day, I was lunged. In the second lesson the next day, I rode alone, a bit more confident and trusting of my new mount, "Demure," a dressage-trained mare. I walked and trotted. (Although Monique, my friend who lives in France and rides side-saddle, told me she never trots, only walks and canters, and then, only a right lead canter.) Nonetheless, never did I feel secure, only more trusting. What does it feel like? Well, try it! Swing your right leg over to the left side, point that toe down and ride around. The only difference is that with a proper sidesaddle your seat is flat. Sandy assures me that you get used to it!

Other Facts

Legend has it that Catherine de Medici started the art of sidesaddle riding. She was married to Henry H of France during the Renaissance and, apparently, wanted to ride alone. Prior to that, married women rode aside behind their husbands (if they rode at all) on a small pillow. The only women who rode astride were virgins, such as Joan of Arc. Some speculate that it was because of the ravages of childbirth that women preferred to ride sidesaddle. However, others believe that a man invented sidesaddle riding; in fact, the same man that invented corsets and high-heeled shoes!

Since women were looked upon as the "fairer sex," only the most courageous braved the exertion and frenzy of fox hunting. It was more common for her ladyship to be led around on her horse by her groom—at a walk. Not too exciting.

And what did the well-dressed lady wear for such an adventurous outing? We think of the long full skirts, fussy lace and flowing capes like in the movies. But, this was not the case.

Women riding sidesaddle did wear long skirts, but without the petticoats, and with breeches—often belonging to their husbands—underneath. Her jacket was often an altered military jacket from her husband's closet. Today's skirt is called an "apron." It is cut away in the back so there is no excess material between the rider and the horse. Matching colored breeches (usually tan or black) are worn underneath. When the lady dismounts, she can pick up a corner of her skirt and wrap it around her backside to a button on the opposite side waistband. For formal English riding, the somewhat masculine look remains today, of tailored jacket, notched lapels, brass buttons, and proper stock tie. Also, on her left foot, which will show about one inch under the line of her skirt, she will wear a long boot. Her right foot does not show and may actually have a short boot, or a long boot that is gusseted to allow for the major angle created by her bent knee. A top hat is appropriate with this costume, then and now.

Where to see sidesaddle riding

The Kentucky Horse Park has an annual sidesaddle show in October. Also, the Park has special sidesaddle weekends, check the web site (www.imh.org/fkhp). The 2003 MidWest Horse Fair in Madison, Wisconsin had some sidesaddle riding. Look at the calendar of events on the World Side-saddle Federation web site. Sandy told me that most sidesaddle shows occur on the east and west coasts. However, one can ride sidesaddle in any show and almost any class—dressage, hunters, pleasure, and trail. It is a good idea to tell the Technical Director and/or the judges in advance, however, and realize that they may not know how to judge you.

More Info

The World Side-saddle Federation, Inc. can be joined for \$25 and the application form can be printed off their web site (www.sidesaddle.org). Membership includes a quarterly magazine entitled ASIDE WORLD. Also, you might check with the International and the U.S. Side-saddle Federations to see what they offer. Since Sandy, my only contact with the sidesaddle world, was a member of the "World" Federation and was certified by them, this is the one I will probably join.

I will also start to look for a used sidesaddle. I understand they are very hard to find, and as mentioned earlier, must fit both horse and rider perfectly. I can't wait to try it again—just as soon as I get my back untwisted!

*Congratulations to member Sheri Neff
and her mare Pollyanna
who scored a 69% at the mares first
USDF recognized show. Way to WOW!*

*Welcome new EIDEA Member
Pat Allard of Marion, IA*