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THURSDAY . JANUARY 8 . 2009

nwi.com/calendar

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Getting to know Northwest Indiana Saddlebred Association Inc.

Established in July.

Regional club of the American Saddlebred Horse Association.

Promotes the breed of horses known as American saddlebreds.

Meets regularly.

Web site: nwisa.com

Mission: The Northwest Indiana Saddlebred Association Inc. is a group of saddlebred riders, breeders, owners, trainers and lovers working to promote Saddlebreds in lower Michigan, northern Indiana and Chicago's southern suburbs. By the late

1700s, the American saddlebred was being recognized as a unique and individual horse type, referred to as the "American Horse." With the continued addition of thoroughbred blood to easy gaited horses, breeders saw they were creating a distinct breed. They believe that American saddlebreds are great all-around horses and want to spread that word and dispel the many myths that surround the breed they love. Members believe that everyone's first horse could and should be an American saddlebred - the horse that America built.

Special events: Lake County Fair All-

Breed Classic will insert three ASHA-sanctioned classes: Shatner Western Class, Saddle Bridle Hunt Seat Classic and Show/Country Pleasure, into 2009's show. Northwest Indiana Saddlebred Association will work to get more classes inserted into other open shows and hopes to host an open show next year. The club meets regularly and ongoing fundraisers include selling personalized horse art.

Advice: "We really want saddlebreds to be included in the local horse scene," said club president Carey Millsap-Spears. "We want the horses to be respected for what

they are, because they are talented."

How to get involved: For more information on Northwest Indiana Saddlebred Association, visit nwisa.com or contact Carey Millsap-Spears at cmillsapspears@hotmail.com or (219) 942-2915.

People might be surprised to know: "That we exist and that there are more saddlebreds here than people think."

- SUE BERO, Times Correspondent

To nominate an organization for this feature, e-mail slbero@hotmail.com.