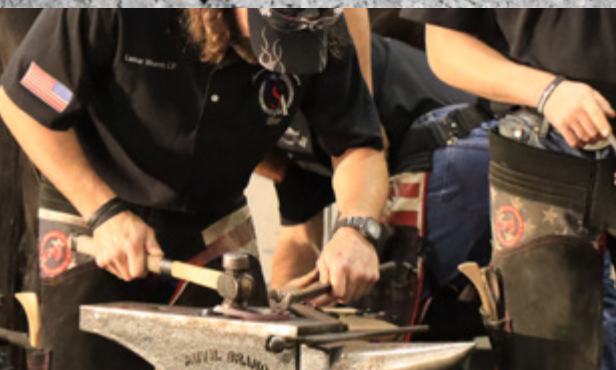




No Foot, No Horse



**Special
2024 AFA
Convention
Coverage**

Pages 10-17



CAPEWELL CUP									
		COMPETITOR	#	HORSE	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	TOTAL
ROUND 4	1	Tom Brennan	50	#5 RF	27.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	105.4
	2	Chris Mandy	29	#4 RF	27.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	105.4
	3	Sanger Stirling	57	#3 RF	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3	105.2
	4	Lance Womack	52	#2 RF	26.2	26.2	26.2	26.2	104.8
	5	Joao Brumby	51	#1 RF	24.9	24.9	24.9	24.9	99.6
ROUND 3	6	Dan Reed	55	LH	20.4	20.4	20.4	20.4	81.6
	7	Beyon Osborne							
	8	Devin Alver							



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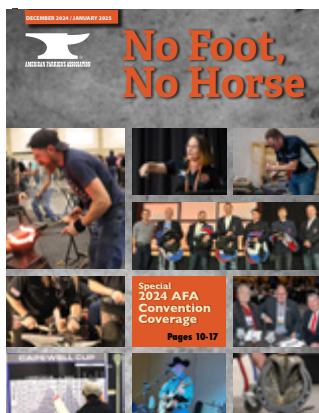
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Cover

The 53rd AFA Convention in Chattanooga blew us all away. Turn to Page 10 to see some of the highlights from this week of learning, sharing ideas, competition, and fellowship.

Images: AFA Staff

AFA Communications Chairperson:
Heather Beauchemin, CJP, TE, AWC

Managing Editor:
Martha L. Jones

Our Mission

Representing professional farriers, veterinarians, suppliers and horse owners, the American Farrier's Association is the oldest and largest membership organization for the farrier industry in North America, and the only one with internationally recognized standards of competency through our certification programs. Setting the standard for excellence in hoof care, the AFA provides professional development, certification, leadership and resources for the benefit of the farrier industry and the welfare of the horse.



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Lexington, KY 40503

Ph: 859-233-7411

info@americanfarriers.org

www.americanfarriers.org

AFA President's Letter

Dear AFA members,

Well, here we are — with another Convention behind us — and I have to say it was one of our best yet. I've talked to a lot of people who thought this was an outstanding year, and I would agree. I realize there will always be ways we can improve, but as long as all of you leave having learned something, bettered yourself, and had a good time along the way, it's all good. And I am so thankful for all of you who join us every year — if I don't see you between times, it sure makes my week to get to see you during Convention. It's been said many times over that we're just one big family, and at no point does that ever ring truer than when we're all together. So, thank you for making my year yet again.

I also want to take a minute to thank our new Convention Chairman, Adam Fahr, CJF. I'm sure you not only saw him working with staff and the onsite Convention services team, but in addition to that, he competed, exhibited in MarketPlace, participated as a Region 4 Board member, and managed to do well enough competing to make the 2025 American Farriers Team. If that's not inspiring, I don't know what is. So thank you, Adam, for your service to the AFA. You are appreciated more than you know.

I would also like to thank our outgoing Board members: Lee Olsen, CJF (Region 2), David Hallock, CJF, AWCF, ASF (Region 3) and Doug Corey, CJF (Region 5). It can, at times, be a thankless job — but I don't know where we would be without the great leaders we have been so fortunate to have. At times, Directors and Officers have to make hard (or "unpopular") decisions, and we are blessed to have individuals who do so with grace and integrity. So, if you see these individuals, please join me in thanking them

for the time and dedication they've given to the AFA.

Finally, I want to thank you for re-electing me as your President for another term. This will be my final one, as I'll "term out" after this — and while I'm sure I'll be ready for a break by that time! — I want you to

know that it is a huge honor that you have placed your faith in me for another 2 years. I promise you that I will continue to do my very best to lead this association and be someone that all of you can be proud of. I will continue to promote our Certification and Pre-Certification programs diligently and remain steadfast in support of our Board leaders and committees, as well. This organization means more to me than you know, and it is a great privilege to serve each and every one of you.

As always, if there's something on your mind, please feel free to call me any time. I am always available to you as your President. I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Hank Chisholm, CJF
President
American Farrier's Association



FIA President's Letter



*Farrier Industry Association Mission Statement:
The mission of the FIA is to provide companies in the hoof care industry with programs and services which will strengthen and grow their businesses.*

Congratulations to the AFA and FIA!

Chattanooga 2024 was one for the record books for both organizations! With well over 800 attendees and 97% of the available FIA MarketPlace booths sold, I think we nailed it! So many said that it was the best AFA Convention/FIA MarketPlace that they can remember, and I agree.

Did you watch our newest American Farriers Team members compete for their spot? How about Tom Peterson, CJF racking up the points? Did you see Money and Craig going for the cash? Or the team draft shoe competitors? Did the on-stage certification recognition get you motivated? Which presentation was your favorite? Which booth had the best swag? If you were in Chattanooga, you could answer all of these questions. Also, if you said the Mustad feed buckets, you are correct.

I know that Hank is sure that he has the best Board Directors and Officers, but I have to brag on the FIA Board for getting it done this year. In my two short years as FIA President, our BOD has met challenges head-on and worked to accomplish our mission with energy and positivity. Committees were moving forward behind the scenes, and our BOD was able to leave the FIA a better association than when my term started. Congratulations to Stacie Beall from GE Forge and Tool for joining the FIA BOD and to all of the Directors that extended their BOD terms. GE Forge and Tool was also mentioned in our 2024 FIA member lunch, as Walt and Beth Garner were inducted into the FIA Hall

of Legends. Their decades of service to our industry and the Farrier Industry Association during its formation and early years should be admired by all. I can't think of anyone more deserving of the FIA Hall of Legends honor.

As we close the chapter on Chattanooga 2024, please take a moment to reflect on your own business and involvement in our great industry over the past year. Each day we get to impact the care of horses around the world by shining a light on best practices and helping good people that may never cross a stage at a Convention. This is our most important responsibility as manufacturers, suppliers, and farriers, too. Building up our industry and sharing our accomplishments with those that are following us, while motivating ourselves to do better. The world may talk about a "skilled trades gap" or a "social license to operate" in our industry, but we see the good and can get the inside picture of hoofcare and farriery when we gather as an association. Next stop, Little Rock 2026!

Mark Hickcox, CF
The Victory Racing Plate Company
FIA President



Executive Director's Report

Hello and Happy Holidays, AFA and FIA Members!

I hope this note finds you all feeling well rested from Chattanooga and enjoying this beautiful season with your families and loved ones!

What a week for our 53rd, huh? As ever, the week seems to fly by, but this year certainly had its share of highlights! I'm always hard pressed to choose a "favorite" moment - as I reflect on so many cherished memories in the weeks following the event — but for me, stand out moments are those in the hallways between sessions when we get to chat, the relaxed and FUN Thursday night social, the Jackpot and Draft classes, the Chapter Presidents' breakfast, the opening session of MarketPlace, and of course, the Grand Finale! I love Friday night not only because we get to honor and recognize our award winners and competition victors, but because from a staff perspective, it means we made it!! (Ha!) Honestly though, getting to reconnect with so many of you, even if it's only briefly, makes my week every year. Your smiles are contagious even in the stressful moments — so thank you all for that!

With Convention behind us and 2025 looming on the horizon, I want to be sure to welcome our incoming leaders! This year our elections included the offices of President and Treasurer, as well as a Director in each of our five regions, and we are truly thrilled with the people that have stepped up to the plate for this next term. Please join me in welcoming and, in some cases re-welcoming, these individuals!

Our illustrious returning President, Hank Chisholm, CJF, newly elected Treasurer, Earl "Tri" Ellerbee, CJF, re-elected in Region 1, Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE, newly elected in Region 2, Jake Stonefield, CJF, newly elected in Region 3, Tobias Ellis, CJF, newly elected in Region 4, Kayla Shepherd, CJF, and newly elected in Region 5, Betsy Lordan, DVM, CJF, TE! As ever, should you have any questions, concerns, thoughts or ideas, please feel free to reach out to any member of our leadership team. We are all here to serve you!

By the time you read this issue, 2024 will be coming to a close, so I want to chat briefly about what to expect in early 2025! You've probably seen by now that our Certification Committee, led by Craig Stark, CJF, has been working diligently to roll out a new *Certification Guide*. This edition is available in our online store, and of course, always available digitally to current members via website download.

As you're probably also aware, Certification test fees will be increasing as of January 1. Despite it being well over a decade since we increased the fee, this move was not made to increase revenue. Over the past couple of years, our Examiners have seen more and more candidates signing up to test without preparing in advance. And while we understand the concept, this makes it hard on our volunteers and hard on our Hosts, and of course, it's certainly not in the best interests of the horses who are provided! Therefore, it is the committee's hope that this

increase will encourage candidates to wait until they're ready before signing up — and in doing so, ensure all of our Certifications are good, safe and productive learning environments.

Also coming up in the New Year, you'll see the Communications Committee, under the leadership of Heather Beauchemin, CJF, TE, AWCF, working on refreshing the look and content of our beloved magazine, *No Foot, No Horse*. This refresh, which is many years overdue, will only take place after surveying all of you on what you like, what you don't like, and especially, what you'd like to see added! So, when you see that survey come out (via email and the QR code below) — I sincerely hope you will respond and share your ideas with us!

Our newly named American Farriers Team will also start the year off strong at the WCB's Winter Classic team contest, our Equine Research Committee is moving full speed ahead on Journal Club and the *Proceedings of the American Farrier's Association Academic Journal*, our PR/Marketing Committee is embarking on an ambitious (and hopefully successful) digital marketing campaign, and believe it or not, our Convention Committee is already working on Little Rock AND site selection for 2027! So clearly, 2025 is going to start off with a bang here at the AFA!

Finally, I'd like to close by wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 2024 brought highs, lows and some devastating loss... but I hope it also brought you and your families many moments of joy.

So, here's to 2025! Together, let's make it a great one!

Cheers!

Martha Jones
Executive Director
American Farrier's Association and Farrier Industry Association



Please scan this QR code to complete a survey and share your thoughts on how we can improve *No Foot, No Horse*.

We Have Awesome Member Benefits

Being an AFA Member means that you are a part of a community that cares about the hoof care industry. As part of your membership, you have access to benefits, discounts and resources.

Check out our members only page with instructions and codes for redeeming your benefits and discounts: americanfarriers.org/page/redeeming_member_benefits

AD&D INSURANCE - FREE!

Active Regular, Associate, Lifetime and Student Members of the Association receive an automatic \$50,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Cigna Insurance Policy. The policy covers members 24 hours a day for both on and off the job. Roughly a \$600 a year policy – FREE!

NEW! MEMBER DEALS

Special member discounts including exclusive entertainment and travel offers. From theme parks to cruises, hotel stays and shopping, Member Deals has a discount for everyone to enjoy! Major sporting events (including every NFL game) plus musicals and concerts from all genres of music. You'll want to take advantage of these amazing member deals!

AFA MEMBER FINANCIAL SERVICES

The American Farrier's Association is pleased to offer a variety of products to our members through Kennedy Financial Services. The Common Cents Resources website is an exclusive resource for AFA members.

You may use the website's online tools for customized quotes, explore learning resources, or you may contact the Kennedy Financial Services representatives to create custom plans just for you.

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL ADVANTAGE PLAN

Our AHC membership provides individual discounts to our members through the AHC Advantage Plan with discounts from the following organizations:

- John Deere
- Big Ass Fans
- Sherwin Williams Paints
- Office Depot
- Farmers Insurance

DISCOUNTED FARRIER INSURANCE

Receive an AFA members only discount from already great rates:

- Allen Financial Insurance Group
- Farrier Liability & Care Insurance
- Custody & Control with an Equipment Suppliers Floater

Contact Brent Allen at 800-874-9191 or email: brent.allen@eqgroup.com
Receive a 10% credit towards liability premium as an AFA member from Markel as well as access to other insurance options.

Markle Insurance

- Farm property
- Inland marine
- Auto - available only for applicant's farm vehicles

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PLAN

The \$29 activation fee is waived for AFA members. Call USRider or go online to learn about their 24/7 nationwide roadside assistance for you and your rig. Plans start at \$149 a year.

DISABILITY & OTHER INSURANCE

Members and their spouses receive 15% lower premiums for Disability Income Insurance. Other product benefits are Universal Life Insurance, Single Premium Annuity, and Long-Term Care.

LIVE ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Exclusive member access to video Q&As, demos, pre-certification instruction, and more via the Equine Research Journal Club and our YouTube page.

CAR RENTAL - SPECIAL RATES

AFA Members enjoy special member rates, value-added discounts and the latest in technology, products and services with Avis and Budget.

EQUIPMENT & APPAREL DISCOUNTS

Discounts from Equine Equipment Company on products from Exmark, FarmPaint, New Holland, Tenda Horse, and Toro. Save 30% on Ariat brand apparel and footwear.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The AFA Certification Program is dedicated to the welfare of the horse. Those that participate in the program increase their knowledge and hone their skills through accepting the challenge of the certification process. "The AFA Certification Guide" and hoof templates are available for purchase.

Members receive reduced testing fees. Members can also take a Certified Farrier practice test and access two sample TE questions on our website under the Membership tab.

The AFA Annual Convention offers farriers a 4-day event with in-depth lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on stations coming from top farriers and equine veterinarians. Members receive a discounted registration and competition fee.

The AFA's *No Foot, No Horse* magazine is published every other month and mailed to all members. A digital copy can be accessed on our website under the Resources tab.

We are very pleased to share digital access to *Forge* and *Forge Knowledge* magazines with our members. These are highly regarded magazines from the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association. Members can access these magazines, as well as *Horse, Vet, & Farrier* from the Northeast Association of Equine Practitioners, under the Resources tab.

FIND A FARRIER DIRECTORY

The AFA website has a Find-A-Farrier section for horse owners to search for and find AFA Member Farriers.

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGES

The farrier world is like none other, and the friendships you forge will last a lifetime.

- Volunteer and help build the community!
- Get involved with these community resources:
 - Communications are released through the Website, *No Foot, No Horse*, Emails, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
 - Association Chapters are a resource to build a supportive network locally. There are 50 AFA Association Chapters to get involved with.
 - AFA Committees need volunteers to continually provide support to farriers.

AFA News & Press Releases

Loss of a Friend and Colleague

It is with great sorrow that I write to share the sad news regarding the passing of Dr. Mathew J Wimer, DVM, CJF (AFA #9040). Mathew was a colleague to all. Friend to those fortunate to call him friend. To the few like myself, blessed to call him "Brother." He was generous and caring, inviting friends home to the family dinner. His personality was infectious. He was one of the rare people you meet and feel an instant connection, which I was fortunate to have. The farrier world won't be the same without him. Love you, brother.

— Brian P. Ober

Dr. Matthew Joel Wimer, 39, of Geneseo, Kansas, passed away Wednesday, November 20, at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis, Wichita, Kansas. Matthew was born in Salina, Kansas, on January 24, 1985, son of Joel W. Wimer and Jeri LeLynn (Swagerty) Wimer.

After graduating high school, he attended Kansas State University before graduating Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine. Matthew finished his Journeyman Farrier certification while completing his final year of veterinary school. He then interned at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. In 2015, he returned home to Smolan, to start Ranchland Forge Veterinary Medicine and Equine Podiatry Services.

Matthew and his wife, Abby, were married in Salemsborg Lutheran Church on July 24, 2020. In his free time, he enjoyed being with people he loved, being out in the pasture, checking cattle, and helping horses.

A memorial service was held on December 6, 2024, at Salemsborg Lutheran Church in Smolan.



Share Your Thoughts on *No Foot, No Horse* for Your Chance to Win Free AFA Membership for a Year

No Foot, No Horse magazine is just one of the many benefits you receive as an AFA member. We want to ensure that this publication remains beneficial for you. To accomplish this, we are beginning a redesign of the magazine.

Rather than assume what you enjoy about the magazine, we want to hear from you. We have a short survey in which you can provide the Communications Committee with what you like and what you would change with *No Foot, No Horse*. Feel free to share your opinions on both the content and the overall look of the magazine.

Scan the QR code to the right and follow the directions for completing the survey before April 1 and you will be entered in a drawing for a free renewal of your AFA membership.



Certification and Tester Update Schedule

Craig Stark, CJF — Certification Committee Chairman, (918) 857-0771
Lucas Gilleland, CJF — Pre-Certification Committee Chairman, (678) 873-2555
Online Registration through the AFA Certification Calendar required for all Certifications

January 17-18

Texas Certification

Host: Texas Professional Farriers Association
Location: Lone Star Cowboy Church,
21627 Eva St., Montgomery, TX 77356
Examiner: Daniel Jones, CJF and Alan
Larson, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Bear Reed – dred_bear@yahoo.
com, 903-456-3097

January 18-19

Cal Poly Certification

Host: Western States Farriers Association
Location: Cal Poly State University
1 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
Examiner: Sam Durham, CJF, DWCF and
Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Sam Durham – durhamfarrier
service@gmail.com, 707-483-1384

January 21

Summit Certification

Location: Chateau Room, Sheraton Kansas

City Hotel at Crown Centre, 2345 McGee St.,
Kansas City, MO 64108
Examiner: Craig Stark, CJF and
Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF
All Levels, WRITTEN Only
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: AFA Office – 859-233-7411

April 11-12

New York Certification

Host: Western New York Farriers Association
Location: SUNY Morrisville Equestrian
Facility, 4550 Swamp Rd., NY 13408
Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Douglas Corey, CJF, DipWCF –
dougjrcjf@gmail.com, 315-345-3464

May 30-31

Maryland Certification

Host: Maryland Farriers Association
Location: Carroll County Agricultural Cen-
ter, 706 Agricultural Center Dr., MD 21157
Examiner: Jennifer Horn, CJF and
Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF
All Levels/Areas Offered

ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Liam Straton, CJF – liamstraton@
yahoo.com 410-913-3824

June 6-7

Kansas Certification

Host: Kansas Farrier Association
Location: Riley County Fairgrounds,
1726 Avery Ave., KS 66503
Examiner: Jennifer Horn, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Nick Redman, CF –
nr2184@yahoo.com, 785-410-1473

October 24-25

South Carolina Certification

Host: South Carolina Farrier Association
Location: Palmetto Equine Veterinary
Services, 451 Jenkins Cir., SC 29689
Examiner: Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only –
americanfarriers.org
Contact: Dusty Newby, CJF – dustynewby@
gmail.com, 864-992-0020

Calendar of Events

We encourage you to contact the local host of any event you were planning to attend to see if it is still taking place. The AFA does not necessarily receive notification of all event postponements and cancellations. Thank you!

January 2-4

MHA Clinic and Contest

Host: Michigan Horseshoers Association
Location: Michigan State Livestock Pavilion,
4301 Farm Ln., East Lansing, MI 48910
Judge: Carl Via, CJF
Contact: Jennifer Horn – jhorn847@gmail.
com, (906) 440-2537

January 24-25

MAPF Annual Contest

Host: Missouri Association of

Professional Farriers

Location: Longhorn Arena, 8802 State Hwy
M. Mt Vernon, MO 65712
Contact: David Pfefer, CJF – dpfefer11@
gmail.com, (816) 694-4904

February 7-8

SNEFA Contest

Host: Southern New England
Farriers Association
Location: TBD
Judge: Tim McPhee, CJF

Contact: Katie Panos – 603-660-8126,
foxibaryforge@gmail.com

February 27-March 1

Farrier/Veterinarian Clinic

Host: Utah Horseshoers Guild
Location: Utah State University
Sam Skaggs Equine Center, 3589 S Hwy
89/91, Wellsville, Utah 84339
Clinician: Mark Caldwell, PhD, FWCF
Contact: Karl Hoopes – 435-535-5140



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Special 2024 Convention Coverage



AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION

53rd Annual Convention

Presented by



Chattanooga was Everything We Wanted and More!

What an amazing year in Chattanooga! We witnessed one of the largest attendance numbers in recent memory. Our guest speakers delivered an outstanding and diverse week of education, while the incredible skill and determination of competitors in the National Forging & Horseshoeing Competition left us in awe once again. Throughout the week, our Certification Examiners and Pre-Certification Instructors offered numerous learning opportunities. And, of course, Thursday night was a highlight, as we were treated to an unforgettable performance by the Rylee Lum Band!

Returning for its second year, our Open Jackpot Class — featuring a winner-takes-all format where competitors could pair up with any partner of their choice — was a thrilling success! A huge congratulations to Sawyer Spradling, CJF, and Lamar Weaver, CJF, on their incredible victory against tough competition!

We also saw a fantastic turnout at our Chapter Presidents' breakfast, followed by a vibrant FIA Marketplace where farriers gathered to learn, connect, and of course, shop! The FIA Business Conference was another highlight, featuring the induction of Beth and Walt Garner into the Hall of Legends and an insightful business panel with key manufacturers, retailers, and suppliers from our industry. And to cap

off the week, our unforgettable Grand Finale included the announcement of the 2024 Achievement Awards recipients, our contest all-stars, the 2025 AFT and Apprentice Team, and our biggest annual fundraiser — the live and silent auction, for which we are incredibly grateful. What an action-packed and memorable week it was!

To say all that, our highlight of Convention each year is getting to see all of you — it truly brings us more joy than words can express. Reconnecting with our members and spending time with our farrier family is something we eagerly look forward to every year. If we didn't have the chance to catch up with you this time, here's your early bird reminder – be sure to mark your calendars for **March 16-20, 2026, in Little Rock, Arkansas!**

As we close out our 53rd Annual Convention, we want to extend one final, huge THANK YOU to our volunteers. Whether you contribute hours, days, or even much of your year, your dedication ensures that everyone leaves Convention having learned and accomplished so much. We are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you.

We can't wait to see you all at our 54th Convention in Little Rock!





2024 NATIONAL FORGING & HORSESHOEING COMPETITION RESULTS

OPEN CLASSES

Open Journeyman Class

1. Juan Berumen, CJF
2. Wesley Auker, CF
3. Tom Petersen, CJF
4. Chris Madrid, CJF
5. Sawyer Spradling, CJF
6. Masafumi Shibata

Open Roadster Class

1. Tom Petersen, CJF
2. Chris Madrid, CJF
3. Bryan Osborne, CJF
4. Sawyer Spradling, CJF
5. Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF
6. Lamar Weaver, CJF

Open Specialty Forging Class

1. Tom Petersen, CJF
2. Sawyer Spradling, CJF
3. Lamar Weaver, CJF
4. David Reed, CJF
5. Chris Madrid, CJF
6. Nigel Fennell, CJF, FE, FWCF (Hons)

Open Jackpot Class

Sawyer Spradling, CJF and
Lamar Weaver, CJF

Capewell North American Challenge Cup Live Shoeing Finals

1. Chris Madrid, CJF
2. Tom Petersen, CJF
3. Sawyer Spradling, CJF
4. Lamar Weaver, CJF
5. Nigel Fennell, CJF, FE, FWCF (Hons)
6. Adam Fahr, CJF

Vern Hornquist Memorial Class

Alan Dryg, CJF, AWCF, ASF

2024 Vern Hornquist Memorial Class competitors. Winner Alan Dryg, fourth from left.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Reserve National High Point Award

Sawyer Spradling, CJF

National High Point Award

Tom Petersen, CJF

Overall High Point Award

Tom Petersen, CJF

Two-Person Draft Class

1. Tim Hoover, CJF and Lamar Weaver, CJF

2. Sawyer Spradling, CJF and Caleb Swarr, CJF
3. Mason Mileski, CJF and Craig Trnka, CJF
4. Weston Newsom, CJF and Chris Madrid, CJF
5. Tom Petersen, CJF and David Reed, CJF
6. Cody Gregory, CJF, AWCF, ASF and Garrett Stark, CJF

2025 American Farriers Apprentice Team

- Jose Berumen
- Eli Gingerich, CF
- Jaycie Steger, CF
- Aaron Warner, CF

2025 American Farriers Team

- Adam Fahr, CJF
- Bryan Osborne, CJF
- David Reed, CJF
- Sawyer Spradling, CJF
- Garrett Stark, CJF (alternate)



2025 American Farriers Team. Left to right: 2024 Team Manager Andrew Wells, CJF; Adam Fahr, CJF; Bryan Osborne, CJF; Sawyer Spradling, CJF; David Reed, CJF; Garrett Stark, CJF (alternate), 2025 Team Manager Travis Smith, CJF.



2025 American Farriers Apprentice Team. Left to right: 2024 Team Manager Andrew Wells, CJF; Jose Berumen; Eli Gingerich, CF; Jaycie Steger, CF; Aaron Warner, CF; 2025 Team Manager Travis Smith, CJF.



2025 Open Jackpot Class winners Lamar Weaver, CJF (center) and Sawyer Spradling, CJF (right), with British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association President Abigail Bunyard, AWCF (left).



2024 National High Point Award and Overall High Point Award winner Tom Petersen.

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

Intermediate Journeyman Class

1. Aaron Warner, CF
2. Jose Berumen
3. Eli Gingerich, CF
4. Jaycie Steger, CF
5. Josh Sampson
6. Nolan Young, CJF

Intermediate Bar Shoe Class

1. Aaron Warner, CF
2. Jake Fivecoate, CJF
3. Jaycie Steger, CF
4. Adien Nicholas, CJF
5. Blake Schaefer, CF
6. Joni Lambright, CF

Intermediate Specialty Forging Class

1. Aaron Waner, CF
2. Jaycie Steger, CF
3. Eli Gingerich, CF
4. Joni Lambright, CF
5. Jake Fivecoate, CJF
6. Michael Lancto, CJF

Intermediate Overall High Point Award

Aaron Warner, CF



The FIA MarketPlace and Other Chattanooga Happenings!

The 2024 Farrier Industry MarketPlace proved, once again, that it is THE place to be for vendors involved in our industry! The 3-day show, November 13-15, 2024, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, hosted over 70 vendors, welcoming new vendors, as well as our industry "go-to" retailers and manufacturers that are the backbone of the industry.

Hosted with the 53rd American Farrier's Association Annual Convention, the FIA MarketPlace was filled with eager farriers looking for new, innovative products as well as filling orders to re-stock their trucks.

We hope you had time to watch the Farrier Family Feud event on November 12th! This event was held for the second year and a great time was had by all who participated! Praise Dale was the winning team! The winning team included Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF, Travis Smith, CJF, Daniel Jones, CJF, Hank Chisholm, CJF, Travis Burns, MSc, CJF, TE, EE, FWCF (captain). Rusty Brown Jewelry sponsored prizes for the winning team.

The FIA Business Conference & Membership meeting was very well attended. The event was held November 14, 2024, moderated by Rob Michel of Oleo Acres Blacksmith & Farrier Supply, and hosted a panel of industry experts in the retail and manufacturing side of our business. The topic of discussion during this meeting was "How Technology has Changed Your Business and How You Capitalize on It." The panel included: Remco van der Linden (Kahn Forge), John Harshbarger (Well-Shod), John McNerney (Yukon Forge), Bobby Salsbury (Canoga Farrier Supply), Ed Szymanski (FPD), Conrad Trow (Grand Circuit & Breeders Supply), Rob Logsdon (Mustad), Chris Leija (Werkman USA/Pathfinder Farrier Products).

Those in attendance at the FIA Business Conference & Membership meeting were also able to watch as Josh Garner of G.E. Forge & Tool accepted the Hall of Legends Award on behalf of his grandparents, Walt and Beth Garner. The Farrier Industry Association's Hall of Legends honors and celebrates the outstanding achievements of its members. Through their commitment, leadership, sacrifice and dedication, these members have achieved significant accomplishments within the farrier industry and have brought pride and distinction to both our association and the farrier industry.

We sincerely appreciate everyone that participated in the FIA MarketPlace and look forward to seeing you in Little Rock, Arkansas, March 16-20, 2026!







2024 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS & ELECTION RESULTS

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

2024 Walt Taylor Award

Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF

2024 Allen Smith Excellence in Administration Award

Kenny Hoyle, CJF

2024 J. Scott Simpson Outstanding Educator Award

William Todd Haenel, CJF

2024 Jim Linzy Outstanding Clinician Award

Nigel Fennell, CJF, FE, FWCF (Hons)

2024 Edward Martin Humanitarian Award

Jennifer Horn, CJF

2024 Journalism Award

Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE

2024 Technical Writing Award

Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE

2024 General Interest Article Award

Chris Diehl, CJF, FE, EE, AWCF

2024 Sharon Walker Newsletter Award

Northwest Farrier – FAWS –
Arcadia Birkliid, CF

ELECTION RESULTS

2025 President

Hank Chisholm, CJF

2025 Treasurer

Earl "Tri" Ellerbee, CJF

2025 Re-elected and Newly Elected Board Members

Region 1: Brian Strelow,
CJF, TE, FE, EE

Region 2: Jake Stonefield, CJF

Region 3: Tobias Ellis, CJF

Region 4: Kayla Shepherd, CJF

Region 5: Betsy Lordan,
DVM, CJF, TE



2024 Walt Taylor Award winner Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF (second from right).



2024 Edward Martin Humanitarian Award winner Jennifer Horn, CJF (second from right).



2024 Jim Linzy Outstanding Clinician Award winner Nigel Fennell, CJF, FE, FWCF (Hons) (second from right).



2024 J. Scott Simpson Outstanding Educator Award winner William Todd Haenel, CJF (second from right).



BOGLE PARK



AMERICAN FARRIER'S ASSOCIATION

See You in Little Rock!

— March 16-20, 2026 —

How to Make a Stamp

1



By Michael Marciano, CJF

A properly made stamp provides for a secure nail fit and allows for the usage of a specific nail for the job when making horseshoes. Making a stamp can also develop consistency, precision and can help train the eye to look for lines. This article has outlined as clearly as possible the steps to go through to make a durable stamp which achieves a secure nail fit.

Start with a piece of at least 2" of air-quench tool steel such as S7 or H13. This length allows for forging half of it into the stamp and grinding the other half to become the striking surface that will extend above the handle.

Weld 5" of $\frac{3}{8}$ " by $\frac{3}{4}$ " bar stock to the S7 after bringing the S7 to a red heat so that it can be held while forging (**Figure 1**). Forge the round steel into something closer to but not reaching a rectangle. This thins the stock diameter so that it is easier to work.

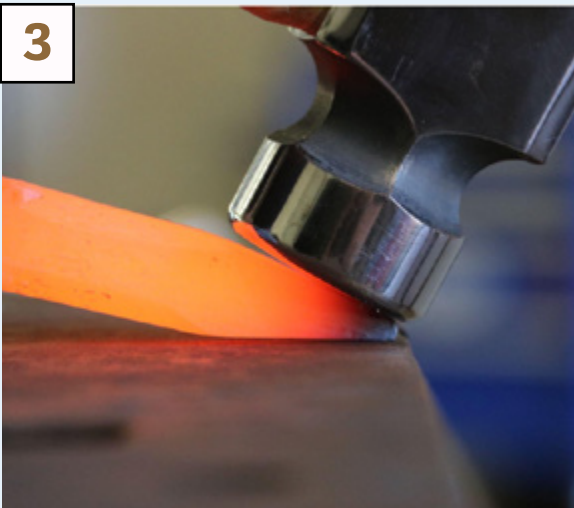
2



Then, imagine lines extending from the middle of the tool steel that match the angles of the nail the stamp is being made for (**Figure 2**). To keep the steel from bending, lift the tongs to match the angle being forged (**Figure 3**) and hit on opposite sides of the steel — top, bottom, then the left side, and the right side before beginning the process again. The closer the stamp is to the nail shape off of the hammer the easier/faster it will be to finish the stamp (**Figure 4**).

When forging is done, cut off the stock used in the previous step and grind a rough striking surface in with the 36 grit sanding belt. A striking surface is of personal preference, but many stamps have a tight oval surface, so this is what can be ground in. Remove the corners leading to the oval so that a missed hit won't shatter a corner off of the stamp.

3



Then, make a permanent handle. This again is user preference, but $\frac{5}{16}$ " by $\frac{3}{4}$ " and/or $\frac{1}{4}$ " by $\frac{3}{4}$ " are commonly used. Cut at least 12" of the chosen stock. Tack weld the handle on and check for alignment before completing the process of welding (**Figure 5**). S7 needs to get to a red to faint orange color before welding if you are using the MIG welder settings appropriate for the handle. With a handle made out of $\frac{5}{16}$ ", the voltage setting needs to match $\frac{5}{16}$ " steel and needs a wire speed of about 70 inches per minute.

When the handle is welded, the tool should be hardened by bringing it to a bright orange heat and laying it somewhere where it can cool down gradually. After it is cool to the touch, temper the tool by baking it in an oven at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 2 hours so that the tool is a golden straw color.

To make a cushion for your handle, use the size of vinyl tubing to match the stock you choose to use to make for a tight fit, but not so tight as to prevent getting the handle on. For a tight fitting handle, use $\frac{1}{2}$ " tubing.



This size is really more suited for $\frac{1}{4}$ " by $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock, meaning some grinding of the $\frac{5}{16}$ " stock where the handle will be is necessary.

Cut enough tubing to feel comfortable in your hands. To get the handle on, turn a propane forge on and wave the end of the tubing past the heat coming out of the side of the forge to soften the vinyl (not melt it). Then, push the tubing on the end of the handle and keep repeating this process until the handle is on. With a tight-fitting handle, reheat some of what is already on the handle and grab the warm vinyl, hitting it down into the handle with the end pointing up to the sky and the stamp striking the heart of the anvil.

After working the vinyl onto the handle enough, hit the vinyl directly with a hammer (without heating it so that it stays rigid) to get the last few inches on the handle. Finish working it on by placing a corner of the vinyl on the far right corner of the hardy-hole and hitting the body of the stamp with your hammer before moving to the opposite corner and repeating the process (**Figure 6**).



Now that the handle is attached, begin the process of finishing the tool by grinding, stamping, checking nail fit, and repeating the process. Do not let the stamp build too much heat or any color and be sure to quench it frequently. Begin by finishing the striking surface with the 80 grit belt and then polishing it with the Scotch-Brite belt. Then, grind out any slag, slight divots, or imperfections on the stamp with the 80 grit belt until all four corners are flat. The tip of the stamp should form the shape of the nail shank, and all four faces should have grinding lines that are complete instead of multiple spots ground at different angles. Straight lines help provide a secure fit, and bulges on a stamp lead to areas where the nail can become loose.



To test the tool, punch a hole with the stamp, then quench the shoe and check the nail fit. The nail should not move and there should not be any visible space between the nail head and the nail hole. In addition, only the space between the head and the crown of the nail should be sticking out of the shoe.

If the nail sits too deeply, grind the four sides of the stamp so that after using the stamp, the nail sits more shallowly. If it doesn't sit deeply enough, grind the tip of the stamp back slightly. Space between the nail and the nail hole demonstrates where to grind as well. If grinding is required, grind and fix it and then check the fit again until your nail does not move and sits at the proper depth (**Figure 7**).

Finally, grind the tip slightly so that the pritchel exits the shoe on the inner and outer edge of the shoe at the same time. For a right-handed person, the stamp is held in the left hand, so the right half of the tip is ground away slightly so that the bottom hole matching the nail shank is flat in the shoe even when the nail hole is pitched.



Some common mistakes made when making a stamp that limit its usefulness are: welding on stamps racked, grinding too much or not enough on one side, and creating rounded faces in the stamp that lead to loose nail fit. Check what you are doing, and measure twice before cutting once.

Creating your own stamp teaches you about consistency because of how important it is to be precise when making for a good nail fit. It will make you become more intentional in your work and better able to focus on the little details that are part of horseshoeing.

Culture Exchange: Merging and Emerging

By Tiffany Gardner, CJF

"Biscuits and gravy for breakfast? You're joking..." The image that "biscuits and gravy" gives people from the United Kingdom (UK) is of a digestive biscuit (sweet cookie) and brown salty gravy, like what would go over a steak and potatoes. So, the look on their faces was clearly one that needed clarification, because that image sounds disgusting! They waited patiently while I quickly pulled up a picture of what biscuits and gravy meant in the United States.

The thick fluffy scone-like pastry, with white thick creamy gravy with browned sausage. After clarification, they usually

conceded that, maybe they'd try our traditional American breakfast of biscuits and gravy. A traditional English breakfast is thick slices of bacon, fried eggs, baked beans, hash browns, boiled tomatoes, and toast or porridge and tea. I enjoyed many traditional English breakfasts during my time in the UK.

I wanted to give back, so I shared my love of peanut butter with anyone who would listen/try. Peanut butter, honey, and a banana in my oatmeal/porridge was my breakfast staple. However, peanut butter is not as well-loved in the UK as it is in the USA.

I was selected as one of four participants

for the 2023 American Farriers Association Edward Martin Cultural Exchange. This is an amazing program that the American Farrier's Association has had since 1982, and has led to the exchange of ideas, skills, techniques, and probably more importantly, friendship and culture. Seventy-two participants have since gone over to the UK, Australia, Europe, Japan, South Africa, and other places to learn and share.

This is a unique way to pass on information from country to country. In the world, pre-internet, this type of Cultural Exchange was so important. If it were not for travel, countries were isolated from other countries. Today, post-internet, information is shared globally with the



click of a button — travel is not necessary for information to be passed along. Travel adds a depth to the connectivity that could never be achieved without travel.

“Culture is an entire way of life for a group of people.” The heart behind the AFA Cultural Exchange is to connect and share farriery and life. Language is an important and large aspect of a culture. While my trip to the UK did not have a language barrier per say.... there were many times I had to ask for clarification on some words or sayings, or I simply could not understand their accent. Even if there was a large language barrier, we would have still shared a common language, a universal language and culture.... farriery. A culture and language that values hard work, animal welfare, passion and an appreciation for art and science.

Cultural universals are patterns and behaviors that are common globally across all societies. Cultural universals usually revolve around necessities for survival — food, shelter, clothing, or around shared human experiences, birth, life, death and sickness and health. Language is also a cultural universal, as well as humor. These cultural universals were first recognized by anthropologist George Murdock (*Murdock 1949*).

If you have ever traveled, to another country, or to another side of the USA, or even across state lines, sometimes even just across a county line, you may have experienced cultural differences. Cultural differences very much exist and are in greater number than cultural universals.

The mindset you bring while experiencing another culture can determine the effect it has on you. Ethnocentrism is evaluating another culture based on the norms of your own culture. This belief/mindset involves believing that your own culture is better than all other cultures. This limits the experience of the culture you’re visiting to being shrouded in a negative light and you will not be able to fully appreciate the beauty and meaning behind the culture you are visiting.

The opposite of ethnocentrism is xenocentrism. Xenocentrism is where you believe that the culture you have just experienced is superior to that of your own. This involves believing the beliefs and accepting norms of the new culture as more noble and upright than your own culture. This is also limiting, as when you return, you will have difficulty connecting and valuing your own culture that you live and exist in day in and day out.

Perspective is everything when you are experiencing another culture. A balance of pride in your own culture and an open-mindedness to experiencing and accepting different cultural norms is a place to strive for when traveling.

Traveling to another country and experiencing their culture can also have an aspect of culture shock. Culture shock is when what you experience is vastly different from that of your own culture and it makes you feel uncomfortable and uneasy. This is usually caused by a lack of understanding of the culture, its values, and rituals. The shock and uneasy feelings wear away as you gain an understanding and appreciation for the cultural norms you are experiencing.

I can not say I experienced cultural shock during the Cultural Exchange trip. However, I did experience and observe a few cultural differences between the UK and the USA.

A few of the cultural differences that stood out to me during my travel on the Cultural Exchange were:

- Travel 45 minutes to an hour is the exception, not the rule.
- It is possible to live your whole life without a drivers license.



- Talking about the weather is not merely surface level chit chat, it dramatically affects your life and what you can do!
- The pub has more of a community gathering place vibe/scene, than a bar type vibe/scene.
- Horses are less just a part of the landscape as they are in the USA, and have more of job/purpose because land is scarce and precious.
- Horses are a huge part of their culture, whether its farming, hunting or recreational sport riding.
- There are no big game predators... the largest predators are foxes.

There are two different Cultural Exchange program lengths, the long exchange is for three months and the short exchange is 2-5 weeks. I was on the long exchange and traveled around the UK for 3 months.

I stayed with 11 different host families, worked with 18 different qualified farriers, worked alongside over 15 apprentices, ate delicious meals, and became a sticky toffee pudding connoisseur. A few of the main experiences that stood out were:

- Exploring London and all the historical sites along my journeys.

- Experiencing the small quaint villages and many coastal towns.
- Witnessing the cultural impact the horse has on Newmarket, a town built around the horse and racing.
- Gaining an understanding into how the apprenticeship program and college programs work hand in hand to develop the next generations of farriers.
- Train rides up and down the length of the UK, from the Scotland Highlands, down to Devon, South-west corner of the UK.
- Welfare stops — hikes, walks with dogs on beaches or through the forests, pastries...
- Making my first roadster.
- Making my first make and fit hunter fit concave on a hunter.
- Making my first handmade hammers (with so much help and guidance...)
- Experiencing the backstage pass at Burghley Horse Trials.
- Every day shoeing.
- Tea and treats at most every stop.
- Farriers Foundation Tour de Farrier, hosted by Handmade Horseshoes.
- Spofforth competition with the judge, Spud Allison.
- Dissection clinic in the Highlands

with Jay Tovey and Stephen Hill by Farriery Tuition.

- Attending Farrier Focus, the BFBA's annual conference, and the International Competition at Stoneleigh.
- Every day shoeing.
- Every day shoeing. Yes, it is intentionally repeated because that is the essence of what we do as farriers and humans. We work hard. Thankfully it is a career full of added value to our every day life.

The experiences changed my perspective on life and farriery, how could it not? During each of my stays with host families, I tried to identify themes/lessons/take-aways for the week. Some were farriery lessons, and some were life lessons, but each important and meaningful.

Lessons of the week:

- Work hard to build a like-minded community, it is priceless.
— Liam O'Hara, AWCF
- Anyone can plate a horse to win the Derby, but it takes more to preserve them for race after race.
— Will and Ed O'Shaughnessy, AWCF
- Develop your skills, learn new



things, expand your network, stay open minded — you never know what opportunities will be opened to you.

— Stephen Britten, *AWCF*

- Question everything — think critically, look at your work with a critical eye, and be open to critique from others. Surround yourself with the right teachers and develop a growth mindset.

— Stephen Hill, *FWCF*

- Take ownership — it is a crucial part of personal and professional successes. Sometimes for a person to take ownership of something, they must first lose it. Skilled craftsmen take ownership of their craft. Take ownership of your life's story.

— Daniel Bennett, *AWCF*

- Always think about and plan your next move and you'll never return empty handed.

— Chris Carrel, *AWCF*

- Manners cost nothing, but can mean the world to someone.

— Alex Mercer, *AWCF*

- Surround yourself with wise mentors. Never stop asking why... ask yourself why... ask others why... and then ask but why? Find the best individuals to be part of the team to help the horse thrive and apply the same to yourself.

— Sarah Logie, *FWCF*

- Life is an adventure — take time amidst the daily grind to look around you and remind yourself of the adventure you're on and who is with you on it. Make the most of it.

— Andrew Bowyer, *FWCF*

- As generations come and go, the legacy you leave can matter most to those closest to you. What legacy are you leaving?

— Spud Allison, *AWCF*

A major take-away for me was how important developing a community of people around you is. Sounds silly when I spell it out. But it's not as easy as it sounds. During the trip, I was immersed in the host's community. Community is essential for our human survival. But the same can be said about survival of the farriers. A farrier isolated is one that will not last long and has limited resources.

A farrier in a community is one that will have support and resources when times get rough and hopefully be able to get through them and back to shoeing/practicing farriery. I was challenged to pour into my community, farrier and beyond, when I returned home. I have experienced isolation as a farrier before and it is too easy to become isolated again. It is something I must actively work against.

This Cultural Exchange has been on my bucket list for 10 years. It felt unachievable because at that time, I had not started the Certification process yet. However, having a goal to work towards provided the intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation I needed to move me through the process from CF to CTF to CJF. And then apply for the Cultural Exchange!

If you find yourself curious about the Cultural Exchange program, I encourage you to apply or take the necessary steps to become closer to qualifying for application. Speaking for those who went before me and will come after, everyone's exchange will be unique to each of them. That is the beauty of travel and experiences — our perceptions will all be different and unique. My time traveling, seeing new places, and meeting



new faces, has helped me put things in perspective, see beauty again, soften my heart, and appreciate life — all of it.

The purpose of the trip was centered around horses and farriery, but the heart of the trip was about people and community. Horses in my life have always brought people together, often without me really realizing it.

Thank you to all the hosts who opened their homes to me while I was traveling, I am forever grateful for your generosity, openness, and friendships. You have all touched my life. Thank you to the AFA and the BFBA for this incredible opportunity — Vern Powell, Kim Lacey, Huw Dyer, Holly Flack, and many others that have worked to develop this program.

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The Benefits of Making Shoes at the Horse

By Drew Morales, CJF

"The imperfect project you actually complete, is worth more than the perfect project you never create."

— James Clear, Author

The cooler weather of winter offers a great invitation for getting in the fire and making shoes. Typically I make the majority of shoes in my shop, but recently I've found it much more beneficial to make them at the horse. This article explains what makes building shoes at the horse such a beneficial daily practice. Additionally, I will provide some examples of specific shoe jobs and my steel choices for each to help give you ideas for possibly utilizing handmades in your own practice. I hope this article will either get you interested in making shoes at the horse if you don't currently, or if you already are, give a glimpse into my daily work that I'm lucky enough to be employed in.

Building shoes at the horse has provided me with several benefits over keg shoes

or even making shoes in my shop and just stocking my truck with them.

The first benefit from making shoes at the horse is that I get to practice under some pressure and time constraints. Being at the horse, I know I have to keep moving at an efficient pace not only for the sake of the horse but for the owner or holder. If I were making them in my shop, I might be less focused or know that if I mess up I can take another heat or build another shoe. Having the horse there has helped me focus on the foot in front of me, and keep the process more efficient.

Another great benefit has been that it allows me to get forging/practice time in while I'm working. Being a parent, my time is even more precious than it was before. Nights once spent in the shop I now give to my family life, and without regret. I knew though, that I didn't want my basic skill set to diminish, so I find making a pair a day at the horse is a good starting point to keep tuned up and now I've adjusted my schedule to allow for the majority of my work to be done at the horse.

Furthermore, I feel that making shoes at the horse allows me to better service my horses and the jobs they do by being able to use different styles/sections of steel, without having to carry a large shoe inventory. Here I will give you several examples of how making shoes gives greater flexibility to individualize each job. **Figure 1** is a job of $\frac{3}{8}$ x $\frac{5}{8}$ concave section for a young jumping thoroughbred. Thin walled and not terribly well footed, I felt this section could give her enough protection without being overly heavy, especially with the addition of pads. For these thinner walled horses I have found making a $\frac{3}{8}$ x $\frac{5}{8}$ section has been great for them. It's quite a tricky section to work and make look nice, so the added practice of making shoes out of it was a bonus.

Figure 2 is a lesson horse that just needed some protection up front. I chose a 12" section of $\frac{3}{8}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ and went with a fullered shoe to give him a little more coverage in the sand. I had concave on him previously but I found it not as durable in the abrasive sand arena.



Seeing this at the appointment and making the adjustment at the horse helped me use a more suitable section than if I had just made the usual shoes for him the night before.

Figure 3 is a horse that I helped my friend, Steve Walthall, CJF, do while he recovered from injury. This horse was a hack horse that twisted its hocks laterally when it walked. By making these shoes at the horse, we were able to help her land more stabilized and it was neat to watch her walk better when we finished.

In sum, making shoes at the horse is extremely beneficial for me. It allows me to be more focused on the shoemaking/fitting process, keeps me tuned up on my basics, and gives me daily chances to practice and use different sections/styles of steel to help horses. The satisfaction knowing that I'm practicing and learning everyday is my motivation to keep this practice up. I hope reading this has inspired you to make shoes at the horse. Give it a try, I think you'll be happy with the outcome.



*Dear Members,
Wishing You and Your
Farrier Business a
Safe and Prosperous
2025!*

- Your AFA Family

The 30-Year History of Our Credential Initials and Buck-

By Dennis Manning, CJF

The year 2024 marks the 30th anniversary for members of the American Farrier's Association using credentials or "post-nominal letters" such as CF and CJF and the awarding of brass buckles to successful certification candidates. With the aid and encouragement of AFA President Allen Smith, the AFA Certification Committee successfully presented the concept of certified members displaying certification 'post-nominal letters'. The use of post-nominal letters was approved by the AFA Board of Directors and presented to the general membership at the 1994 AFA Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. Brass buckles were introduced at the same time. The letters and buckles have been in common use since then and have become recognized, even sought after, within the international farrier industry.

Post-Nominal Letters

A definition from Wikipedia, "Post-nominal

letters, also called post-nominal initials, post-nominal titles, designatory letters or simply post-nominals, are letters placed after a person's name to indicate that the individual holds a position, an academic degree, accreditation, an office, a military decoration, or honor." As AFA Certification Chair from 1986-2003, having observed the use of post-nominal credentials by British farriers, I approached AFA President Allen Smith regarding the possible use of such letters by AFA certified farriers. Allen brought much needed order to the Association, especially in conducting meetings of the AFA Board of Directors, and enforcing strict compliance with Robert's Rules of Order. He insisted that the business of the Association be conducted in an organized and proper manner.

Little known to the general AFA membership, "Dr. L. Allen Smith" led two distinguished careers simultaneously. He was a skilled AFA Certified Journeyman

Farrier shoeing horses in Massachusetts and a highly admired professor at Simmons College. After researching the subject of using initials, President Smith shared the following comments recommending and giving guidelines for the use of letters of credential or post-nominal letters by AFA members. His insights and directives remain valid 30 years later. From his letter, February 8, 1994:

*"Dennis,
Got your note. I have looked into this using many different sources. Initials for certification are quite proper, although the decision to make use of the initials is left to the individual."*

"First, they should appear only on business cards and business stationery. It is generally regarded as pretentious to include them on personal stationery, although many academics less secure in what they know or can do, sometimes insist on the practice."



"Second, I have always liked the British practice of not using periods, and was surprised to find that these days, the Chicago Manual of Style in the latest edition seems to prefer no periods, hence CJF would be quite proper."

"Thirdly, academic initials come first, then non-academic, then honorary, however most don't put the honorary degrees."

"In any case, I think we should have a set of initials for every qualification. They are properly used on business cards and stationery, but this is up to the member. The preferred listing would be without periods but that is also up to the individual. They should follow academic degrees and should the member feel there might be some confusion about the issuing body, (AFA) could follow the qualification."

"I would want to see that the Committee recommend the use of initials. Members have worked hard and they should be encouraged to use them. Also, it works for the AFA to have members use them and horse owners inquire about it. If the Committee recommends their use, many modest farriers might then find reason to use them, and it give them the excuse they might need to see them in print."

General guidelines for post-nominals: Display credentials only with a full name. Use credentials on business cards and stationary, not social correspondence. Strive to limit the number of credential sets to one, but definitely no more than three. Keep it simple, crisp, and clean. Use only specific credentials pertinent to your current role or the professional service you are rendering. In the United States, less is considered best and in most cases post-nominals are dropped completely from anything less than very formal correspondence. By limiting the number of post-nominal letter sets displayed, you ensure the most important credentials stand out. Use of post-nominal letters is not intended to be a full resume of one's achievements and abilities. We may be proud of all our accomplishments, but others don't care so much. Focus on what is directly pertinent. I believe Allen Smith would cringe at the registry of credential sets displayed by some today.

Certification Buckles

The 1994 pre-Convention Certification

Report to the AFA Board of Directors noted that "brass belt buckles with logos could be made for both Certified and Journeyman" with the recommendation that the office either offer the buckles for sale to certified members or buckles could be presented to successful Certification candidates. The Board of Directors voted for both options. The buckles were intended as a clasp for fastening a belt, but with options for displaying an individual's accomplishments in other ways, such as wall plaques (shown on

the previous page, along with my 1994 sketches for potential buckles).

The AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier bar shoe/anvil logo was incorporated on the first CJF buckles and has been used on jackets, sweaters and other clothing items since that time. The CJF logo has a legal copyright owned by the American Farrier's Association. The copyright AFA anvil symbol designed by our first president, Walt Taylor, was incorporated in the design of the original buckles.




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FPD IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE AFA AND ITS EVENTS

FIA Member Spotlight

As the Farrier Industry Association (FIA) continues its reach to our expansive industry, we will be introducing you to some of the dedicated professionals that volunteer their time as the driving force behind the FIA's loyal membership.



1. What career path led you to Northeast Farrier Supply?

My wife's daughter grew up an equestrian. And like all parents of equestrians, we were at equestrian functions every weekend. My wife and I love the environment and the people involved with the environment. So we started to look for opportunities to acquire a business to pass on to our daughter when the time came. This business became available and we bought it, thinking the she and also her sister could eventually run it when they became ready.

I've worked to grow the shop and build relationships so the business would be established to pass on. Both children ended up going in different directions, and hopefully will circle back to this direction. We will see, but I am the one who ended up loving it.

2. What has been your biggest challenge since you've acquired the business?

The biggest challenge is finding good people right now to join a business. And due to that, it caused us to move our business. Moving to an area with a higher population increases the pool of candidates, and we've hired some really fine people. The learning curve for new employees is a little steep because of all the products that we have in inventory and aspects of them.

To find talent, we used all of the online resources for hiring. And then once we found a couple of good people that we liked that really fit our profile. We solicited them to help find people like themselves, which seemed to help.

3. What has been your biggest achievement since you bought Northeast Farrier Supply

I'm very proud of how we've been able to build up our network with people throughout the farrier industry. The relationships cultivated within the farrier industry have allowed us to grow the business.

4. What business lesson have you learned the hard way?

I learned it long ago at a previous job. I took a position at a company that I knew treated its employees poorly. I thought I could go there and change that culture. Sure enough, down the road, I was not treated well and I hadn't changed that culture.

The lesson learned was to trust my intuition. People don't change. Intuition is a mindset. If you have an open mindset, you will then have solid intuition. If you become corralled in your thinking, you likely lack intuition because you likely won't

admit something is really what it is. With intuition, you'll make decisions — some will be right, some will be wrong. But with reliable intuition, the times you're right will be more frequent than when you make the wrong decision.

4. Who has been your greatest influence/mentor throughout your career?

One of the most important mentors for me was when I started out in bartending. He was the manager of the first restaurant I worked. He led by example, which was important. He taught me how to be hands on, to be practical, and lead others. Some of the most important advice he gave me was how to deal with people and handle difficult situations.

6. If you had it to do all over again, would you take the same path?

Looking back, the one thing I would change is that I would have left the corporate world earlier and embraced being an entrepreneur. I always wanted to be an entrepreneur, but I watched too many movies and media that promoted the glamour and glory of being a white collar worker. I thought that is where I would have to go. Once I entered the corporate world, I knew it was not what I wanted and wasn't in me.



Vin Giannetti
Northeast Farrier Supply

Event Wrap-Ups

Iowa Professional Farriers Association Clinic

The Iowa Professional Farriers Association hosted a clinic on Tuesday, October 29! A huge thank you goes to the clinician, Michael Wildenstein, CJF, FWCF (Hons), who provided everyone

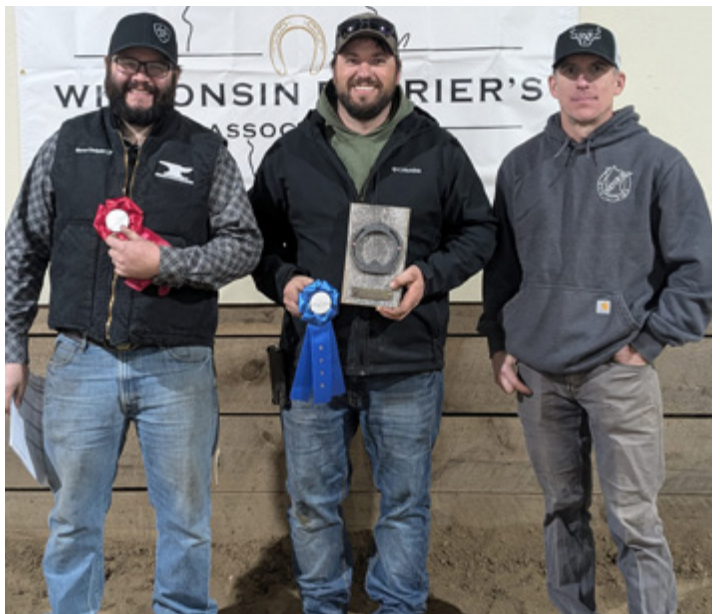
with tremendous information to learn and absorb this day. Thank you to Andrew Kempf, CJF, for hosting and putting on a great event!



Wisconsin Farriers Association Contest

The Wisconsin Farriers Association hosted a contest on October 25-26! A huge thank you to all the sponsors that made the event possible and everyone who chipped in and helped along the way. Also, a huge round of applause for our amazing

judge, Joe Nygren, CJF, DipWCF. Thank you, Sir, for the fantastic weekend! One more thanks to the event host, Showtime Arena in Deerfield, Wisconsin!





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The Official Publication of the
American Farrier's Association

Education – Certification – Communication – Innovation – Research

Minnesota Farrier's Association Certification and Clinic

It was a great couple of days at the Minnesota Farrier's Association's Certification and Clinic on October 4-5, 2024. Thank you to the following people for their extraordinary work: Nichole McCasland, CJF, TE, AWCF (Examiner); Heather Beauchemin, CJF, TE, AWCF (Tester); Jake Stonefield, CJF (Tester); Josh Ramsey, CJF (Tester); Marcus Lindquist, CJF (Provisional Tester and Event Coordinator); Tim Wampfler, CJF (Provisional Tester); Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF (Event Coordinator).

The University of Wisconsin - River Falls was a great event host site, who also provided the horses, and Saturday's lunch was provided by Ryan Hawley, CF.

To all of our candidates, although Certification is important in your journey, it's all about what you do at home to prepare, and you all came prepared and ready to work. Great job!

