

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2025



No Foot, No Horse



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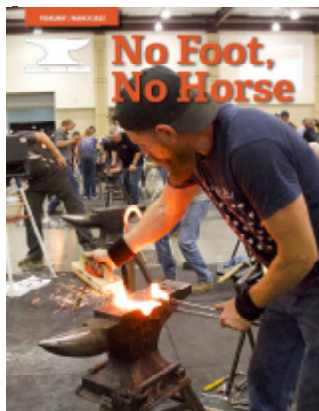
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Cover

Sparks fly at the American Farrier's Convention in Chattanooga as Tom Petersen competes in the Two-Person Draft Contest.

Image: Jeremy McGovern

AFA Communications Chairperson:
Heather Beauchemin, CJF, 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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AFA President's Letter

Dear AFA Members,

I hope this note finds you all doing well and making your way through winter. You might have seen the snow-pocalypse we had in Mississippi in January, so to those of you who sent prayers, it was appreciated. We got 7" at the house, and I'm sure you can imagine how Toby Chisholm felt about THAT.

Moving along, there are several people I need to thank in this letter, so I'll just get started. First, Mrs. Lori McBride, CJF decided to step down from her role as Secretary of the Board of Directors, a role she's held for the past 9 years. I said this on Facebook, but I'll say it here, too. There are no words to express the gratitude we should all feel for her service. The Secretary position is a tough one, and she handled it with her usual style and grace for more years than anyone before her. Thank you, Lori, for all you've done for our Association — and thank you, also, for becoming an Examiner in the Certification program. You are an outstanding addition to that team.

Secondly, I'd like to thank Lucas Gilleland, CJF for his 4 years of service as our Pre-Certification Chairman. To know Lucas is to love him, and as you all know, he is a very dear friend of mine. I am thankful for what he's done for the program and for our Association, and especially for how he represented our Certification Instructors so well everywhere he traveled.

Andrew Wells, CJF finished his year as the American Farriers Team manager, where he showed outstanding dedication to the Team, and in particular, our Apprentice Team. I think that three of the four Apprentice Team members from last year returned for 2025 is a testament to the time and energy he shared, and I'm sincerely grateful for his passion and leadership.

With that, we are welcoming some new and returning members to Committee leadership, including Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE in the Pre-Certification seat, and Travis Smith, CJF, as

Team Manager. I am confident that Brian will provide dedicated and insightful leadership to the program, and of course, we already know what Travis brings to the table while managing the Team. He was responsible for the inception of our Team Trials, and if you haven't witnessed him in action at the International, you should. He's a great leader for this program.

Finally, I want to thank Brian Strelow and Kenny Hoyle, CJF for their willingness to continue serving the Executive Committee as Board appointees. They both served throughout my last term, and with their help, we've been able to accomplish some incredible goals and keep the wheels on the bus operationally. Replacing Lori in the Secretary position is Daniel Jones, CJF, and I am confident that, while he has big shoes to fill, he'll do so while also providing terrific insight, experience and leadership to our Board.

When I write to you next, Spring will have arrived, which means life will be better. Already in 2025, many of us have had some tough days, so here's hoping the year improves and continues to bless us all in many ways.

Until Next Time,

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.*

The FIA is pleased to report that we have an outstanding Board of Directors in place with many new and exciting things planned for 2025-2026.

One of our larger agenda items on the FIA radar is the tariffs. As we all know, there are a lot of products that are made overseas, and these tariffs could impact our industry. The FIA is investigating the possibility of getting those waived or reduced. At this point, it is merely exploratory. However, we feel that if we are proactive, we can hopefully reach our goal. We understand that many of you are interested in this topic so we will continue to keep you updated.

Another important topic is the 2026 FIA Marketplace. The FIA has a dedicated team of people on this committee working to drive more vendors and farriers to the convention. Our goal is to make it the largest in the nation, if not the world. We have recently added Adam Fahr, CJF from the AFA to this committee. Our goal is to keep the AFA in the loop so we can continue to work together towards building the best events.

The FIA and AFA work together to put on a successful AFA Convention. As we move forward with this partnership, the

FIA looks forward to working with Hank Chisholm, CJF and his leadership team. Together, our organizations can continue to drive membership, education and innovation.

FIA members should keep an eye on their inbox for a quick survey about the 2025 business conference. We have an exciting new proposal. Your input is extremely important.

Personally, I would like to make myself available to all members of both the AFA and the FIA regarding any questions or concerns.

I am eager to serve the FIA as the new President for 2025-2026.

Robert Michel
Owner, Oleo Acres Farrier & Blacksmith Supply
FIA President



Executive Director's Report

Hello, Everyone!

I'm 99% sure I said this last year around this time, but wow. What an outstanding start to 2025 we've had at the AFA!

After a much-needed holiday break for our staff and volunteers, we have absolutely hit the ground running. Right out of the gate, the Certification Committee rolled out our new Certified Race Plater exam, with outstanding results at the TPFA Certification in January. With that, massive congratulations to Pat Broadus, CJF, CRP for passing all parts on his first attempt, and to Mike Talbott for passing two of the three parts with incredible scores (and only missing the third part by a technicality). We are thrilled to add this credential to our program, and extremely excited to welcome the Plater community to the AFA!

Another initiative that started our year off with a bang is our digital advertising campaign, in which the main goal is to reach horse owners, veterinarians and potential members with our Certification message. Our first ad, as of this writing, has already garnered nearly 300,000 impressions and almost 1,000 click-throughs. As we progress through the campaign, we'll be revising and refreshing our ads to keep the message interesting and current, and we hope to see this translate to a greater awareness of our program, as well as the hard work and dedication you all put into both earning your credentials and attending continuing education events.

Other committees already bringing the 2025 "wow factor" are our Membership Committee, who met early in the year to discuss recruitment and retention of members, member benefit programs, the Jim Linzy Fund, and ideas for a keynote speaker for our 2026 Convention! Alongside that group, our Convention Committee is already hard at work planning Little Rock with a potential speaker list you're going to love, as well as starting to work on all those big and small details (think show decorator, audio/visual, food/beverage) that make our event come together in the very best way. Our Pre-Certification Committee is also off to a big start, hosting their first meeting of the year to discuss all the best ways to reinvigorate an already awesome program!

And of course, what can I say about our Certification Committee? The amount of hours and energy our Examiners devote to Certification is mind boggling, and they are off and running with the new CRP, continuing our FRC credentialing process, working on multiple international Certifications, creating a digital learning library for candidates, and planning their annual in-person meeting and update at Virginia Tech in March! These individuals work tirelessly to ensure we are providing a program that is second to none in North America, and one that is held to the very highest standards — and we are all better because of them.

In other news, an initiative that truly excites me is our Regional Chapter Presidents meetings. These meetings, typically held quarterly, have become an outstanding communication tool

between the AFA and our Chapters, and also a great learning experience as we have the opportunity to hear about the challenges both similar and unique to the different Regions. It is my hope these will continue — and in doing so, allow us to better serve our Chapters and their members.



The Foundation is jumping into 2025, planning new and exciting fundraiser opportunities while keeping their eye on our first major goal of AFA-owned property. They're also in the process of creating an annual report for all of our current donors to keep them informed and involved as we progress in both funding and initiatives.

Finally, I can't wrap up this note without sharing my own thank you to Lori McBride, CJF. Since I started at the AFA, Lori has helped me, worked alongside me, supported and encouraged me, and made me laugh a LOT (!), and I am so fortunate to call her my friend. I am incredibly thankful for her and the years we've spent together, and I hope you'll join me in thanking her for all she's done for this Association we all love.

So, until next time, know that I'm wishing all of you a safe and good end to the winter season and the very best start to SPRING!

Cheers!

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



AFA News & Press Releases

AFA 2025 Chapter Dues

Don't forget, Chapter Presidents and Treasurers! We have a fast and convenient way for you to take "2025 dues" off your "to do" list! If you've been thinking you just haven't had time to get around to it yet, not to worry!

Visit our online store here: AmericanFarriers.org/store/ and select Chapter Dues and Liability Insurance to have it done in under two minutes. Presidents have also received a letter and invoice via mail, so if that's your preference, that works, too! Wishing all of you a busy and successful year at your Chapters!

NEW! Certified Race Plater Certification

Our Certification Committee had a HUGE year and we're so excited to be rolling out the new Plater Certification (CRP). The Certified Race Plater is a farrier who has demonstrated knowledge and skill to perform hoof care on a professional basis.

It is recommended that candidates have 2 years of experience as a farrier prior to taking the AFA certification tests. The CRP exam will be available to take at all Certifications going forward!



Proceedings of the American Farrier's Association (PAFA)

Don't forget, PAFA is accepting case studies, short reports, and standard article formats. Case studies will have to be compelling and contribute to preliminary data for larger studies. Short reports are welcome and PAFA believes studies can be simple but effective. Indeed, most farrier studies will need to be simple because of the lack of basic research to date. Standard article formats with multiple related experiments are welcome and subject to the same review standard as other academic journals. Submissions will be approved and published in a rolling format. They will be in print in the AFA's existing publication *No Foot, No Horse* until the journal grows to be on its own.

To submit or ask questions, contact Katie Panos, CJF at (603) 660-8126 or americanfarriersresearch@gmail.com.

Certification Host Reminders!

As our 2025 Certification "season" kicks off, we know it's mission critical to set our candidates up for success! And, with nationwide Certifications growing in numbers, it's a good time to remind our hosts of a couple of key requirements!

1. Each Certification requires a minimum of three Testers, but also three Testers per five horses.
2. You must have an onsite veterinarian available!
3. Certifications must be held at commercial properties in order to be eligible for our liability insurance! Personal shops or properties are not covered!

Failing to plan is planning to fail! Let's all work together to ensure our candidates have the resources they need, our Examiners and Testers are taken care of, and our Certification sites are good and safe learning environments! For a full list of Host guidelines, please visit: AmericanFarriers.org/page/certification-sponsor-guidelines.

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.



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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

March 7-8

Georgia Pre-Cert

Host: Georgia Professional Farriers Association
Location: 10 Peeple Farm Rd., Chatsworth, GA 30705
Examiners: Wes Sharp, CJF and Dr. Brian Beasley, CJF, DVM, DACVSMR
Contact: Chris Gilham, CJF – 678-485-9860

March 14-15

Florida Certification

Host: Florida State Farriers Association
Location: Canopy Equine, 2747 W Hwy. 329, Reddick, FL 32686
Examiner: Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF
All Levels/Areas Offered
ONLINE Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Calvin Cambell, CJF – csquareforge@gmail.com, 863-944-2978

March 24-27

Oklahoma Pre-Cert

Host: Oklahoma Farriers Association
Location: Five Star Horseshoeing School 807 Johnson Rd., Minco, OK 73059
Examiner: Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF
Contact: Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF – dfranklincjf@yahoo.com 405-209-7420

March 28

Oklahoma Tester Update

Host: Oklahoma Farriers Association
Location: Five Star Horseshoeing School, 807 Johnson Rd., Minco, OK 73059
Examiner: Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF
Contact: Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF – dfranklincjf@yahoo.com, 405-209-7420

March 28-29

Oklahoma Certification

Host: Oklahoma Farriers Association
Location: Five Star Horseshoeing School, 807 Johnson Rd., Minco, OK 73059
Examiner: Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF
All Levels/Areas Offered; ONLINE
Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF – dfranklincjf@yahoo.com, 405-209-7420

March 29

Delaware Certification

Host: Pennsylvania Professional

Farriers Association

Location: Hidden Meadow Farm, 2683 Bryants Corner Rd., Camden, DE 19953
Examiner: Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF and Daniel Jones, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered; ONLINE
Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Alvin Beiler, CJF – abeilerab@gmail.com

April 3-4

Iowa Certification

Host: Iowa Professional Farriers Association
Location: Andrew Kempf's Farrier Shop 2955 205th St., Seymour, IA 52590
Examiner: Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE and Doug Russo, CJF, AWCF
All Levels/Areas Offered; ONLINE
Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Andrew Kempf, CJF – drusso@iastate.edu, 641-895-0324

April 4-5

Maryland Pre-Cert

Host: Maryland Farriers Association
Location: Daisy Lane Farm, 2425 Daisy Lane, Woodbine, MD 21797
Examiner: Lucas Gilleland, CJF and Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF
Contact: Corey Minnick, CJF – 301-748-7754

April 11-12

New York Certification

Host: Western New York Farriers Association
Location: SUNY Morrisville Equestrian Facility, 4550 Swamp Rd., Morrisville, 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

April 11

North Carolina Tester Update

Host: North Carolina Horseshoers Association
Location: The Lessen Barn, 3789 High Point RD., Winston Salem, NC 27017
Examiner: Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE
Contact: Kathy Walker – NC_crazycowgirl@yahoo.com

April 11

North Dakota Tester Update

Host: High Plains Farriers Association

Location: Allan Voeller's Shoeing Shop, 12294 10th Ave. SE, Bismarck, ND 58504
Examiner: Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF and Brad Snyder, CJF
Contact: Jake Stonefield, CJF – jstone751@gmail.com, 605-690-4517

April 11-12

North Dakota Certification

Host: High Plains Farriers Association
Location: Allan Voeller's Shoeing Shop, 12294 10th Ave. SE, Bismarck, ND 58504
Examiner: Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF and Brad Snyder, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered; ONLINE
Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Jake Stonefield, CJF – jstone751@gmail.com, 605-690-4517

April 12-13

Washington Pre-Cert

Host: Farriers Association of Washington State
Location: Stray Dog Forge 139 W. Welcher Rd, Coupeville, WA 98239
Examiner: Sam Durham, CJF, DWCF & Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, EE, FE
Contact: Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, EE, FE – straydogforge@gmail.com, 360-320-8826

April 18-19

Ohio Certification

Host: South Western Ohio Farriers Association
Location: Diamond Mill Farm, 5252 Diamond Mill Rd., Germantown, OH 45327
Examiner: Lori McBride, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered; ONLINE
Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Kenny Hoyle, CJF – khoyle@woh.rr.com, 937-231-3367

May 16

Oregon Tester Update

Host: Oregon Farrier Association
Location: Oregon Farrier School, 13000 Finlay Rd. NE, Silverton, OR 97381
Examiner: Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE
Contact: Jason Smith, CJF – jwsfarrier@yahoo.com, 209-605-6099

May 16-17

Oregon Certification

Host: Oregon Farrier Association

Location: Oregon Farrier School, 13000
Finlay Rd. NE, Silverton, OR 97381
Examiner: Brian Strelow, CJF, TE, FE, EE
All Levels/Areas Offered; ONLINE
Registration Only – americanfarriers.org
Contact: Jason Smith, CJF – jwsfarrier@
yahoo.com, 209-605-6099

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 Tester Update

Host: Kansas Farrier Association
Location: Riley County Fairgrounds,
1726 Avery Ave., Manhattan, KS 66503
Examiner: Jennifer Horn, CJF

Contact: Nick Redman, CF –
nr2184@yahoo.com, 785-410-1473

June 6-7

Kansas Certification

Host: Kansas Farrier Association
Location: Riley County Fairgrounds,
1726 Avery Ave., Manhattan, 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

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!

February 15

**Winter Clinic and
Membership Meeting**

Host: Southwestern Ohio
Farrier's Association
Location: University of Findlay Equestrian
Complex, 11178 Township Hwy. 201,
Findlay, OH 45840
Clinician: Josh Yarber
Contact: Kenny Hoyle –
khole@woh.rr.com (937) 231-3367

February 20-22

**Annual Memorial
Contest and Clinic**

Host: Oklahoma Farrier's Association
Location: Darlington Campus Barn, 5005
Darlington Rd. NW, El Reno, OK 73036
Judge and Clinician: Andrew Wells, CJF
Contact: Tom Trosin –
trosinfarrier@gmail.com, (405) 546-0482

February 21

SWOFA Hammer In

Host: Southwestern Ohio
Farriers Association
Location: 6495 Bethelville Dr.,
New Carlisle, OH 45344
Contact: Mike Ratermann, CJF –
937-409-4570

February 22, 22025

Farrier Clinic

Host: North Carolina Horseshoers Association
Where: The Lesson Barn
3789 High Point Rd.,

Winston Salem, NC 27107

Contact: Kathy Walker –336-407-1081

March 15

Farrier Clinic

Location: Dutch Valley Building
1877 CR A, Platteville, WI 53818
Clinician: Aaron Serstad, CJF
Contact: Dan Weaver, CF –
silvernail@ibyfax.com, 608-379-0433

March 21-22

Clinic and Contest

Host: Kansas Farriers Association
Location: Saline County Livestock & Expo
Center, 900 Greeley Ave., Salina, KS 67401
Judge/Clinician: Juan Berumen, CJF
Contact: Matt Shaklee – (620) 344-0629

March 29

Open House and Clinic

Host: North Carolina Horseshoers Assoc.
& NC Tool Company
Location: Shooting Star Horse Farm, 5624
David Mill Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406
Clinician: Pat Broadus, CJF
Contact: Sharon Bolton – 800-446-6498

March 29

Spring Clinic

Location: Daviess County Produce Building
5667 N. 900 E., Montgomery, IN 47558
Clinician: Mark Troyer, CJF
Contact: Nate Gingerich, CJF –
859-314-1560

April 4-5

Spring Clinic

Host: Double Bar One &
Kansas Farriers Association
Location: Leoti, KS 67861
Clinician: John McNerney, CJF
Contact: Cathy – 620-675-4934

April 12

**Anatomy and Limb
Dissection Clinic**

Host: Vermont Farriers Association
Location: Stoneleigh Burnham Equestrian
Center, 574 Bernardston Rd.,
Greenfield, MA 01301
Clinician: Mitch Taylor, CJF, AWCF
Contact: Rachel Lundsted – rlundsted11@
gmail.com

April 29-May 3

Spring Clinic

Location: Northeast Farrier Supply, 480
Hayden Station Rd., Windsor, CT 06095
Clinician: Nigel Fennell,
CJF, FE, FWCF (Hons)
Contact: Vin Giannetti –
vin@northeastfarrier.com, 860-379-8553

May 16

SWOFA Hammer In

Host: Southwestern Ohio
Farriers Association
Location: 5612 Middletown Rd.,
Waynesville, OH 45068
Contact: Zach Lindamood – 937-902-0015

Musings on the Joys and Difficulties of the Craftsman

By Andrew DeVisser, CJF

It is odd, this trade in which I find myself employed. Truthfully, at first glance, one wonders why anyone would take this calling upon themselves. The difficulties are many. There is much scientific knowledge to be gleaned to adequately perform the job. There are many different types of physical skills to be learned; indeed, each individual tool has a skill set unto itself. There is a heavy physical toll which the trade extracts from the body. Although body alteration due to aging is a vicissitude to which all men are subject, this process is undoubtedly and demonstrably accelerated through the consistent application of oneself to this profession known as "farriery." Upon adding up all this and more, one is left to wonder, "Why do people do this to themselves?"

And yet, for all this, the perspicacious person will notice something unusual when a group of these tradespeople are gathered together. There is a light in the eye, betraying an unusual intensity and interest. These people are not here because some drudgery in the form of higher management has insisted upon further education; they are there because they want to be there.

One may rightly ask the question: Why? What is it that brings such light and interest, when by definition their profession is one defined by hardship? Why do they go to such lengths for self improvement, when doing so will not eliminate the difficulty of the work, and indeed the very act of self improvement is arduous? There is something intangible that these people share, something which cannot

be fully defined, and yet certain aspects of it are plain to see.

We begin at the end: the ultimate goal. These people find joy in helping that most noble of animals, the Equus. To that end, there is a great desire to improve one's skills, to become a competent tradesman, perhaps even one day to master this strange trade which so seamlessly blends art and science.

The desire for mastery is noble, but desire alone is not enough. Inaction never effected improvement, and therefore action must be taken. These actions are what separate the above mentioned group (and others like them) from a vast hoard of people who, day after day, desire improvement, but continue to live lives that are unsatisfactory and mediocre. For those mired in routine, the ability to alter their situation is often before them, and yet so few reach out, so few put in the time and effort to effect meaningful change.

Even the effort towards change can be bisected, for those who truly desire change not only attend events and seminars, which improve their minds, and have the potential to change their pattern of work at some undisclosed juncture in the future. But these farriers also attend events which require them to put forward their best work and have it closely scrutinized by their peers and superiors. Doing this will allow them to obtain an accurate idea of where they stand.



Take for example a competition, entered by someone relatively new to the trade. Perhaps they did not win, or even place highly in this contest, but ended up ninth of 20 in the standings.

This shows that they are not the best, which requires them to be humble, but encouragement may be taken that they are not the worst. And looking to the 8th and 7th placings, this person may see that a little more practice, a little more learning, may soon earn them those positions, and this in turn gives a tangible goal to work towards.

We may contrast this with the person who never allows their work to be judged by a qualified adjudicator. They are their own judge, and human nature dictates that they will inevitably position themselves in first place. The less interaction they have with others, the better they believe themselves to be, and on and on the wheel turns. Underneath all this self-reinforcing behavior however, there is a vague sense of unease, a lack of confidence, a sense that all is not right with the world, at least as regards their daily work.

Obtaining an accurate idea of one's strengths and weaknesses is a vital challenge for those who endeavor to take this trade as their own. This is not the only challenge, but it will help to ease the others.

All this is well and good. We have seen a desire to help a noble animal, the required skill and mastery to do so, and great effort taken to that end. Many begin a journey of self-improvement, but cease as they run upon the inevitable difficulties inextricably involved in such an endeavor, not recognizing that challenge itself is often the giver of many gifts, not recognizing that there is joy in the struggle itself.

It is a strange and beautiful joy that can be found in the difficulties of this trade. The horse, upon which the work is performed, is often resistant and always strong. However, the horse is an animal which is the embodiment of grace and beauty, an animal who connects with humans at a unique and emotional level. The steel requires intense heating almost to the point of melting to be malleable

enough as to be fashioned into an implement for useful work, or into a horseshoe to aid the horse, but resists the heat, and reverts quickly into its natural, immovable state.

However, steel is hard and strong and durable, capable of standing up to immense strain where other elements are not. The very body itself rebels constantly as it endures the strenuous activity day after day. However, there is satisfaction

in each challenge conquered, in honest hard work, and at the end of the day, in a repose well earned.

To struggle daily against the forces that would hold one from their work, to learn how to live with growing pain in a body that rebels, to feel the skill growing in the hands as repetition and instruction aggregate to speed and ability, to feel the satisfaction of a job well done, this is the honor and privilege of a craftsman.



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A Path to Better Farrier Fitness and Fewer Aches and Pains in 2025

Guiding you on your farrier fitness journey through this new year.

By Casey Kramer

Here we are, sitting at the beginning of another new year, which means that many of us are more than likely looking at a list of goals and things we would like to accomplish in 2025. Maybe your goal for this new year is to improve your skills through doing more forge work or achieving a level of Certification. Some of us would like to streamline our business and finances. But according to *Forbes*, the leading resolution for the new year involves improving physical health in some way, shape, or form. Whether it comes through diet or exercise, 48% of American adults will be seeking to make improvements to their body in 2025 (*Forbes* survey).

We are going to jump into the topic of physical fitness and look at how it applies to the farrier industry – an already physically taxing profession. How choosing the correct type of physical training can have many benefits for our pain management, internal body functioning, longevity, and gaining healthy years as we mature throughout our careers.

Physical fitness gets a bit of a bad rap these days, especially from the working-class citizens who are actually out doing hard labor each and every day, putting wear and tear on our bodies to make a living and keep our businesses running. Social media has further complicated things with all the information out there and popular influencers trying to

steer us in the direction of running more miles, lifting heavier weights, going on the carnivore diet, cold plunging, doing thousands of reps, HIIT training, and the list goes on and on! A popular opinion in the farrier industry is “Why should I work out, when my job is already hard enough and keeps me in shape?” Being a farrier is hard work. We put our bodies in physically taxing positions, and elevate our heart rates on a daily basis, which is more than most people will do.

Further adding to it, sometimes it can be difficult to find the energy to hit the gym or add extra physical training on top of an already taxing day. What I want to focus on are the wear and tear blind spots that farrier work creates. In



the sports world, people use the phrase “overuse injury,” which simply means that the pain or issue could not have been avoided and is a direct result of a heavy workload. For example, a baseball pitcher who makes it to the professional level has already thrown millions of pitches by the time he becomes a professional and therefore his throwing arm is a ticking time bomb.

The most obvious farrier overuse area is the back. Like the baseball player, by the time we get to a higher skill level, we have already spent countless hours under horses and our backs have been stressed and strained from every angle. Not to mention the knees, hips, and shoulders, which all also experience a great deal of work as well and are equally susceptible. Does this mean that we are doomed to experience an injury no matter what? Definitely not, but it does mean that the more time we spend working, we need to devote time to reversing the damage of our work.

The human body contains between 600-700 individual muscles. Scientists and experts do not know the exact number because muscles make up everything in our bodies. Our heart is a muscle. Our lungs, kidneys, stomach, digestive process, liver, etc. all involve muscles. It is safe to say that muscle is the primary driver of anything and everything that we do. Muscles thrive when they are working and slowly die when they are not working. Muscles are the vehicle that delivers signals from our brain to the rest of the body. The healthier our muscle tissue is, the more enzymes they help secrete, which in turn helps in the breakdown of food and nutrients, healthy blood flow, and all of the body’s natural processes. Muscles are also a huge key factor in hormone balance and regulation, which becomes a major player in the longevity and aging process.

Now that we understand the vast importance and presence of muscles in our bodies, let’s come back to why we as farriers could benefit from physical fitness training. We are seeking to develop synergy within our body. Muscle synergy means that two or more muscle groups working together is better and healthier than only one muscle group taking the workload. Every action taken has an

equal and opposite “helper” action that is referred to as the Agonist/Antagonist relationship. If we go back to the baseball pitcher, who throws the ball with the front side of his arm, but it’s the back side of his arm that slows the end of the throwing motion and helps the arm decelerate back to a normal position. Everything in the arm is working together, but not necessarily equally. Torque and force are produced in the front, while stability is produced in the back of the arm.

A similar relationship happens to our bodies when we work under a horse. Our lower back accepts and absorbs the force of our bent over position, while the abs and front of our hips provide stability. Our bodies are amazing, and they become masters of the positions that we put them in. We have all heard the term “muscle memory.” Over time, as we put hours of work into one half of a muscle process, the Prime Moving group (agonist) becomes overly developed, while the counterpart Stabilizing (antagonist) group becomes underdeveloped. This happens simply due to a lack of variety to overcome muscle memory and the presence of overuse injuries.

Knowledge and understanding of how the body and muscles function is important to applying physical fitness to your life and helping solve the debate of what type of workout plan is the best for farriers. I used the back and abs as my main example, but the same “give and take” relationship is happening in other major areas of your body as well. It is present in the bending and squeezing actions in your knees. Every hammer swing, whether driving nails or forging shoes, takes force and stability in the shoulders and elbows. The hips are another main area where we tend to only stress one side or area. From my experience, developing a successful training program for a professional athlete was 100% centered around the concept of “equal and opposite.”

When training a throwing athlete, such as a pitcher or a quarterback, it is important to do exercises that produce force on the backside of the throwing arm, while providing stability on the front side (opposite of the throwing motion), thus creating greater synergy in the throwing side. It is also important to equally develop the non-throwing side

to promote greater full body synergy. To make it very simple: If you spend all day doing an action or movement, there is no need to train that same movement, but there is huge value in training the opposite movement. Doing exercises that build your ab muscles and require you to work against gravity will create synergy and counteract the action of your back working against gravity all day. Targeting the backside of your shoulders will help create more strength and stability in your shoulders, making your hammer swings much more efficient and less painful in the long run.

A great physical training program for a farrier focuses on creating a stronger overall body by attacking the actions and movements that we tend to over use. It does not need to be an intense, super elaborate, long and exhausting workout program. You can see great results by doing simple exercises on a consistent basis in as little as 2-3 days per week.

Our goal is not to become a body builder or run a marathon, but to make our daily work more efficient and require less effort because we have muscles that know how to work together to reduce wear and tear. If you would like to make physical fitness improvements in 2025, get started by exposing and attacking your weak points! “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Casey Kramer is a farrier from Sussex, Wisconsin. Prior to becoming a farrier, Casey spent 16 years as a strength and conditioning coach for multiple college football teams, including Auburn University, Boston College, Washington State University, and Tennessee Tech University. Casey also spent time working with the US Army 10th Special Forces Group, developing tactical strength and conditioning programs tailored to the specific needs of each soldier.

Casey ended his strength and conditioning career serving on the strength and conditioning staff for the Chicago Bears in the NFL. Casey is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). If you’d like to learn more, follow Casey on Facebook and on Instagram @CaseyKramer12 to watch videos explaining different stretching and exercise strategies.

ROAD TO THE JOURNEYMAN

By Jesse Huff, CJF



One and done. That was the goal. I'd like to share my story of how I got there.

I was probably 24 or 25 when I made my first attempt at shoeing a horse. We got horses right as I was starting high school and we used to trail ride some on weekends, but that was the extent of my horse experience. My younger brother got a lot more into it and went to shoeing school not long after finishing high school. I went to college and got a degree in Christian studies and once I finished school, I moved abroad for over

a year to do mission work. When I moved back, I started doing construction work with a guy from my church. I enjoyed the hands on work but after a few years started to think that maybe that wasn't what I wanted to do.

At some point during that time was when I attempted to shoe one of my brother's horses with his guidance/supervision. It was pretty terrible, but after several hours I think I did manage to at least get it partially done. At that point I thought maybe the shoeing thing wasn't for me. Apparently I forgot about that terrible experience, though, because a year or two later I started riding with my brother and learned to pull and finish for him. That would've been around the middle of 2016. After doing that for a month or two I decided to go to shoeing school.

My brother encouraged me to look into Heartland Horseshoeing School. That was some of the best advice I ever got and the start of what got me to where I am now.

In spring 2017, I headed out to Lamar, Missouri from South Carolina for the 2-week blacksmithing course, followed by the 8-week shoeing course. I was 27, money was tight, and I had a girlfriend (now my wife, Krista) back home so I couldn't stay any longer than that. While there, the Gregorys instilled in us the importance of Certification and competing in order to always challenge yourself to improve and get better. That has stuck with me. I knew very early on that this would be a lifelong learning opportunity.

When I got back home I started working with my brother. For the first year, I also worked with another farrier one day a week. Within the first year of finishing at Heartland, I got engaged, married, started the application process to become foster parents, and my wife got pregnant with our first biological child. Needless to say, something I learned very quickly was the importance of making the most of what time you have. That's the theme I'll keep going back to as I talk about Certification.

I did my first Pre-Cert clinic in August of 2019 before making my first attempt at my CF a month later. The Pre-Cert was a huge help in getting prepared and it's where I was fortunate enough to meet Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, FE, and Lucas Gilleland CJF, who played a huge role in my pursuit of my Journeyman. But back to my CF run. I thought I had it in the bag, but I was wrong. I passed my horse and the written. I made what I thought was a really nice rocker toe barshoe. And it was OK. It just didn't fit the pattern. Which meant both mods failed, meaning I was going to have to make another attempt next time.

With everything I had going at home, traveling wasn't really on the table. I really didn't go to anything that I couldn't make a day trip out of, so 3 hours tops. South Carolina and Georgia have their Certifications about 6 months apart every year, so I was able to go to Georgia in the spring of the next year and finish my CF. After that, I started thinking about pursuing the Journeyman.

Over the next couple of years, the number of kids in our home seemed to be in constant fluctuation. Midway through my wife's second pregnancy, we had a particularly difficult foster placement and decided to step away from that for a season and focus on raising our two young (biological) daughters.

With all of that going on, my Journeyman practice was scattered. In the 4 years between getting my CF and getting my Journeyman I did two contests, two Pre-Cert clinics, and probably a total of 6-8 days working with Eric and Lucas Gilleland. Between all of that, I learned to work practice into my work every day. I've heard several farriers over the years point out that when you get put under pressure you'll always revert back to what you do everyday. So I knew that meant raising the level of my everyday work to a level that would pass a Journeyman test. I had in my mind that I wanted to get to the point where even if I was having an off day, or things went wrong, I could still pass. I knew I would fail plenty of times along the way, but I wanted to do all of my failing at home to get me ready for the test.

I'd like to hit on a few things for each part of the test that helped me when I took it.

My preparation for the written portion involved a lot of early morning study sessions. Besides Gregory's text book and Butler's P3, the study aid I found most helpful was Gerard Laverty's "Educated Farrier" website. The quizzes were helpful in helping me know where my weaknesses were and there were a lot of helpful diagrams and presentations.

I don't think there's a secret to the barshoe, other than building a lot of barshoes. I spent a lot of time in the shop with several different patterns as well as old shoes off of horses to use as patterns. Doing contests was also helpful. The biggest mistake I made on the day of the test was changing my system the day before, trying to save a heat, and it ended up throwing my measurement system off. I almost came up short on my shoe, but was able to stretch it out to get it to cover. Another piece is learning to tune your tools. When your punches and pritchels match up the way they should, it's amazing how much more smoothly that step of the process goes.

The horse was what I focused on the most. I was worried about getting done in time or making a big mistake by getting in a hurry. This is where the preparation came in. In my daily work, I focused on my trims, making sure I didn't develop any bad habits. I didn't carry (and still don't carry) any pre-clipped shoes. I started fitting a lot of front feet with toe clips. For the 6 months prior to the test, I tried to get more consistent with making some shoes at the horse. I probably just did a pair every other week or so.

I made a full run on the last horse before going to the Certification in Georgia. I explained what I was doing to my client and told her she could tie the horse up if she didn't want to watch for 2 hours. She stayed the whole time, asking all sorts of questions about the AFA and the steps of Certification. When I finished the horse, she gave me a check for her bill, then handed me enough cash to cover my testing fees. She thanked me for what I was doing in working towards Certification to be able to provide better care for her horses. That gesture gave me a morale boost going into the weekend.

I passed the written exam and the barshoe on day one of the test. Saturday



morning everyone got set up and horses started showing up. We were divided into two groups and I landed in the second group. I watched the first group go, trying not to let my nerves get to me. I took my 12-year-old daughter to hold my horse. In my go, I ended up with a younger horse that had never had shoes before and seemed a bit uneasy. We got off to a rough start and after a few minutes, the horse was sedated. I was 10 minutes in before I got the first foot trimmed. That threw me off, feeling behind from the start, so I was trying not to get in my head. I started with my hands and they went OK, but I was still behind.

At 70 minutes, I pulled my steel out to

start my fronts and after cracking the toe, realized I had marked my center punch mark way off and I knew that was going to throw me off the rest of the time, so I cut new steel and started over. It was what the Gregorys call "plan B" (go faster). I guess the adrenaline kicked in and I turned in my front shoes at an hour 40 minutes and somehow managed to nail up and clinch and still had 5 minutes on the clock.

I went and sat on my anvil as the Testers (Jared Brown, CJF and Chip Crumbly, CJF, AWCF) and Examiner (Eric Gilleland) did their final scoring. I felt good, but was still anxious that I had missed some detail that was going to cause me to fail. Thank-

fully, they all walked over and shook my hand and congratulated me on passing.

As I look back, I can see clearly how pursuing Certification has made me a better farrier. Having a goal and standard to aim toward kept me motivated and made me pay closer attention to small details in my daily shoeing. There were several bad habits I developed, and I retrained my eyes to break those habits. That might not have happened if I hadn't started down the path of Certification. My next step is pursuing the Endorsements as well as the FITS Advanced Skills Farrier (ASF) test, so I've got plenty of chances to continue to fail, but as long as I'm failing in the right direction, I'll call it progress.





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How to Forge an Aluminum Egg Bar

By Earl "Tri" Ellerbee, CJF

Imagine this scenario: it is 4:00 P.M. on a Friday, you are at your last barn of the day, about to start on the last horse. The horse owner hands over a veterinarian recommended shoeing prescription for an egg bar, preferably aluminum, and is adamant that you follow the prescription to a tee. The horse leaves for a show in 2 days and you are 50 miles away from the nearest supply shop, but you have 36" of aluminum bar stock, flux,

filler rod and hand tools. Hypothetically, it could happen, but I digress; let us talk about the egg bar, then make one.

The egg bar is a commonly used bar shoe that provides support to the palmar and plantar aspect of the hoof capsule. They are probably one of the easiest bar shoes to make yet the most expensive to buy, especially when the stock selection is aluminum. The benefits of this shoe are giving the pastern more support in length that may not be attainable with just a



straight bar alone and hoof capsule stabilization. Commonly, egg bars are recommended for use on horses suffering from navicular disease, degenerative suspensory ligament desmitis (DSLDD), low/underslung heels, and/or caudal heel pain.

When paired with a pad, the egg bar can offer sole/frog support to help alleviate pain and spread the load of the hoof more evenly. Some downsides of the egg bar include, but are not limited to, that it places a lot of pressure at the heels and can exacerbate any issues in the rear half of the foot. It is also worth noting that because of the amount of length an egg bar adds to a front hoof, the potential for lost and pulled shoes is increased.

For this forging exercise we will be using 16" of $\frac{3}{8}$ " by 1" aluminum bar stock. Other tools and supplies needed are: rounding hammer, $\frac{3}{8}$ " tongs, a fuller, a drift, a pritchel, Hot Max Aluminum Brazing Flux, Aluminum TIG 4047 filler rod, and a wire brush.

Marking and Testing for Forgeability

Start by marking the stock up on end at center, 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " from each side center and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from each heel. The center dot will help us keep symmetry in the toe bend. The 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " set of marks will help with making the toe-quarter transition, the heel marks will designate the bar of the shoe (Figure 1). When heating aluminum, since it DOES NOT show color, it is good practice to use a piece of wood, hammer handle, brush handle, etc, to rub on the stock to determine when it is ready to forge. It should leave a black scribe that doesn't burn off (Figure 2).

If it does burn off, it is too hot and needs to cool. DO NOT walk away from your forge when putting aluminum in it, better yet, don't take your tongs off of it. The bar stock will only take about 30-60 seconds to heat up and aluminum is great at transferring and holding on to heat, therefore you can get a lot done in one heat. A little tip for those first learning how to forge this temperamental material, cool it off in between heats so you don't run the risk of melting the stock.

The Toe Bend

Aluminum has this innate ability to show how one's inability to strike flat is, so be prepared to have dents and dings all over

the stock. When making the toe bend, try to make overlapping blows using the round side of your hammer. To emphasize a quote from Grant Moon, "Think about the shape of the foot you are shoeing." If it's a hind foot put a more hind shaped toe bend from the start. Since this will be a front, I am leaving the toe a bit broad (Figure 3).

The Hockey Sticks

All the bad habits you overcame when making straight bars come into play here. We want a soft 45 degree bend at the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " mark made from the end (Figure 4). We then let that material "fall away", as Craig Trnka, CJF says, when forging it down. The curl of material on the inside of the hockey stick will become the beginnings of the frog plate (Figure 5).

Aluminum thickens up very easily, so be sure to bring the material back to $\frac{3}{8}$ thickness. DO NOT scarf the end.

Since it is a braze and not a weld, we will do the best we can to get these two pieces butted up to one another and use filler rod to braze the gap. Use a rasp to clean up the brazing area, making it straight, flat and clean.

The Branch Bends

After checking to make sure the heat is right by using something wooden, see Figure 2, begin by forging the branch from the toe to the heel with overlapping blows (Figure 6). There is no need to hit it hard, be patient and use overlapping blows to create flow. Think about the branch of the foot, where the quarter is and the transition from the toe quarter to the quarter to the heel. Ultimately the frog plate of the bar should be very close to pointing to the center of the toe. Repeat the forging process on the opposite branch (Figure 7). Take some time here to get the brazing area butted together tightly. The cleaner and closer this joint is the better it will braze together.

The Braze Set Up

Wire brush both sides of the brazing area with the butcher block or a stainless steel brush. "Pop it" by quickly dipping it in water to clean the area. Cut a piece of aluminum filler rod about double the length of the braze joint, bend it in half and flatten it to about half the thickness of itself. Using the flattened rod like a makeshift shovel, sprinkle a liberal amount of the



Hot Max brazing flux on one side of the braze and then lay the flattened rod on the braze joint like pictured (**Figures 8 and 9**).

Brazing!

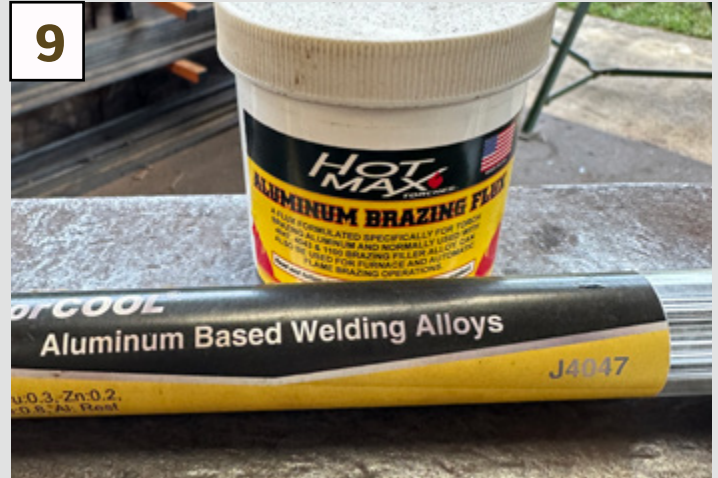
Have the forge on and hot. Carefully place the shoe as level as possible, weld first into the forge (**Figure 10**) and DO NOT walk or even look away. Watch the filler rod intently, look for it to melt and make a puddle similar to the element mercury (**Figure 11**).

In a couple of seconds the filler rod will start to melt into the butt joint (**Figure 12**). At this point, quickly, carefully and as

level as possible, pull the shoe from the forge, set it on the anvil, and rest the flat side of the rounding hammer on the joint to act as a heat sink (**Figure 13**). The hammer and anvil will simultaneously cool and set the weld. After a few seconds, wire brush the weld for inspection.

Braze Inspection and Fullering Layout

Once the braze is confirmed and indeed solid (**Figure 14**), completely cool the shoe out. From this point on, everything will be done cool to the touch and can be handled with bare hands. Using the anvil and a T-Square or straight edge (**Figure 15**),



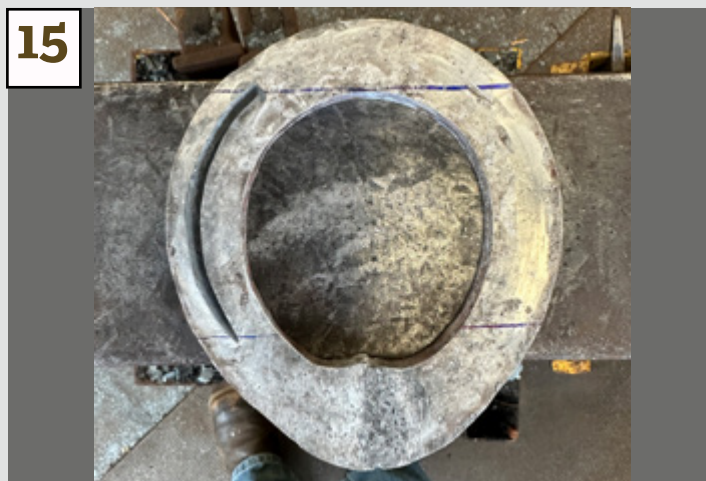
scribe a line on the shoe toe and heel to mark the start and ending of the fullering on both branches. Just to reiterate, all fullering, punching and pritcheling will be done cold; the shoe can be picked up barehanded at any time during this process.

Fullering and Punching

When fullering aluminum, it is paramount that the fuller stay as close to perpendicular as possible (**Figure 16**). If the fuller gets leaned to the outside too much, the inner edge will create a ledge that will only pitch the fuller more and more, making the nails too coarse to be suitable for a horse's hoof. DO NOT hit it

hard in an attempt to fuller in one pass. Make light overlapping passes until you reach about $\frac{3}{4}$ through the section. Ultimately there will be fullering blow out. I have found it best to just rasp the blowout away.

When punching, try to keep the punch about the same angle of the hoof wall (**Figure 17**). There is no need to send the pritchel through the anvil either. When pritcheling, give one light tap to bottom out the tool on the anvil face and then finish punching the hole over the hardy or pritchel hole.



Rasping and Filing

Utilizing a vice, start by rasping away the fullering blowout, creating uniform section width (**Figure 18**). Then “top the shoe off” by using the rasp as a plane, draw filing the foot and ground surface of the shoe. After that, use a half round bastard and file the inner edge. Pay close attention to the frog plate, making efforts to accentuate it. Then move to using the Sand-box plane with a 40-grit belt, then a 100-grit belt, to really clean the shoe. To take the shoe to the next level quality, wire brush the shoe with a fine stainless wire brush and use a wet sanding sponge to really shine the shoe up.

Nail Selection and Fit

For this particular size shoe, I opted for a concave 3 nail (**Figure 19**). If the nail is too snug or a little proud, take an appropriate nail and cut it about $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than the shoe and then position the nail over the pritchel hole and set it by lightly tapping the nail head with your rounding hammer until the nail is set to the crown of the nail. Turn the shoe over and tap out the cut nail and do the same for any nail holes that need to be adjusted.

Doing this trick will get near a perfect nail fit without over fullering and/or over punching the shoe.

Finished Shoe

The shoe is complete and ready to be applied (**Figures 20-21**). If building stock for practice or just to have on the rig for future use, consider writing the measurements on the shoe for quick reference when at the horse (**Figure 22**). Forge welding aluminum barshoes is a skill that isn't nearly as scary as it sounds.

A few tips to wrap up: brazing aluminum can be done in both propane and coke. Keep the Hot Max flux dry. Some farriers mix a bit of water to make it a paste but if it starts to liquefy to a syrup consistency, it is no longer good to use. Be careful reheating the shoe past critical, as doing so can ruin the braze. Don't be afraid to cool the shoe off in between forging heats to keep from burning up the aluminum.

Experiment and have fun with the process, it works for all types of aluminum bar shoes!





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Case Study: Sonny

This article was submitted as a requirement of the Therapeutic Endorsement.



By Andrew Kempf, CJF, TE

First Visit: September 28, 2024

Sonny is an 18-year-old Quarter Horse gelding that the owner keeps as a companion for her pony and who has no job requirements. He came into our care with a vet diagnosis of Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS), specifically Insulin Resistance and Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) also known as Cushing's Disease, and chronic founder. Sonny was Grade 5 lame on the right front foot and was draining pus from the proximal dorsal aspect of both front feet in the region of the extensor process of P3.

After a partial debridement (**Figure 1**), it was discovered that he had a supply of maggots hiding in there too. Both dorsal abscesses were debrided and flushed with peroxide until clean. The solar surface of the left front was trimmed with no signs of subsolar abscessing but the right front was a whole different story, with severe bruising and a massive subsolar abscess along the distal border of P3. The sole was convex with an open fissure following the border of the coffin bone.



After debriding all necrotic tissue, the distal border of P3 was exposed. At this point, I knew we had an emergency on our hands (**Figure 2**). I would very much like to have seen radiographs of this horse's front feet, but was informed by the owner that Sonny will not load in a trailer and the only vet with a portable x-ray machine was an hour and a half away. The owner wanted me to do whatever I thought possible to help keep the horse comfortable.

I opted for a modified open toe wooden clog, along with dental impression material (DIM) for palmar support and stabilization of P3. The reason for the open toe clog was so the abscess could be treated and monitored on a regular basis. I would have liked to lower the excessively high heels on the right front to try and get better phalangeal alignment, but at this point I also needed to preserve all the sole depth that I had.

Nailing a shoe on this horse was not an option with all the pain he was in, making the clog another attractive option, with only needing to drill 1/8-inch holes through the white line, angled towards the dorsal wall where I want my drywall screws to go in. This was a lot less stress on the

horse and farrier which is very important in a situation like this. This was the first time I used this style of clog, but I needed to get creative and think outside the box on this case, and this was the end result. I created these clogs with a jig saw and an angle grinder with a course grit flap disc. The DIM was molded into a couple layers of equimesh for extra strength and applied to the bottom of the feet, and the horse allowed to stand on a hard, flat surface until it was cured (**Figures 3 and 4**).

To make the clogs, I took 8-inch squares of high grade $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood and placed them on the foot, marked the perimeter and cut it out with the jig saw. I then scribed the shoe branches and frog plate and cut those out and beveled the edges with the grinder (**Figures 5 and 6**). You can make most of the bevel with the jig saw if your saw has that feature. You can do the final beveling of the clog once the shoe is applied if the horse tolerates the noise.

Figure 7 shows the finished right front with sugardine applied before wrapping the whole foot with gauze pads, vet wrap, and duct tape (**Figure 8**). **Figures 9,10, and 11** show the same process for the left front, although this foot was not wrapped. His hind feet are not affected by the foundering so they are just getting a maintenance trim.

Surprisingly, Sonny was quite cooperative through the whole process although he was given frequent breaks. The worse right front foot was done first so he had support under that foot while we worked on the left foot. Otherwise you risk rotating P3 even more, which is something to keep in mind when working on horses in this condition.

Generally when I use clogs, I use casting material to help secure the clogs, but in this case the foot needed doctoring and Sonny was hardly moving around so I opted to go without, and he is doing well with the clogs just screwed on. One concern I always have with no support under the toe wall long term is you will see the coronary band start to drop down, but in this case, pressure on the toe wall was one thing we didn't want as this created more leverage further rotating P3.

The vet had prescribed Pergolide meds for Sonny's Cushings Disease, but the owner would rather have used natural remedies, so he was slowly taken off the meds. I recommended to go back to the amount the vet had prescribed as this disease is hard to manage without Pergolide. Pergolide is designed to regulate high levels of ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone) and insulin. HEIRO supplement formulated by Dr. Frank Reilly can also help control insulin. Cushings also produces high glucose which in turn signals the pancreas to produce more insulin, resulting in elevated insulin levels. This disease also reduces muscle mass, which is a big user of insulin, creating less cell receptors for insulin to work on.

According to Dr. Reilly, insulin resistance is the inability to respond to and use the insulin that is made by the horse's body. Part of insulin's job is to escort glucose from the blood to cell receptor sites in the body, open the cells and allow glucose to enter, thus lowering blood glucose levels. If too many cell receptors are damaged from constant high insulin, the glucose levels don't go down in the blood, which signals the body for even more insulin and the vicious cycle continues creating damage to the horse's lamellar corium. This in turn leads to laminitis and founder.

An insulin resistant horse is said to have high levels of insulin and normal levels of glucose. Horses with insulin resistance and Cushings





Disease combined will have high levels of insulin and high levels of glucose. Dr. Reilly also states that horses do not develop laminitis from Cushings alone, rather it is a result of the overlapping of both diseases in the same horse. I advise anyone interested in these conditions to study Dr. Frank Reilly, Dr. Donald Walsh, and Dr. Chris Pollit's input and thoughts on these diseases, for I think you will be amazed by what they have found and how much our horses have benefited from their expertise.

Now that you know a little more about these diseases, you can see what the horse in this case study is up against. He was also living on Bute (painkiller) which is not ideal as this makes the patient feel better and gets them moving more, leading to further breakdown of the weakened lamellar corium. I also recommended HEIRO supplement to help balance his insulin levels.

October 21, 2024

Figure 12 shows Sonny's feet at our second visit before any work had been performed. Since our last appointment, the owner had put Sonny on HEIRO, strong antibiotics for his abscess infections, had his teeth worked on and dewormed him. I was pleasantly surprised at how much his feet had improved. There was no more dorsal wall abscessing and **Figure 13** shows the solar surface of the right front foot when I took the clog off. I failed to get an after-trim photo, so it's hard to see, but the solar surface was filling in with dermal solar tissue and all the abscessing had resolved itself except a few small spots on each side of the abscess cavity.

The owner has been very diligent about keeping this foot clean and medicated, which is always helpful for the farrier and the horse if you can get this level of commitment on these cases.

I trimmed approximately a ½-inch of heel off of the right front foot this time, which greatly improved phalangeal alignment. The front feet were both trimmed and the clogs reapplied with the same application method as the first visit. **Figure 14** is post-shoeing at the second visit.

As of November 1, 2024, the owner reported Sonny is doing better than he has

been for a long time and is no longer on Bute and is freely walking around his dry lot, although she would be happy if she could get more weight on him before winter. My question at this point was how long will this improvement last. As those of you who regularly work on these horses know, it seems that they always have periods of highs and lows.

On November 26, 2024, we had 6 inches of rain in the last week. The owner called saying Sonny is lame again. Upon investigation, it was discovered he had another abscess tract in the lateral toe quarter of the right front, rising all the way to the coronary band. I made new clogs for him and put these on like before, after debriding the abscess site. Our goal, if possible, is to some day have him barefoot again but time will tell as this is an ongoing case.

I believe this last episode of abscessing is probably due to high bacteria levels in the mud and manure that our 6-inch rain created. In a dry lot, this created a perfect breeding ground for high levels of nasty bacteria that gladly invaded the weak areas in Sonny's feet. Since then the owner is keeping him in a large stall in the barn whenever it's wet outside.

December 21, 2024

The latest report for Sonny is that his abscess is resolving itself with very little drainage remaining and he is as good as he's ever been since I've been working on his feet. The owner reported Sonny is walking around freely and lays down and rolls himself and seems to be enjoying life again, something he hasn't done in quite some time.

At this point we are keeping our fingers crossed and hoping for continued improvement. One thing we as farriers need to keep in mind is that we are doomed to failure in these cases unless we get a vet involved and get these horses' bloodwork under control. Only then will we be able to help these horses with mechanical support via properly fitted heartbar shoes, clogs, casting, or whatever shoeing protocol is decided upon by the hoof care team.

This article is based on a case study that was presented as part of the author's Therapeutic Endorsement test. If you're interested in learning more about the TE and other AFA endorsements, go to AmericanFarriers.org/page/certification



Tell Us What You Want

We are working on a redesign of *No Foot, No Horse*. Your input is critical so we can make the magazine beneficial for you and your farrier practice.

Please scan this QR code to complete a survey and share your thoughts by April 1. You will be entered for a drawing for a free renewal of your AFA membership.

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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.

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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 and can 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.

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 manufacturing aprons?

Years ago, when I was shoeing horses, aprons were just heavy pieces of leather with a simple tie. I was always uncomfortable wearing mine. So I started thinking of different patterns and had Ken Davis and Sons start making aprons for me.

Still, the leather was heavy. One day, I was at a flea market and came across someone selling hides. I found these purple strips of leather that were the perfect weight. I wasn't thrilled about the color, but the weight was what I was looking for, so who cares about the color. So I made a purple apron. Back then, I was competing a lot and everyone I met across the country wanted to know about my apron. No one had anything like that. I thought maybe I could come up with a pattern. And I started making aprons myself.

I didn't have the big sewing machines and equipment at the time. I found a sail maker on Cape Cod who helped make the first batch of 25 aprons. These early aprons were all one size, one color. My daughter Amy and I took them to the Laminitis Symposium and set up a booth. It went well for us — we sold those 25 aprons before the trade show session was over.

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

Learning the apron business and finding vendors who could match my specifications. It was particularly difficult because none of them understand farriers or horses.

A snap is not a snap and leather is not leather. No matter what you make, the higher the quality, the higher your costs are. As my wife used to say, "You pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

3. What has been your biggest achievement since you started this business?

The overall design of the apron. The waist strap contains elastic, so it can be put on easy and stay tight. It is comfortable, but also has safety in mind. It was designed so it can pull off easy if the farrier was knocked under a horse.

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

I was never a businessman, so I had a lot of lessons. I remember after a few years in the business, I said to my wife when I came home one day, "I'm all done with the books, I can't do it." I couldn't shoe horses all day, then come home and do the billing and the like. My wife agreed to take it over while I did the grunt work.

I regret that I didn't have somebody to teach me what business was all about as far as things like how much to charge as a farrier, and it's the same way with the apron business. Farriers in general — especially those with additional interests like a side business — need to rely on outside help.

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

There were so many, but I have to say overall in horseshoeing, Burney Chapman is up there. He was a mentor for so many in our trade. I was with him for several years, and he taught me all about frog support and equine anatomy by taking feet apart. There is no better way to learn anatomy.

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

Yes, I would because of how things worked out. Everything I've done with the apron is from wearing it myself while working. That way, I understood how to improve the comfort and usability. I have many customers who are repeat business. That is why I still go to shows, and the customer can try on the apron before buying.



Myron McLane, CJP
Myron McLane Farrier Aprons

Event Wrap-Ups

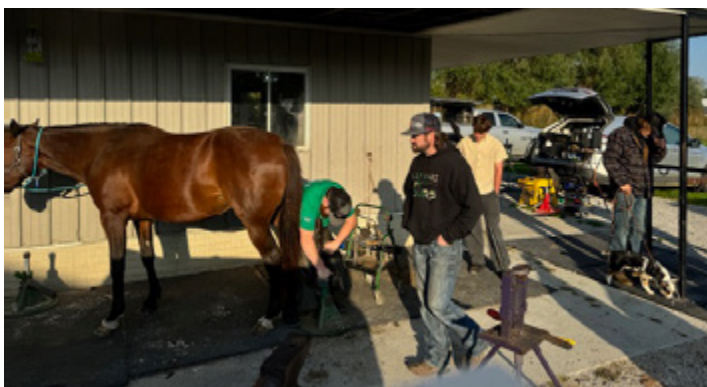
Indiana Farriers Association Certification

The Indiana Farriers Association had a great Certification on October 4-5, 2024, in Nappanee, Indiana, with 13 candidates.

A hearty thank you to our Examiner: Jacob Manning, CJF and Testers: Kenny Hoyle, CJF, Tobias Ellis, CJF, and Troy Price, CJF, for an awesome weekend. Also, thank you to these generous

farriers for taking the time to show candidates, hands on, what they need to do to pass portions of the test that they were struggling with.

We are very thankful to everyone that participated in any way. We couldn't have done it without you!



Michigan Horseshoers Association Clinic and Contest

The Michigan Horseshoers Association hosted their annual contest on January 2-3 and what a contest it was! A big thanks to Carl Via, CJF, for being a great judge, clinician, and all-around good guy. Thanks to Jennifer Horn, CJF for organizing and helping to put on another amazing competition, and thanks to all the sponsors for helping to make it happen, we couldn't do it without you!



Western States Farriers Association Pre-Certification

The Western States Farriers Association hosted a Pre-Certification on December 14-15, 2024. It was very well attended and a great opportunity for candidates to come out and prepare for their upcoming Certifications. Thank you everyone for coming out! And thanks to Buffalo Meadows Ranch in Redlands, California, for hosting us.

Brian Bonnel, CJF and Sam Durham, CJF, DipWCF were able to help those who attended get better prepared for the Certification which was held on January 18 and 19 in San Louis Obispo! Thank you, gentlemen, for your expertise and generosity! Best of luck to all those continuing onwards!



Southern New England Farrier's Association Certification

We held our annual fall Southern New England Farrier's Association Certification at Ocean State Equine in North Scituate, Rhode Island, on September 13 and 14 with our highest registration to date! Some of the candidates traveled from as far away as Costa Rica and Canada to take their Exam. Congratulations to all our candidates on their achievements, great job!

Thank you to our Examiner Jacob Manning, CJF for orchestrating a very successful Certification, and our Testers: Georgia Barry, CJF, Katie Panos, CJF, Betsy Lordan, DVM, CJF, TE, Heather Beauchemin, CJF, TE, AWCF, and Ally LeGeyt, CJF. Thank you for your time and dedication to help further other

farriers' education and to all our volunteers that help put this whole thing together. Thank you to all the suppliers and manufacturers who donated to the silent auction this year to help raise money for SNEFA.

A very special thank you to the entire staff at Ocean State Equine, especially the owners Dr. Enda Currid and Dr. Hollie Stillwell, who graciously donated their facility and resources for both days. We can't thank you enough for making this educational event possible!

— Garrett Maloney, CJF





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Education – Certification – Communication – Innovation – Research

Mexico Certification

Several AFA members hosted a Mexico Certification on December 5-6, 2024. We always love being able to host a Certification in another country and our Certification in Mexico have always been such a huge success! This year was no different.

We had a great turnout and a big thank you goes out to Vern Powell, CJF, TE, AWCF for organizing the event. We also want to

thank the Examiners, Brian Buckner, CJF and Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF for their time and effort.

Whether you completed a new Certification level or not, be proud of yourselves for the hard work and dedication you're applying to better yourself and be better for the horse!

