

THE BAG

Inside News
Rick Buten Clinic
AFA Chaptter Alley Pix's
SNEFA Membership Application

Published by

SNEFA

Southern New England Farrier's Association

Donna Watson-Editor

Paul Simard Clinic

“On how to shoe the gaited horse “

at his facility in Concord, NH.



This was an awesome clinic! It started out cold and raw but with coffee and donuts we quickly warmed up, as the clinic started I had a million questions in my mind. My first thought immediately was that I didn't need to know how to shoe a gaited horse but then thought about it. I had to set aside what I thought about putting shoes like these on a horse. I wanted to find out what the horse shoers are thinking as far as the way the horse moves with these

huge shoes on their feet. How unnatural it must feel. I asked Paul why wouldn't you trim the hoof down to a normal size and work from that point. But as Paul explained, you need more toe to raise the height of the knee and to make up for the length of toe you add wedge pads to keep the angle of the pastern joint straight. Paul puts a lot of thought into what the horse needs and watches how the horse moves and how he can improve their way of going by adding little weights in the package to help keep the foot balanced. After watching him trim the feet he showed us how much larger the shoe is in comparison to the foot. You need to keep the same angle of slope of the wall down to the shoe. The package gets put on in two stages, the first stage consists of a leather pad. Leather always is applied next to the foot, then a plastic wedge pad. This stage gets nailed to the foot, then the second stage is additional wedges depends on what the horse needs. That stage gets nailed into and comes out just below the hoof. There is a toe clip that is about two inches long to hold the whole package from moving forward. This kind of shoeing is very time consuming. On the average when making the "package" that is used on these horses a horse shoer can only shoe a couple of horses a day. These packages last a long time and resets go much faster. When you go to a clinic if you can walk away with at least something from that clinic then you have learned something

November, 2007

valuable from a different perspective. Paul was very informative and answered everyone questions in detail, he showed us his shop and the collections he has. I would like the thank Paul for his time and for hosting this clinic and the use of his facility (what an awesome place) Also, to his apprentices Jon Turati, Tim Bolduc and Justin Bigelow along with Jessica Verill assistant trainer at Rob Turner from L.M. Turner Stable for the use of their horse, Fenwick a 4 year old Saddlebred-Park horse, to demonstrate on.

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The first stage of the package



The second stage



The Trim



The finished product



The back view



President's Message

I hope this edition of "The Eagle" finds everyone happy and healthy and ready for the start of the holidays. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas will be here before I know it. The time for snow pads, studs and frostie nail are upon us, among other things.

December also is the time for elections at SNEFA. The Presidency, Treasurer and 3 Board of Directors seats are available and nominations are being accepted by Garth Bodkin, Election Coordinator. He can be contacted at 908 808-5930. Now is your opportunity to shape SNEFA's future.

As a quick reminder, membership dues are due. Membership is only \$50/yr.

Our monthly meetings are wonderful opportunities to meet friends, old and new, and to educate ourselves. Everyone is sure to have a great time. I hope to see all of you at the Littleton VFW.

Please remember that SNEFA can only exist by and for its members. Your participation and feedback is very important to your Association. So until December 5th.

Sincerely,
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Elections

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Now is your opportunity to get involved and help shape SNEFA's future.

December's Meeting

December 5th at the Littleton VFW, our featured speaker will be Jim Boulton of the Vibram/Quabaug Corp., which is located in Brookfield Ma... The Vibram/Quabaug Corp. is the manufacturer of high quality footwear and soling products. Vibram's pioneering technology ensures high performance outsoles and hoof pads. Jim wants share with us, why his new Dual Density Hoof Pads are better than plastic pads. Not only that, he has some free samples for everyone to take home to try! Christmas comes early for SNEFA members! Hope to see you there, December 5th at 8:00.

The Paul Simard Clinic
April 7th, 2007 held in Concord, New Hampshire



Rick Burten Clinic
March 24, 2007 held in Bristol, VT
Written by Amy Lund

The clinic started out like many others with coffee, muffins and introductions. Things quickly got under way and we were soon drawn in to the conversation ranging many topics from AFA politics, to negative plane coffin bones, to the right shoes for the job at hand complimented with tons of photos. Rick was more than happy to talk about any subject and soon the floor was turned to the audience for our questions.

Mr. Burten started shoeing in the 60's, taught by a little, angry Irish man who he said lived out of his truck and rarely bathed. He then began shoeing full time in the 70's and has been at it ever since. One of the worst changes he has seen over the years of shoeing, is people with horses are no longer horsemen, but horse owners, which has been a pitfall for the horses care over the years.

Mr. Burten is full of sayings and bits of knowledge that he not only shoes by, but shares willingly to spare others the cost of making mistakes. One of my favorites was, "If you see anything I show you that you would like to try, wait 10 days!" Letting new ideas sink in before applying them would keep us from causing damage and also help better understand what we are attempting to do.

One of Mr. Burten's peeves is the term "corrective shoeing" as he believes there is no way, other than correctly, to shoe a horse. He tries to shoe horses as simply as possible to get the desired results, whether it is a sound horse or one with issues.

Mr. Burten advises farriers to cover their backs, especially when working on a new horse. He notes any abnormalities to the owner as he discovers them. That way they cannot blame the farrier when Sparky comes in from the pasture with a cut on his leg. He also warns against doing any vet work, like diagnosing a lameness problem or opening up abscesses. He always involves the vet when he feels necessary to avoid getting into trouble.

The afternoon ended with the shoeing of a pretty normal QH mare. Everyone who attended the clinic walked away with some fact, story, or tip (and a goodie bag) that can be applied to their everyday work. Mr. Burten was a great clinician, very eager to share his ideas and knowledge. Thanks to the Vermont Farrier's Association for hosting the clinic and to Diane Saunders for pulling it all together.

Written by Amy Lund

Photo by Phil Armitage





Deb Ash, Sean McClure, John Blombach and Donna Watson. The 2007 AFA Convention at the table for Chapter Alley.

ADVERTISING IS BEING ACCEPTED

for the *EAGLE* newsletter_Rates:

Full-page advertisement
\$150/insertion

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Call Donna @ 978-386-5857

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dwatsonfarrier@aol.com

For Sale Forced to sell do to health; 1995 GMC Cutvan 1 ton, complete with forge, anvil, two drill presses, sander and grinder, Pad cutter, oxy/act tanks and gages, bandsaw, tap and fully stocked with shoes, pads and assorted repair material. New engine this spring, transmission and rear end rebuilt in last two years, extra snow tires, tin work had been started but does need more. Mechanically very sound and Jet belt with some body work should get a good two to four years. \$8,500.00 firm. Call Kastberg 978-249-9482

SNEFA Membership Application Form

Dues are \$50.00/year beginning the 1st of September

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode: _____

Country: _____

Business Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

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Send SNEFA membership dues to:

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"Written By Farriers For Farriers"

Happy Holidays!

LET US KNOW! E-MAIL SNEFA EDITOR AT dwatsonfarrier@aol.com

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