



# MN Farriers' Association Newsletter

**FEBRUARY 2022**

## Join Us!

Mail us the form on the back of this newsletter to become a member

## Upcoming Events:

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>: IPFA Winter Clinic and Whole Horse Dissection @ Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, IA

Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: Iowa Clinic/Contest @ Iowa State University

Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>: Duggan Co's Spring Clinic

Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>: Kansas Contest @ Salina KS

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## *Ideas welcome!*

*Article ideas & submissions can be sent to the editor:*

*julia.lundeen1@gmail.com  
(906) 281-3352*





## The Importance of Competing

By Allen Rynda, CF

## Test Your Knowledge

Questions from  
Butler's P3

## Farrier Crossword

By Popular  
Demand

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The MNFA Newsletter is back in business, after a few years of retirement! This issue will be the first of many, to be published quarterly.

Our goal is to discuss topics that are relevant to you. We will provide continuing education, help you stay in touch with the local shoeing network, and produce interesting foot-focused articles for the Minnesota Farrier, as well as other entertaining content!

The format of our main article is a Q&A, where Allen was kind enough to answer some questions on a topic he liked, while driving between stops on a work day. We hope that this article is a fun and casual introduction to the benefits of competing for any farrier's business.

Happy shoeing, and thanks for reading!

Julia Lundeen, CF

### CALLING ALL CONTRIBUTORS!

- Are you passionate about horseshoeing in Minnesota?
- Do you have an idea for an article that you'd love to know more about?
- Are you interested in sharing your expertise?
- Do you have any beautiful or educational pictures?
- Would you like to advertise in this newsletter?

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we would love to hear from you!

Contact the editor, Julia Lundeen, at:

[julia.lundeen1@gmail.com](mailto:julia.lundeen1@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing what you can contribute to the local farrier industry!

All opinions expressed in this publication are NOT the official stances, beliefs, or opinions of the Minnesota Farriers' Association. Articles are not subject to direct approval from any members or chairpersons of the MNFA.





# The Importance of Competing

By Allen Rynda, CF

Allen is a farrier based in Montgomery, MN who has been shoeing for over 15 years. He works primarily in the south and west metro areas of the Twin Cities. He is well-known for his enthusiasm for competing, and our conversation covered many of aspects as to why that is the case. Here are, from Allen, some great reasons to compete.

## 1. Why did you start competing?

I wanted to learn and advance my skills, so that I wasn't limited by anything. If a customer wanted clips on a shoe, I wanted to feel confident drawing them myself. I also wanted to become more efficient, and by practicing things over and over again, I was able to do things faster and more accurately. The whole point, really, was to do a good job *better* and *faster*.

## 2. What was the first thing you remember learning from contests?

How to be efficient. The first contest I went to was the Minnesota contest, which was on the small side that year, but the first big-time competition I went to was in Michigan. I had to make lateral support hinds with a toe clip, and that really taught me a bunch in the preparation. Learning how to forge efficiently in the time limit was a huge challenge. The majority of what I learned happened at home in the shop, and not at the event. If you aren't doing good at home, it



doesn't go any better on the day of the contest.

## 3. How would you describe the mood, or dynamic, at competitions?

Helpful, upbeat, everybody wants others to succeed. There's a huge sense of camaraderie, and lifelong friendships are definitely made. Some of the guys I have competed with are now people where we go on hunting trips, family outings, or just call on a busy week.

## 4. In what ways have competitions impacted your career?

They've impacted everything. Competing was probably one of the biggest influences on my career, just allowing me to do a better job. It made me analyze my work more, and look at it critically, so I could produce a better product for the horse and the client. It just keeps pushing the envelope. It makes work more enjoyable, because you're constantly getting to practice stuff you learned how to do well. It takes something that was an obstacle, like fitting feet or making a barshoe, and makes it fun, challenging, adventurous – it didn't make it





easier, necessarily, but once you know exactly how to do something it's just fun.

**5. When did you start competing, and did you notice a change in your clientele as a result?**

I probably started competing 3 or 4 years into my shoeing career. My clients definitely changed. Most clients are excited that you're enthusiastic about your job and wanting to learn more. It gives them peace of mind that you're willing to go above and beyond. I think it's a comfort to them that you aren't just doing whatever it takes to get by, that you're willing to go that extra mile for their horse. Plus, people notice when your skills go up and you do a little bit better of a job, or you're just more entertaining to watch with your higher level of skill. Everybody likes watching someone who takes pride in their work. I also noticed that competing helped my confidence level at the horse. It made the job more fun, for one, and the extra practice I was doing made everything else more doable because I'd done it already. I wasn't spending time worrying at the horse, because I knew that I could do what I was attempting.



**6. What advice do you have for a farrier who has never competed, but is considering doing it?**

Go! Look at the shoe list, and practice a lot before you go. Build shoes with guys who have competed before, and get tips from them. It's a lot of work to compete, but all that work makes life a lot easier (though it doesn't always seem like fun at the time). Give it 110%, and then you will learn something. Even if you come in last place, you will know a lot more than when you started. You will build relationships – it gets you out of the “little pond” and into the “big lake”, and you'll be able to bounce ideas off of the people you meet, as well as start friendships that last a lifetime. We need to make friends with other farriers, because no one else really gets us!

**7. Do you have any other thoughts that you'd like to share about competing?**

Not really. But I will say, forging is the easiest thing about horseshoeing to practice but the hardest one to master. Practice makes everything easier in the long run, the only downside is that it takes a lot of time. But competing is an investment, and the sooner you make an investment, the more interest you will accumulate. It's as simple as that.

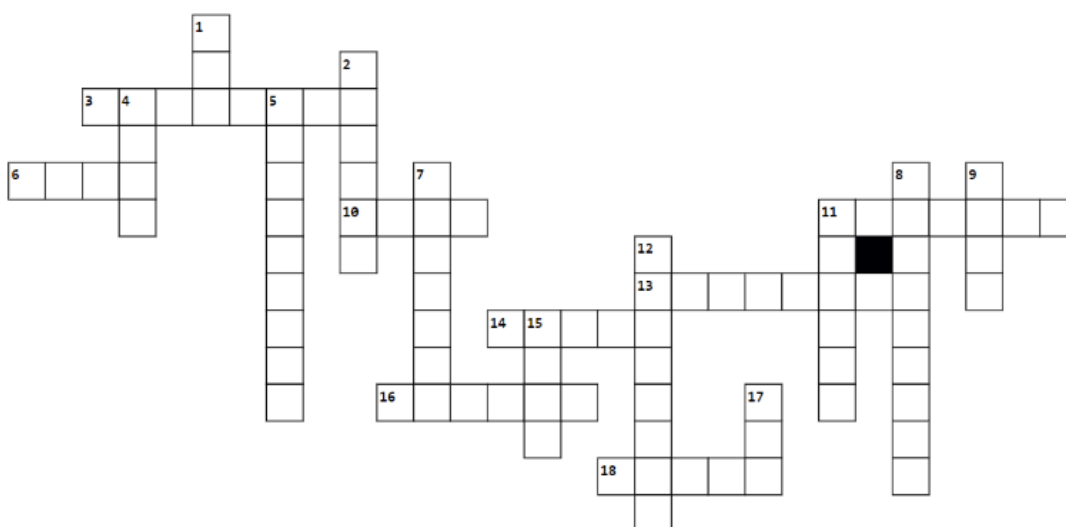


## Test Your Knowledge

Questions formulated  
from Butler's *Principles  
of Horseshoeing* (P3)

1. What is the term for a horizontal hole in the hoof wall?
2. At approximately what angle does a hoof enter consideration as a mild clubfoot?
3. Does the "polo" shoe have a taller inner web or outer web?
4. What are the average crude protein contents of grass and legume hays, respectively?

## Farrier Crossword



### Across

3. tool that finishes the hole punching process
6. extension of the hoof wall
10. popular amphibian
11. shoe manufacturer based in MN
13. connects bone to bone
14. rating used for impression materials
16. connects muscle to bone
18. a tarred fiber

### Down

1. creator of shoeing prescriptions
2. every horse's name in farrier books
4. a farrier's file
5. heat-resistant tool steel, spelled out
7. bar stock with a groove in the middle
8. fuel that is mixed with oxygen
9. exfoliates naturally in good conditions
11. shock-resistant tool steel, spelled out
12. type of deformity leading to clubfoot
15. outermost covering of P3
17. a popular hoof packing

1. Cleft 2. 65 degrees 3. Inner 4. Grass = 8%, Legume = 15%



## Minnesota Farriers Association

**Association for Farriers and Horse Owners  
Education/Clinics**

### ANNUAL MEMBER APPLICATION/RENEWAL

**\*\*Memberships run on the calendar year. Dues are not prorated for partial year memberships.**

Check One: I am a:

- ☐ Student
- ☐ Farrier
- ☐ Veterinarian
- ☐ Chiropractor
- ☐ Massage Therapist
- ☐ Horse Owner
- ☐ Supplier/Corporate Partner



For office use only.

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member  
☐ Paid ☐ Rec'd

Receipt: ☐ Y ☐ N Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your preference for receiving correspondence from the  
Association?      Mail      Email      Text

**Annual Membership Fee: \$100.00**

*Return this form with a check payable to: Minnesota Farriers Association*

Mail to:

Minnesota Farriers Association

Attn: Tim Wampfler

35920 Reed Ave

Shafer, MN 55074

*Thank you for supporting the Minnesota Farriers Association and our mission to further educate  
Farriers and horse owners.*