



May 2005 Newsletter

May 16, 2005

DFA Sticky Stuff Clinic a TOP HIT!!!

On Saturday April 9, 2005 the DFA along with Frank Dugan of Vettec Hoofcare Products hosted a clinic on Glue-on-Shoes & Hoof Repairs at Mint Vale Forge in Cambridge, MD.

According to Frank, it was the best clinic he had ever done because of all the hands-on work that we provided in our format. Those of you that missed this clinic missed out on a tremendous learning experience and some really awesome food.

The DFA extends our sincere thanks and appreciation to Dave Ferguson and Mint Vale Forge for providing facilities for the clinic. Also a big thank you to Super-Chef Suzi Bloomer for catering our noon meal which included home made chili, chicken & dumplings, grilled venison steaks, brownies and carrot cake.

DFA Secretary Dave Crockett did a fantastic job of organizing the event and making sure everything went according to plan. This clinic also brought in a lot of new members—WE NOW HAVE 28 MEMBERS!

Welcome new members

Cindy Lowe Clint Glenn Dan Phillips
Gary Hoenig Lee Cornelius Matthew Kellum
Mike Sponaugle

Injured Farrier Support Program

Last year the DFA started an injured farrier support program. This program works on a volunteer basis. When a farrier on Delmarva is injured and unable to work, the DFA has volunteers that donate their time by providing farrier service on behalf of the injured farrier. Our volunteers provide farrier service, collect the money from the customers, and send it directly to the injured farrier.

This program allows the injured farrier to keep their customers and their income. You do not have to be a DFA member to participate. **THE DFA WILL NOT ALLOW A CUSTOMER TO SWITCH FARRIERS WHEN WE ARE SUPPORTING AN INJURED FARRIER!** This program is designed to keep a farrier's business running and hang on to all of their customers while they are injured.

We are currently supporting Keith Flemming who has a broken leg. Several of our members have stepped up to the plate and helped out by shoeing and trimming horses for Keith. We could use more volunteers to help out. **Remember, some day you**

might get kicked by a horse and not be able to work for several months. Who is going to pay your bills when this happens?

Keith has customers in Kent and Sussex counties of Delaware and several in adjoining Maryland counties. If you want to volunteer to help out and shoe or trim some of Keith Flemming's horses, please contact him directly at: **(302) 684-8138.**

June 18, 2005 Annual Meeting, Clinic and Seafood Picnic

The DFA starts its new year in June. Membership dues run from the beginning of June through the end of May. Each year in June we hold our annual meeting where we elect new officers and board members and get input and ideas from the membership about upcoming clinics and activities.

Membership dues are \$50 per year for regular members—practicing farriers. When we hold a clinic that costs more than \$50, the cost of your dues is deducted from the cost of the clinic. Last year all of our clinics were free except for the last one—the Sticky Stuff clinic.

You DO NOT WANT TO MISS our June gathering:

- ALL YOU CAN EAT CRABS, SHRIMP, BURGERS, HOT DOGS AND THE FIXIN'S
- HANDS ON SADDLE HORSE SHOEING skills and techniques
- HANDS ON **HARNESS RACE HORSE SHOEING** skills and techniques

Our clinician for the day is Bob Skradzio, Sr. of Ambler, PA. Bob has been shoeing horses for over 50 years. He is a Certified Journeyman Farrier and a certification tester for the American Farriers Association. He is one of the best known horseshoers in the country and very highly respected as a clinician. He has several decades of experience shoeing Standardbred harness race horses.

During the clinic, Bob will demonstrate shoeing a saddle horse for riding and a Standardbred—FOR THE TRACK. Yup we're bring some real live horses to the clinic. If you are interest in getting in to shoeing harness race horses or you already shoe harness race horses this is a great opportunity to get some hands on education with a highly qualified expert.