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Dr. Michael "Mick" Peterson, executive director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, will be the featured speaker at the annual Modern Veterinary Medicine & Your Racehorse seminar on Sunday, March 14. His topic is "Assessing Track Surfaces."

Dr. Peterson, Ph.D., is the Libra Foundation Professor for the College of Engineering at the University of Maine. Dr. Peterson's research links traditional understanding of engineering mechanics and materials to the biomechanics of animals.

The program is presented by the California Thoroughbred Foundation, Southern California Equine Foundation, and Thoroughbred Owners of California and starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Carleton F. Burke Memorial Library at the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association offices, 201 Colorado Place, Arcadia.

Reservations for the free program are required by calling the TOC at (800) 994-9909 or visiting www.toconline.com by March 10. Seating is limited.

Over the past six years Dr. Peterson has developed a passion for understanding racing surfaces, including tracks for thoroughbreds, quarter horses and standardbreds. He has developed test protocols that have been used at more than 30 thoroughbred racing venues.

The Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory is a non-profit organization supported by the industry. It provides research, testing and materials characterization services for the horse racing industry.

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