

# RAM

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NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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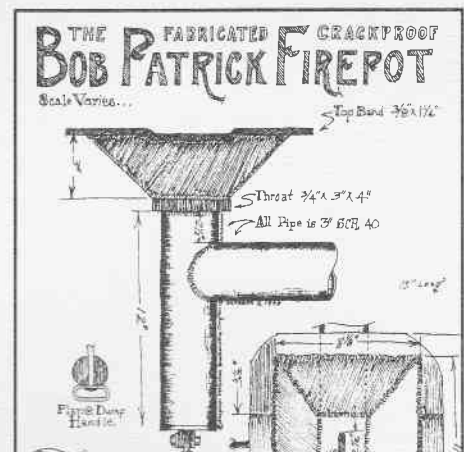
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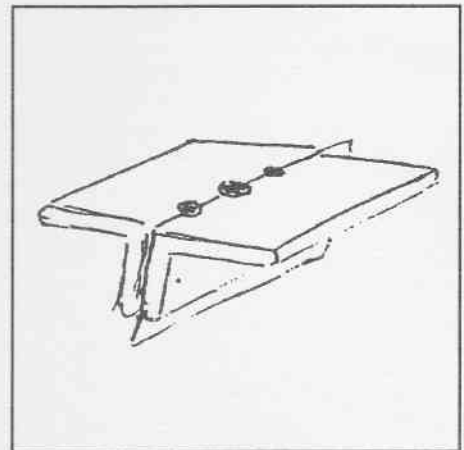
**23** It's back to Sparta, Ill. for the November meeting which is Dec. 5 at Ken Markley's.



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**Newsletter of the  
Blacksmiths  
Association  
of Missouri**

**July—August 1998**  
*Volume 15 No. 4*

**Our cover:** Michael Saari was one of the demonstrators at the Asheville Conference. He will bring his traditional style of forging to the 1999 Ozark Conference in May.

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The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$20/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101; (573) 395-3304. BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Maurice Ellis, Rt.1 Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622, (573) 766-5346. Occasionally some material will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent by the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

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New Member     Renewal

How did you learn about BAM? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need any tools? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$20, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

**ABANA Membership Application**

Primary ABANA Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Overseas surface mai .....\$60 yr.
- Contributory .....\$100 yr.
- Full time student .....\$35 yr.
- Public library.....\$35 yr.

*See reverse*

# BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

BAM,  
c/o Maurice Ellis  
Rt.1 Box 1442  
Belgrade, MO 63622

## Officers:

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Bob Alexander

**1st Vice President**  
Mike Williamson

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Phil Williamson

**Secretary**  
John Murray

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I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby apply for membership in the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America and enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ as my annual membership dues for one year.

MasterCard       VISA       Check/Money Order

Card Number

Exp. Date (Required)

Checks must be in U.S. currency

SEND RENEWAL TO:

**ABANA**

P.O. BOX 206, Washington, MO 63090 (314) 390-2133

Dues Distribution:

1 year subscription Anvil's Ring: 68.5 % \$24

Adm. offices & other ABANA projects (Conferences, etc.): 31.5% \$11

The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is a chapter of the Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America, and is devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing and to communication among blacksmiths in Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletter's goal is to support these aims. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale or anything else which furthers these ends will be considered for publication.

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Fall is the best time of year for blacksmithing in my opinion, especially when the weather has been as good as it was this year. Besides a great September meeting we had the long-awaited Oktoberfaust event and several demos by BAM members that enlightened the public and made some change for those taking part.

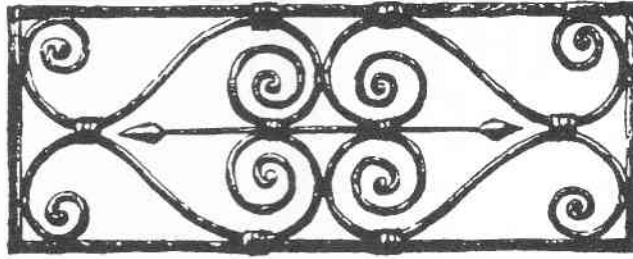
I won't get into the September meeting much here as that is covered elsewhere, except to mention the proposed coal buy. One of the biggest benefits of BAM membership over the years has been the coal buy. Unfortunately, we have lost the use of Lou Mueller's storage area since he moved his shop to higher ground. However a lot of talk went on at the last meeting about getting an order and dividing it up over some weekend.

We still don't have the next coal buy worked out as I wrap up this newsletter. Look for information next issue, get your order in and be prepared to pick it up or have someone do that for you at the specified time.

If you miss out this time don't worry. Tom Clark is going to have coal available, but you will need to pay him a little extra for his troubles. Tom will be stocking the Sewell coal we used at the Columbia meeting. It burns real good and leaves little or no clinker but in my opinion doesn't coke as well as the Pocahantus coal we have been using.

Good coal really makes a difference. I picked up three bags from a man who called me one day just to try it out. He had it stored in the barn and it was really dusty, smelled like cat pee and had a good percentage of chicken feathers. If anyone would like to give this a try I will make you a good deal on what's left, which is three bags minus one or two shovels full. Most likely this is stoker coal from a furnace.

At the September meeting I talked about a grant I had applied for through the Missouri Folk Arts Program. This was the first time that group has offered grants and they asked that we apply. I put together a proposal based on Peter Ross' address



*This grill is the logo for the Missouri Folk Arts Program I was told the original was made by Darold rinedollar.*

to the Asheville Conference. Peter talked about machine vs. hand mentality and how we are losing the ties to the generation that understand hand mentality. My proposal was for a three day event that would focus solely on hand techniques.

The director of the program liked the idea a lot but it didn't get funded. One of the reasons we lost out, she said, was because they felt only Missouri artists should be used (I had Peter listed as one of the demonstrators). This wasn't a criteria in the application but then the committee had to find ways to make its decision.

The good news is I got a call a few days later with an offer to partially fund the project. To pull this off we have to spend the money this year, so I got on the phone with Bob Patrick and Lou Mueller and here's the result: A two-day, demonstration only event featuring Bob Patrick demonstrating traditional skills to be held at Lou Mueller's shop in Fenton, Mo. Nov. 28-29. I still don't have this nailed down yet but since I must get the newsletter out this weekend I am going to leave it at this announcement and get the details out to you via a post card. Hope to see a lot of you there.

Oktoberfaust was quite an event. Those of us who made it saw an excellent demo by Germany's Paul Zimmerman and a nice follow up by our own Walt Hull. We had a number of BAM members demonstrating at forging sites set up around the park. Pat and I took turns under one tent and Pat sold a lot of iron. Bob Alexander manned the park forge while Gary Allen and someone whose name I have forgotten worked under the barn lean to. Some 5,000 people came by to tell us about their grand-

fathers and to ask where we got the coal ("Out of that bag," we told them.)

At the event a tent was set up where those who make architectural iron could show off their wares. Steve Austin, Stan Winkler, John Medwedeff and Andrew MacDonald all were set up. I was extremely impressed with Andrew's stuff. This guy is in the big league now.

We also had Maurice and Bruce Herzog taking turns at the spinning lathe, and two members of the Craft Alliance did fine chasing work. Ruth Hull set up the BAM boutique and we brought in some more money this way.

The only disappointment was the auction. Some really nice iron including Paul and Walt's demo pieces and Pat's sword, sold way too cheap.

Look for Oktoberfaust to be an annual event.

I made my annual outing at Hartsburg in October. I think this is the 5th year for me demonstrating there. They have unbelievable crowds, estimated this year at 29,000 over two days. I never have much to sell but this year did real well. Bill Irvin joined me on Saturday and he couldn't take money fast enough.

The No. 1 thing they wanted to buy? Coal, forges and anvils.

Folks seem to be fascinated by iron these days and that is a good sign.

Last weekend must have been a good one for tool buying. I picked up a nice Acme "coyote killer" anvil and heard Bob Patrick found a 350-pounder close to home and at a good price, a perfect combination. Joe Wilkinson called to say he found a 25-pound Little Giant, a mate to the one he had. Most likely that found a new home with Randy Barringhaus, who is getting awfully artsy on us judging by the candleholder he brought to the meeting.

With any luck this will reach you before the December 5 meeting. If so I will see you there.

— Jim McCarty

# BAM'S July '98 Meeting



*There being no one around with a camera, we sent a talented artist to the July meeting to produce this interpretation of the event.*

## by Pat McCarty

I'd like to give a big thanks to Steve Willsie, our host for the July meeting. Steve invited us to the Hahn Boy Scout ranch at Laurie on The Lake of the Ozarks.

This is a very nice site with lots of room for camping and tailgating. I had brought the BAM forge and was set up on one end of the pavilion. Scott Stager had his traveling forge and set up at the other end.

I started off making leaves until someone asked how to do a pineap-

ple twist. What started off as a simple twist turned into a completed fireplace poker. One more item for the Iron in the Hat.

Tom Clark and I teamed up and made some nails and Hofi style tong clips. We sold the clips in Iron in the Hat for \$1 each and worked until everyone who wanted one was taken care of.

Since Bob Alexander was at John C. Campbell school Vice President Mike Williamson called the meeting to order.

Discussions were held on new and

old business and announcements were made on up coming events and classes. We had a good turn out for Iron in the Hat and many nice trade items.

I hadn't had time to do mine so I brought along the Blacksmiths Journal and some channel iron and made mine at the meeting. With Jerry's clear instructions it turned out pretty good.

We finally let the forge cool off so we could load up and another great BAM meeting came to an end. See ya at the next meeting.

## Bob's Business

Even though this message is being placed in the July-August issue, here it is November already. Seems like just a short time ago we were all being pulled with a tractor out of the mud at the January meeting.

To avoid the possibility of a similar occurrence I have volunteered for the July meeting.

Maurice has been hard at work coordinating next year's meetings and has successfully scheduled places for the whole year. This will allow the meeting dates to be published in our newsletters well in advance so we can plan to attend.

Since our last newsletter we had a great meeting at High Point Welding Shop in Columbia, Mo. Many of our members stepped up to the anvil to demonstrate including a fast-paced horseshoe demo. Later in the afternoon our host demonstrated on some of his state-of-the-art machinery.

Many of us went home with treasures from this. Also many members thought the lunch to be one of the best ever, complete with chairs, tables and tablecloths for everyone. Many thanks to William Irvin and his crew.

In October came the ABANA sponsored Oktoberfaust at Faust Park in St. Louis County, in which many of our members participated. Some provided working forges while others had displays for their works. The weather was great, the crowds large and activities many. This was held in conjunction with the park's annual Fall Festival and the Germanfest.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the demos of Paul Zimmerman from Germany. A gallery was also set up at the park for an extended viewing, open to the public. Not only did members have work on display, but also some collections from the Metals Museum in Memphis. Lou Mueller was instrumental in organizing this event with Faust Park and others.

Many thanks to all who participated. Some BAM members have questioned me as to why ABANA would sponsor an event such as this in our "backyard" without involving us in

the planning. Maybe ABANA's board can define their policy in this matter.

The conference committee has been working on next year's Ozark Conference. So far, we can report that the site has been moved to Washington, Mo. and that there is to be two main demonstrators and hopefully a demo by the knifemakers. There should be more details to follow in the next newsletter.

I have just received news of a two-day event with Bob Patrick. The event being put together by Jim McCarty is to be held at Lou Mueller's new shop in Fenton, Mo.

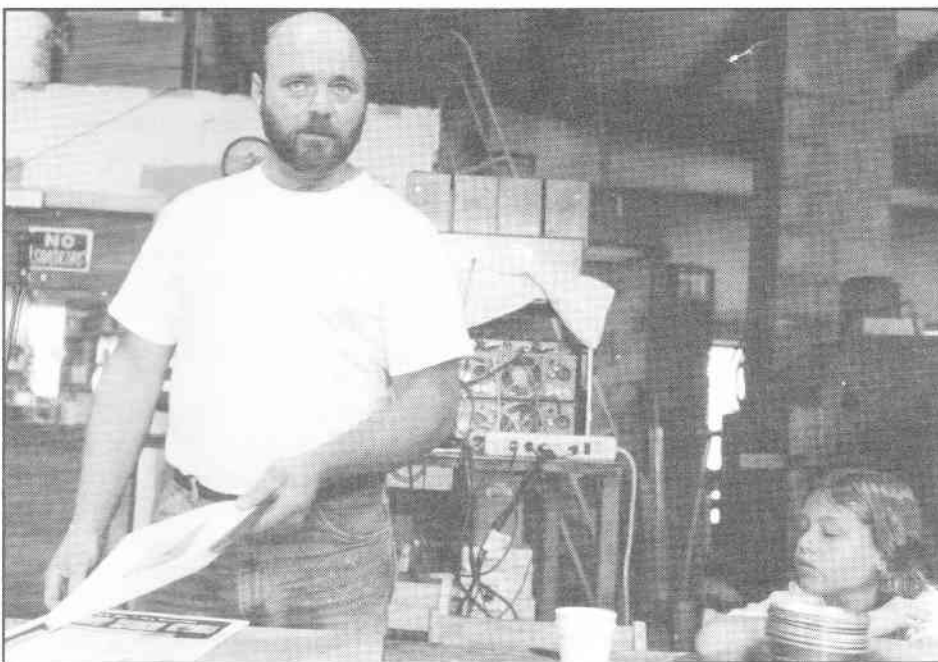
on Nov. 28-29. Admission is said to be free!

Next meeting is December 5 at Ken Markley's shop in Sparta, Ill. This will be my first visit to Ken's so I'm looking forward to it. Check the newsletter for a map and the trade item.

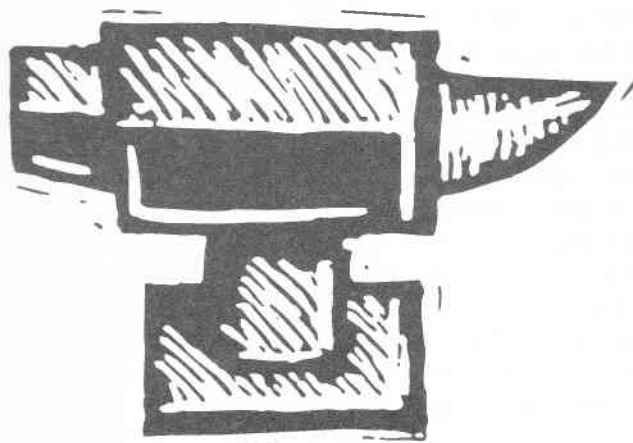
Trade items are meant to stir the creative side of the brain, and cause one to use their best abilities to create a treasure to be traded so let's all try to participate.

Keep on hammering.

— Bob Alexander



BAM's President Bob Alexander leads the September meeting held at Bill Irvin's High Point Welding in Columbia, Mo. Bob and the rest of the officers were reelected by acclamation following a traditional railroading at the July meeting.



# BAM

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

by Jim McCarty

I'm not sure we could have had a better meeting than BAM's September gathering. William Irvin was the host at his Columbia, Mo. High Point Welding.

When Bill isn't hosting BAM he earns his living making targets for competition shooters. The mainstay of his business is a computer operated plasma cutter that takes up a good part of his shop. Before the meeting Bill armed himself with patterns of leaves, flowers and other things we like to forge. He had these scanned into his computer and converted to paths the machine could understand.

Then he turned it loose and just about everyone with arms went home with something cut from two sheets of plate. High on the desirable list was a variety of BAM logos, which Bill torched out in three different sizes.

Not only did the machine follow the intricate pattern perfectly, but with the touch of a button or two it easily scaled the drawing to change the size proportionally.

I could see the wheels inside everyone's heads turning as we thought out new things to turn Bill loose on. I don't think we sacrifice any of our blacksmithing integrity by letting the plasma cutter make the shape so we can forge the details into it.

Before the plasma started flowing Pat and I had the BAM side draft forge fired up and since no one else stepped up to the anvil I pounded out a lengthy dragon head demo. We kept the fire going with Tom Clark making nails, quenching them and tossing the fin-

ished product to the crowd, a true showman.

Before long Neal Poort opened the back of his truck and pulled out his farrier's anvil and gas forge. I could see the groans from some of the real traditionalists, the folks who wear the no horseshoes pins.

If there was anyone in the crowd who doubted farriers can be top-notch blacksmiths they changed their minds after watching Neal. He started by putting two pieces of steel into the forge to heat. Meanwhile, he selected a piece of aluminum and showed us how to forge shoes from this tricky metal. To test the temperature Neal used the end of his hammer handle. When it left a greasy mark on the metal it was ready to be worked.

The aluminium worked easy under the hammer of someone who knows what they are doing. But the real lesson came when the steel had finished heating. I've never seen anyone use the horn the way Neal does. For our benefit he marked the steel and drew lines on the horn to show where to position it to bend one leg of the horseshoe.

Then he moved the iron until it lifted slightly off the horn and pounded it on edge. The combination of the horn and hammer shapes made quick work of the shoe.

Even if you never make a shoe the technique is the same for making a ring. Most impressive job.

Besides planning perfect weather Bill rented tables and chairs and had a super sound system cranking out bluegrass music. First time I can remember having a chair to sit in and a table to eat off of at a BAM meeting.

For food there was enough ribs for an army, and this guy knows how to cook. Once again there was a good turnout of tailgaters.

All and all, one of our best efforts yet. Thaks to Big Bill for his efforts. Hope we can come back soon.

### Minutes

- Thanks to High Point Welding for hosting us today — best ribs ever!
- Minutes of last meeting approved though not yet published.

### Old business:

- Jim McCarty spoke on BAM's

involvement in the state fair. Good show this year — volunteers needed for next year.

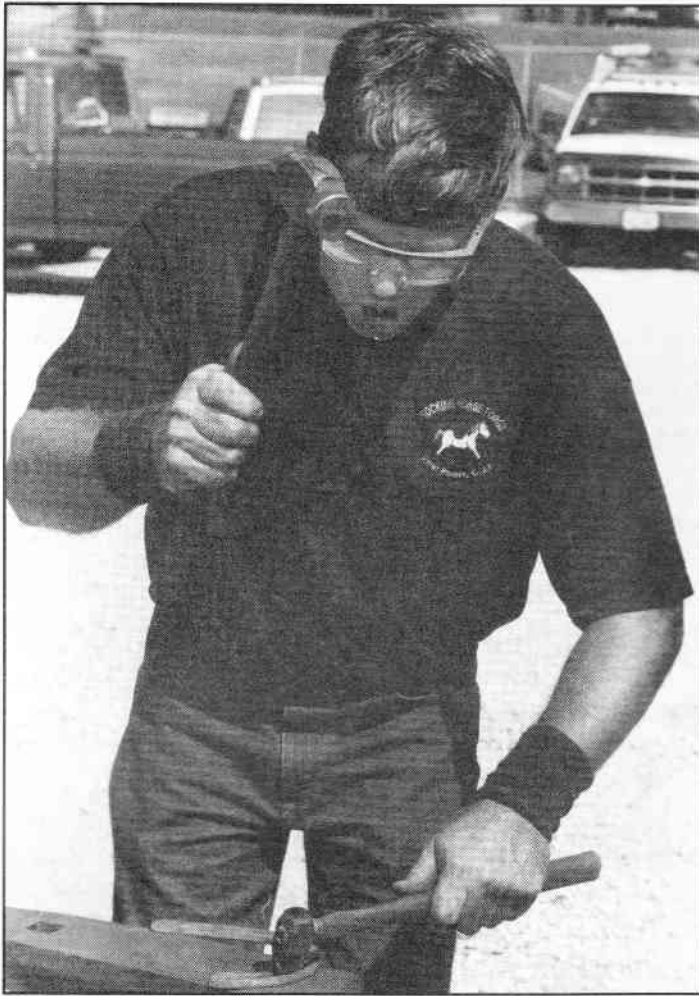
### New business:

- Bob Alexander spoke on literature sent to us by ABANA.
- Blacksmithing workshop Oct. 24-25 in Mt. Vernon, Ill. Call John Lovin for details.
- Michigan Artist Blacksmiths Assoc. requests T-shirts trade with BAM, T-shirt to be sold at auction. Request approved, nice idea.
- Bob Alexander spoke on Michael Bondi's request for funds for his photographic research.
- A demonstrator in 16th century renaissance ironwork is needed. Call Doug Glenn, (314) 916-1643 for info.
- Doug Hendrickson has requested a BAM scholarship to study with Tom Latané. Motion made and approved. We'll get a really good demo out of this.
- Jim McCarty spoke on a Missouri Folk Arts Program grant he applied for. It is fairly involved and a good opportunity. More to come.
- Jim McCarty, Maurice Ellis, Kirk Sullens and Tom Clark spoke on the coal situation. Tom mentioned the Sewell coal, which he hopes to have in stock soon. General discussion of coal buying ensued.
- Tim Underwood spoke on the Oktoberfaust program. Slide show on Thursday with Paul Zimmermann. Demo Friday by BAM's own Walt Hull. Don't miss this one. Paul Zimmermann will demo all day Saturday and Sunday. Auction both days, items needed. BAM demos may precede Paul. Forge stations available for other BAM demos.
- Phil Williamson spoke on Salt Fork Craftsmen Conference in Guthrie, Oklahoma 17-18 of October. Dorothy Steigler and Robb Gunter will demo.
- Several new members were introduced.
- By consensus, all BAM officers were reelected as before. An election committee was formed to consider new electees for next year.

Meeting adjourned

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Murray, secretary*

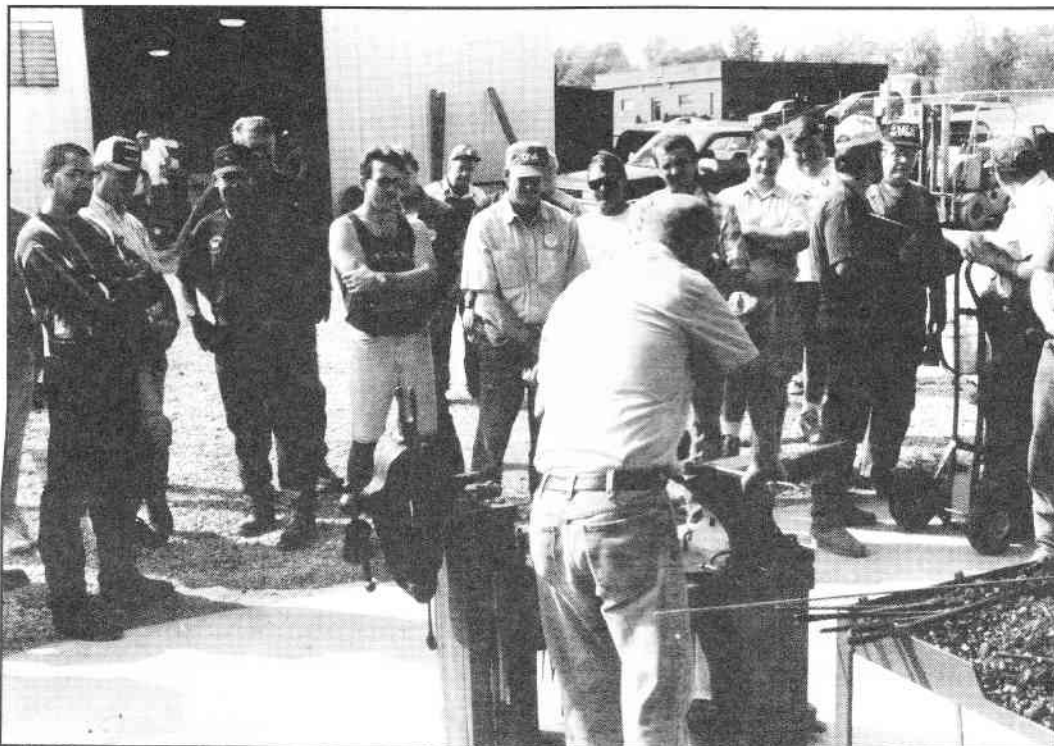




*Above: There were no horseshoe jokes after we watched Neal Poort of Sedalia demonstrate how to forge shoes in steel and aluminum. Neal put on a real good show, using the horn like none of us had ever seen. Below: Tom Clark, fresh off his championship at the Tannehill conference, demoed nail making.*



*Above: Our host Bill Irvin talked about the theory behind plasma cutting before demonstrating what his computer-operated machine could do. We all left with a sample.*





# ABANA

Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America

PO Box 206 - Washington, Missouri 63090 USA  
Janelle Gilbert, Executive Secretary

Office Hours 7:00am - 3:00pm CST weekdays  
Voice/Fax (314) 390-2133 E-Mail: [abana@mail.usmo.com](mailto:abana@mail.usmo.com)

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## President's Message to the Chapters

*September 1998*

September already and harvest time is upon us, at least in my part of the country. Fall is a good time of the year to spread the word about ABANA and its Chapters. There are a lot of fairs and festivals and most of them feature at least one blacksmith. I am sure most Chapters are involved in fair and festival activities, but if your chapter is not, check out the possibilities. I think you will find it rewarding.

There have been a lot of good blacksmith meets this year and they are not over yet. They will continue through fall and into winter. No one can make it to all of them but you should support all of them that you can. I have been to several meets this year including the outstanding conference at Asheville in June. Still on my calendar is Quad State Roundup in September, Appalachian Blacksmith's Association in October and the annual ABANA budget/board meeting in November.

I read as many of the chapter newsletters as I can. While reading the latest newsletter from the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri, BAM, I found more than a full page of shop tips sent in by ABANA's newest director, Doug Merkel. Good tips and a good example. Most of us need to follow the example and give our editors the help they need and deserve.

We had a record seventeen members expressing interest in being candidates for ABANA directors. Twelve of the seventeen decided to get their names on the ballot and I think that too may be a record. We can set one more record. That being the number of members that vote for the candidates of their choice and mail in their ballots. Let's do it.

Take care of your tools and your tools will take care of you. We have all heard that many times. But have you ever given serious thought to how it applies to you; your tools and your shop? Not taking care of your tools can lead to broken handles, flying chips and hoses or cords to trip over. And these in turn can lead to various injuries and even to electrical shock. Take care of your tools and take care of yourself.

Joe Harris  
ABANA President



## CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

September  
1998

ABANA - PO Box 206 - Washington, MO 63090 USA  
phone/fax (314) 390-2133 web site: www.ABANA.org e-mail: abana@mail.usmo.com

### NEW FROM ABANA ON-LINE

Check out the *Journeyman Program* on ABANA's Web site at [www.ABANA.org](http://www.ABANA.org) [Education] and the new *secured order form* set up for credit card as well as check payment options [Ordering].

### LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR VOLUNTEERS

The American Society of Metals published this noteworthy article in their July issue of the *Advanced Materials & Processes* publication.

#### **New legislation provides liability protection for not-for-profit volunteers:**

If you've been concerned that your participation as a volunteer could somehow result in personal liability, the U.S. government has somewhat alleviated that concern. With the passage of the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, immunity from personal liability in legal lawsuits has been extended to volunteers of not-for-profit organizations (such as ABANA, as well as government agencies).

The following Q-and-A describing the legislation is based on an article published in the Winter 1998 issue of Grant Thornton *Exempts*, a newsletter for not-for-profit service organizations. It is presented here to provide some perspective on the legislation.

#### **What is the significance of the new legislation?**

The federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 is intended to promote volunteerism by reducing the legal liability risks for individuals who serve as volunteers.

#### **What are the potential benefits to volunteers?**

"While all 50 states have had some kind of limitation of legal liability for volunteers serving not-for-profit organizations, those laws varied from state to state, and there has been the general perception that volunteers were at risk for legal liability," said Celia Roady, a partner with the Washington, DC office of Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius, LLP.

As a result, according to a Gallup study, one in 10 exempt organizations has experienced the resignation of a volunteer because of liability concerns, and one in six volunteers has withheld services for this reason.

"This new federal legislation should ease those concerns and help exempt organizations in their recruiting efforts," Roady said.

#### **Who is protected?**

The definition of volunteer under the act includes directors, officers, trustees, and direct service

volunteers who do not receive monetary or other compensation of more than \$500 per year. Reasonable reimbursement expenses, such as travel costs to attend board meetings, are not considered compensation. The act does not protect not-for-profit organizations themselves or their employees.

#### **What kind of behavior is protected?**

A volunteer, acting within the scope of his or her duties, will generally be protected from actions or omissions that result from "honest mistakes" or "ordinary negligence."

#### **What kind of behavior is NOT protected?**

Volunteers are not immune from liability for harm caused by "willful misconduct," "gross negligence," "the conscious flagrant indifference to the rights and safety of individuals," or the operation of a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft. Additional types of misconduct not shielded from liability include those resulting from crimes of violence, intoxication, or other substance abuse, etc.

#### **What are the next steps?**

According to Roady: The new legislation lays the groundwork for reducing the liability risks faced by volunteers of exempt organizations. However, this act is just the beginning. It is up to state and federal legislation to ensure that all not-for-profit organizations, their employees and volunteers are adequately protected from the burden of costly lawsuits.

### CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVED AT THE MEMPHIS MUSEUM

Sending a copy of your chapter's newsletter to our Chapter Liaison Officer means that they can then be archived at the National Ornamental Metals Museum. ABANA makes sure this courtesy for chapters is in place in the hope that this material will be available for future referencing. So be sure to update your mailing list with our new Chapter Liaison Officer:

Doug Merkel  
ABANA Chapter Liaison  
PO Box 238  
Villas, NC 28692

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*The content of this newsletter was submitted by  
Janelle Gilbert, ABANA Office*

# BAM

## Bulletin Board

Jim Walch in Davenport Iowa has three forges for sale, \$150 each. Give him a call at (319) 322-1038. One is electric and the other two are manual.

For sale: 200 pound Acme anvil, real good shape. This brand was sold by Sears but appears to have been made by the company that made Trenton anvils. \$400. Jim McCarty, 573-395-3304.

For sale: 70-pound air hammer, \$2,800. 40-pound air hammer, \$2,300. Also custom spinning in copper, brass, aluminum, steel and pewter. Maurice Ellis, (573) 766-5346.

Reciprocating power hack saw, 12 inch blade, works great. \$50. Joe Wilkinson, Morrison, Mo. (573) 943-6779.

Ken Rogers wrote to tell us that a friend of his is casting custom swage blocks in ductile iron for \$2.40 per pound. He says they can cast them in 4140 steel at slightly higher price. For more information call Ken at (415) 893-1886.

Besides the classes with Uri Hofi, Tom Clark has expanded the lineup at his school to include Phil Cox and

Bob Patrick. He is also doing one-on-one training. Call for prices on Hofi hammers and the anvils he and Hofi designed. (573) 438-4725.

Terry West who lives in St. Charles, Ill. just west of Chicago is looking for a forge. Contact him at (630) 377-1325.

Wanted: Someone to demonstrate at a 16th Century Renaissance Festival in May of 1999. Contact Doug Glenn for details, (314) 916-1643.

25 pound Little Giant for sale, needs minor repair. \$850. Dan West, Macon, Mo. (660) 385-5066 (work) or (660) 385-3750 (home).

Andrew MacDonald still has a bunch of large fly presses for sale. These are real scarce in this part of the world and are handy for punching, pressing and about anything you can do with a hand hammer. For more information contact Andrew at (618) 549-1954.

BAM members, time is money. I have a CNC plasma cutting system in my shop in Columbia and will offer my services to BAM members at a 10 percent discount. I will cut anything you desire. Flowers, leaves, custom designs. CNC plasma cuts parts fast. From art to parts I do it all. Call (573) 474-8749 and ask for William Irvin for more details.

Hammers, tongs, fullers, flatters, cutters, chisels, punches, swages & blocks, cones, firepots, hand vises, pliers, coal and more. The finest 'smithing tools in the world. Tool list available upon request. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard. Steve Kayne, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (704) 667-8868 or 665-1988 or fax (704) 665-8303 or e-mail: kaynehdwe@ioa.com

Jerry Hoffmann now has a nice line of blacksmith related T-shirts for sale. They come in a variety of colors and include the famous nude men striking, EZ Weld ad, Bradley Power Hammers, Hot Art and more. For a brochure drop him a line at the Blacksmiths Journal, PO Box 193, Wash-

ington, MO 63090 or call 1-800-944-6134 or check him out on the internet at <http://www.blacksmithsjournal.com>

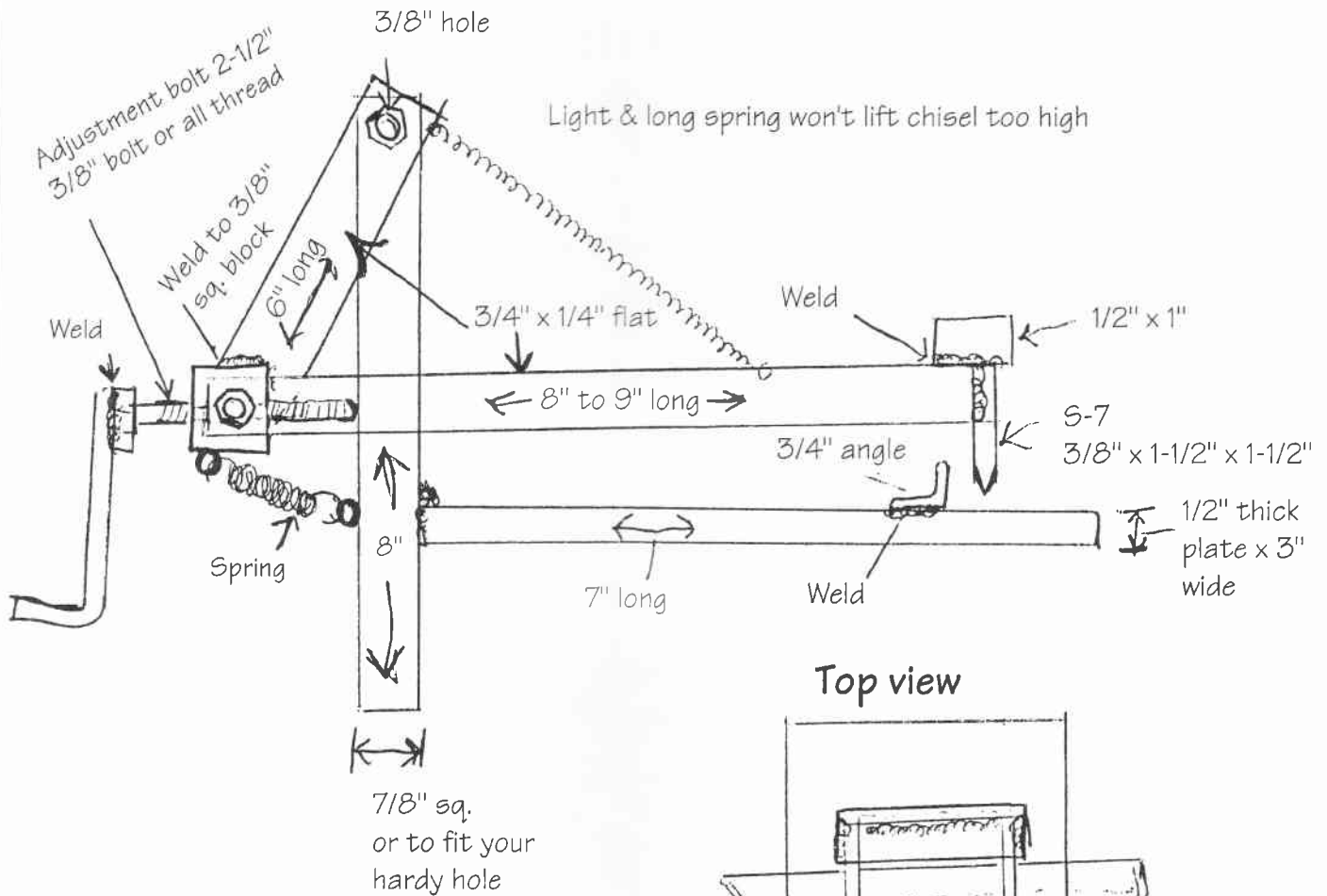
Power hammer history! *Pounding out the Profits — A Century of American Invention* by Douglas Freund (hard-bound, 317 pages, profusely illustrated) is available for \$32.50 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling through Minus Mountain Machine Works, PO Box 532, Jerome, AZ 86331.

At last!! The book about anvils. The history, manufacture, identification and much more about anvils made in America and those imported for resale or brought to America by smiths from 1600-1997. 564 pages of text and graphics on 70 pound Sterling Litho Satin paper. Over 770 graphics including 300 photos. Hard cover, cloth bound and smyth sewn. \$60 plus \$5 shipping and handling per copy. Available now. Dick Postman, 10 Fisher Ct., Berrien Springs, MI 49103; (616) 471-5426.

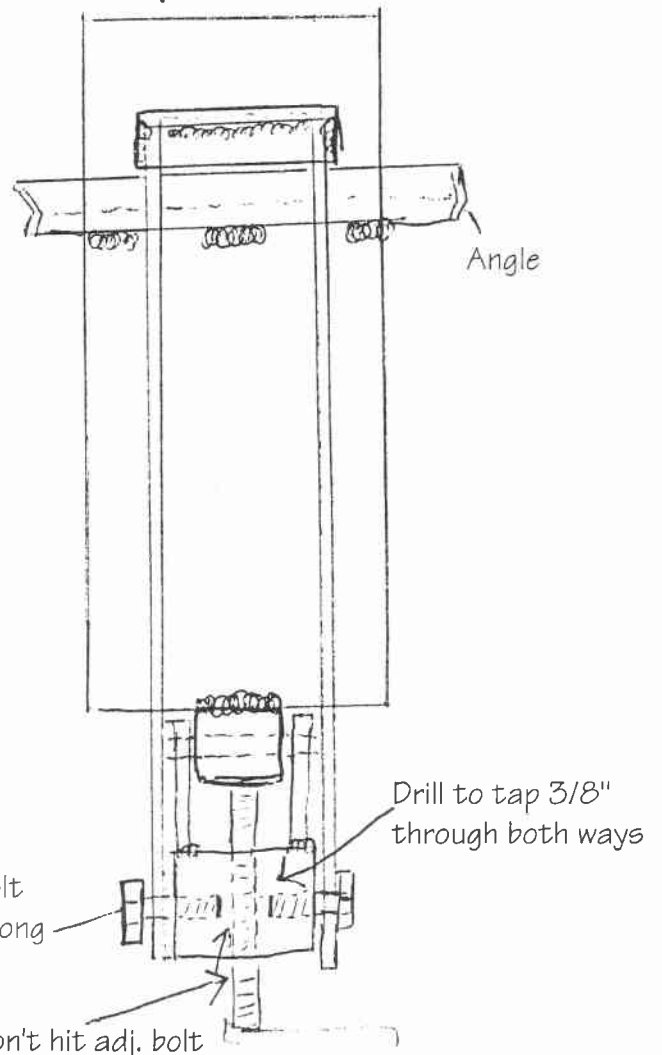
A new book for beginners and intermediate smiths has just been printed. It's called "A Blacksmithing Primer" by Randy McDaniel. His book covers the basics of setting up a shop, including different chimneys that work, fabricating a forge and anvil, 20 forging projects, starting with basic items and progressively advancing the skills. They are taught with simple text and over 400 detailed drawings. It is spiral bound, 174 pages and can be ordered through Dragonfly Enterprises, 3300G Kingston Dr., Dept. 44, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Price is \$20 plus \$3 shipping and handling per book.

Iron Age Primitives is the title of a new work by Gene Chapman, former editor of the Northwest Blacksmith Association's Hot Iron News. It is part of a continuing series featuring unique knives and metalcraft. Cost for the 20 page book is \$8.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. Even expert knifemakers will find numerous ideas for making Mountain Man style blades. Order from Oak and Iron Publishing, PO Box 1038, Kingston, WA 98346.

## Side view



## Top view



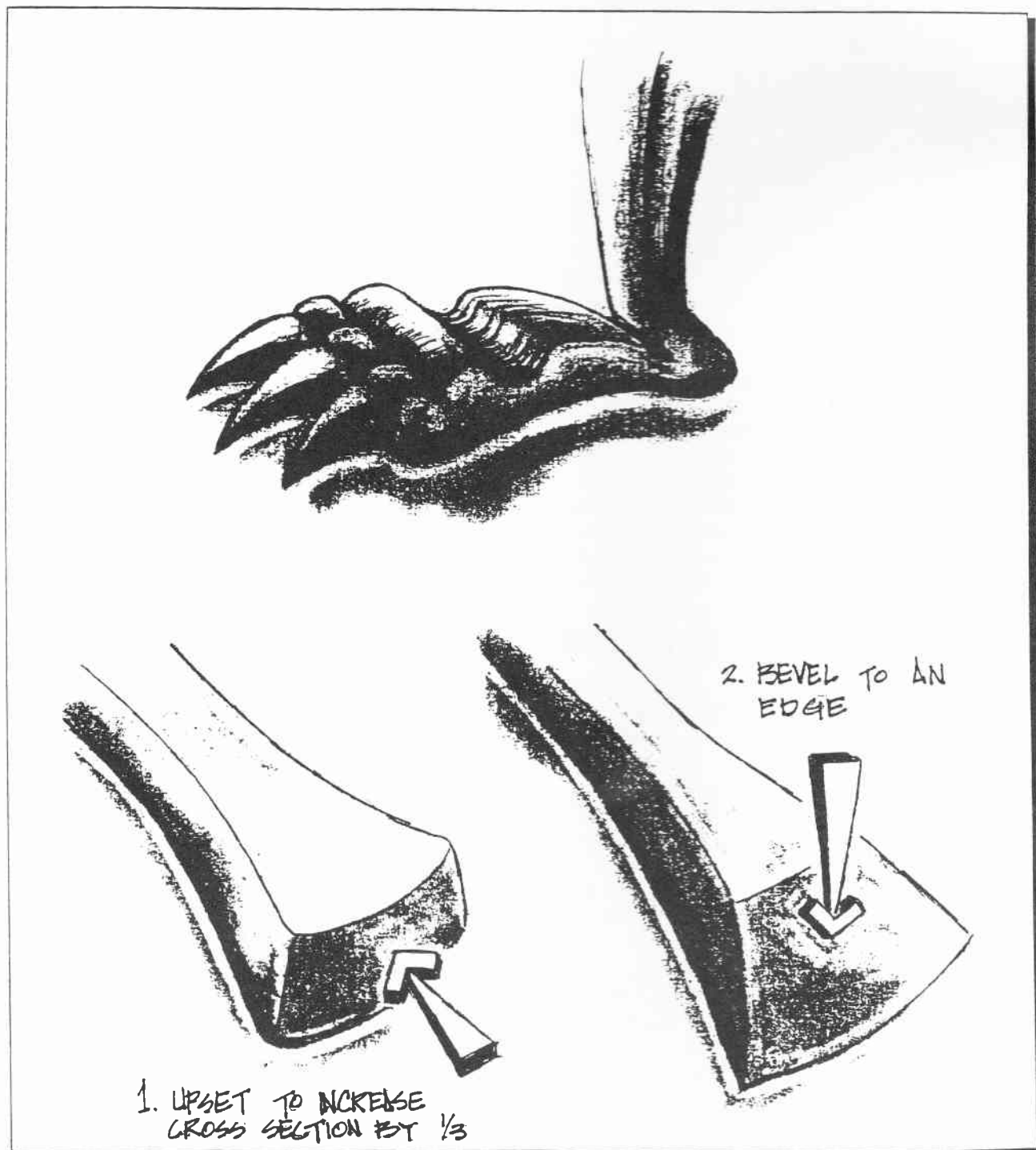
# Don Nichol's Amazing Auto-centering chisel

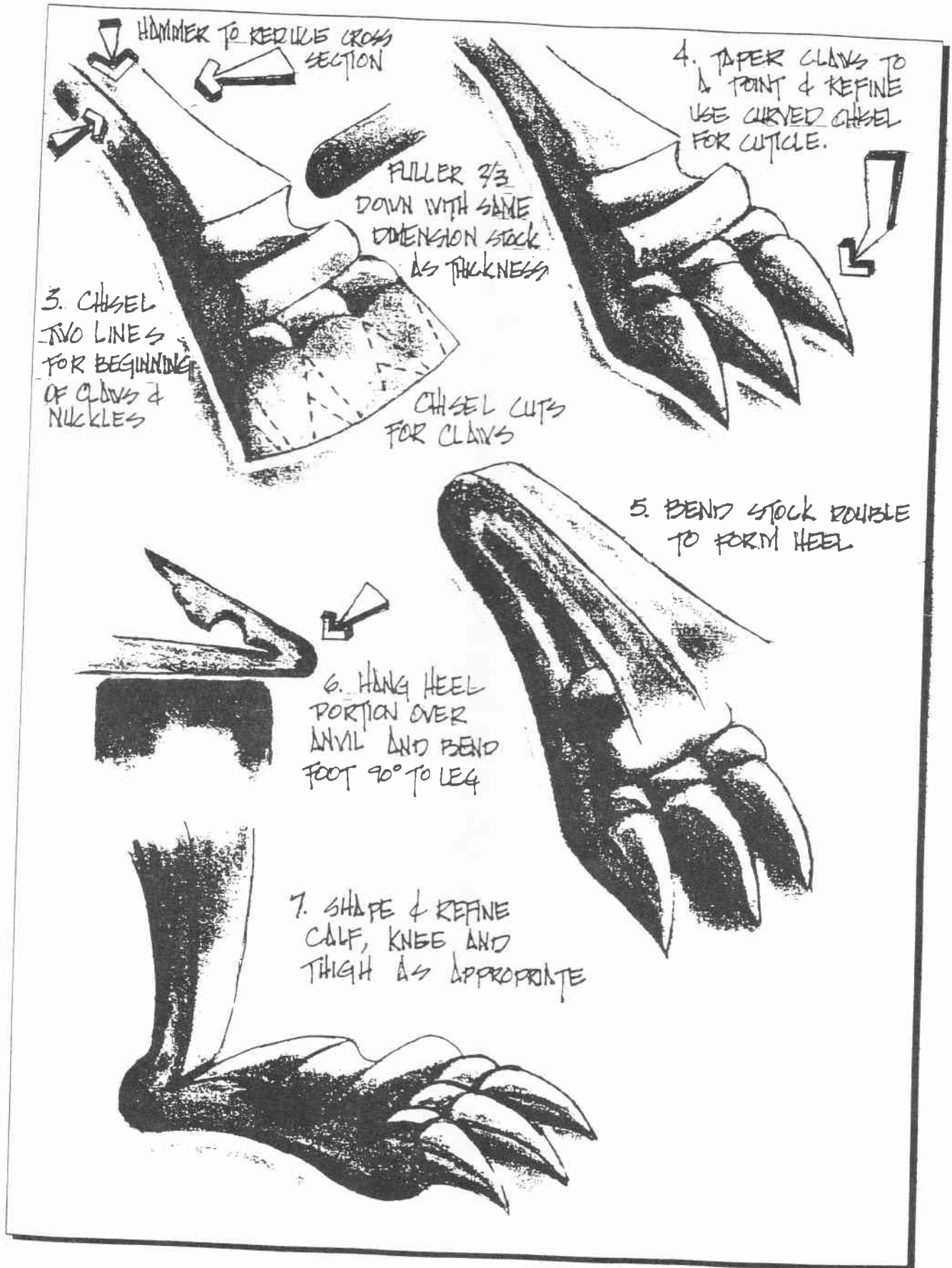
With 3/8" x 16 thrd. adjustment bolt it is simple to adjust for different widths of metal from 1/2" to 3/8" on center 1 turn of handle is 1/16" which would put chisel on center of 3/8".

# MISSISSIPPI FORGE COUNCIL

## Gargoyle Feet - 3/98

**Purpose & Scope:** Outline procedure that can be applied to any size flat bar stock in multiples of one to two i.e. (1/4x1/2", 3/8x3/4", 1/2x1" etc.) to produce feet for candle sticks, table legs, plant stands or other architectural features where whimsical details may be appropriate.





Hello, fellow smith and newsletter editor,

Here is an article for your blacksmithing newsletter. I can supply it on a 3 1/2" floppy with the drawings being done on TurboCad and written on Microsoft Word. I don't know if it would work via e-mail. You can contact me at [RAMS4G@MSN.COM](mailto:RAMS4G@MSN.COM) if I can help you in this matter.

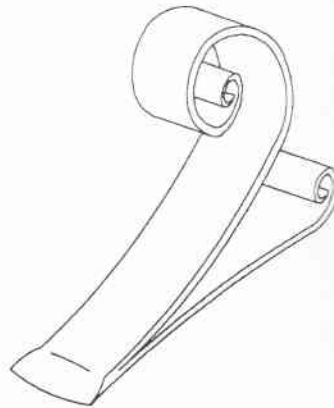
Keep the Sparks A'Flying!

Randy McDaniel



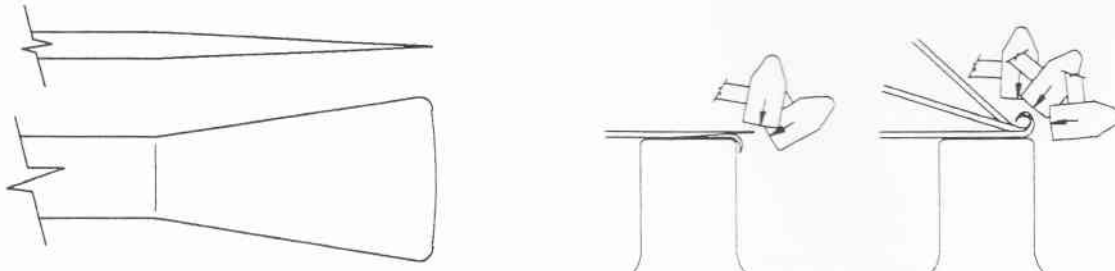
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## Door Stop Wedge



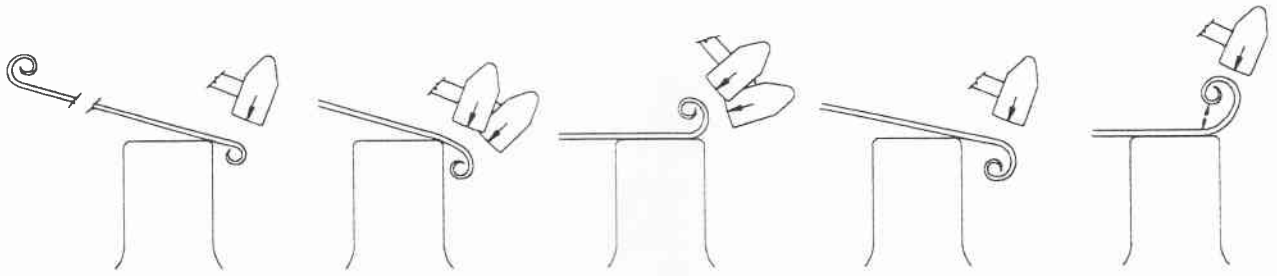
Here is a simple item that I first made as a request and it became a real staple in my sales at craft fairs. It is a good, quick practice or demonstration piece that is very functional.

I use hot rolled mild steel, 1" to 1 1/2" wide by 1/8" to 3/16" thick and about 16" long. Draw out a long taper allowing the end of the bar to spread out evenly on both sides. This shape is known as a "fishtail" in scroll making.



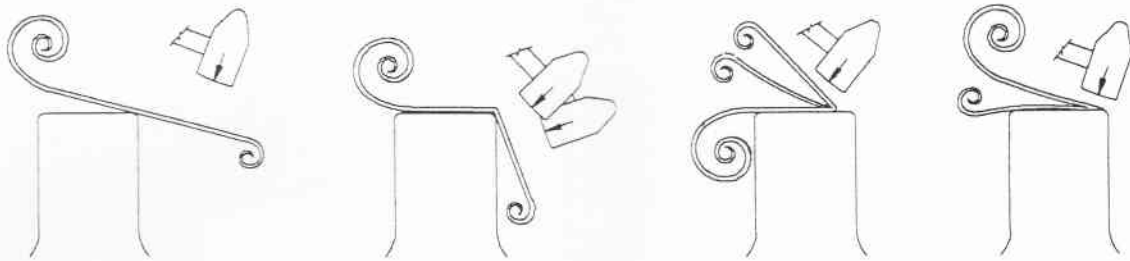
Place the end past the anvil edge and use glancing blows to start the scroll. Do not hit the anvil surface, as that would make a flat area in the scroll. Turn the piece over and use back-face blows to scroll the bar towards you while lifting the bar. That end is done.



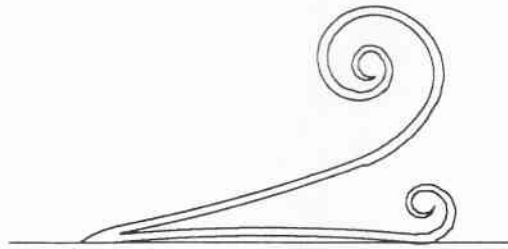


Forge a fishtail on the other end. Start forging a scroll in the opposite direction as the first one. Follow the sketches to make a larger scroll. Watch the negative space to control the gradual opening of the scroll.

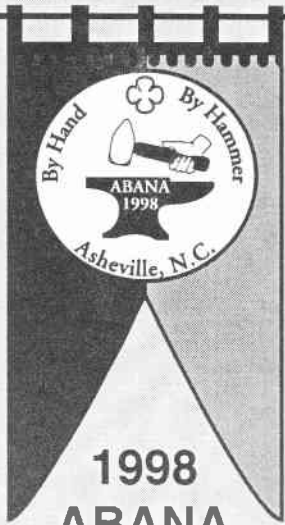
Place the piece balanced about halfway on the edge of the anvil and hammer a bend until you have a number “2” shape. Take a couple of hammer blows on the very end of the bend to slightly flare it out.



Then cool off the whole piece. You will notice that the straight areas will slightly curve while making the bend. That adds to its appeal and gives the wedge a spring action.



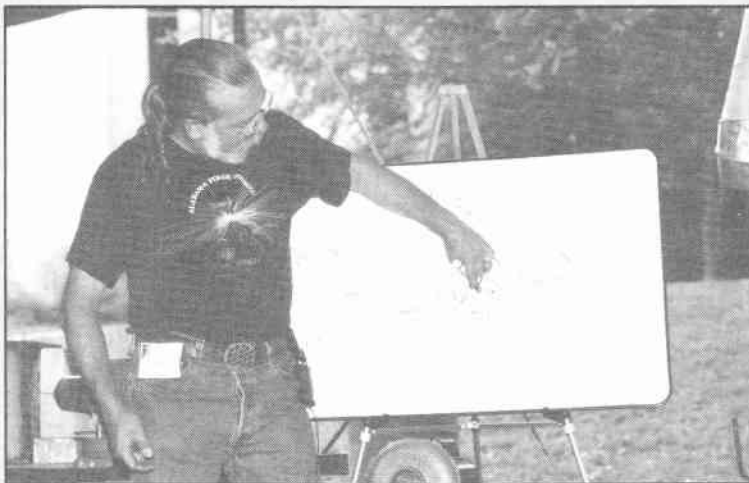
This article was recently written and drawn by Randy McDaniel, author of “A Blacksmithing Primer, A Course In Basic And Intermediate Blacksmithing”. This is quickly becoming one of the most popular books on blacksmithing with a number of schools using it for their classes. Its’ personal and simple approach has made it valuable to beginners and experienced smiths. It also includes a more detailed explanation of scroll making and other blacksmithing basics. It is available for \$20 plus \$3 shipping and handling through Dragonfly Enterprises, 3300G Kingston Drive, Dept. 44W, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 and through other major blacksmithing suppliers.



**1998  
ABANA  
Conference  
Scenes**



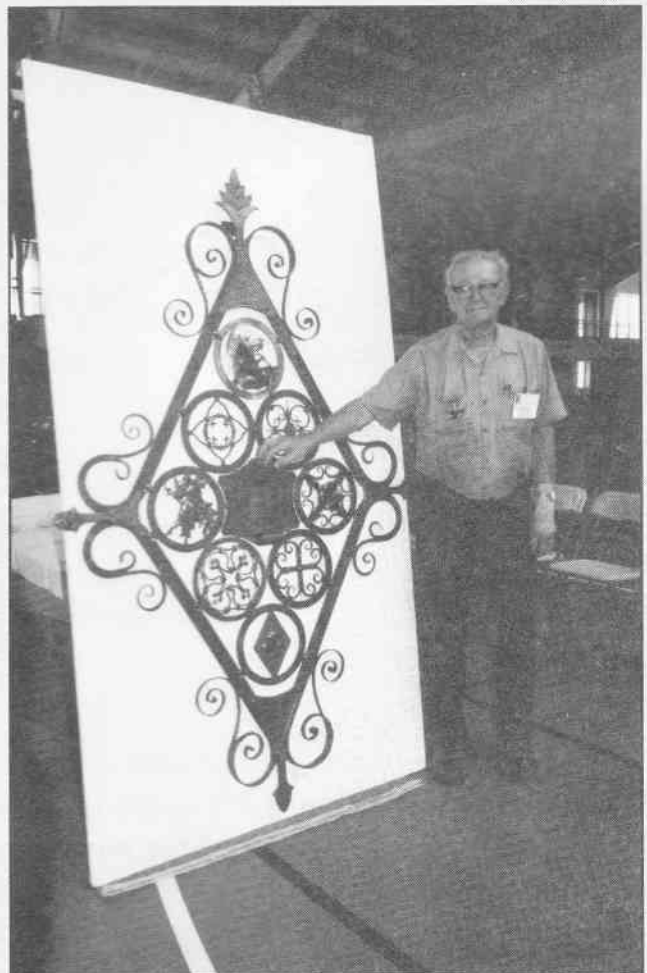
*Above: Phil Cox tinkers with his motor before his 25-pound Little Giant demo at the Asheville conference. Phil had motor problems but said the experience turned out to be a good one thanks to some helpful volunteers.*



*Todd Kinnikin sketches out his demo before welding up some billets at the knifemaker's station. The site had everything a knifemaker could want, including the best talent in the nation.*



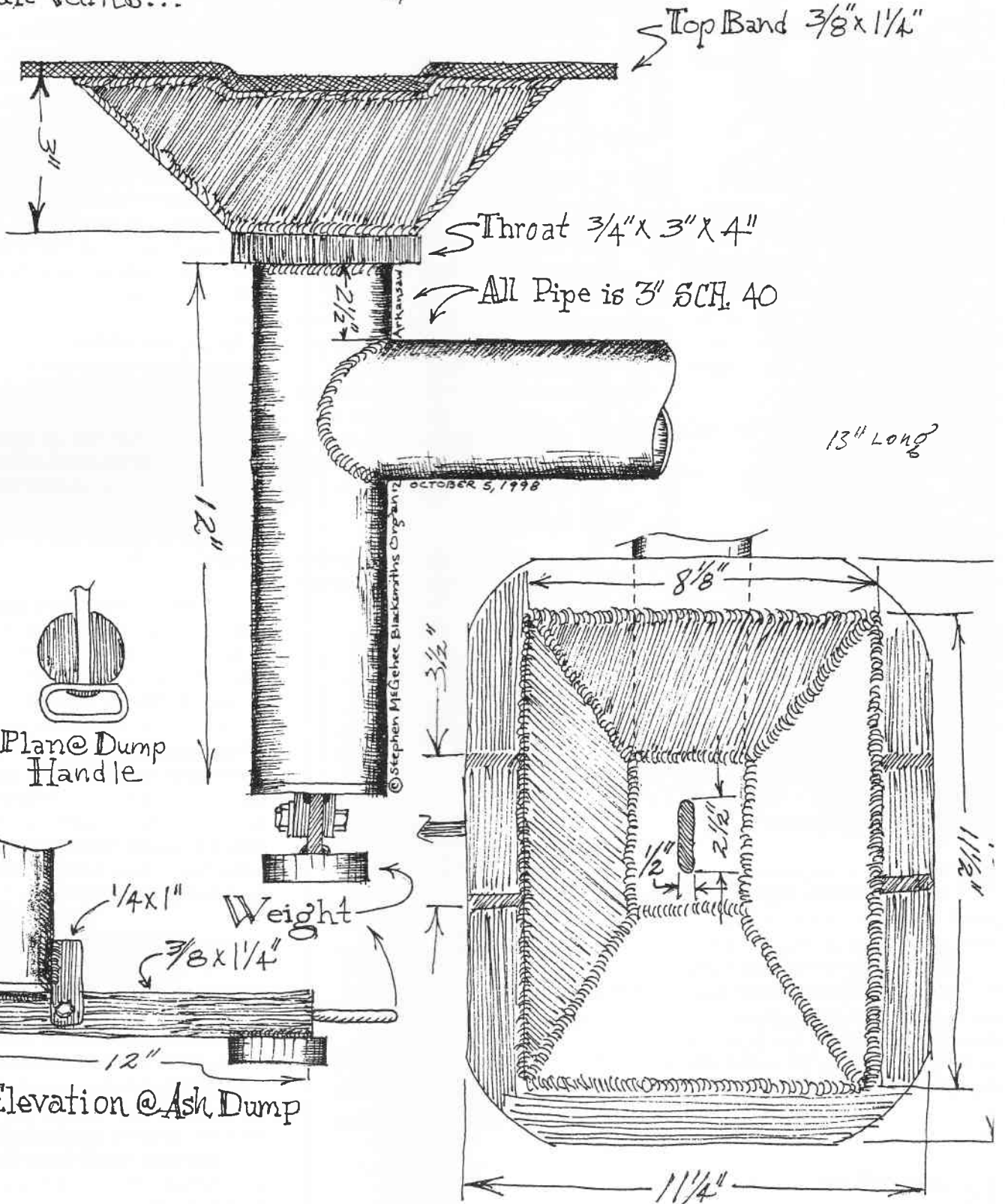
*Dorothy Steigler admires her Bealer Award, a froe made by BAM's founder Bob Patrick with help from our President Bob Alexander.*



*Above: Francis Whitaker poses in front of the Chapter Ring Project, a grill made to honor him. The project proved challenging but Francis' leadership and the top-notch team made it happen.*

# THE FABRICATED CRACKPROOF BOB PATRICK FIREPOT

Scale Varies...



# BAM

# SHOP

# TIPS

Got a tip to share? Jot it down and send it to the editor at the following address: Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101 or FAX to (573) 395-3201 or e-mail to jimmac@socket.net

## Sharpening files

Soak it in a 10 percent solution of hydrochloric acid for 10 minutes, then wipe off the file once with a dry cloth and allow the acid to eat the grooves, then just wash in a solution of limewater and oil. To remove excess oil rub in chalk and wire brush off. I have sharpened many files this way and they turn out good as new.

— *Adriaan Roelof Seevinck*

## Scrolling pliers

Make a pair of scrolling pliers from a heavy pair of slip-joint pliers. I bought a pair of unusually large old pliers at the flea market for \$2. Remove the rivet/bolt and forge the jaws out to the required length. Just remember to leave enough strength in the jaws. I had no problem with cold shuts from the serrated jaws. Replace the rivet/bolt.

— *Mike Linn*

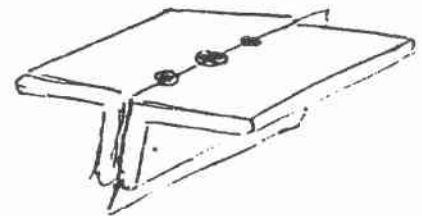
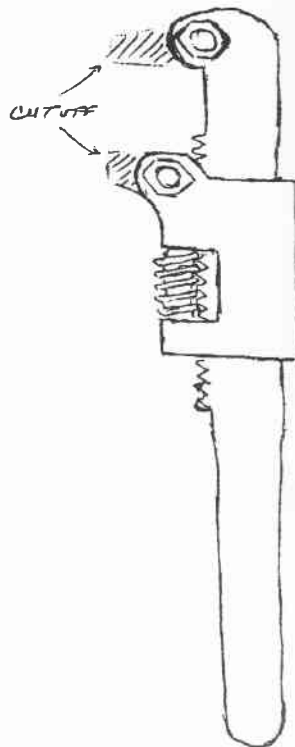
Basically any slip joint plier can be converted into scrolling pliers.

Obtain a size of pliers that you are comfortable with. Grind or file one jaw to approximately 3/8 inch OD and hammer (more like a tap) a piece of 3/8 inch pipe about 2 inches long on to the jaw. I tack welded mine to secure it. Cut a 2 inch length of 1/2 inch pipe and slip over the 3/8 inch pipe. Now you have two sizes of scrolling pliers in one, and depending on the size of the original pliers, you could add one or two more pieces of pipe. the slip-joint feature of the pliers will allow you to retain a comfortable grip during use.

— *Ed Caffrey*

Take an old "knuckle buster" F-shaped shifting spanner (English term for monkey wrench) — the granddaddy of the ubiquitous Crescent wrench; cut/grind off part of the jaws, drill and tap two holes for 1/2 inch bolts as shown; screw in 1/2 inch bolts and use lock nuts (or cut one nut in half to give two thin nuts). Cut off the heads of the bolts, leaving the shanks as the legs of your new, adjustable scrolling wrench.

— *Bellows and Breeze, New Zealand Blacksmiths Newsletter*



Rivet tool

Take two pieces of thick angle iron, say 1-1/2 inch by 1-1/2 inch by 3/8 or 5/16 inch, the length of your vice jaws. Clamp them together as shown, with a thin strip of card (cigarette package or similar) between them. Then drill 3 or 4 holes, the sizes of your required rivet shanks, down the joint.

Put each bar in the vise with the grooves upwards and ease the edges with a round file that's bigger than the hole size.

To use, put both bars in the vice along with a rivet size piece of round bar, leaving about 1-1/2 times the diameter of the rivet bar above the angle irons. Wind vice up tight and cold forge rivet head using about a 1 pound hammer. Finish head with a suitable size rivet snap ( or a drift with a hemispherical depression forged in the end).

— *Bellows and Breeze, New Zealand Blacksmiths Newsletter*

## Torch holder

If you know someone who works for an electric utility perhaps you can get them to find you a "stinger" which is the piece that attaches the electrical drop that goes to your meter to the power line. These make excellent torch holders.

## Hardy tool stems

For hardy stubs on tooling for your anvil, use square tubing. Forge it down in a long taper until it just pokes out from the bottom of the hardy hole. Cut off the tube where it enters the hardy hole. While fitting the stub to the hole, mark the horn side of the tube and make sure it faces the horn at each fitting. Very few if any anvils have perfectly square hardy holes.

Weld your stub to whatever tooling you need, paying attention to your horn mark. Now you can hammer away on your tooling, then just hit it on the bottom of the stub and it pops right out.

— Mark Linn

### Collar formula

For collaring square or rectangular shapes use the formula: Perimeter of material to be collared plus 2-1/2 times the thickness of the collar material. For collaring round shapes use the diameter of the material to be collared plus 3 times the thickness of the collar material.

— Francis Whitaker

### Ed's Red cleaner

Ed's Red Homebrew cleaner/degreaser/solvent. Mix equal parts kerosene, Dextron II Automatic transmission fluid, mineral spirits and acetone. Most say it works better than the store bought stuff.

— C.E. "Ed" Harris

### Fixing burned steel

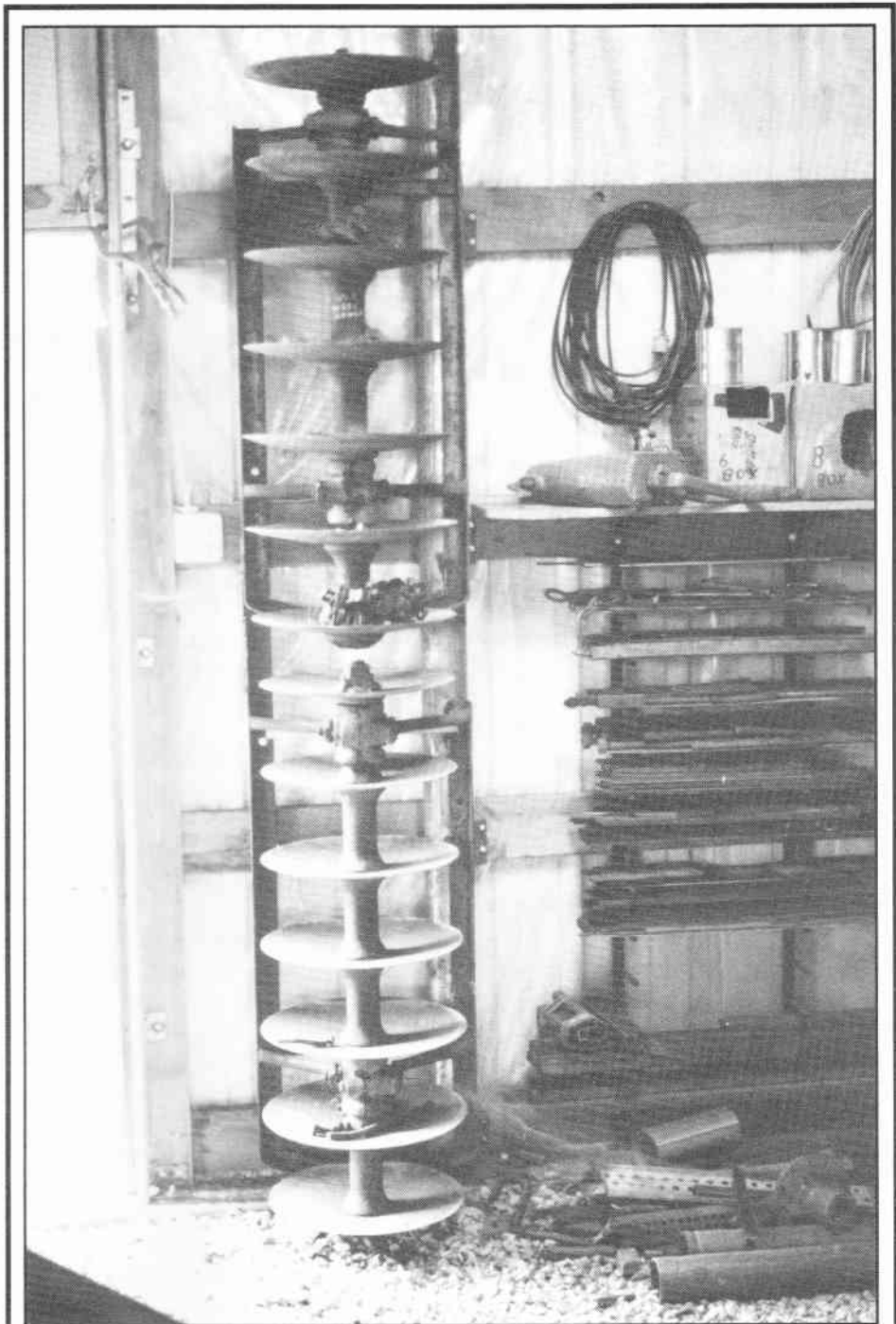
If you burn your steel in the forge you can restore it a certain amount by plunging it into powdered charcoal mixed with water until it is a thick paste. Make sure you plunge it in when it is still burning, i.e. throwing off sparks.

— Adriaan Roelof Seevinck

### "Instant" rust

Add between six drops and a full dropper of muriatic acid to a pint of ordinary 3 percent hydrogen peroxide. The more acid, the quicker and darker the rust. Heat your iron so that when you spray with the solution it vaporizes but does not boil. When the color is right wash with soapy water, dry and wax finish for interior use. Outside it will continue to rust.

— Dan Nibbleink



### Del O'Rear's disc storage bins

Here is an idea I saw years ago. It is an old disc with the cups turned up mounted against a wall or post. It makes a good lazy Susan bolt bin or whatever. I just got mine up and thought I should take a picture of it before it got loaded up. I enjoy the newsletter and different ideas and projects from others.

— Del O'Rear

# BAM NEWS

## New home for Ozark Conference

BAM's Ozark Conference is going to move to a new location for 1999. The '99 event will be held at the Knights of Columbus grounds in Washington, Mo. The date is the same, the first weekend in May which this year is May 1-2. Michael Saari and Jeff Mohr will be the featured demonstrators.

Michael is from Connecticut. He studied at SIU and is well-known to many of us. At the ABANA conference he demonstrated traditional forging skills, including a nice Moravian door handle. He will be doing traditional forge work at the Ozark Conference.

Jeff Mohr is from Tallahassee, Florida. He is a frequent instructor at the Folk School. He will be doing fire tools with a contemporary flair.

Both demonstrators will be working on Saturday and Sunday so we will have an opportunity to see them both.

Besides the demonstrations there will be a forging contest (details to come) on Friday night and a slide lecture that will be open to the public. The spouses program will be bearing making with Mary Laubinger (rumor has it she used to be a McCarty). Cost will be \$35 for the entire conference or \$25 for a single day pass. There will be more details coming but please do your part to get the word out that we have a new conference site.

If you want to reserve a room there are three motels nearby:

Super 8, (314) 390-0088

Lewis & Clark, (314) 239-0111

American Inn, (314) 239-3172.

Hint -- if you stay at Super 8 call 1-800-800-8000 and ask for their VIP discount card, good for 10 percent off and they will cash checks with it. Pat and Mary Jo McCarty recommend the hot tub room.

## 1999 meetings set

Maurice Ellis has scheduled all the BAM meetings for 1999. Here's the date and place so you can mark your calendar:

January meeting, Jan. 23, Dale Kirby, Higbee, Mo.

March meeting, March 13, Steve Stuenkel, Troy, Ill.

May meeting, May 22, Fred Weisenborn, Bennett Spring State Park, Lebanon, Mo.

July meeting, July 17, Bob Alexander, De Soto, Mo.

September meeting, Sept. 18, Ray Chaffin, Warsaw, Mo.

November meeting, Nov. 20, Andrew MacDonald, Carbondale, Ill.

## ABANA 2000 needs you

The Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association will be hosting the ABANA 2000 Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona on July 12-16, 2000. They have lined up several outstanding demonstrators for the Conference. In an effort to search out blacksmiths who do unusual, creative and progressive forge work they need our help. If you know of an outstanding smith who is doing creative work with knives, traditional forging, contemporary and modern forging, organic forging using various metals or glass and wood etc. and other unusual forge work and they are good demonstrators, please submit their names and resume with description and photos or slides of their work for the committee to consider.

Send to Bill Callaway, 3515 N. 35th St., Phoenix, AZ 85018 or call (602) 667-3893.

## Position available

We are looking for a person who is seriously interested in learning the art of blacksmithing through self-motivation, instruction and position at a historical blacksmith shop under the direction of Payne Junker studio. Paid position will include working under artist blacksmith Payne Junker for a few hours each day and running a small blacksmith shop doing demonstrations in historical blacksmith techniques. Some experience would be helpful (can you make a hook?). Position open June through October. Interested parties should contact: Junker Studio, 422 Ethan Allen Rd., Chester, Vermont 05143, or call (802) 875-3986.

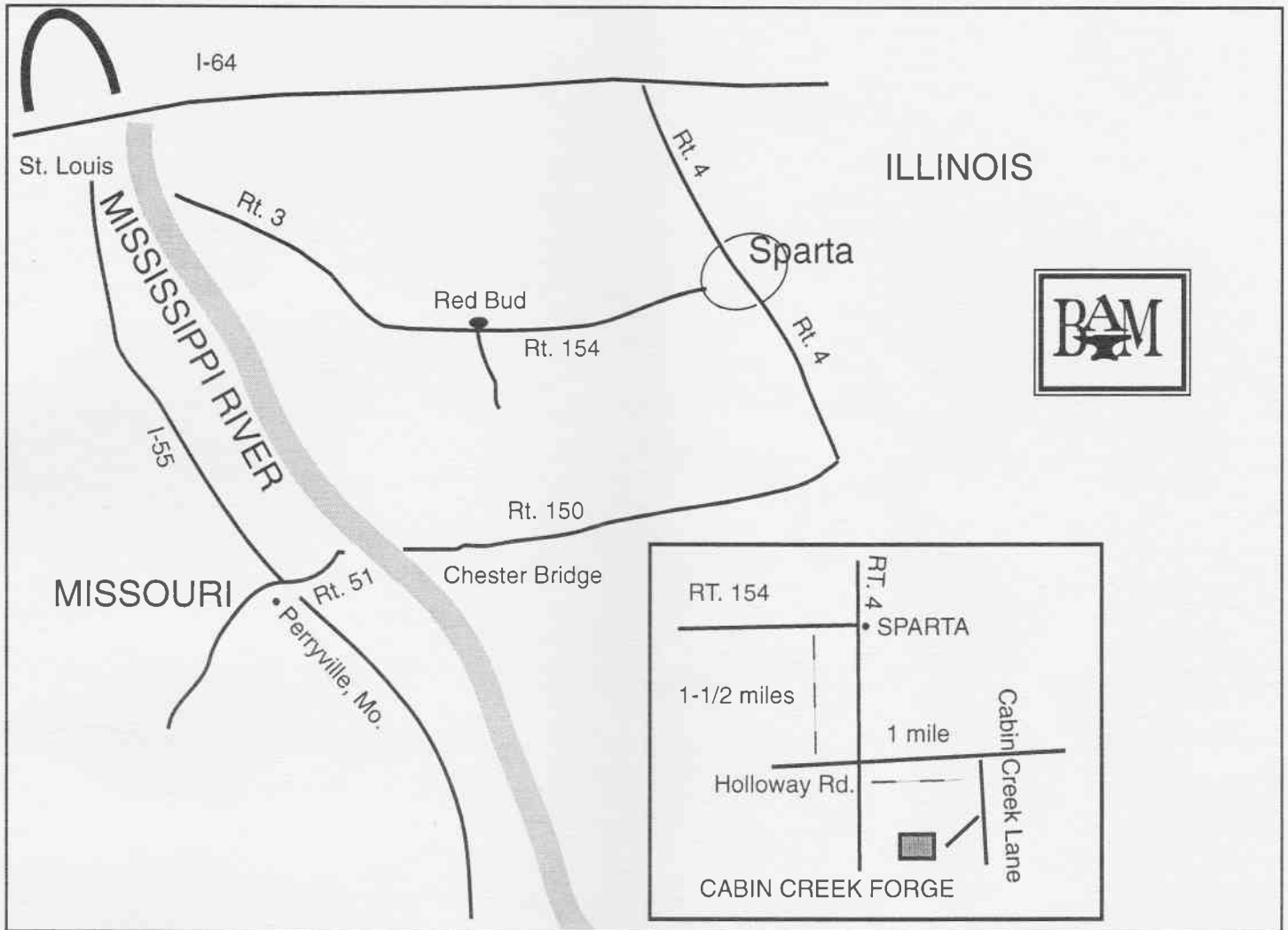
## Dues time?

How do you know when your dues are up? Check the label on the back of your newsletter. Maurice Ellis, the keeper of the mail list, adds this line to everyone's label so that we know when to cut BAM a check. Please take a look and send in your dues if they are due. While you're at it, check to see if your address is correct. We will again run the roster with the January issue and would like to be as current as possible. Every month half a dozen newsletters come back with no forwarding address. If you are moving or get a new address due to 911 service let BAM know. Maurice's address is on the back cover at the bottom of the page. Don't send the updates to the editor or I will lose them!

## Catch-up time

I couldn't believe I was only on the July-August issue when I started this one! Don't know where the time has gone but I've been swamped. Thanks for your patience — I will be getting back on track and you won't miss an issue. Next one is going to be a big project issue. Please send your tips, projects and other material to the editor. It's much appreciated and adds to the wealth of knowledge. Your contribution will help me get back on track.

*Next Meeting December 5, 1998, Ken Markley, Sparta, Ill.*



In December we travel to Ken Markley's Cabin Creek Forge in Sparta, Illinois for our November meeting — huh?

It's been a while since we last checked out what Ken has been up to. Old time members can probably get their with their eyes closed but for the rest of you follow the map. It's a real scenic drive with plenty of antique

places along the way. You can cross the river at St. Louis or if coming from the south go across at Perryville.

Not sure what Ken has in mind for us but he is one of our better Damascus makers and hopefully will have some nice knives and something stacked up to hammer under his Little Giant. You can also expect a big iron pot of chili cooked on a wood fire.

Just don't ask what went in it!

Trade item is a letter opener (should have been a spoon for chili). As usual, throw something in the truck for the iron in the hat. This is a raffle of forged items or related stuff. The proceeds go to BAM or sometimes ensure the host doesn't get stuck with a big bill for having us around.

See you December 5.



## 1998-99 Schedule

### December Meeting

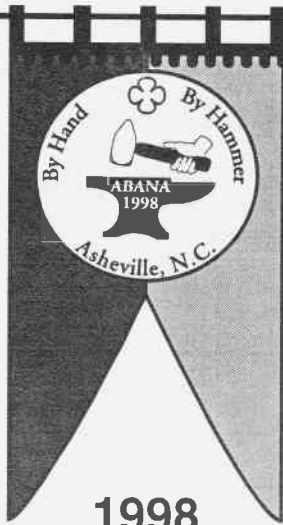
Ken Markley  
Sparta, Ill.  
Dec. 5, 1998  
Trade item: Letter opener

### January 1999 Meeting

Dale Kirby  
Higbee, Mo.  
January 23, 1999  
Trade item: Fork

### March 1999 Meeting

Steve Steunkel  
Troy, Ill.  
March 13, 1999  
Trade item: ???



**1998  
ABANA  
Conference**



ABANA President Joe Harris and Vice President David Cornett fan a smoky fire started from "sacred coke" formed in one of the forges used at ABANA's first conference 25 years ago in Westville, Georgia. The fire symbolically kicked off the 1998 ABANA conference in Asheville, North Carolina.

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