

# RAM

November-December 2005



**Doc Ock at work**

[www.bamsite.org](http://www.bamsite.org)

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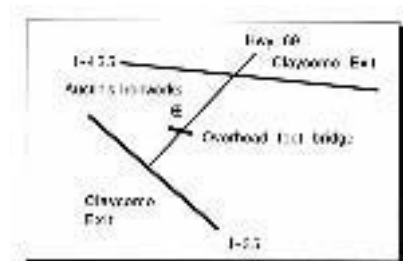
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**Newsletter of the  
Blacksmiths  
Association  
of Missouri**

*Volume 22 No. 6*  
**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**  
**2005**

**Editor**

Bob Ehrenberger

**Contributing Writers**

Ned Diegh

**Photo Contributions**

Bob Ehrenberger

**President's Message**

Don Nichols

**Mailing Labels**

Bruce Herzog

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: Bob Ehrenberger 6192 Hwy 168 Shelbyville, Mo 63469 or e-mail to bameditor@centurytel.net BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129; (314) 892-4690 or send e-mail to bjherzog@msn.com. 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.

**Membership Application**

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

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member  Renewal  ABANA member?

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$25, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

New Member  Renewing Member

*Includes a Subscription to the Anvil's Ring and The Hammers' Blow magazines*

Regular Member .....\$45 yr.

Senior Citizen (Age 65+) .....\$40 yr.

Full time student .....\$35 yr.

Overseas airmail .....\$80 yr.

Overseas surface mail .....\$60 yr.

Contributory .....\$100 yr.

Full time student .....\$35 yr.

Public library .....\$35 yr.

*See reverse*



# From the Editor

By Bob Ehrenberger

I think that the roster issue went well. I would like to thank Bruce Herzog for providing the information and Larry Hults for formatting it into a usable form. We are going to try to put out a roster at least once a year. It added a little to the cost of the newsletter, but only about half as much as when the roster was published as a stand alone document. If when looking at the roster you notice a mistake in your information, please contact Bruce and get it corrected. I did notice one mistake, I got Don Nichols' phone number wrong on the cover so you might want to fix that on your copy.

Bruce Herzog wanted me to remind everyone that BAM dues are going to go up to \$25 at the first of the year. You can save \$5 if you pay early.

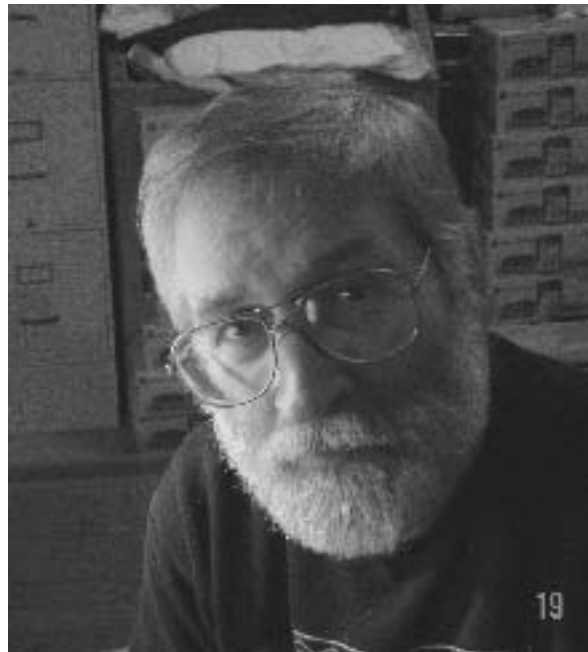
Walt Hull told me last week that the touchmark he has been using these past 13 years got destroyed recently. He had laid it down on his forge and it got raked into the fire with the coal. Not to worry, he has already made a new one that looks just like the old one. If any of you have made touchmarks please send me a picture to publish. I'm sure everyone would like to see what you are doing. We might even want to have a touchmark registry of BAM members, so we can identify each other's work.

We had a good fall show season here at Ehrenberger Forge. There was enough cool weather to get people interested in fall activities, but not so much that it made demonstrating unpleasant. We had a lot of fun and put away some money for the winter months. On the lighter side our daughter just gave birth to our third grandchild, Miriam Rose Rupp. So while I'm slaving away at this newsletter, my wife is off to Illinois to get acquainted. I just hope she

gets back in time to proof read this for me. If she doesn't, you all will get a first hand look at just how bad at spelling and grammar I really am.

There are still meeting slots open for next year so please volunteer to host a meeting.

Jan/Feb submission deadline is January 21.



Miriam Rose Rupp

## Letter to the editor:

Bob,  
I read with interest Walt Hull's interview with Doug Hendrickson, and while I know this was a condensed version, I feel there are things about Doug's history that need to be told.

Doug was always an energetic participant and many times demonstrator sharing his knowledge with everyone. As a result of his travels, he often brought new ideas to our group. He served one term as an Abana board member, and was the person who originally designed the ring projects. Those ideas were used in no less than three Abana conferences and will again be used in the 2006 conference at Seattle. Doug was chairman of at least two BAM conferences, and always helped other chairmen in set-up or whatever else

was needed, two time chairman of arranging and coordinating all the demonstrators for Abana conferences. He was newsletter editor, and many times contributed material for the BAM newsletter.

In 2005 he was awarded one of blacksmithing's highest honors, when he received the Bealer Award.

Tom Clark

# Minutes BAM meeting

11/12/05 By Peggy Williamson

Thanks to host Kirk and Mona Sullens & the Bass Pro shop for letting us use their facility and Mike Robinson and Jay Wood for preparing the food.

Introduction of new members.

Bruce Herzog gave a financial report. The big news is that the dues will go up to \$25 on the first of the year.

Bruce gave a membership report, we currently have 593 members.

Peggy Williamson gave a State Fair report. Contact Peggy to sign up for next year.

Don Birdsall gave a MTS report. 1) Concern about the safety of loading equipment after workshops. 2) Possibility of installing crane. 3) Contact Don with ideas. 4) Is the size of the classes right with 6 person minimum? 5) Working on manual of safety and projects. Send ideas to Don. 6) Forges don't get hot enough and are too heavy. 7) We have 5 forges but most of the time we could get by with 2 or 3. 8) Doug Hendrickson will talk to Jerry Hoffmann about his forges. 9) A beginners class is scheduled for Feb. 18 & 25 at Ray Scott's shop in Eminence.

Power hammer pre-workshop at Bob Alexander's. Assembly will be Nov. 26, 27, & 28 at Lou Mueller's. They still need some MIG welders.

Larry Hults gave a conference report. We have all three demonstrators lined up. We still need helpers for the demonstration work stations. There will be a basket making class for family members. Please make something for the BAM boutique and the auction. Bring something nice to show off in the gallery. There will be a beginner's blacksmithing class and a beginner's bladesmithing class at conference. One of the demonstrators is going to have an advanced class, there will be a lottery from the applicants to see who gets in. We are looking for members to

do short fill in demonstrations.

We still need to get a replacement treasurer.

ABANA conference 2006 July 5th-8th. They are doing the ring project again. There are two categories, affiliate and individual. Affiliate rings need to be done with all traditional joinery. The individual rings can have anything. Ring dimensions 10" diameter of 1/4" x 1" flat, bent the hard way. If you want to make a ring to represent BAM, bring it to conference and they will be judged to pick BAM's ring. ( Ed Note: Official ring rules were published in the July-Aug BAM newsletter in the ABANA Liaison Letter pg 20. )

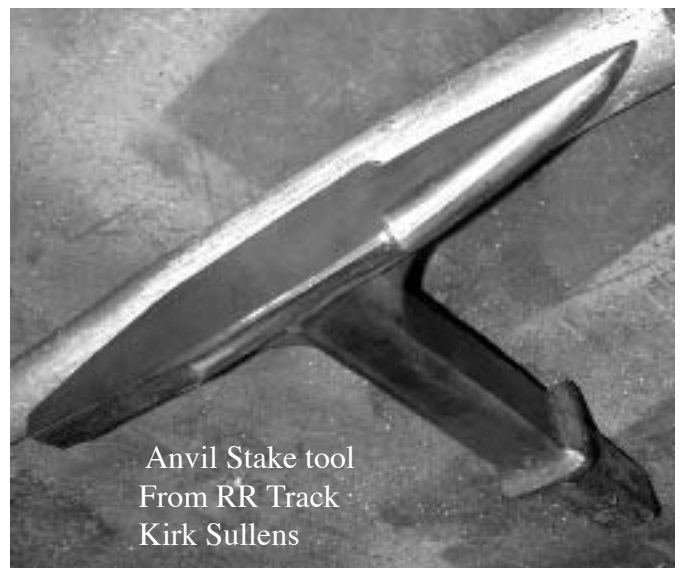
Next meeting is at Steve Austin's shop at Claycomo, MO (near KC).

Don would like to resign as president, effective at the conference. If you are interested contact Don Nichols or Doug Clemons.

Meeting adjourned.

Trade items were made by: Kirk Sullens, Dave Edwards, Kate Dinneen, Richard Bausch, John Murry, Walt Hull, Pat McCarty, and Don Nichols,

Iron in the Hat items were donated by: Don Birdsall, Bob Ehrenberger, Doug Hendrickson, Jeff Willard, Pat McCarty, Larry Hults, Don Nichols, Peggy Williamson, Caleb Sabo, Kevin Gearhiser, Harry Weber, and Corky Helms.



Anvil Stake tool  
From RR Track  
Kirk Sullens

# A Word From Old What's His Name

By Don Nichols

Hello BAM Members,

Probably when you read this it will be cold. Winter is coming, as if you didn't notice. Hope you can afford to keep warm this winter with the price of gas. We may have to burn coal, maybe we had better order some more. I bought some acetylene gas the other day and a small pup tank cost \$48. It's cheaper to burn coal and to bend iron or whatever you want to do with iron. If we can get the coal, blacksmiths may come back in style. So keep that fire going and learn how to do it with coal.

I want to thank Kirk & Mona Sullens and Bass Pro for hosting us again. I always enjoy going to Springfield and so does my wife. Kirk and Jeff showed us a thing or two and the tour was very interesting. We want to thank our chef for the delicious hamburgers too. Thanks to all of you for a fun BAM meeting.

Our business meeting went well, I think. Our conference, in 2006, is coming along great. Thanks to Larry Hults and his team for working so hard on it. The workshop will be over when you read this but just think what all those new hammers would sound like with all of them running together in one place. It might shake Lou's shop up. Huh. What did you say? I can't hear you.

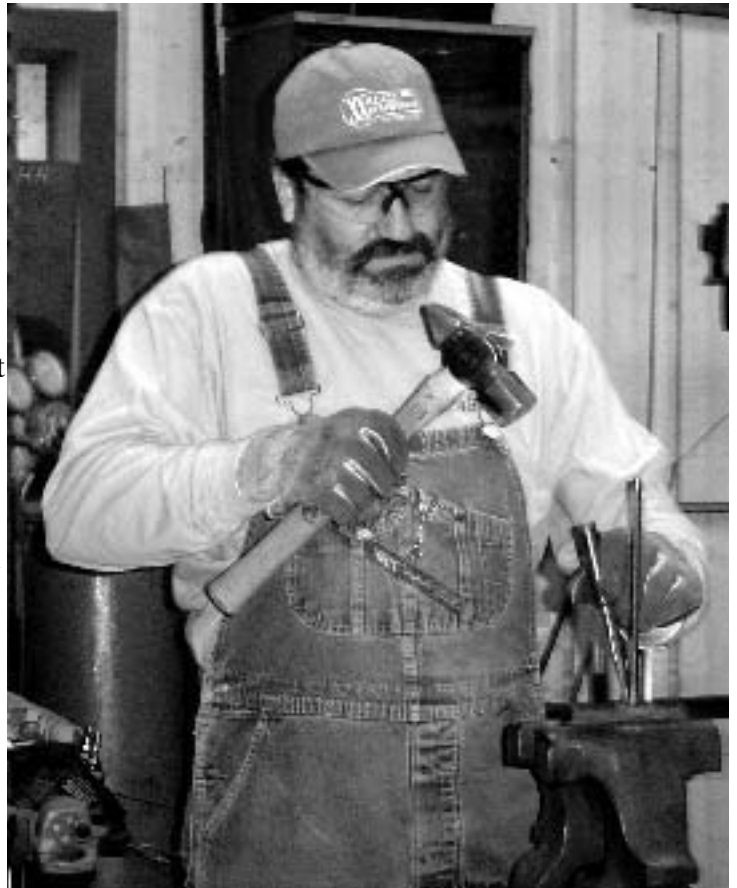
One of the things we all have to think about is our mobile training station. It will take everyone to help one way or another. Several things need your input to help us make it better and safer. Some of the problems are loading and unloading hot forges and heavy anvils. Is there a lighter forge that performs well and cools down fast? I'm not asking for much am I? What about the number of students per class session? We voted to have at least six for each class. Should we lower that number as some have suggested? We want to know how to make it better and safer for all who attend. We need your ideas so contact Don Birdsall or me, Old What's His Name.

We do have Doug Hendrickson and Walt Hull working on a teaching booklet. It will have plans for at least three projects. This can be something the students can take home and continue to learn. Is there interest in an intermediate book and classes? Let us know your need in this area too. Just take some of these classes and maybe you can be like our very own distinguished group. We are so fortunate to have Doug H., Walt H., Bob A., Lou M., and Bob P. who teach classes at John C. Campbell Folk School.

Have a Great Holiday Season,  
Old What's His Name

Remember:

Honor your Father and Mother. Be noble in your work.  
Be loyal and honest to your friends. Never and nowhere, can these laws be broken.



Jeff Willard Demonstrating a hidden rivet

## Scholarship Guidelines

I. Scholarships will be awarded by the scholarship committee based on the quality of applications and the availability of funds. Decisions of the committee will be final.

II. The committee is to consist of 3 members who serve rotating 2 year terms appointed by the BAM president. The president will appoint one of these members chairman of the committee.

III. The committee will be responsible for publicizing the scholarship program and for suggesting changes to these guidelines as may seem appropriate. Changes are to be approved by the board of directors of BAM.

IV. The number and amounts of scholarships will be fixed by the board of directors and revised by them from time to time as may be appropriate. The scholarship committee will advise the board on these matters.

V. Eligibility: Only Members in good standing of BAM may receive scholarships. Serving scholarship committee members will not be eligible for scholarships. No member may apply for a scholarship within one year after receiving a previous scholarship. Applicants who have not received a scholarship within the three years prior to their application will be given priority.

VI. The board of directors will determine how often and on what dates scholarships are to be awarded.

VII. Applications must be received 30 days before the date of awards. The committee must confer 2 weeks before the date of awards.

VIII. Obligations of recipients: Scholarship money must be spent for the activity or program for which it is granted unless changes are specifically approved by the board of directors. Every recipient, within three months following the event for which the scholarship is granted must submit a written description of the event with notes, drawings, photos, etc. where appropriate, to the BAM Newsletter. Within one year, the recipient must demonstrate what was learned as a consequence of the scholarship either at a BAM meeting or on video tape to be placed in the BAM Library.

IX. The scholarship committee will prepare an application form and make it available to any member who requests it. In addition, the form will be published in the BAM newsletter. All the terms and conditions will be included with the application (i.e., items V, VII, and VIII, above, plus the number of scholarships and the maximum amount available).

A couple of comments are due here. First, with respect to number III., the committee would be delighted to receive suggestions at anytime as to how we can make this program work better. Please share your ideas, questions, gripes, etc. with KirkSullens (chairman), Don Birdsall, or David Smith. We also stand ready to help with the application or anything else we can do to help individuals or the organization as a whole to get some good out of this program.

With respect to number VI., we have decided to make scholarships available quarterly, counting from the date of the conference. That means that awards will be made August 1, November 1, February 1, and at the next conference, with applications due a month ahead of each of these dates. For the moment the board of directors has set the number of scholarships at 10 for the year and the amount at \$500.00 each.



Send Form to:

Kirk Sullens, 2300 N. East Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65803

Note: The scholarship application is also available on the BAM web site ([www.bamsite.org](http://www.bamsite.org))

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## Scholarship Application

Name:

Address:

Phone:

What Class or Event do you Wish to Attend:

Where:

What are the costs:

Tuition

Travel

Lodging

Other

Briefly, how do you hope to advance in blacksmithing? Where do you want to go and how will this class or event help you get there? (additional pages if necessary - typing is OK)

I understand that as a requirement of receiving this scholarship, I must: 1) submit a written description with notes, drawings, etc, of the event to the BAM Newsletter, no later than 3 months after the end of the event, and 2) within 1 year of the event, I must demonstrate my new knowledge at a BAM meeting or on a video tape to be placed in the BAM library.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This is an updated look at what the conference committee is up to. Start making plans and volunteer.

**15th Annual  
BAM Ozark Conference  
May 5, 6, & 7, 2006**

**Friday Forging Contest:**

see next page

**Auction Items:**

Start making items to donate for the auction. Items need not be metal works, but anything relating to or representing the art of blacksmithing will be appreciated. Please be sure to fill out the tag to go with your item when you deliver it to the Auction area.

**Gallery:**

Bring something that you made to display in the gallery. Items need not be finished and may be works in progress. If you have questions, please contact Walt Hull (785-865-5771). Again, please be sure to fill out the tag to go with your item when you deliver it to the Gallery area.

**BAM Boutique:**

Bring or make something to sell at the boutique. Items need not be blacksmith related. Family Program: There will be a basket making class with Mary Jo McCarty. More information to follow.

**Volunteers Needed:**

3 Site Captains (1 bladesmith & 2 blacksmiths) Site Captains will be in charge of their chosen 'smith'. They will be able to choose 2 helpers to aid with setup, cleanup, and run errands. It will be for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The volunteers/ draftees receive free weekend registration and Saturday evening meal.

Here is the demonstrator lineup. We need volunteers for site captains and site helpers.

**Gordon Williams**

Site captain -  
helper 1. David Edwards  
helper 2.

**Jerry Darnell**

Site captain – Bob Alexander  
helper 1.  
helper 2.

**John Fitch**

Site captain -  
helper 1.  
helper 2.

**Classes available:**

Beginning blacksmith  
Beginning bladesmith  
Basket making  
Broom tying

**Special blacksmithing.**

A FREE class ( 8 ONLY ) will be taught by Gordon Williams on Friday. A drawing on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 will choose attendees. If you have taken a blacksmithing class before and would like to be in the drawing, please mail or e-mail your name to Larry Hults.

The pre-registration booklets will be sent out in February.

We need someone(s) to volunteer to make a new BAM banner standard. This will be seen at BAM conferences as well at ABANA conferences.

**Conference Committee:**

Larry Hults - Chairman  
1515 Sycamore Lane  
Saint Clair, MO 63077-22117  
whiskers@yhti.net  
636-629-7411

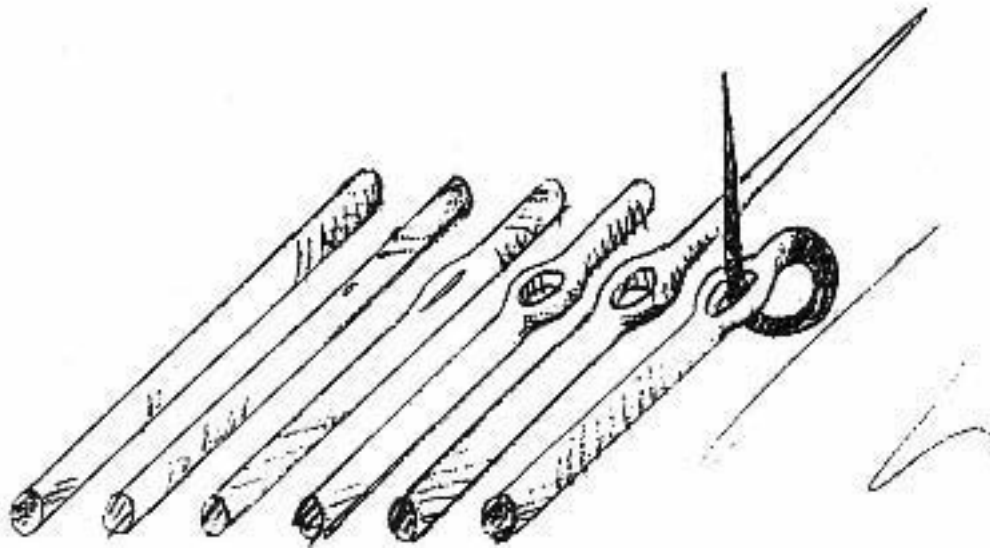
George Lewis  
bygeorgeforge@yahoo.com  
573-364-8616

Mona Pieron & Kirk Sullens  
kirk@kirksullens.com  
417-863-8628

Ken Jansen  
kjjansen@msn.com

**2006 OZARK BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE  
FORGING CONTEST----THREAD THE NEEDLE**

Suggested by Walt Hull



1. 20" X 3/8" round stock
2. center punched 5" from end
3. slit on center punch
4. drift open to 3/8 round
5. draw taper
6. thread the needle

The task must be completed within 6 minutes and use no more than 4 heats. Your time will begin with your first hammer blow and end 6 minutes later.

The winner is whomever draws the most of his/her taper through the eye. You may not forge the taper after it has been inserted into the eye.

BAM will supply the following.....

Hammer, anvil, tongs, slitting chisel, drift and center punched 20" length of 3/8" round, you may bring your own tools.

Prizes: 1st - \$50.00, 2nd - \$40.00, 3rd - \$30.00, 4th - \$20.00 Everyone entering will receive a prize.

**SIGN UP AT REGISTRATION DESK**

# Kirk Sullens' Octopus Demo

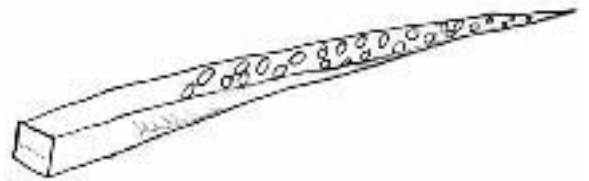
By Bob Ehrenberger

We all know Kirk for his life-like animal creations. As a full time blacksmith for Bass Pro, he has had an opportunity to create some pretty neat stuff. We have all enjoyed looking at the creatures in his iron animal kingdom. When he said he wanted the trade item to be a sea creature we suspected that he already had something pretty special picked out. Kirk didn't disappoint us.

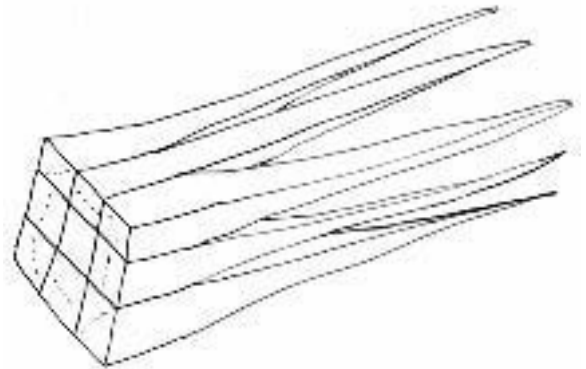
For his octopus he starts with 8 pieces of 1/2" sq. 8" long and 1 piece of 1/2" sq. 1" long.

He draws a long round taper on each of the 8 pieces leaving 1" at the original 1/2" sq. dimension.

On each of the pieces he hammers one side flat in a swage block moving from slot to slot to always have the block provide the best fit and support so the back side maintains a nice rounded taper. Four of them are done with the flat lined up with the flat of the 1/2" sq. and 4 are done with the flat on the diamond of the 1/2" sq.



On each he uses an eye punch to make a series of circles on the flat side to simulate the suction cups on the tentacles. He uses a couple different sizes, small near the tip and larger further up. Again he supports the back in the swage block to keep from distorting the round side.



He then stacked the pieces together to form a billet for welding. The short piece is used in the middle as a space holder. My drawing shows the orientation of the flat sides using the dotted line on the end. This gets all of the tentacles pointed toward the center. Kirk had one of those "don't do this at home" moments when he tack welded the pieces together without a helmet. I can only assume that he closed his eyes just before pulling the trigger on the mig and was welding by sound.



At this point he put the billet into the forge to start the pre-heat.

Once it was good and hot he pulled it out and hammered all the legs together and tied the bundle with wire. Kirk said that if he didn't do this they would go all over the place during the welding process.

Before putting it back into the forge he brushed and fluxed it. Lots of flux, straight old borax.

Kirk turned it frequently in the forge to get an even heat all the way to the core.

Kirk Making initial weld by hand

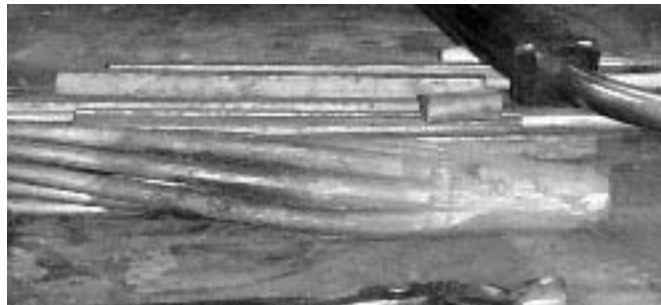
When he pulled it out to weld, he only welded on one side the

first time. Then more flux and back into the forge. Kirk says that if you try to weld both ways on the first heat, you sometimes break the first weld, it's better to weld it in two heats.

Once it was welded both ways he fluxed again, brought it back up to welding heat and took it to the trip hammer where he worked it down from 1 1/2" sq. to 1" round to form the head/body.

He makes eyes on it by using an eye punch to form the center and then a ball punch around it to force it to bulge out a little. Once the eye is formed, he smooths the area by hand hammering to blend the ball punch marks into the body. And again he backs the work up with the swage block.

Once the head was formed, Kirk put it the vice and used a torch to spread the legs out. Kind of like a smashed spider. Again using the torch he shapes the legs, Kirk says this is pretty much a random pattern, but looking at pictures of real octopus gives you a feel for what will look realistic.



Head/body after forging

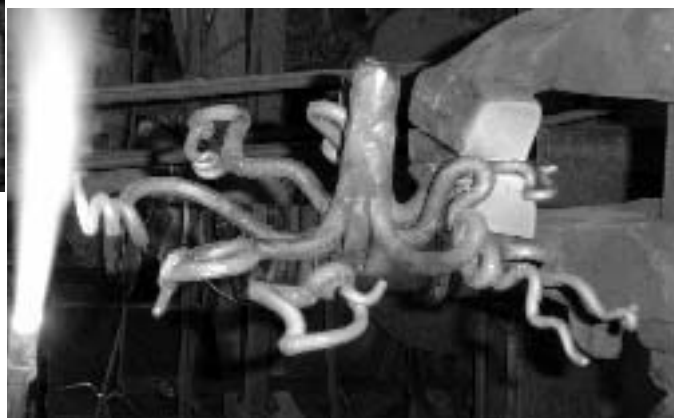


Forming eyes



Kirk shaping legs.

Adding the finishing touch



## Interview with Tom Clark By Bob Ehrenberger

This is number two in the series of articles about our new life members. I've known Tom for over ten years, though we have never been close friends, I've always had a great deal of respect for Tom and his contributions to BAM. When we first joined BAM, my son Daniel took a beginner's class. We were lucky enough to get Tom as our teacher. As he patiently guided Daniel through the lessons, Tom managed the fire so Daniel could concentrate on his forging.

Through the years I couldn't even count the number of times Tom has demonstrated at meetings. He is always pitching in wherever he is needed. He has helped at and donated equipment to every conference BAM has had. I can't think of anyone that is more deserving to be honored by BAM.

I thought I knew Tom pretty well, but this interview taught me a few things. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

**BAM:** First a little background, where did you grow up?

**Tom:** I was born and raised in Texas. However, during my racing and working years I have lived in a total of 13 states. I finally settled here in Potosi, Missouri in 1972.

**BAM:** Did you go to college or university? What did you study?

**Tom:** No. I was a slow learner in school. I quit school in the 9th grade and upon turning 17, I joined the army. This was just before the Korean conflict. (It was a bloody war) A couple of years later I found myself on the front line. After two months of hell on Heartbreak Ridge, they asked if anyone was a cook. I said yes, in fact, back in the states, I was assigned to the officer's mess (kitchen) for 2 years, as a bartender in the officer's club, I was in the category as a cook. However, other than bartending, my only experience in the kitchen was eating and doing KP duty (washing dishes and cleaning floors).

They took me behind the front lines to headquarters as a cook! I found myself teamed with a man named Chuck. He was totally inexperienced and we started our first meal together the next day. Upon telling each other our story, we knew we were in trouble! We rolled out of bed and headed for the kitchen looking for the cookbook. We bluffed our way through and I left the army as a Mess Sgt.

**BAM:** I've heard that you were into racing, do you want to talk a little about that?

**Tom:** After leaving the army, I was a piledriver, and then a hard hat diver doing all sorts of things, like salvage diving (raising boats and barges), construction work, and underwater welding. We also did a lot of search and rescue work after storms, recovering bodies. It was in fact my hobby, but sometimes, not very pleasant work. My hobby was also motorcycle riding. I especially liked off road. I would later become a professional, and raced for The BSA factory. Life was good, it was like it was with diving, I was again making my living with my hobby! I had modest success, winning local, state and national championships in all types of racing. {Road racing, Flat track scrambles (moto-cross), Hill climbing, and cross country}. I was the first person to race a Yamaha at Daytona. I was hired by Yamaha and became their first manager of all activities east of the Rockies. The job with Yamaha ended when I refused to move to California. By that time however, I had started the first Yamaha racing team and was responsible for developing the off road machines. For the next five years, I became the first Director of Professional Racing for the American Motorcycle Association (AMA). During this time racing found its way to a truly professional status, with races on national television and major indoor



Picture of Tom when he was president of BAM

## **Tom Clark continued..**

venues such as Houston Astrodome, and many other places.

The job actually outgrew me and I took a new interest in cross country racing. My new assignment with the AMA allowed me to live anywhere in the central US. I moved to Potosi because it offered hundreds of miles of ridge roads and rugged power line terrain for me to train to enter International Cross Country Riding. I qualified two times for the top US team and in fourteen events of 400-700 miles each, I would win 10 gold medals and two silver. Two international events resulted in mechanical failure, while running in Gold medal positions. A broken foot in the first race of my third year, I was 43 years old, ended my serious racing.

BAM: Have you had any other hobbies?

Tom: Yes. I love to shoot pistols and won the NRA National Indoor Championship as a marksman and won the NRA Outdoor National Championship in the sharpshooter class. I also enjoy flying. I love aerobatics, and have a commercial license for single and light multi engine aircraft.

BAM: How did you end up in Potosi? And in the fire wood business?

Tom: As I stated earlier, I moved to Potosi in 1972 to have access to the rough riding terrain. As for the firewood business, I actually started out working in local programs to improve the growth of the forest. I was still involved in that work until 5 years ago. As for the firewood, well there was little profit to be made in forest improvements, so I pursued firewood as a means of income, while being able to stay in the area and work in the forest.

BAM: When were you first exposed to blacksmithing?

Who was your first teacher, mentor, greatest influence on your style?

Tom: As a young boy there were still quite a few blacksmith shops in operation and I always loved to watch them forge the hot iron. My father was a multi-talented craftsman, and I suppose this sparked some interest that would ultimately lead me to try forging iron. When I moved to Potosi in 1972, there was an old blacksmith shop near my home. The man owning the shop had recently passed away and I purchased all of his tools. I knew nothing about anything. And so, the challenge started. How to build a fire, how to heat the iron, just put it on top of the fire right? (wrong) Imagine trying all of this without ever having seen anyone build a coal fire or heat metal. Anyhow, I struggled along with a little success and knew I needed help. I found a retired blacksmith in St. James, Missouri, named Richard Witzki. He was from the old school and not so friendly in the beginning. In the end however, we became friends and he helped me a lot. Everywhere I travelled I would look for retired blacksmiths, I found a few and they were very helpful.

It was my first visit to a BAM meeting however that hooked me. There was Jerry Hoffman, Stan Winkler, Doug Hendrickson, Steve Austin, Don Asbee and others, just forging like crazy, having fun, and sharing knowledge. It was about forging and sharing the knowledge!

BAM: Who's work do you find the most inspiring?

Tom: It is hard to say, but my favorites include: Bob Patrick, Jerry Hoffman, Samuel Yellin, Alfred Habberman (Sr. and Jr.), another Czech smith by the name of Carel, and Tsur Sadan.

BAM: You always seem to be taking a leadership roll. I know that you are a former BAM president.

Tom: I do not plan it to be that way, it is just that I believe in either pushing or pulling the wagon, not just being a rider. I have often been told that I am hard headed and opinionated, and I suppose I am. However, I always try to keep an open mind. If I am doing something and someone else has a better idea, I'll go with it. Otherwise, I get on with it the way I planned it, I ask them to join me or get out of the way. If there is a group project, I go with the majority rule, with the same commitment and energy as if it were my idea.

Tom Clark continued...

BAM: B. What do you think your main contribution to BAM was as president?

Tom: That is a hard one. I always tried to think of things that would serve the membership and then make it happen. Things such as, the Ozark Conference, organizing the first on the road, Clay Spencer treadle hammer workshop, organizing the first on the road power hammer rebuild workshop with Fred Caylor, having events like the Bealer award presentation at BAM's conference, and the list goes on.

BAM: And as a member since then?

Tom: There is not much. When I was president, my message included my travels to other blacksmith events. I offered to continue reporting my experiences, but was told it would take away from the new president's message, so I stopped. I was starting my school and selling tools as well, so all of my suggestions were viewed as self serving, so I stopped contributing. Think about it, for the past five years I have attended 15-22 conferences each year. I have been a featured demonstrator at 15 or more of these conferences, have traveled to at least 45 states once or more times each of those years and most recently demonstrated in Alaska (where I am sure we have started a new ABANA chapter). None of these experiences have been reported to, or covered by BAM's newsletter.

BAM: What would you like see as the direction for BAM?

Tom: In the last issue, you, the editor, summed it up pretty well. You said, there had been a noticeable change in the BAM membership. After attending the last meeting, I had a chance encounter with some of the old BAM members and one made the comment of how he longed for the old days of BAM. I commented that I would possibly try to become an active member again and attempt to regroup and return things to a more positive educational atmosphere. Another person (knowing how much time and energy I spent in those days) asked, "With all the activities you have going on now, why would you want to go through that again?"

BAM: You were also an ABANA board member. How do you think you contributed to ABANA?

Tom: While I was president of BAM, we became very active. Jerry Hoffman was very active having just started the Blacksmith Journal. Because of our positive activity ABANA asked us to host the 1994 conference here in Missouri. It was expected that I would be the chairman of the conference however, Lou Mueller had just joined BAM and had all the contacts in St. Louis and past experience with promoting large community events. I chose him to share the job of chairman. (I would be the silent one focusing on chairing the auction, Iron In The Hat, special projects and the teaching station). The teaching station and other educational programs were my main reasons for joining the ABANA board. I was trying to develop a manual that would describe things and how to do them, to be a guide for learning blacksmithing. I called this, The Study Guide. Progress on this was slow and I could not inspire enough experienced people to help me. The second stage of my plan was to be some sort of teaching station or stations that would promote education nationwide. To make a long story short, Lou Mueller presented a plan to ABANA for a mobile teaching station, and I stepped aside. I was however, successful in convincing the ABANA board to start a scholarship program that would see all money from Iron In The Hat, go to that cause. Len Ledet joined me and we raised somewhere near \$50,000 in 4 conferences. I was fortunate to meet the late Jim Ryan, who's sole purpose for being on the board was to start a beginner magazine for ABANA. ABANA funded \$10,000 for a one year trial, it would become, The Hammer's Blow. I pledged to promote a special project, (with Francis Whitaker to pay for it) the project was similar to the one Doug Hendrickson had done once before. The Chapter Ring Project! Jerry Hoffman designed the grill and we raised the money to cover that first year of The Hammer's Blow. Clay Spencer and I became quite a team. We individually travelled everywhere promoting ABANA and blacksmith activities, we worked hard to smooth rough waters that had plagued ABANA from its beginning. If you could see a chart of ABANA membership over the years, I believe you would see a large increase in members during those 6 years.

BAM: Do you think that ABANA is relevant to the average BAM member?



Tom Clark Continued...

Tom: I think ABANA is relevant to anyone who has an interest in blacksmithing. There would have been no BAM without ABANA. I think that every member should be an ABANA member, and I believe that once ABANA gets professional management, everyone in all chapters will belong to ABANA.

BAM: When did you get the vision to start the Ozark School of Blacksmithing?

Tom: When I saw Hofi's demonstration at the 1996 ABANA conference and realized he had a program that could teach the ABCs of blacksmithing similar to what I had envisioned for my study guide program, I had a renewed vision of the original thought. At that time Hofi offered to teach me his skills. My first thought was to put together a program so that people from across the US could be exposed to his skills. I put together a workshop, which would expose Hofi's skills not just to me but to people across the nation, a program that brought 33 people from 22 states which entailed five weeks of teaching the Hofi (actually Habberman/Hofi style of forging). It was during that time that I decided to build the school and expose this system as well as other educational experiences.

BAM: Has the school lived up to your expectations?

Tom: In many ways, yes. I have been very disappointed that the attendance by BAM members has been many less than the attendance of other chapters. Also, with my growing efforts in producing and selling tools, I have really not promoted the school properly.

BAM: Will we be seeing changes in the school?

Tom: Yes. I am looking for a resident smith, that can teach as well as manage other teachers, which will include the system mentioned above, as well as other skills, and to include weekend classes.

BAM: Like a lot of blacksmiths you have a strong interest in the tools of the trade. Has your love of tools been the driving force in your business endeavors? Or are you just responding to a need in the blacksmith community?

Tom: I learned early in my blacksmithing that if your tongs didn't hold the work, you could not forge it properly. After seeing examples of people like Jerry Hoffman, I started making my own tongs. I found that I really liked to make tools, rather than practical or art projects, and with the addition of the school, there is no end for the need of better tools. Making and selling tools now occupies all of my time. It is like the rest of my life, I have managed some way to make a living out of my hobby.

BAM: Finally for the newer BAM members that don't really know you, what would you like them to know about you?

Tom: A few years ago, I took a trip to Germany, Austria, Turkey and Pakistan. I had made my plans to be home for the BAM conference, but due to the 9/11 crisis, my flight was changed so that I would not return until the Monday following the conference. While in Pakistan however, I found a flight that would allow me to return to St. Louis late afternoon on Saturday. I figured I could arrive in time to make the auction Saturday night. I threw out my non-transferable ticket and paid \$1300 for my new ticket so I would not miss the conference. That flight consequently was delayed for 17 hours, and I arrived one hour before the conference ended on Sunday. Just in time to help break down and load all the tools and equipment I had sent to be used. Recently I responded to a negative message about ABANA in a chapter newsletter, in the president's message section. I received mostly positive responses, one of them being from a neighboring chapter president. He responded to me with these words "Got your e-mail, thanks for sending. We spoke at the last Madison conference (motorcycles and blacksmithing) and I enjoyed our chat. My impression of you then remains the same after reading your e-mail today: Honest, no minced words and a fair, balanced opinion of others." Finally, I am most proud to have been chosen by the BAM membership to be honored at the 1996 ABANA conference for my contributions to the art and science of blacksmithing, in conjunction with the Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

BAM: Thanks for your time and all you have done for BAM and blacksmithing.

# Making a Swage Block Stand

By Bob Ehrenberger

I've had a swage block for 5 or 6 years but didn't use it very frequently. When I did use it, I would just place it on my stake bed table or balance it on my anvil. This was not ideal but it worked. The table made the swage block too high and balancing it on the anvil was kind of unstable. Well recently I've been doing a lot of work that required the swage block, so I decided it was finally time to make a proper stand. Now I have seen plans for stands throughout the years. As a matter of fact, the plans on the facing page were in the very first issue of the BAM newsletter that I received in the fall of 95. The problem with all the plans I've seen is that they usually are made out of angle iron, which is in short supply around my shop. What I do have is a pretty good pile of 3" "I" beams. I figured that I beams on end would be a lot stronger than angle iron and give me a stable platform to work on.



Empty Swage Stand shows the three working levels and construction.

My swage block has a rectangular shape so, I needed to support it in three different positions (flat, on its side, and standing on end). I also figured that it would be good to have it the same height as my anvil, since I've gotten used to that. To do this, I had to subtract each of the dimensions of the block from my anvil height. This gave me the height of each surface. From this, I subtracted the thickness of my bearing surface. I didn't want the block to set on the end grain of the I beams so I designed in having a smooth surface at each level. For the highest level, I just used some short angle, on the two lower levels I used more of the I beam on it's side. In hind sight, I would probably have used angle at all levels.

After digging through my pile, I came up with the pieces to use which required the least amount of cutting. I cut the longest pieces first and then the second level. I welded these together to form the two ends. I had to use some short angle to fill in since my block was wider than the I beams.

Once the ends were assembled, I cut the pieces for the lowest level and assembled all the pieces.

Finally, I added the angle to the top to keep the block in place. I made a mistake here, since I didn't realize that there was a slight taper to the block and one face was 1/2" bigger than the other. As it turns out, I picked the smaller face for my measurements, boy, was a surprised when I turned the block over and it didn't fit! I had to cut the angle loose and reweld a half inch further out. Another problem I encountered was that not all my scrap came from the same source so there were variations in it which I didn't catch until later on in the process when the second side didn't go together the same as the first side. I could have ground a little off and made it the same but decided it was in a non critical area and just put up with it not being a perfect fit.

I initially didn't have stops on the lower levels, but soon discovered that without them it would work it's way out with heavy use.

The finished stand weighs about twice as much as the swage block so it should be plenty stable.



Block laying flat



Block on it's side



Block on end



Bottom view of stand to show construction

Swage block stand

This swage block stand sure beats having it fall on your feet as you struggle with it on the floor or on an uneven log. Other features that could be incorporated: Design so the overall height is close to your anvil's height. Long pieces could be supported while either forging or swaging. Four foot pads attached to help support the stand on dirt floors or outside. A fifth adjustable leg in the back would create a three point contact for uneven hard surfaces. Place the vertical slot near the front to provide ample knuckle space while hammering. If 1/4 x 2 x 2 inch angle iron is used, a 3/4 inch board or plywood pad under the block on both shelves still leaves a 1 inch lip to hold it in place. Leave some space for easy repositioning.

— Paul Davidson and Earnie Deutschman, Northwest Ohio Blacksmiths

Reprinted from BAM newsletter September/October 1995



Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.  
PO Box 816  
Farmington, GA 30638 USA  
706-310-1030 tel , 706-769-7147 fax  
abana@abana.org \* www.abana.org

ABANA Affiliate Liaison Letter  
October, 2005

Dear Affiliates,

This month I get to be Dave Mudge as he and Cindy are still digging out from hurricane Katrina as are many other ABANA members in the affected areas. The Mississippi Forge Council, Gulf Coast Blacksmiths Association and the Louisiana Metalsmiths Association are all still in the process of locating displaced members and making sure everyone is okay. Please help get the word out to those affected by the storms to check in with their affiliate president or editor as soon as possible so we can get a sense of where the funding is needed. We wanted to let all the editors and presidents know of this letter that went out to the general membership in early September. Many of you along the Gulf Coast probably did not receive this missive so we are sending it out to the affiliates in hopes of getting the word out! Also all the ABANA members in the affected areas who did not receive Hammer's Blow, Volume 13, #3, please contact me in the Central Office when possible at (706) 310-1030 or via email at abana@abana.org as we are holding an issue for you.

In an effort to provide financial assistance to blacksmiths in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc. developed a Disaster Relief Fund after John Steel, president of the Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths Association brought the idea to the ABANA Board of Directors. Since the initial letters, sent on September 9<sup>th</sup>, the fund has raised \$11,736.00 with the expectation of much more funding!

Disaster struck again in the form of hurricane Rita affecting the southwest Louisiana coast and the southeast Texas coast. In that spirit donations dated after October 1, 2005 will now benefit victims of both disasters. The revision would allow ABANA to donate funds to Katrina and Rita survivors and survivors of other disasters impacting the blacksmithing community between now and March 15, 2006. Therefore ABANA is informing its membership and other parties interested in donating to this excellent cause that it intends to distribute all funds received in the Central Office through September 30, 2005 to hurricane Katrina survivors. All funds received between October 1, 2005 and March 15, 2006 will be distributed to blacksmiths affected by both hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Donations should be by check, US Postal Money Order or Canadian Postal Money Order made out to "ABANA Relief Fund". ABANA will provide a receipt for all donations of \$250 or more.

Please address your donation to:  
ABANA Relief Fund  
P O Box 816  
Farmington, GA 30638

Canadian, Mexican and international donations are welcome, but please make sure your check is drawn on a US bank in US funds and contains a nine-digit routing number on the bottom of the check. US banks have great difficulty processing checks without this routing number, even though the check may say US funds. Please do not send cash or credit cards.

One hundred percent of the funds will be distributed to affected ABANA Affiliates or, if necessary, to other public charities. Dispersal and distribution of the funds must be based on need and not on any affiliation to ABANA or an ABANA Affiliate.

People donating money may suggest where they think the need is greatest. The final distribution of funds, however, must be made by ABANA. If it is critical for you to donate to a person or ABANA Affiliate, that donation should be made directly to the person or affiliate and not to the ABANA Disaster Relief Fund. If you know of people in need, please pass that information on to a local ABANA Affiliate and not to ABANA, the reason being that the local affiliate will distribute all funds to designated individuals. Affected affiliates are asked to tell their membership about this resource. Please distribute this letter to others you think may help.

Toby Hickman of the California Blacksmith's Association and John Steel of the Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths Association will work with the affected ABANA Affiliates to establish an equitable means to disperse the ABANA Disaster Relief Funds. Distribution will begin no later than October 14, 2005 and the last distribution will be made no later than March 15, 2006. Please take a moment and contribute what you can and never underestimate the power of human kindness.

\*\*\*\*On another note the 2006 Iron-in-the-Hats tickets that we mailed out to all the ABANA Affiliate Presidents are \$1.00 each!!!! Sorry for that oversight. Also, please let Marcus Vickery know at (706) 310-0323 or via email conference@abana.org if you need more tickets.

Thanks and hopefully Dave will be well on his way to a rebuilt shop in December and in time for the mailer!

LeeAnn Mitchell slaving away for:  
Dave Mudge ABANA Member Services Director  
15227 Mansfield Road Bogalusa, LA 70427-0187  
985-736-0049 (this number should be working by the end of October) [davemudge@abana.org](mailto:davemudge@abana.org) [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

# <sup>p</sup> ~~Home~~ for the Holidays

The Blacksmiths of the Gulf Region still need our help.

Keep them in your thoughts this holiday season. They will need support rebuilding their shops. The ABANA Hurricane Relief Fund is active, and continues to accept donations.

Donations should be by check, US Postal Money Order or Canadian Postal Money Order made out to "ABANA Relief Fund".

ABANA will provide a receipt for all donations of \$250 or more. Please address your donation to:



ABANA Relief Fund  
P O Box 816  
Farmington, GA 30638

## SHOP TIP

### Quench Tub Sieve

I suppose it is traditional technique to stick the tong-held workpiece into the quench tub where it promptly slips free and settles to the murky bottom waiting to be retrieved by the shoulder-depth plunge. I quickly tired of this so I equipped my quench tubs with sieves which can be easily lifted. This proved especially gratifying on the deep 40 gallon quench tub.

I use a ring roller to make a band of something like 1/8 x 1 strap that loosely fits the inside diameter of each quench tub, then weld on a piece of expanded metal and cut around the band with the torch to remove the excess. A cross frame is welded for strength and to give a place to attach the vertical handle in the center.

David and Betty Edwards



# The Interview of Bob Alexander

By Ned and Esther Digh

An opportunity to interview Bob Alexander at John C. Campbell Folkschool, where he was assisting BAM Life Member Lou Mueller in teaching a blacksmith course. Early in the week an agreement was reached with Bob that the interview would occur Friday evening between supper and the jam session. It became clear that Bob was to be a participant in the jam session and that music occupies a top priority and pleasure in his life.

From the time of the request to Bob for an interview, until it occurred, Bob seemed to be a bit worried about being the subject of an interview. His concern was of no avail as he responded to questions and conversation like he was a seasoned veteran. Bob is truly the soft spoken, polite gentleman that he always appears to be as an active member of BAM.

Bob and Bryanna have been married for 34 years and have two sons, both good with their hands, but neither really into blacksmithing. Bryanna is a Special Ed teacher, a profession that takes a special person to nurture and teach those with special needs. Bob grew up in South St. Louis, but now resides in Desoto, Missouri. Initially a tool collector, Bob met Tom Clark at an auction of blacksmith tools. After learning they were bidding against each other, a friendship followed and Bob became interested in blacksmithing. He took his first blacksmith course at John C. Campbell in 1991, under BAM Life Member Clay Spencer. Clay selected Bob to start teaching the metal flower making class at John C. Campbell when Clay took over Francis Whitaker's class. Bob teaches other courses at John C. Campbell and frequently is the assistant instructor for other classes.

Prior to blacksmithing, Bob was a carpenter and he attributes his excellent hammer control to that vocational experience. He considers his signature pieces to be colonial period items and has taken several classes under Jerry Darnell in making those items. Bob does mostly commissioned work and says he has never been out of work since he opened his full time blacksmith shop nine years ago.

Many know Bob as the coal coordinator and the May-June 2004 issue of the BAM Newsletter had a photo on the cover of the BAM coal bin at his shop. There was also a photo of a shovel Bob had worn out bagging coal for BAM members. At that time he had bagged 4,163 bags of coal, each weighing 50 pounds. He still does that task for BAM and if he were to quit, BAM would have a whale of a time finding a replacement. An interesting fact that is not known to the BAM membership, is that when Bob is not at home, Bryanna takes over the coal duties. Bryanna says she has bagged at least 10% of the four thousand plus bags and that it is "hot dirty work". Thanks Bryanna, we BAM people love you for your support.

In addition to the coal coordinator job, Bob is a former President of BAM and has served as the chairperson for the annual conference. He was the coordinator for a gas forge workshop and the recent treadle hammer tools workshop. His dedication to those workshops was instrumental in their success.

The jam session mentioned above was performed with good music, fun, and success. The participants were a varied bunch with various instruments. Students from the music courses week were there, local persons were there to play and the instruments ranged from dulcimers, flutes, fiddles, to a bass guitar. Bob Alexander was there with his resonator guitar. Bob has made several of these guitars and it is obvious that he enjoys music as much as he does blacksmithing. He is certainly a multi-talented person and a credit to BAM and the craft of blacksmithing.

# NEW MEMBERS

Since we published the whole roster last time we didn't publish the new members. These are the people that have joined BAM since the July/August news letter. Please welcome them to BAM

Akers,Paul  
5010 W. 72nd Terr  
Praire Village, KS 66208  
913-262-2047

Barnhart,Dave & Leah  
2246 Bell Crossing Road  
Mountain Grove,MO 65711  
liaibis@netzero.net  
417-926-1188

Bergfield,Rebecca  
13700 N. Hwy YY  
Harresburg,MO 65256  
rachelalex2000@yahoo.com  
573-817-9829

Brinkoetter's Iron Work  
29608 E. 179th Street  
Pleasant Hill,MO 64080  
roy@western-iron-art.com  
816-540-4892

Burnham,Tim  
American Classics  
5174 Elms Road  
Hillsboro,MO 63050  
acironworks@sbcglobal.net  
636-942-4545

Crider.Stan  
1746 Happy Hollow  
Napoleon,MO 64074  
dianelewis44@hotmail.com  
816-690-7603

Deeken,Wes  
383 County Road 623  
Linn,MO 65051  
573-694-8203

Dinwiddie,David  
4324 N. Hostetter  
Sibley, MO 64088  
dukevon@earthlink.net  
816-650-3993

Eric A.Riser  
4131 Glendale Road  
House Springs, MO 63051  
redbeans21@hotmail.com  
248-835-7621

Goser,Cassandra  
1207 Bradley Lane  
Fulton, MO 65251  
cegoser@sbcglobal.net  
573-642-0265

Haycraft,Scott  
Hannibal Machine  
400 South 11th Street  
Hannibal,MO 63401  
scott-haycraft@yahoo.com  
573-248-1545

Hayslip,Bruce  
703 Pine Street  
Sweet Springs,MO 65351-  
1421  
660-335-4928

Helms,Sid  
3001 Madison 404  
Fredericktown,MO 63645  
metalbenderwackerdude@yah  
oo.com  
573-783-5086

Huenefeld,Greg  
12509 Rocky Ridge Road  
Wellington,MO 64097  
816-240-8400

Kitchen,Walter  
2992 Lick Creek Road  
Leasburg,MO 65535  
573-241-5052

Lami.Craig & Judy  
103 N. Missouri Street  
New Franklin,MO 65274  
judy\_lami@yahoo.com  
660-848-3234

Lawson,Mark  
7563 NE 288th Street  
Turney,Mo 64493  
keri3369@hotmail.com  
816-740-6318

Lee,Ethan  
17200 N Tucker School Road  
Sturgeon,MO 65284  
buggyboy8@aol.com  
573-687-2478

Lee.Tom  
5977 State Road D  
Williamsburg,MO 63388  
573-254-3665

Leininger,Ray  
4432 S. 132nd Road  
Bolivar,MO 65613  
raynjudy@alltel.net  
417-326-6643

Leps,Dave  
7331 State Road J  
New Bloomfield,MO 65063-  
1029  
booo@midamerica.net  
573-642-3248

Lohmeyer,Steve  
7511 Old Hwy 54  
Fulton,MO 65251  
573-642-0524

Marshall,Brandon  
808 Center #5  
Fulton,MO 65251

Marshall,Roger  
5596 US Hwy 63  
Pomona,MO 65789  
417-256-3912

Mathis,Dave  
23133 Lawrence 1170  
Verona,MO 65769  
417-678-1779

Ogle,Robert  
701 Lillian Street  
Colinsville,IL 62234  
618-343-0497

Peterson,Jon  
3854 Hwy K  
Bonne Terre,MO 63628  
573-358-5653

Reynolds,Bruce  
4996 NW 300th Street  
Plattsburg,MO 64477  
Bruce@isotechnetworks.net  
816-539-2047

Robinson,Dennis  
3168 Old Hwy A  
Festus,MO 63028  
636-933-0576

Salmons,Jason  
4184 County Road 210  
Fulton,MO 65251  
573-642-4588

Smith,Gary  
1686 West Smith Hill Road  
Nixa,MO 65714  
417-725-2266

Snodgrass,Lonnie  
5229 S. Janet Lane  
Rogersville,MO 65742  
417-886-5942

Strunk,Bernard  
1314 E. Promenade  
Mexico,MO 65265  
573-581-5311

Weber.Harry  
1614 West 1st  
Joplin,MO 64801  
417-781-2950

White.Jeff  
4585 Carmel Drive  
Fulton,MO 65251  
krazykat61@socket.net  
573-642-7982

Woods,John  
545 East Cardinal Drive  
Webb City,MO 64870  
twoods@joplin.com  
417-673-2808

Zahm,Dave  
30864 SW 89th Road  
Beatrice,NE 68310  
david@diodecom.net  
402-520-0644

# Buy, Sell, Trade

## Individual Classified ads

Apparently everyone wants to keep all their old stuff since I haven't received any personal ads.

## Commercial / Resource ads

### Services:

**Custom spinning** in copper, brass, pewter, and steel. Contact Ken & Kathy Markley, 7651 Cabin Creek Lane, Sparta, Ill. 62286. Phone: (618) 443-5284 Fax: (618) 443-5284

Ray Chaffin has a new computer operated **plasma cutting** system that can cut anything out of metal. Mail, call or e-mail your design for a price quote. Also hardwood blocks 2-2 1/2" x 12-14" are \$5 each in curly maple, straight maple, English walnut, birch laminated in brown and white and blue and white. Ray Chaffin, (660) 438-6720 or Ray's Welding, RR 3, Box 279, Warsaw, MO 65355.

**Little Giant**-- We can do repairs on any or all components of your Little Giant front assembly. Contact H."Sid" Suedemeier 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE. 68410 (402) 873-6603

BAM members, 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. From art to parts I do it all. Now offering: 12" x 18" BAM logo signs plasma cut from 1/8" A36 steel plate, \$25 BAM members, \$35 non-members. Call (573) 474-8749 and ask for William Irvin.

### **Tire Hammer Workshops, Beverly Shear Sharpening**

I have donated my treadle hammer plans to ABANA and will not be selling plans in the future.

Beverly shear blades sharpened \$35 plus postage.

I will be leading workshops to build 50 lb. Tire Hammers, contact me for details.

Clay Spencer, 934 Partridge Lane, Murphy NC 28906-6149, 828-837-0708 or e-mail to clayms@brmemc.net

## Information / Education

New email/web site for Tom Clark and the Blacksmith School

Tom: [tclark@ozarkschool.com](mailto:tclark@ozarkschool.com)  
School: [www.ozarkschool.com](http://www.ozarkschool.com)

### **Tong Making Class**-Weekend Course

4 people per class - \$125 per person

Contact: Charles Comstock Rt.1 Box 20, Deerfield, MO. 64741 (417) 927-3499

**Classes offered**, The Ornamental Iron Shop  
Contact the instructor to register and customize your class.  
John D. Thompson – Metalsmith  
3923 Hwy 25; Hodges, SC 29653  
864-374-3933

**Classes** at Pieh Tool Company, Inc. - Camp Verde, AZ  
The Bill Pieh Resource for Metalwork.  
Call now for more information and to enroll:  
(928) 554-0700 or (888) 743-4866. [www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com).

Subscribe to Jerry Hoffmann's **Blacksmith's Journal**, a monthly publication for blacksmiths. Call 1-800-944-6134 for more information.

George Dixon edits a blacksmithing publication called "**The Artist-Blacksmith Quarterly**". For \$28 you will get four issues of how-to information. Contact him at 1229 Bee Tree Lake Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778.

The Upper Midwest Blacksmiths Assoc (UMBA) now has its video library back up and running An index list can be viewed at **www.umbaonline.org** They are VHS or DVD-R Cost is \$5 each with \$2 per order shipping There is no return date you keep the video for this price. All videos are made at group demos no commercial titles.

## Products

**Heavy duty frying pan blanks:** Steel, approximately 9 inch in diameter with 2 inch sides. 12 gauge (2.5 lb.) or 14 gauge (1.75 lb.) thickness. Available with or without two 3/16 inch holes for handles. Now tumbled clean. 1-4 \$9 each; 5-9 \$8 each; 10 or more \$7 each. Shipping \$4 plus \$.50 for each pan. Contact: Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722; [bobforge@hotmail.com](mailto:bobforge@hotmail.com); (563) 332-4800.

**Tom Clark** carries a complete line of hand forged Hofi style hammers, punches, drifts, tongs, shears, belt grinders and gas forges. He's also importing the Sayha air hammer from Turkey. For more info on the tools contact him at Phone (573) 438-4725. Fax (573) 438-8483.

L Brand Forge **coke** now packaged in 50 pound bags, 1,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets and 2,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets. Send your zip code for a quote on price including delivery. 1-800-441-0616 or [LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com](mailto:LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com).

**Bells Novelty Casting** is a foundry in Anniston, Alabama manufacturing blacksmiths' tools. We are currently looking for dealers to market our products. We have anvils of all sizes, swage blocks, hardies and drift pins. Call 1-877-FARMBEL. Web site [www.bellsandmoe.com](http://www.bellsandmoe.com).



## Buy, Sell, Trade, Continued

**Kayne and Son** Custom Hardware, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 fax (828) 665-8303, e-mail: kaynehdwe@charter.net, web site: www.blacksmithsdepot.com. Offering Peddinghaus 2 horn anvils, Offcenter tongs and swages, etc, hammers, tongs, the Fly Presses, Treadle Hammers, and Forgemaster gas forges. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard.

Persimmon Forge **PEDAL HAMMER** for sale for the more delicate work of chase and repousee, chisel and chase, leather stamping, some stone and wood carving applications, etc., in a comfortable seated position with minimal effort, maximum safety, and fast striking.

The basic 25-pound hammer is \$1,300.00 , many optional upgrades are available.

Contact Dave or Betty Edwards by e-mail at djedwards@cableone.net, or write or call the manufacturer, Four Mile Carriage and Machine, at 3220 West 6th Ave., Emporia, Ks. 66801, (620) 342-4440.

**SOFA fire pots** are once again available. For information contact Bob Cruishank, 1495 W. Possum Rd., Springfield, OH. 45506 Phone: (937) 323-1300 or www.creativeironforge.com or www.sofablacksmiths.com

### Wanted:

We need **MEETING HOSTS** for several meetings in 2006. March, May, November.

Contact Kirk Sullens  
kirk@kirksullens.com  
(417)863-8628

A few years ago Don Nichols was selling **rolls of thin strap material**. If you bought a roll and never found a use for it I would like to take it off your hands, as mine is running out. Bob Ehrenberger (573) 633-2010

**Articles for the BAM Newsletter. E-mail, or snail mail to Bob Ehrenberger.**

### Demonstrator List Forming

Fred Wisenborn has started a list of members available for demonstrations, fairs, historic events, and festivals, etc.  
Contact Fred to get on the list:  
417-589-2497 e-mail: jweisenb@llion.org

**Around the Anvil** BAM has it's very own E-Mail news group. If you would like to participate send an E-Mail to Ed Harper at **aramed@grm.net** and he can get you signed up.

## SHOP TIP

### Oiler made out of a Small Dawn Bottle

I took a empty small Dawn bottle and a old style ball point ink tube. ( It can be either plastic or brass. The last one I used was plastic and it was a little bigger in diameter.) Cut off the ink tube a 1 1/2 inch's or so and inserted it into the top of the Dawn bottle cap. Fill the bottle with oil or what ever you want. It makes a great oiler.

Ed Harper



# Need Coal ?

Check on Availability

**Coal Captain: Bob Alexander**



1. Bob Alexander (636) 586-6938  
14009 Hardin Rd,  
DeSoto, MO. 63020

2. Ken Jansen, (636) 366-4353  
2257 Charter Rd.,  
Moscow Mill, MO. 63362

3. Doug Clemons, (660) 595-2257  
RR1 Box 124,  
Malta Bend, MO. 65339

4. Jerry Rehagen, (573) 744-5454  
390 Bozina Vally Trail,  
Freeburg, MO. 65035

5. James Rumbo, (816) 625-8675  
7223 Hardsaw,  
Oak Grove, MO. 64075

6. Jeff Willard, (417) 742-4569  
P.O. Box 416,  
Willard, MO. 65781

Price \$10.00 per bag BAM members, \$11.00 per bag Non-members, \$9.00 per bag at Bob Alexander's  
Coal keepers earn \$2.00 a bag

# Upcoming Events

January 1, Submission deadline for scholarships awarded in February.

January 14, BAM meeting at Austin Iron Works, Claycomo, Mo. Host Steve Austin. Trade item an 8" quatrefoil, No food provided, but plenty of local places to eat.

January 21, Submission deadline for articles to be included in the Jan/Feb newsletter.

Feb 18 & Feb 25, MTS workshop. To sign up, contact Ray Scott, HRC 2 Box 196, Eminence, Mo. 65466. (573)-226-5541

March 11, BAM Meeting, Location-Lou Mueller's in Fenton. Trade Item-Meat Fork

April 1, Submission deadline for scholarships awarded at conference.

May 5-7, BAM Ozark Conference. Warrenton MO. Larry Hults - Chairman.

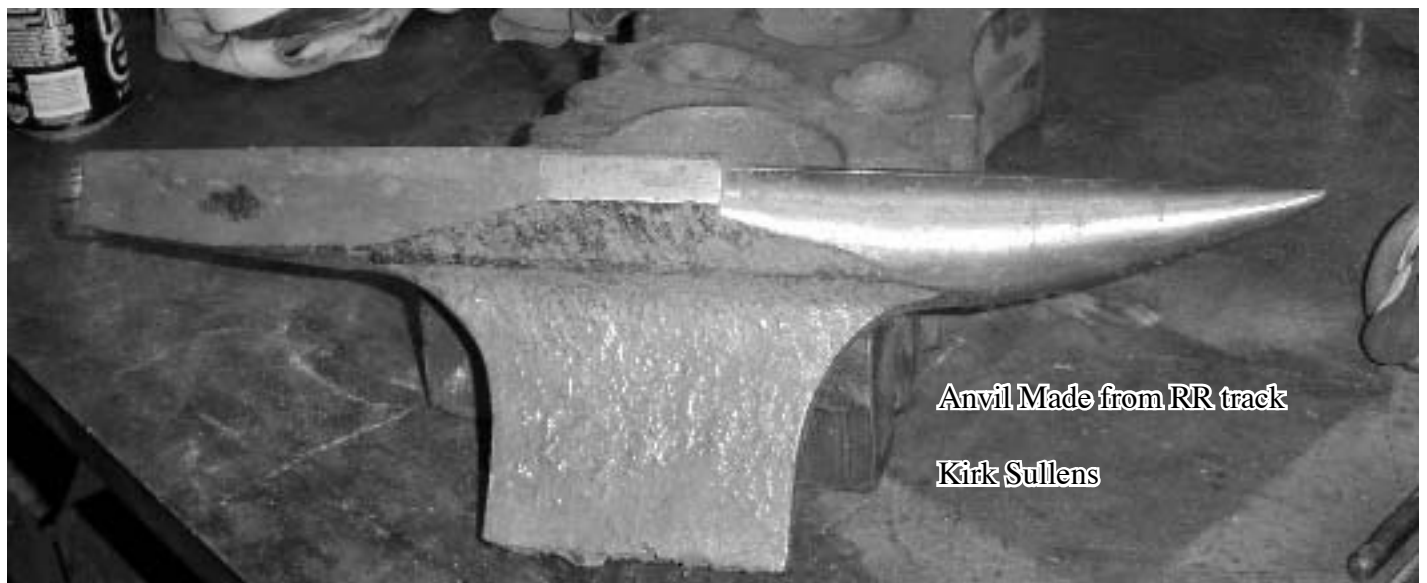
May, BAM Meeting TBD

July 5-8 ABANA conference. Seattle WA.

July, BAM Meeting Don Nichols, Sedalia

September 2006 BAM Meeting Dale Gilman, Boonville, MO.

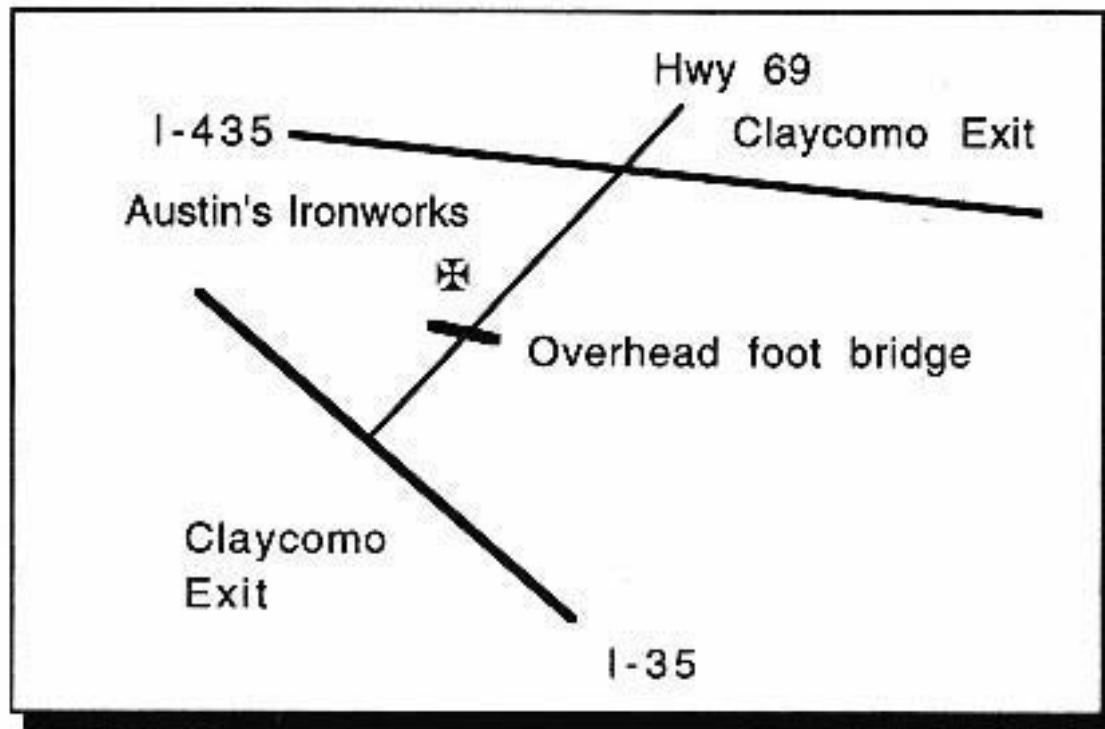
November BAM meeting TBD



Anvil Made from RR track

Kirk Sullens

## Next Meeting: January 14 Claycomo, MO.



Host:  
Steve Austin  
(816)-454-7736

Trade item:  
an 8" quatrefoil

No food will be  
provided, but  
there are plenty  
of local places  
to eat.

Steve isn't hard to find.

If you are coming from the St. Louis side of the state, just take 435 north off 1-70. Stay on 435 until you get to the Claycomo exit (Hwy 69.) Stay on 69 until just before the overhead foot bridge on the right hand side.

If you reach the footbridge you went too far. From Kansas you would take 1-35 north to Hwy 69 and turn left just past the foot bridge. If you get lost just look for the coal smoke.

### **BAM**

2212 Aileswick Dr.,  
St. Louis, MO 63129

Please send changes to Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129 or e-mail to [bjherzog@msn.com](mailto:bjherzog@msn.com)