

RAM

NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2011



Don Nichols and his horse shoe heart

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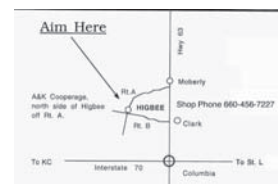
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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

Volume 28 No. 6
November-December 2011

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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 \$25/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; (573)-633-2010 or send 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@att.net.** 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.

November-December 2011

Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Phone: () _____ Zip: _____
E-mail: _____

New Member Renewal ABANA member?

Are you interested in taking a class?

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\$55 yr.
- Senior Citizen (Age 65+)\$50 yr.
- Full time student\$45 yr.
- Overseas airmail\$80 yr.
- Overseas surface mail\$65 yr.
- Contributory\$100 yr.
- Public library\$45 yr.

See reverse

From the Editor

By Bob Ehrenberger

The November meeting was held at the Marvin Martin sale barn in Excelsior, MO. Excelsior consists of the sale barn, Weaver's Market and about three homes. It doesn't even show up on most Missouri maps. I didn't have any problem finding it, and we had a good crowd so I don't think many got lost. The Martins provided lunch in the form of a table set up outside selling food, drinks, and pie (lots of pie). The building was a bit chilly first thing in the morning, but did warm up by noon. There were a good number of trade items, all were nicely done, most were pretty conventional looking something like a knife. Mike McLaughlin got the prize (if there was one) for the most creative letter opener, for one that looked like a whale that opened letters with it's mouth.

Ed Harper got things started off with a talk about tricks and tips to make your shop more efficient. He brought a box full of stuff from his shop and explained how to use each item. He promised to send me his notes, so they will appear later in the newsletter.

Don Nichols, who was co-host for the meeting, demonstrated several things. He started with a horse head made from a horse shoe. Then he welded some steel cable to make a knife out of it. He demonstrated several decorative twists, which is kind of his specialty. Finally, in an effort to inspire people to make a trade item for the next meeting, he made a heart out of a horse shoe.

I finished up the demonstrations by making a standard heart hook, also trying to encourage the members to participate in the trade item at the January meeting.

After a really dry summer and fall we finally started to get some rain last week. In the last 7 days I have gotten a total of about

5 inches, my pond is still about a foot low, but it managed to fill my boat up. As I mentioned at my September meeting, I was planning on making some punching dies for my press. Well, the next time I needed to make large holes in sheet metal, I got it done. The punch is a one inch rod that has been hollow ground and hardened, the die is a piece of 3/8" sq. stock wrapped into a circle with about .020" clearance on the punch. If it was a little bit closer, I could make a cleaner hole, but it works great the way it is and the little bit of flash that



I get is no problem at all to clean up. Daniel is working in the sheet metal shop at True, now, and said that if they got that much flash they would send the tools back to the tool room to get sharpened. I'm happy with the way that it works, It saves me a lot of time.

By the time this gets mailed out it will be time to start thinking about frozen slack tubs. I went back and checked my electric bills and decided that having the tank heater made no difference on the bill. So it was well worth the \$35 that it cost for the heater to have a usable slack tub.

ABANA is in the process of changing their web site. When

I checked for their President's message, I found 3 for 2011. I'm sure they weren't there when I checked in September. So, anyway, we have news from ABANA this time. The ABANA conference is going to be in South Dakota, July 18th through the 21st. They haven't said what the cost is, but I think they have gotten the message that we are all hurting and won't come if it is too expensive.

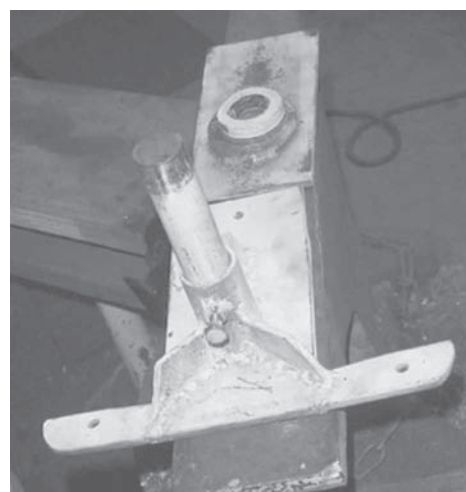
While we are talking about conferences; make plans to come to the BAM conference May 3rd-6th. Make something nice for the auction and BAM boutique. Also, consider volunteering, we always need help.

I've been invited to be the demonstrator at the Scott County Park March 24-25 Hammer-in, located in Long Grove, IA near Davenport, IA. This is the first time I have been asked to fill a whole weekend, it should be an adventure.

Correction: My phone number on the cover of the roster is wrong. It got caught by a global replace. It should be 573-633-2010.

The next Newsletter submission deadline is January 21.

*Below,
Punch and die for a 1" hole.*



BAM MEETING for November 2011 at Marvin Martin Auction

Barn, hosted by Don Nichols, minutes by Don Anders

Thanks to Marvin and Don for a fantastic meeting with several good demos. There were demos by ED Harper, Don Nichols and Bob Ehrenberger.

BUSINESS MEETING given by President Doug Clemons

The BAM swedge block, and cone mandrel buy, from the SALT FORK affiliate was a success. If enough people are interested in them, there may be a second buy, please contact Bob Alexander.

If you are interested in making spare-tire hammer or treadle hammer contact Bob Alexander or Ken Jansen, Bob for the treadle hammer or Ken for the spare-tire hammer.

There was talk, of a forced air gas forge workshop, if interested contact Bob Alexander.

Treasurers report given by Doug Clemons for Bruce Herzog.

Mike McLaughlin gave a 2012 conference summary, conference is on track and should be a good time, most of the conference has been nailed down. As always, there is always room for more help. Please think about items for the boutique, iron in the hat and auction. Conference Tee shirt designs needed if you have an idea, submit a drawing to Mike or one of the BAM officers.

Phil Cox is heading up the forging contest at the conference and wants all to practice, it is to draw the metal out and pass through a hole that you have slit in the same piece, double points for passing thru a second hole.

A motion was made to buy an auctioneer's type PA system for meetings, motion was passed.

Please keep BAM members that are struggling with health problems in your thought we have several that are having challenges, please assist them if you can.

IRON IN THE HAT

DONATED BY	ITEM	WON BY
Bob Ehrenberger	demo item	Don Anders
Esther Digh	Blacksmith picture	Ken Jansen
Ned Digh	magnet	Gerry Hilt
Steve McCarthy	Spring`	Don Anders
Steve McCarthy	Spring	Dennis Quinn
Phil Cox	Plant hanger	Don Nichols
Gerry Hilt	metal rods	Dan Wedemeyer
Scott Lancaster	Spring	Dan Wedemeyer
Karen Bouckaert	Surgical Stainless	Gerry Hilt
Steve McCarthy	dozer spring	Thomas Ratliff
Steve McCarthy	dozer spring	Mike McLaughlin
Don Anders	Cap	Richard Kamp
Don Nichols	demo piece	Gerry Hilt
Don Nichols	demo piece	Gerry Hilt
Dan Wedemeyer	several items	Dennis Quinn
Chris Miller	2 books	Don Anders
Paul Lankford	Spring	Don Birdsall
Don Birdsall	Bearing race	Steve McCarthy
Don Nichols	demo piece	Kent Harbit
Don Nichols	Pins ect	Chris Miller
Seth Lancaster	??	Gerry Hilt
Don Anders	shop towels	Isaac Lancaster
Karen Bouckaert	Surgical Stainless	Gerry Hilt
Don Nichols	Pins ect	Chris Miller
Bob Ehrenberger	demo item	Mike Gentsch
Fred Arnold	D-2 steel blk	Ken Jansen
Fred Arnold	D-2 steel blk	Isaac Lancaster
Bob Ehrenberger	feathers	Don Anders
Don Anders	Ox bottle cap	Richard Kamp

TRADE ITEM Letter Opener

MADE BY	TRADED TO
Gerry Hilt	Fred Arnhold
Doug Clemons	Ed Harper
Bob Ehrenberger	Don Nichols
Don Nichols	Dale Crabb
Dan Wedemeyer	Malachi Bishop
Dennis Quinn	Steve McCarthy
Don Birdsall	Ken Jansen
Bernie Tappel	Don Birdsall
Bob Stormer	Nicholas Bishop
Ed Harper	Gerry Hilt
Ned Digh	Mike McLaughlin
Chris Miller	Dan Wedemeyer
Nicholas Bishop	Bob Ehrenberger
Mike McLaughlin	Doug Clemons
Fred Arnhold	Bob Stormer
Dale Crabb	Seth Lancaster
Malachi Bishop	Dennis Quinn
Ken Jansen	Bernie Tappel
Steve McCarthy	Chris Miller
Seth Lancaster	Ned Digh

President's Message

Greetings again,

I just got back from our November meeting. We had a really good turn-out at the Martin family's auction barn near Versailles, MO. The meeting was hosted by Don Nichols who also demonstrated along with Bob Ehrenberger and Ed Harper. I'm sure there will be more on that somewhere else in the newsletter.

According to our conference chairman, Mike McLaughlin, things are coming together pretty well so far. We still need a few volunteers. If you can help, contact Mike. I don't think his name is on our website yet, but he is in our roster.

Speaking of conferences, the ABANA conference is next July 18 -21 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The ABANA website has more information on that.

It has been brought up at the last three meetings that we need a dedicated PA system for use at our meetings. We own at least one or more systems but it's difficult logistically to have them available at the meetings and then returned to wherever they are needed next. So it was decided that we should have one just for our meetings and that the president will be in charge of getting it there (sigh). This time it was voted on and passed, so I hope to have something by our January meeting. I've had some input on what people would like to have and have talked with a couple of professional sound people and have a good idea of what to get. In fact, by the time you read this, I will probably have something on hand. What I'm looking at is a self-contained wireless system similar to those used by auctioneers except with a speaker, rather than a horn. Everyone that I've talked to agrees that for what we do at our meetings, a system with a speaker would provide better overall sound than one with a horn.

Our next meeting is in January 2012 in Higbee, MO. If you have never been to a meeting there, it's worth the drive. A & K cooperage is a barrel factory that still uses a lot of old machinery. It's really interesting to see how they make the barrels that way.

Our meeting schedule is full through 2012 and people are beginning to ask about 2013 so if you would like to host a meeting contact me or Bob Ehrenberger to make arrangements.

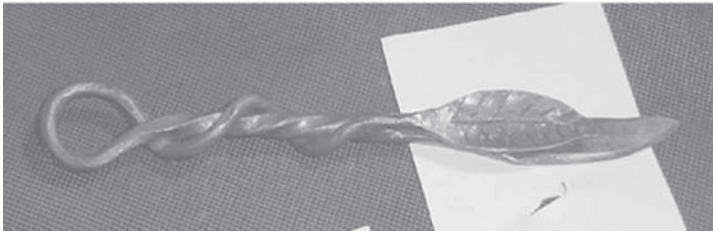
If nothing else, they say it's a good excuse to clean out your shop. Not that mine needs it of course, but some might.

Please work safe this fall. Hopefully I'll see some of you at the next meeting.

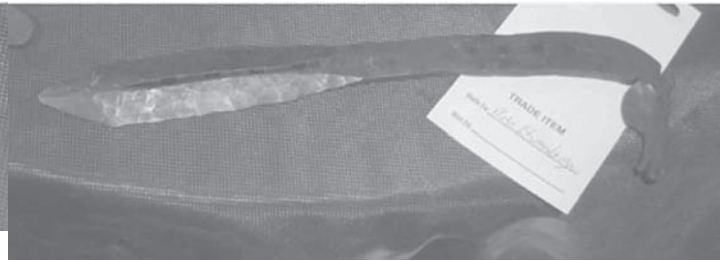
Doug

Doug Clemons
660-595-2257
cclemons@cdsinet.net

November Trade Items Letter Opener



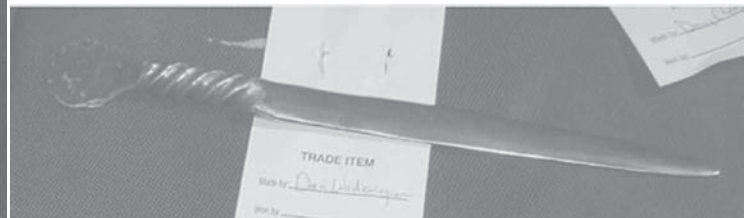
Doug Clemons



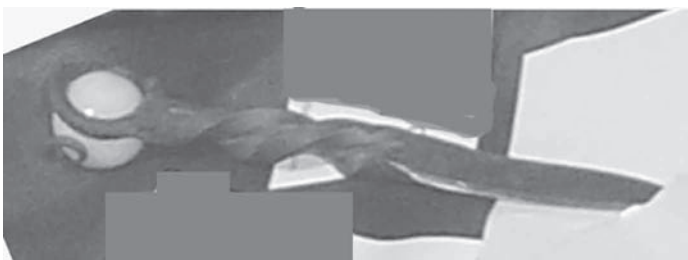
Bob Ehrenberger



Don Nichols



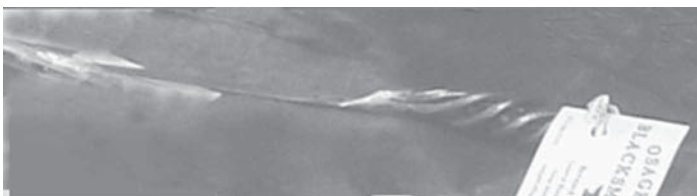
Dan Wedemeyer



Dennis Quinn



Don Birdsall



Bernie Tappel



Bob Stormer



Ed Harper

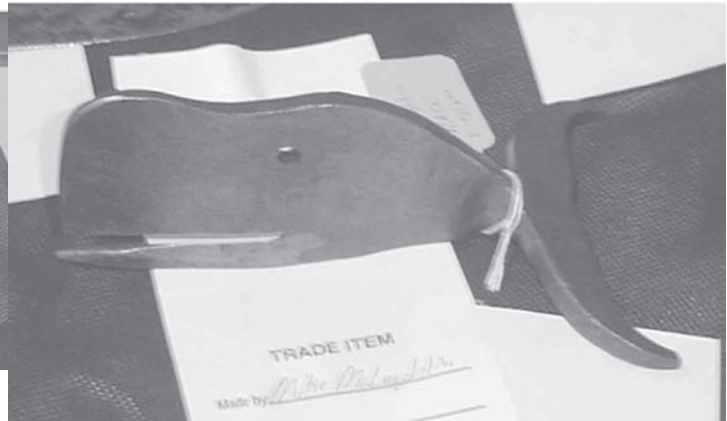


Ned Digh

November Trade Items Letter Opener



Chris Miller



Mike McLaughlin



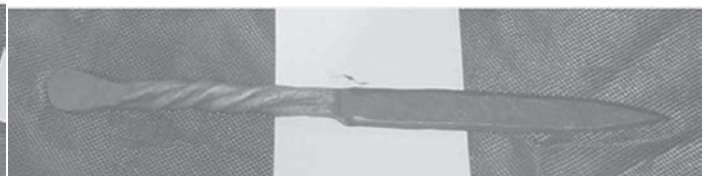
Fred Arnhold



Nicholas Bishop



Dale Crabb



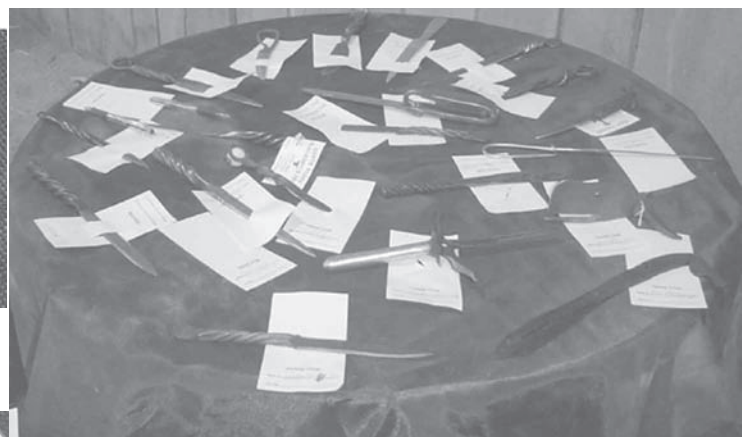
Malachi Bishop



Ken Jansen



Seth Lancaster



*Trade Item table,
Sorry, I missed a couple individual items,
maybe you can find them here.*

Blacksmithing Hints and Tips

By Ed Harper



Chisel and Punch Holder

Fasten a narrow shelf on a wall with a strip magnet about 3 inches above it. When you put your chisels or punches with the head down on the shelf the magnet holds them in place and you can see what kind of punch or chisel it is.

Drill Press Chuck Key Holder

Put a strong magnet in a convenient place on the drill press and sticks the chuck key to magnet when you are done and always knows where the chuck key is.

If you are always misplacing the chuck key to your drill press, fasten a retractable key chain that's attached to the column of the drill press. The key chain is held in place with an ordinary hose clamp. And it's connected to the chuck key by means of a short dowel. A hole drilled in one end of the dowel accepts the handle of the chuck key. (use epoxy to hold it in place.) An eye hook is screwed into the opposite end of the dowel. Now the eye hook is simply slipped onto the ring at the end of the key chain.

Parts Cleaning

Parts can be cleaned easier by using a Garden Sprayer filled with your favorite nonflammable solvent.

Drawing on Metal

A Gel ink pen works great for writing on grey or shiny metal. It makes a fine line.

O-Rings

Put o-rings over knob onto your vice handle to keep from pinching your hand.

Old File

Grind an old file on one end at 45 degrees for a scraper to use for scraping off hot slag.

Splitting

Put a center punch mark at the start of a split on both sides of metal.

When splitting stand straight in line with the split.

Dinner Bell

Use an S Hook bent at 90 degrees to hang a dinner bell from. It will make the triangle hang straight.

Hot Cut

To make an easy hot cut, take an old brick hammer and straighten it out. Anneal the hammer head.

Vise

Use a vise to make accurate bends. Mark vise with soap stone for the length of the bend.

Leather Gloves

Leather gloves get hot quick and retain enough heat to burn you before you can remove them. Cotton gloves are a better choice.

Anvil

Get to know your anvil and it's measurements.

Round a section to remove sharp edges for bending a smoother radius.

Swing Arm Lamp

Mount a swing arm lamp in the center of your workbench. You can swing the lamp to either side of the bench as needed.

Photographs

Take photos of your work with a ruler next to your work.

Drawings

Make drawings of your work with measurements, so you can refer to them at a later date.

Center Punch

Grind a flat on one side of the point so can see where you want to punch better.

Magnet

Use a magnet to hold small items while grinding so you won't grind off your fingers.

Use a big magnet to hold items while you grind or wire brush them.

Oiler

Use an empty Dawn bottle and get the ink tube from a ball point pen about 2 inches long. The tube is the right size to slide into the cap of the Dawn bottle cap.

Fractions

To divide a fraction in half, double the bottom number for example: half of $\frac{3}{8}$ is $\frac{3}{16}$ or $\frac{5}{8}$ is $\frac{5}{16}$.

Borax

Put borax in a squeeze bottle and squeeze out the borax on your weld.

Align Holes for Punching

Grind a center punch so the end of the taper is the same size of the hole you want punched. Drive the center punch all the way in to the taper. That will leave a mark the right size to place your punch so you don't have to guess where to place your punch and have an accurate placement of your hole.

Voltage Control

Use a voltage control on your angle grinder to keep better control with a wire brush. It also keeps the wire brush from coming apart as fast and makes it a lot safer.

Measuring Tapes, Rulers and Squares.

When I have a broken measuring tape, I take the first 2 feet to use around the shop.

Take a 12 in. by 8 in. Square and cut the 8 in. off at $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mark. It makes a handy hook rule to measure short pieces.

Cut a 12 in. by 8 in. square down to 4 in. by 6 in. for a handy small square.

Modeling Clay

Use modeling clay to make prototypes.

Pipe

To find the center of a piece of pipe from one end to the other, lay a piece of angle iron down its length and draw a line down the angle iron.

Old Hammers

Use an old hammer on punches and chisels so you won't ruin the head of your good hammer.

Cooling Off a Small Section of Iron

Use a squirt bottle, like a Dawn bottle to cool off a small section of iron.

Tongs

Tongs should fit the piece of iron you are using. The most common mistake is that most blacksmiths expect one pair of tongs to work for everything.

The shorter the jaws and the longer the reins, the better the tongs will grip.

Vise Grips

Vise grips make a good punch and chisel holder.

Wire Brush Holder

Mount a old wire brush up side down near your anvil and set your wire brush in it.

Angle Grinder

Keep an angle grinder with a cutoff blade near your stock rack. It's easier to cut off a piece with the angle grinder than take a long piece to your cutoff saw.

Automatic Center Punch

A spring loaded automatic center punch will make it easier to make a more precise center punch.

Drill Press and Grinder

Check drill press and grinder table for being square. The table can be off a fraction of a degree and make for less accurate holes and square grinding.

De-burr Steel

When you cut off a piece of iron with a cutoff saw take the time to grind off the sharp edge. It will keep you from getting cut and wearing out your gloves.

Harper's Finish

Mix 50-50 Linseed Oil, Zip Car wash and add about 10 percent Japan Drier. This makes a fairly good water proof finish.

Don Nichols' Horse Shoe Heart

By Bob Ehrenberger

Don showed us a quick and easy way to make a heart from an old horse shoe. He started by tapering the solid section at the heel of the shoe to a point. Leave the part with the holes alone, so that you can still tell that it is a horse shoe.

Find the center point at the toe of the shoe and place it on a sharp corner of the anvil. Hit above and below this point to force the material into a point that will become the bottom tip of the heart.

Curl the ends in towards the center of the shoe.

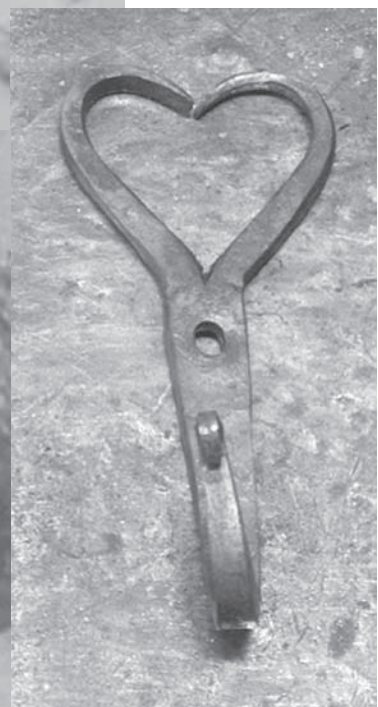
Once the ends are well bowed, close the shoe up until they touch.



*Above,
The finished horse
shoe heart.*

*Left,
Don Nichols work-
ing on the horse
shoe heart.*

*Right,
Bob Ehrenberger
working on the
heart hook, and
the finished hook.*



Don Nichols' Horse head demo

by Bob Ehrenberger

The Horse head that Don made was the same as Drew Johnson demonstrated at Ned Digh's meeting back in 2009. This description is taken largely from the July-August 2009 BAM newsletter. The first head that Don did was pretty much a one heat horse head. He then made a second one and went slow enough for the group to watch. I didn't get a picture of Don's finished horse head, but it is basically the same as I used for my trade item pictured below.

Use the heel end of the shoe for the horse head.

Make a deep fuller to section off the material for the head.

Use a half face blow to create a step that will become the nose of the horse.

Bend the head down at the fuller.

Draw out the jaw with a ball pein hammer.

Start the ear on the edge of the anvil, shape it with a tear drop punch and cut away with a chisel.

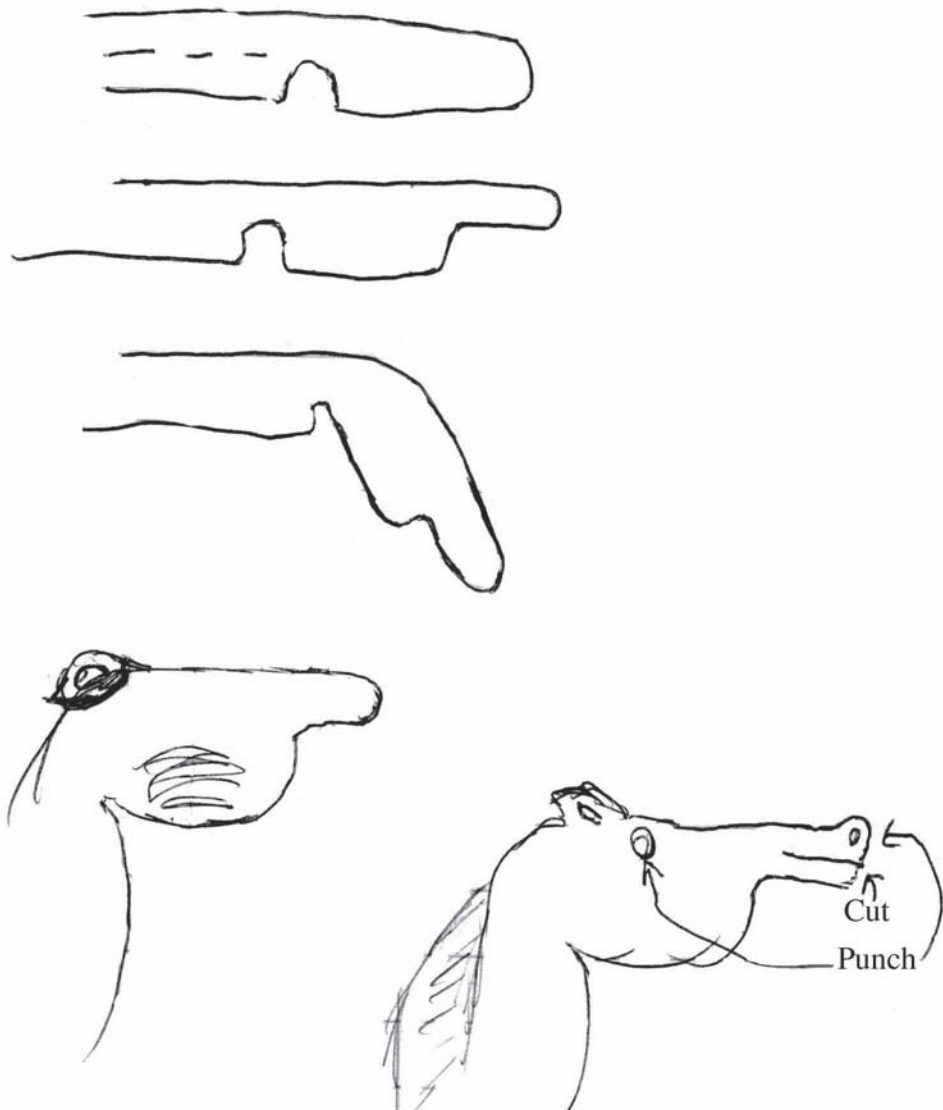
Use a chisel to make the mouth.

Use a center punch or ball punch for the nose.

Use a ball punch or hollow eye punch for the eye.

A rounding hammer is used to draw out the main.

The main can be textured either with a chisel or a hammer with a sharp pein.



Doniphan Neighborhood Assistance Program, Inc

101 Washington Street
Doniphan, MO 63935
October 25, 2011

The Doniphan Neighborhood Assistance Program, Inc. (DNAP) Blacksmith User Group just completed it's 2011 Fall Blacksmith Training Program using the facilities of the Tom Kennon Blacksmith Shop at the Heritage Homestead in Doniphan, Missouri. Five local residents with an interest in the Blacksmith's craft attended two four hour training sessions, one on Saturday, October 15th and one on Saturday, October 22nd. The class was taught by Blacksmith Association of Missouri members Chris Miller and Steve Eikermann.

The first Saturday session included information on the History of Blacksmithing and a discussion of Sources of Information, including the local library and the Internet. Students then received an introduction to the forge, Shop Safety, and fire tending on the shop's Masonry Coal Forge. Each student received hands on instruction and practice of hammer and anvil basics and learned how to draw out, taper, bend and twist steel stock and ended the day by completing a steel drive hook.

The second Saturday session allowed the students to refresh the skills learned the previous week and learn several new techniques, including punching holes, scrolling and shaping a steel rod into a leaf pattern. Each student was able to complete the forging of a wall hook with a decorative leaf scroll. A demonstration of forge welding concluded the class.

The students completing the fall class sessions were Bill Uher, Bonnie Tibbetts, Ben Ray, Josh Monfee and Dawn Cochran. Students who complete the class and join the Blacksmith's Association of Missouri become eligible to participate in the User Group and utilize the Kennon Blacksmith Shop's tools and equipment to further develop their skills and work on their own metalworking projects.

The next Beginning Blacksmithing Class will be formed in the Spring. Watch for notices beginning in March, 2012 at the Current River Heritage Museum, in the Prospect News and on the DNAP Web Page at www.doniphanmissouri.org/tom_kennon_blacksmith_shop



Doniphan Beginner's Class



Black Jack Gate Project

Work day at Bob Evans'

Here are some pictures I took at Bob Evans' shop on Oct. 23, when he hosted a work day for the Black Jack Gate project. Actually, there were two work days, Sat. the 22nd and Sun. the 23rd, but I was only able to make it the second day. Kate, who organized it, was not there on Sunday, but did work on Saturday. Not shown in the group shot is Roger Green, who left before I got my camera out. We got really quite a lot accomplished, all the pickets riveted in on the wings and the tenons forged on the gate pickets. There is to be another session Nov. 19 and 20.

Walt Hull

Here is the link to the gate project: <http://www.blackjackbattlefield.org/Blacksmith%20gate%20project.htm>.

Hi Bob, So, the Gate, as you know, consists of two approximately 9 ft. wings and then a two part gate which is around 8 ft. across. The two wings are getting close to completion but the gates themselves still need quite a bit of work. Terrence and Peter returned to England a couple of days after the conference and I am in the process of trying to raise money to bring them back to finish the main part of the gate, get it in place, etc. We also need to raise funds for site preparation, pouring of concrete, sand blasting and the finish. Kansas is a hard place to raise money for the arts these days, so it's been a job. I hope to get it done before the fall of 2012.

If you'd like more info, I can send it to you. I'll be writing an article for the Anvil's Ring about the conference part of the gate forging in the next month or so.

Kate Dinneen



Black Jack Gate Project



November-December 2011

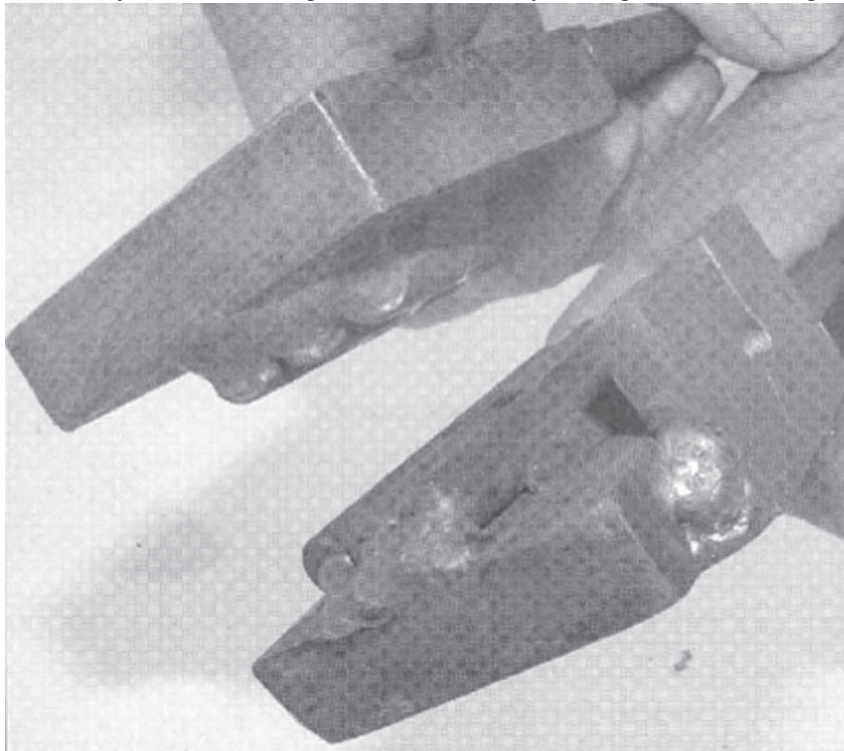
bamsite.org



The whole corkscrew project was inspired by my collection of antique corkscrews, mainly the older 19th century style screws. These have a single lead thread that is similar to a large drywall screw, instead of the wire coil like so many of the modern types. To me, the older style is the best design as it performs flawlessly, glides into a cork with little effort, causes no damage to the cork, and it works!

I pondered the idea for a long time and, after a few discussions with Jim Ribordy, concluded that the older corkscrews were probably formed using a linear-type die like the modern cold forming equipment for making bolts. I wanted to figure out a way for a person to achieve the same results with just a hammer and a smile. Sort of reinventing an already good invention.

While riding backseat to the Walnut Grove Pioneer Village event in Iowa with Jim Ribordy and Mike Garrett, another discussion of the matter took place. So, I finally set out to find a solution. The first breakthrough was quick. After rolling an old corkscrew on a block of clay, it became evident what shape the die would be. There was a trail of perfect, straight half-round ridges just like round bars side by side. The die angle became evident by holding the screw 90 degrees to the block while turning. Doing this, it would progress at a measurable angle, roughly 12 degrees from what I saw.



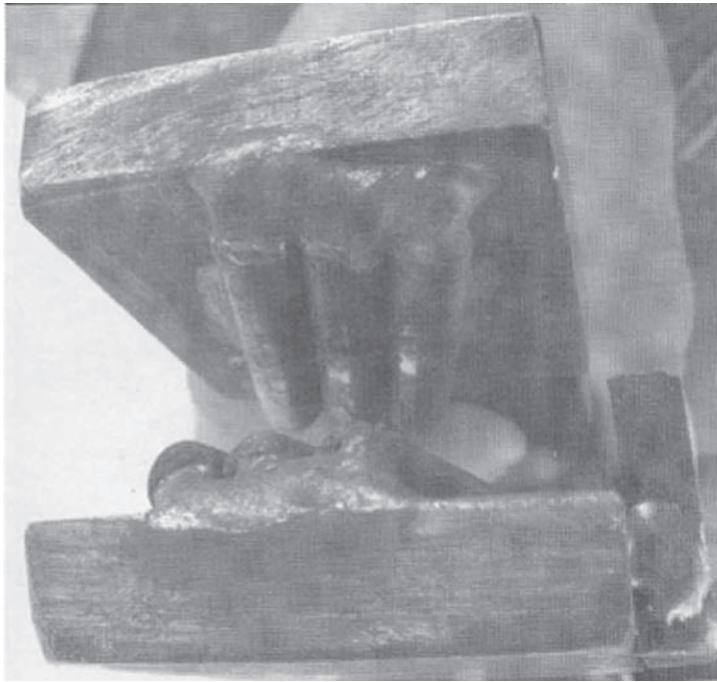
So now I proceeded to start making a spring swage die to achieve the goal. First, I took some 1/2" thick 2" x 2" common stock and welded three 1 1/2" lengths of 5/16" 4140 round stock at a 12 degree angle. I chose 4140 because I want the tool to last.

Now there's more to the story. I spaced the bars apart from each other by about .011" by using strips of a 2 liter soda pop bottle. Doing this gives the screw threads some space to squeeze into. (I have found that the plastic bottles are pretty consistent at that thickness and use them for shim stock often.) An added bonus is that when welded, the plastic just melts and burns away. I heated 4140 to red and then let it air cool to harden. On a side note, the plastic shim stock is great for setting the air gap on small gas engine Magnetos.

Next, I made two identical pieces since they are like tong jaws in that when mated top to bottom, they have opposing angles. An important note at this

point is that to achieve a right hand twist, the 12 degree angle needs to be angling away to your left if facing the bottom die from the working side.

Here is where I cheated a bit by using an old corkscrew to establish the exact cross point of the opposing angles by placing it between the dies. The only place it can fit is the exact point where the bars crisscross. Doing this meant that I could weld the dies at the spring arm with the exact location for the center of the screw. This also gave me the correct angle for a right-hand thread. I was very lucky on this venture, as the thing worked the first time out with no changes.



Once I got to this point, I welded two guides...one on the side of the die to center the work piece in the die at the center of the crisscross. (Deviation from this point would result in catastrophe.) Secondly, I took no chances, also adding a guide to the sides of the spring arms to prevent any side-to-side movement of the dies.

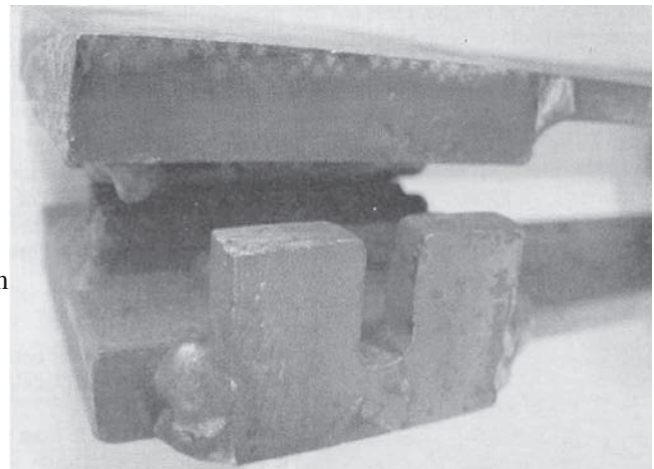
I found that it takes some practice and a little patience to operate the device. Since I am right-handed and hammering with my right hand, it worked best for me to feed the stock with my left hand all the way into the dies to where I wanted the length of the screw, then drew it back during rotation. This worked for me. By the way, this doesn't require big, heavy hits...just gentle taps are fine.

Using the 5/16" round stock dies, I found that drawing the stock down for the screw about .150" worked best for squeezing the screw thread out. Much more than that and the material had nowhere to go. Less than that made a very skinny screw. There is 'fudging' room there. Most of

us can eyeball a bit more than a 1/8". I tried 3/16" and found it was a bit too much. This takes a few heats, but once you establish the start of the thread, the dies kind of take over.

Two important things to mention while turning the material and striking:

First, try not to be turning the stock at the moment the hammer is striking the die as you will twist the stock. You do have to turn it while striking, but the stock is small and soft while hot and will twist very easily if you are twisting when the dies are closed during the hammer blow. This is kind of tricky. You can do that after the thread is finished cold, in order to burnish the thread to a shiny finish.



Second, leave the stock slightly thicker at the upper end of the screw for integrity. If you don't it could break off easily at the transition from shank to thread. You do have total control of that as you draw out the screw. Again, putting the stock in all the way and drawing back helps control that aspect, too, as you can apply more hammer blows to the tip, making it thinner.

A final note; if you draw a small point on the tip of the stock before starting, very little file work (sometimes none) is required to get a sharp point on the tip of the screw. Doing this, you should be able to put a corkscrew on the end of just about anything. I prefer to use 3/8" round and split the top doing a reverse scroll on each side for ergonomics, as some corks pull very hard.

Thanks a lot. Good luck with this! It's worked great for me.
Andy



Reprinted from the UMBA Journal Sep-Oct 2011

Shop Tip, Remote Switch By Bob Ehrenberger

Daniel and I made our hydraulic press about 8 years ago by converting an old punch press. The power switch was located near the back close to where the motor was mounted. I'm not sure why, but it seemed like a good idea at the time. I think that it had something to do with having a short piece of flexible conduit to work with, and wanting all the wires to be shielded.

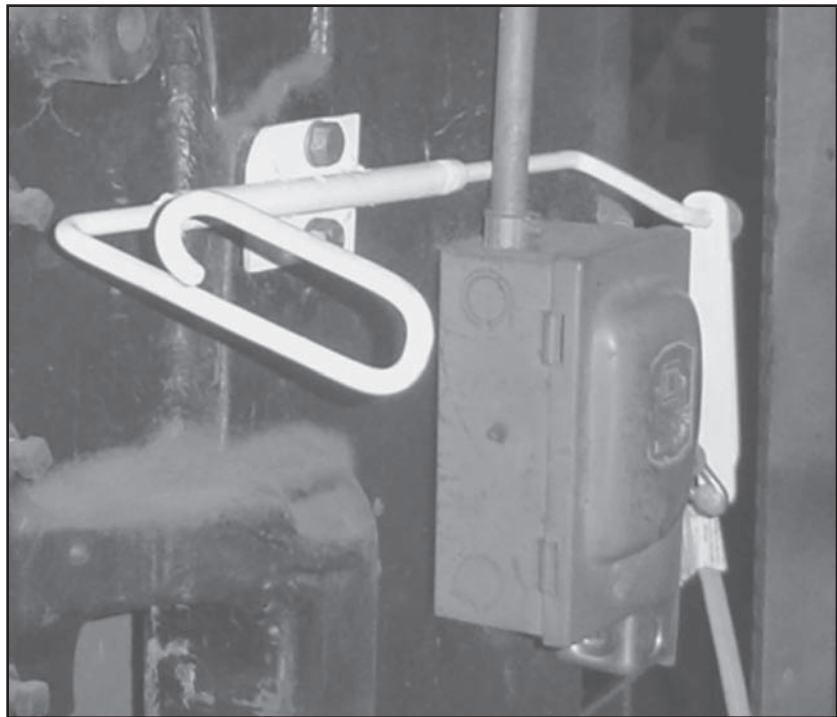
It was always a pain to have to reach back and hit the switch, but it was mainly Daniel's tool for making damascus, so it was his problem.

After Daniel moved out, he sold me the press. It sat idle most of the time until earlier this year when I started making tooling to work sheet metal under it. Now I use it a lot. Instead of standing next to it where the switch is relatively easy to reach, I spend most of my time sitting in front of it. I have to stand up to hit the switch, big pain.

I started thinking of how to make the switch more accessible. If I moved the box forward the handle would still be on the wrong side. I started to try and figure out a system of levers that would operate the switch and use existing holes in the casting. It got pretty ugly until I came up with the idea to use a piece of pipe and a rotating lever.

The I.D. on the pipe is just a hair bigger than a 3/8" rd. I welded it to a piece of 3/16" plate about 3" x 4" which I had drilled to match holes on the frame. I drilled an 1/8" hole on the top side of the pipe to act as an oiler. The switch end of the lever was bent first which allowed me to determine the length of the connecting rod and the location of the collars which positioned the rod in the pipe. The connecting rod is held in place with a cotter key on top and a double nutted carriage bolt on the bottom. Once the switch side was complete, I cut off the excess rod and bent the lever on the Hossfeld.

I really like my new remote switch. It makes both hot and cold work much more convenient.





President's Message:

Why Rapid City, South Dakota?

It all started when our very own, Jill Turman, ventured out to Rapid City, South Dakota to do a demo for the School of Mines representing ABANA. What she came back with was excitement and a commitment from the School and Rapid City to help ABANA put on a great conference. We were also very lucky to gain a great board member and conference Co-Chair Jack Parks who is a Rapid City local! So, Thank You, Jill Turman!

Rapid City holds a lot of hidden gems that will make this conference one of ABANA's best. How about we take a look at a few of them that aided in the board's selection of this site:

1. Rapid City and the School of Mines are excited to have ABANA in town and are working to make special arrangements to make the attendees feel right at home. The School of Mines has been around for over 100 years and has one of the top metallurgy departments in the country. They are opening the doors to their dorms, cafeteria, classrooms, and lecture halls for us. Creating yet another option for saving money on eats and sheets! The Rapid City Visitor's Bureau has from the beginning gone above and beyond to assist us in any way possible. I cannot give too much away yet on this, but expect some really cool things to be announced soon...

2. The membership has spoken! The Memphis conference was catered to the suggestions of the membership on what you were looking for. The post conference survey gave us honest info on what worked and what still needs work. We have taken it to heart and are making improvements based on your feedback. There will still be on site camping, affordable ticket prices, better food vendors, happening later in the summer, teaching tent, more variation in demonstrations, campus involvement for eats and sheets options, and more.

3. Being in Rapid City means the whole family will get something out of the trip. Moving the conference

dates into mid to late July allows for grade school and college to be out on summer break and before they start back up. This means the whole family can take a vacation to one of the most historic places in the country. Mount Rushmore is nearby along with Crazy Horse Mountain, and the experience of the Black Hills creates a pioneer spirit deep in your being that cannot be matched anywhere. Now the ABANA 2012 Conference can become one part of the memories and experiences you can have with your whole family in one of the most beautiful and meaningful places in the United States.

4. Being in the Dakotas also gets us closer to our Upper Midwest and Canadian members. The beauty and challenge in moving our conference around is to reach the multifaceted regions of our North American membership!

5. "Reunion on the Plains" is the theme. And the idea is to create a conference that brings back together all the members of our blacksmithing family. The knife makers, traditionalists, artists, hobbyists, professionals, and everything in between. This is certainly going to be a family reunion of sorts...just without that crazy uncle who always tells the awkward stories of when you were a kid (okay maybe that is just my family reunions!)

There is a lot more that can be listed out here. But, I think you get the picture! We wanted to give you a conference that has more than blacksmithing at the core. July 18-21, 2012 will bring a sense of unity to our amazing craft while inspiring a renewed sense of wonder into the possibilities within it and within your potential behind the anvil. It will also bring a perfect opportunity for your family or you alone to see some of the great wonders, both natural and man-made. It will also allow us to build life long memories with the lingering smell of coal smoke in such an inspirational place in North America. Allowing us all to forge ahead into the true potential of our craft and our own imagination, no matter the skill level or interest!

Yours in Service,

Peyton Anderson

Something to think about: The nearby town of Belle Fourche was designated in 1959 as the geographic center of the United States. So, see...Rapid City isn't that far away from you after all!!!

Buy, Sell, Trade

Individual Classified ads

For sale: 50-LB Little Giant Power Hammer Number K-7062. I added a fused Square D disconnect switch, new power cord and plug, a pitman wrench, wood base, belt guard, oil reservoir caps, a step to aid top oiling, a dual tang die carriage, flywheel brake and swing-away spring guard. I oiled it daily with Stihl chainsaw bar oil. Also have spare parts worth several hundred dollars. \$3500. Contact Persimmon Forge, David or Betty Edwards, 3008 Hacienda Ct., Emporia, Kansas 66801, (620) 343-1947, djedwards@cableone.net

For sale: 2 burner clam shell gas forge, inside dimensions 17" long 6" hi in middle. Built to Jay Hayes specs \$500.00. 60 lb. anvil \$100.00 Rolling metal forge work bench \$200.00 Lincoln weld pack 100 wire welder .035 inner shield wire \$400.00 Dan Hodgeman POBox 351 Versailles Mo 65084 815-520-0077

For Sale: #2 hossfeld bender \$500,00, # 2 beverly shear \$450.00, Yater cone \$500, Dillon torch \$200. Circle stairs made by Jerry Hoffman \$400. Colin Campbell 636 583 3512

For Sale: Power Hammer instruction DVDs. \$125 per set. Clifton Ralph, 4041 W 47st, Gary, Indiana, 46408 (219)980-4437

Commercial / Resource ads

Services:

Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened. Remove blades from shear and ship to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670 \$35 plus postage, additional cost for deep notches or blades previously sharpened at angle.

Custom spinning in copper, brass, pewter, and steel. Contact Ken Markley, 7651 Cabin Creek Lane, Sparta, Ill. 62286. Phone: (618) 317-1958 Fax: (618) 443-5284

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

Roller Blade Treadle Hammers (Clay Spencer design) for Sale or Workshops led to build hammers. Bob Alexander, e-mail to scruboak4@netzero.com, or call 636-586-5350.

Information / Education:

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, or (417)-321-2286 cell

Back issues of Jerry Hoffmann's **Blacksmith's Journal**, Call 1-800-944-6134 for more information.

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

Mathias Penn is offering introductory & beginning blacksmith classes. 417-683-9000 Tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com

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.

The Upper Midwest Blacksmiths Assoc (**UMBA**) **video library.** 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.

Blacksmithing E-books on CD

Now eight titles are available on CD, \$4/each, or all eight books, \$24 postpaid. More books are in production and will be available soon- order on-line at www.blacksmithingebooks.com, or check/MO to Brian Gilbert, 3404 Hartford Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37415.

Ray Clontz Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer

Price is \$30US including postage to US and Canada, \$32US to other countries. Send check or money order 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670, Also, lead workshops for chapters or groups to build 15 to 20 hammers. phone 256 498-1498, cell is 256 558 3658, email is clay@tirehammer.com

New England School of Metalwork

www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com
1-888-753-7502

Power Hammer page

I've taken some time to collect and post old info, catalogs and brochures on power hammers. The link of our NEB web page to this information is: http://www.newenglandblacksmiths.org/power_hammer_info.htm Ralph Sproul

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. Contact: Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722; bobforge@hotmail.com; (563) 332-4800.

Scrub Oak Forge: We still have the SayMak air hammers from Turkey, the Ozark Pattern anvils, and hand hammers. For more info on the tools contact Bob Alexander at 636-586-5350 or scruboak4@netzero.net

Buy, Sell, Trade, Continued

L Brand Forge Coke now packaged in 50 pound bags on pallets. Send your zip code for a quote on price including delivery. 1-678-360-3521 or LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com.

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 a full line of blacksmithing equipment. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard.

D.L. Schwartz Co. **Blacksmith and Farrier supplies**.
2188 S. US 27, Berne, In. 46711, 1-800-955-3064

Chile Forge- Next generation **gas forges**
www.chileforge.com David Starr 520/360-2141

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

Persimmon Forge **PEDAL HAMMER** sit down treadle hammers for sale. Contact Dave or Betty Edwards by e-mail at djedwards@cableone.net, or write us at 3008 Hacienda Ct., Emporia, Ks., 66801, or call us at (620) 343-1947. For more information, go to www.persimmonforge.com and click on both "Pedal Hammer" and "Video Demo of Pedal Hammer."

USA Dealer for **REFFLINGHAUS ANVILS**, 77 to 1250 lb. European 2 horn with or without upsetting block & side shelf. Over 100 sizes and styles available. Guaranteed face @ HRC59 Dick Nietfeld www.blksmith.com Phone (308) 384 1088

Wanted:

Please make items for the conference auction and boutique.

Demonstrator List

Fred Weisenborn has started a list of members available for demonstrations, fairs, historic events, and festivals, etc.
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 will get you signed up.

Check out back issues of BAM newsletter on bamsite.org.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!



Blacksmith Association of Missouri

ANNOUNCES

21st Ozark Conference

The demonstrators are:

**Smyth Boone
Craig Camerer
George Rousis
Walt Hull**

**Volunteers needed for: Iron in the
Hat, setup and tear down, and help
with training trailer.
Items for auction & boutique.**

May 3rd – MAY 6th 2012

**Watch for information at
bamsite.org**

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 Valley Trail,
Freeburg, MO. 65035

5. Jeff Willard 417-742-4569 or 417-827-2123
612 John F. Kennedy
Willard, Mo. 65781

6. Joe Hurley (660) 379-2365 or 660-626-7824
Rt1 Box 50
Downing, MO. 63536

7 Paul Lankford, 573-473-7082
25849 Audrain Co. Road 820,
Mexico, MO 65265

8. Bob Maes, 573-866-3811
Rt. 1 Box 106 K
Millersville, MO. 63766

Price \$14.00 per bag BAM members, \$15.00 per bag Non-members, \$12.00 per bag at Bob Alexander's
Coal keepers earn \$3.00 a bag. NOTE: PRICE CHANGE

A. Non BAM coal \$.40/lb check \$.35/lb cash bring your own containers. Tim Johnson Springfield, MO 417-886-8032
B. Matthias Penn Oklahoma coal Price, 25cents/pound for any amount. Located in Ava, MO. 417-683-9000
E-mail: tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events:

December 2-3 Hand hammer class. Mark Hemmer, Pacific, MO 636-938-4120

January 1 - Application deadline for February Scholarship awards.

January 14th, 2012-BAM Meeting A & K Cooperage, Higbee, MO 660-456-7561 Food will be available.

Trade item: Something with a heart.

January 21 **Newsletter submission deadline**

March 17th, 2012 - BAM Meeting Hank Knickmeyer, Cedar Hill, MO 636-285-3210

Trade item: Multipurpose tool

March 24-25 Hammer-In Scott County Park, Long Grove, Iowa, Bob Tuftee 563-349-3369

April 1 - Application deadline for May Scholarship awards

May 3rd-6th -**BAM Ozark Conference**, Sedalia, MO contact Mike McLaughlin cowpie42@hotmail.com

May 18,19 AACB Conference Murfreesboro, Tenn. for more information: www.appalachianblacksmiths.org

May, 2012-BAM meeting Ned Digh, Ham's Prairie 573-642-9502

July 1 - Application deadline for August Scholarship awards.

July 18-21 ABANA conference, Rapid City, South Dakota.

July21 - BAM meeting Listerville, MO. Bonnie Hendrickson 573-637-2576

September 2012 - BAM meeting Fred Arnhold, Bates City, MO.

October 1 - Application deadline for November Scholarship awards.

November 2012 - BAM meeting Ed Harper, Browning, MO

August -2012 Missouri State Fair Sedalia, MO contact Kent Harbit (660)-647-2349 to volunteer

Shop Tip by Phil Cox

I am passing this on from another source. When using a wax/oil based finish and the wax builds up in the corners and such, the best way to get it out is with an air hose, just blow it out while still fresh. It will leave the finish on your work, it just takes away the excess

New Members

If you have a new member near you, welcome him to the group and show him the ropes.

Bodenhamer, Christopher

RR 1 Box 79A

Drexel, MO 64742

c_hammer82@yahoo.com

816-657-2921

Hardeman, Bryon

P.O. Box 280

Gray Summit, MO 63039

314-307-1525

Kimble, Robert

894 C.R. 1067

Auxvassem, MO 65231

573-386-5707

Wilson, Randy

12629 Van Cleve Drive

Licking, MO 65542

417-260-2932

Cranston, Jason

5037 West 7th Street

Joplin, MO 64801

cranstonjc@yahoo.com

417-317-4856

Hixson, Jim

5318 SW McCulloch Road

Plattsburg, MO 64477

jim19844@hotmail.com

816-370-2231

Rowland, Roger

P.O. Box 393

Unalaska, AK 99685

907-581-5881

Woodbury, Philip Bruce

6601 W Alspaw Road

Harrisburg, MO 65256

pbwoodbury@gmail.com

573-239-2390

Evans, David

5550 N. Adrian

Kansas City, MO 64151

daveydawg@kc.rr.com

816-678-3197

Jackson, Timothy

1105 Jackson Drive

Liberty, MO 64068

sirt:msemp:re@yahoo.com

816-415-9440

Self, Joey

4307 Hwy 166N

Maynard, AR 72444

roscoop48@yahoo.com

870-647-1000

Haigh, David

1231 Delaware

Lawrence, MO 66044

david7haigh@yahoo.com

785-766-3497

Johnston, Roy

P.O. Box 30

Foley, MO 63347

royjohnston@centurytel.net

636-662-2126

Waner, Dr. Gary

1427 Grandview Drive

Warrensburg, MO 64093

gankk@embarqmail.com

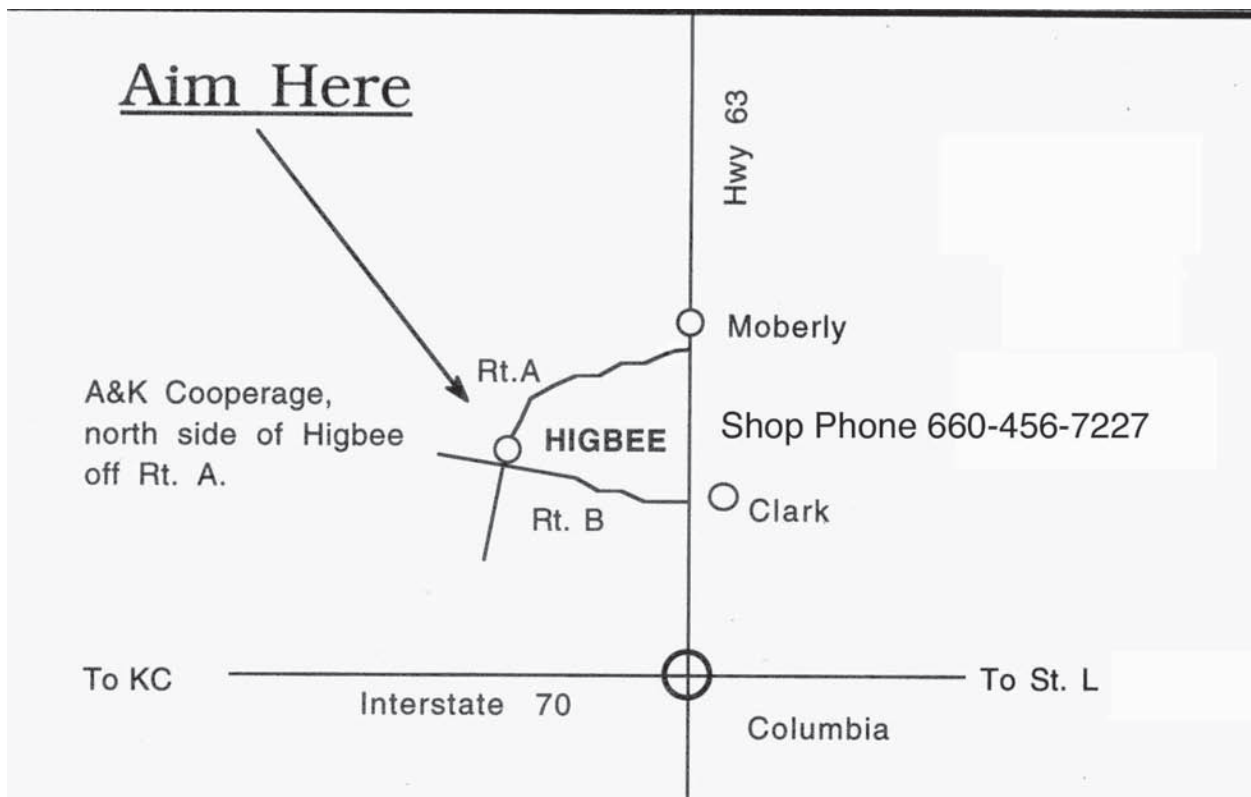
660-429-6977

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@att.net

Next Meeting: January 14th Higbee, MO.



Location:
A&K Cooperage
Higbee, MO

Host: Dale Kirby
Phone: 660-456-7561

Food: Yes
Trade item:
Something with a heart.