

BAM

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013



Contents

Editorial

5 From the Editor

Rolla, MO

6 Minutes from the November meeting

The Prez Says

7 Doug Clemons' President's letter.

Split Cross

8 Lou Mueller demo at the Doug Hendrickson Hammer-in

Towel Ring

10 Walt Hull demo at the Doug Hendrickson Hammer-in.

Rails & Leaves

12 Don Birdsall demo at the November meeting.

Trade Items

14 Art Objects

Boy Scouts

16 Merit Badge workshop at NedCo Forge.

Beginner's Class

18 Beginner's Class in Shelbyville.

Homemade Anvils

19 Three more anvils to inspire you.

Top of the World

20 Ned Digh looks for blacksmiths in Alaska.

ABANA

22 Information from ABANA

Classified Ads

24 Ads - Personal / Business

Coal map

26 BAM Coal locations.

Scheduling

27 Upcoming Events and new members.



Lou Mueller demo page 8.



Walt Hull demo page 10



ABANA update pages 22, 23



COAL Map pg 26



Meeting Map pg 28

**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

Volume 30 No. 6

November-December 2013

Editor

Bob Ehrenberger

Contributing Writers

Ned Digh

Mike Gorzel

Photo Contributions

Bob Ehrenberger

Ned Digh

Bruce Herzog

Mike Gorzel

President's Message

Doug Clemons

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 \$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@charter.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.

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

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

BAM,
c/o Bruce Herzog
2212 Aileswick Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63129

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

MasterCard VISA Check/Money Order

Card Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Exp. Date
(Required)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Checks must be in U.S. currency

SEND RENEWAL TO:

ABANA Central Office

259 Muddy Fork Rd, Jonesborough, TN 37659

Dues Distribution:

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

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



Officers:

President
Doug Clemons

1st Vice President
Fred Arnhold

2nd Vice President
Phil Cox

Secretary
Don Anders

Treasurer/Membership
Bruce Herzog
Treasurer/Conference
Kent & Deanna Harbit

Web site
www.bamsite.org

Web Master
Bernie Tappel
tappel@embarqmail.com

Scholarship Chair
Larry Hults

Mobile Training Station
Denis Yates

Librarian
Karen Bouckaert

Conference Chair
Mike McLuaghlin

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

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri.

From the Editor

By Bob Ehrenberger

The summer heat is over and things are really cooling off. This is the perfect time of year to spend time in the shop. So get out there and pound some iron. This last week we had the first significant rain since early May when we got 3.5" over two days. My ground was so dry there was almost no runoff, so my pond is still 2 foot low.

There was a great turnout for the November meeting at Don Birdsall's shop near Rolla. The temp was in the low 50's but I felt colder than that because I didn't dress warm enough. I wore an old BAM T shirt for the group picture celebrating BAM's 30th anniversary. Some of the guys put their T shirts on over sweaters, but I didn't think of that. Like usual Don had his shop in great shape for the meeting. My shop has never been that clean and well organized, I had started moving stuff into it before it was finished and have never caught up.

The trade items were all excellent. I confess that I couldn't decide what to make, and then I was getting pressure to deliver an order, so instead of just slapping something together I decided to pass this time.

Don took care of the demonstrating himself. First he talked about using diluted Naval Jelly as an undercoat on rusty iron. Then he showed how he cold forged a pipe into a hand real "cap rail" and how he forged the stand off that connects the cap rail to the pickets. Finally he showed how he forged leaves under the trip hammer.

The Doug Hendrickson memorial demonstration was a big success again. I didn't make it, and no one has stepped up to write about it so the report will be a bit lean. Thankfully Bruce has provided pictures, so we will get a feel for what

went on. Lou Mueller and Walt Hull were the demonstrators.

The beginner's class in my shop went well. There was a lot of interest, I could have filled it twice over. Former apprentice Thomas Ratliff helped both days, Rick Meyer helped the first day and Scott Stager helped the second day. Last year I taught out of the First Fires manual but didn't have any to pass out. This year I re-mastered the manual and had them printed up for the students to refer to when they got home. I think next year I will move the class to the summer and on consecutive days, so the students won't have to do so much driving.



Bernie Tappel is updating the demonstrator list on the website so if you want to be added please contact Bernie. It seems that there are more and more people contacting BAM to get demonstrators.

The Oklahoma group (SCABA) are having a tire hammer build. They have invited BAM to join them. There is more information on Page 25.

A couple issues ago I posted the information on getting into the Missouri Arts TAAP Apprenticeship program. If any BAM mem-

bers got in I would like to hear from you, even if it is just a picture of your project.

Long time BAM member Colin Campbell of Union, MO died on Oct 10th. He was one of the first to join BAM after we were formed and had a knack for finding blacksmith tools which he would pass on to other BAM members via horse trading.

Correction: In the last newsletter I had a trade item labeled unknown. It turns out that it was made by Ken Jansen "the unknown blacksmith"

Mike Gorzel has been scanning back issues of our newsletter and Bernie is posting them on the web site. So check them out at bamsite.org.

I am going to be the main demonstrator for the January meeting. I would like at least one other demonstrator to help out in the morning. Please contact me if you are interested.

I'm still looking for pictures and stories about homemade anvils. If you have one please send me the info on it.

The next Newsletter submission deadline is January 18th.

Homemade inversion table



BAM MEETING FOR November 2013

meeting by Don & Jeanette Birdsall

Minutes by Don Anders

Treasure's report given by Bruce Herzog BAM.

Demonstration by Don Birdsall.

President Doug spoke about the recent demo at Lou's. It was paid for from the Doug Hendrickson fund. The fund is built up from donations, please think about a donation.

Mike McLaughlin spoke about the 2014 BAM conference. There is always plenty of work for volunteers. If you have something to show off, put it in the gallery. Tools are needed for the iron in the hat tool boxes. Think about an item for the boutique or the auction.

The Oklahoma group is putting together a spare-tire hammer workshop, if you are interested check their website.

Bob Ehrenberger had a big turnout for his MTS class, we probably need more of them around the state.

Chris Miller said to try to make the BAM March meeting in Doniphan, it should be a good time.

Meeting adjourned.

TRADE ITEM (ART ITEM)

MADE BY	TRADED TO
Steve McCarthy	Bob Stormer
Seth Lancaster	John Gries
Mel robinett	Fred Arnhold
Mark Lawson	Chris Miller
Phil Cox	Seth Lancaster
Fred Arnhold	Dan Wedemeyer
John Gries	Mark Lawson
Bob Stormer	Tony Brooks
Chris Miller	John Huff
Mark Clifford	Mel Robinett
Don Birdsall	Bernie Tappel
Dan Wedemeyer	Mark Clifford
John Huff	Don Nichols
Don Nichols	Matthew Burnett
Bernie Tappel	Steve McCarthy
Randy Carrier	Don Birdsall
Matthew Burnett	Phil Cox
Tony Brooks	Randy Carrier

IRON IN THE HAT

DONATED BY	ITEM	WON BY
Don Nichols	disc & pins	Mark Clifford
John Huff	horseshoe&file	Ory Harbit
Walt Hull	demo piece	Don Davies
Lou's dumpster	clamps	Mel Robinett
Mike McLaughlin	grinding wheel	Matthew Burnett
Lou Mueller	demo piece	Don Grammond
Dan Wedemeyer	garage spring	Don Anders
Ray Scott	Books	Earl Million
Seth Lancaster	screws	Mel Robinett
Seth Lancaster	saws	Kyle Huthson
Don Birdsall	spring	Cele Lewis
ABANA	ABANA T-shirt	Mike McLaughlin
Don Birdsall	jack hammer	Mike McLaughlin
Earl Million	bearing races	Tony Brooks
Mark Lawson	lg bolt&nuts	Doug Clemons
Dan Wedemeyer	grader blade	Earl Million
Steve McCarthy	RR clamps	Ory Harbit
Lou's dumpster	clamps	Doug Clemons
Don Anders	stainless steel	Jeff Collins
Don Birdsall	assort chisel	Mike McLaughlin
Chris Miller	Jack hammer bit	Sean Seed
Seth Lancaster	tongs	Jeff Collins
ABANA	ABANA T-shirt	Mike McLaughlin
Chris Miller	springs	Earl Million
Don Birdsall	chain breaker	John Huff
Donald Davies	bell reducers	Mel Robinett
Mike McLaughlin	key rings	Chris Miller
Donald Davies	piece steel	John Huff
Donald Davies	oxy orange	Karen Bouckaert
Donald Davies	Apron	Don Birdsall

President's Message

Greetings:

Here it is November already. Nancy and I just got back from the November meeting hosted by Don Birdsall at his shop near Rolla, Mo. Don was the demonstrator and did a fine job. I am sure there will be more about the demonstration somewhere else in the newsletter. Don is very organized with everything he does and it shows in his shop. Even what some would call his scrap piles are organized.

BAM celebrates it's 30th Anniversary this month and we recognized that with a cake and a group picture at the November meeting. I can not imagine that the founding members could have foreseen the club expanding as much as it has. As I understand at the beginning it was just a dozen or so guys who wanted to preserve and promote the nearly lost art of traditional blacksmithing. We as a group owe them a large debt for what they have done. Otherwise many of us would still be tinkering around our shops wondering what to do with these old tools that were left here.

Actually I still do that a lot, but many of you have become accomplished blacksmiths. I had an old forge and anvil that my dad had on the farm but I don't remember anyone ever using them for anything. My dad bought the forge at a sale but never used it that I remember. I tried to do something with it. I bought books and even ordered some expensive blacksmith coal but it was not until I joined BAM that I actually learned how to do anything. So thank you to our founders for the initiative that has provided the rest of us with these opportunities.

I recently received information about the upcoming 2014 ABANA conference. The conference is planned for August 13-16 in Harrington, Delaware. The theme of the conference is: Joinery: Come Make Connections. They have set the price at \$175.00 for members and further discounted that price to \$125 if you register before January 15 2014. For non-ABANA members the price is \$50 more. If you are not an ABANA member and are planning to attend, you may want to consider joining since for another \$5 you can join ABANA and get the Anvil's Ring magazine and the Hammer's

Blow magazine and have access to scholarships and other benefits. To join ABANA or register for the conference go to the ABANA website: www.abana.org. If I can remember I will try to have copies to register at the January meeting.

This is somewhat amusing to me at least. I have a paperback book that I've had for a long time called *The Hammer, King of Tools*. I use it a lot to identify odd looking hammers and other tools that I did not know were identified as hammers. I had an idea that since I use the book a lot that I should buy one for our library and maybe another for Iron In The Hat sometime. I have tried to find the book on the internet only to find out that it is very expensive even in used condition. The authors are Ron Baird and Dan Comerford. The address shown for Ron Baird is in Missouri. About half of the book has photos and the rest has patent drawings. The book I have has the authors addresses and telephone numbers. Mine actually has Ron Baird's address blacked out with a magic marker and his telephone number handwritten followed by an ink stamp with his correct address at that time. The book was printed in Columbia, MO by General Printing Service, copyright 1989. I thought about donating mine to our library but I use it so much I would have it checked out all the time myself. I am still looking. If I ever find another copy I will try to buy it for the library.

Our next meeting is January 11 at A & K Cooperage on Higbee, MO hosted by Dale Kirby. The trade item is a handmade tool.

I hope to see you there.

Doug Clemons

Doug Hendrickson Memorial Hammer-In

Lou Mueller and Bonnie Hendrickson get the gathering started.



Lou Mueller Split Cross Demo

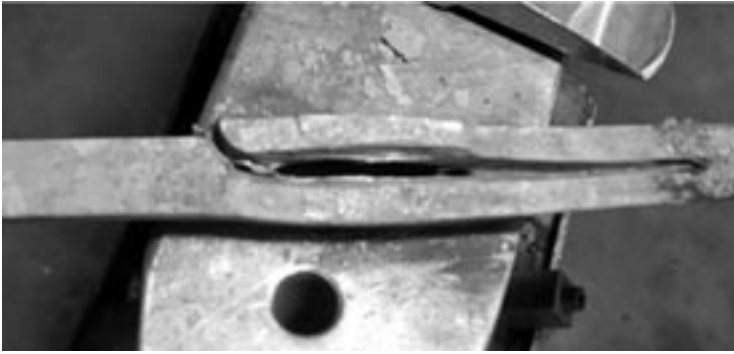


With his son striking, Lou started the first split from the end



The second split starts in the middle and overlaps the first cut. A curved chisel is used to transition from the cut to the face of the bar.

Split Cross Demo continued . . .



The split is starting to open. Lou uses a real thin chisel to cut the web that connects the two sides of the cut.



Lou uses a vice to start opening up the second split.



The first split is driven down over a hardie to start opening it.



Lou finishes opening the cross on the anvil by hammering it flat.



Lou holding the finished cross.

Walt Hull Towel Ring Demo



Walt starts out by figuring out his lengths and stock size.



The taper is started on the edge, leaving a blob for the tenon.



Walt uses a fullering tool to start the tenon in the middle of the blob. It's not very pretty at this stage.



Once he has the length he wants, the taper is cleaned up.



The tenon is formed using a Smith'n Magician type tool. Note: the top die has a notch cut in it to control the diameter of the tenon.



A Monkey tool is used to clean up the shoulder on the tenon.



Towel Ring Demo continued . . .



Make sure the tenon is centered.



When forming into a ring, Walt makes sure that the support and where he hits it, are on the flats to preserve the sharp corners on the piece



The hanger is started with a disk on the end of a bar.



The finished towel ring.

November Demo, Featuring Don Birdsall

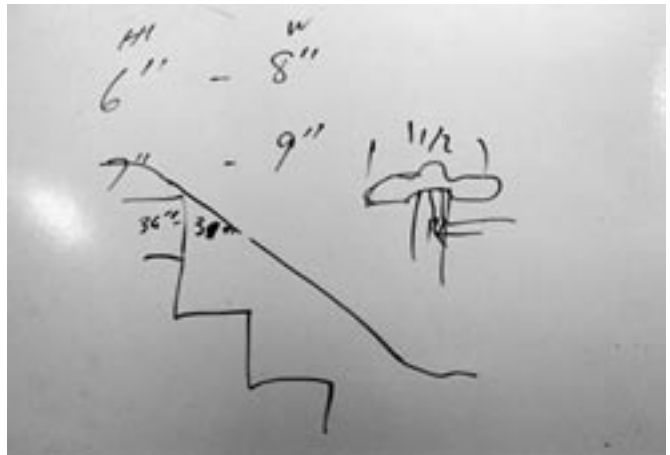


Don started out by talking about how he finishes his outdoor work. He dilutes Navel Jelly and paints it on bare or rusty steel. When it is dry he primes and paints.

Note: Don said the stuff in the second container has the same active ingredient as Navel Jelly so it should work the same, but he hasn't tested it yet.



Don then showed how he cold forges a pipe into the swage above under the trip hammer to make the rail cap.



Don then talked about some of the requirements for stairs and hand rails. Stair risers are to be 6"-7", the treads are 8"-9", and the rail should be 36"-39" above the tip of the tread, the rail cap should be 1 1/2" wide. It is also a good idea to have a foot of horizontal railing at the top and bottom of each stairway.



The finished cap rail has the profile shown here.



The rail support is forged out of 1" rd. The 1" rd. fits nicely into a 1" ID pipe (picket). The most important thing is that it doesn't interfere with the way someone grips the rail.



The support fits into the bottom of the cap rail like this.

Don Birdsall demonstration



For the second part of his demonstration Don showed how he makes a leaf under the trip hammer. He points it and starts the shoulder at the anvil like usual. Then he takes it to the trip hammer and uses a fuller to forge down the center of the leaf.



He then uses the fuller to push the material out to the sides. Once it looks like the leaf on the right, he straightens out the stem and contours the leaf on a hardie tool that has two large ball bearings. Sorry, I didn't get a picture of the finished leaf.



The leaf is then cut off the bar and the stem drawn out and rounded up.

He uses an edge on the anvil to make a recess in the end of the stem which makes the transition to the vine much easier.



Don talked about how instead of taking a rod and trying to bend it to look like a vine he heats up a small coil spring (3/16th diameter) and pulls it straight, but not too straight. With the curves left in the rod, by the time he bends it to fit the current project (railing or trellis) it has a very natural flow.

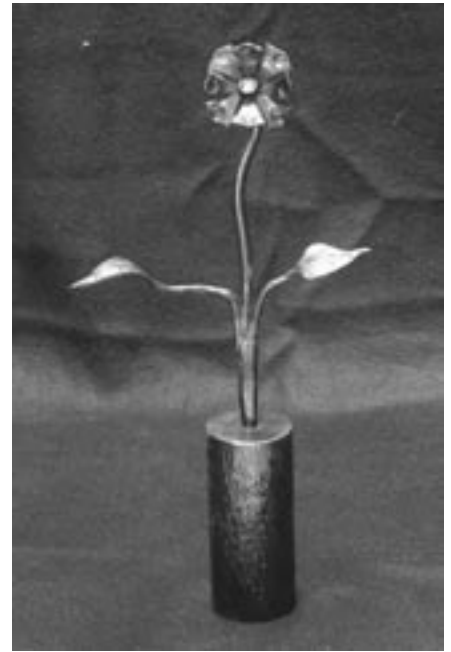
November Trade Items



Phil Cox



Dan Wedemeyer



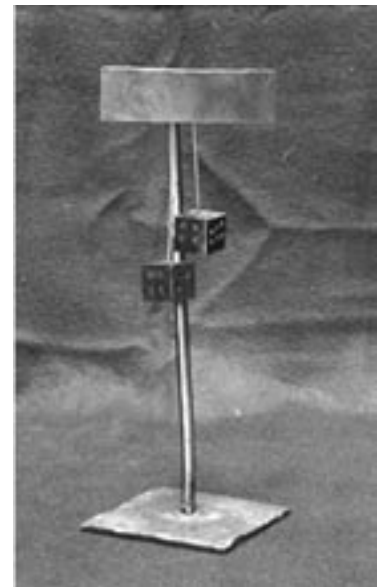
Chris Miller



Mel Robinett



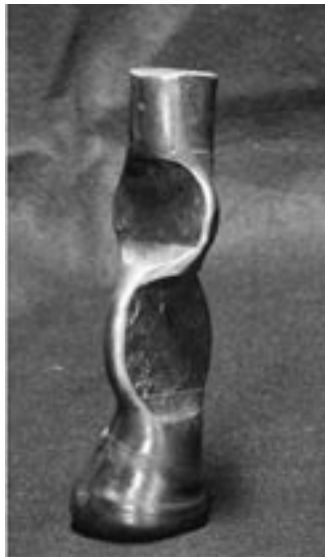
Bernie Tappel



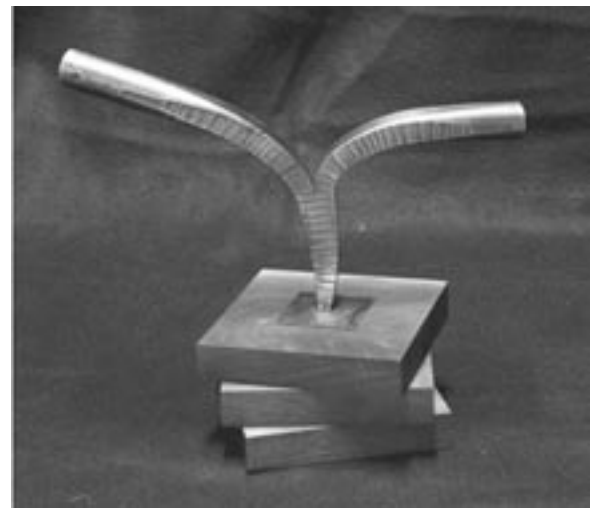
John Grics



Don Nichols



Steve McCarthy



Matthew Burnett

November Trade Items



Tony Brooks

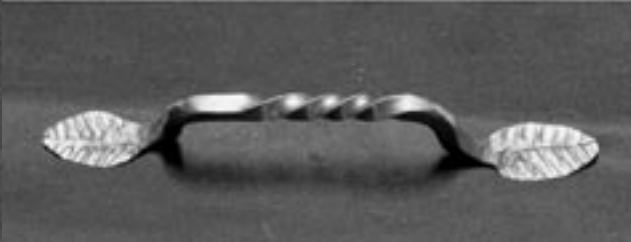


Mark Clifford

Bob Stormer

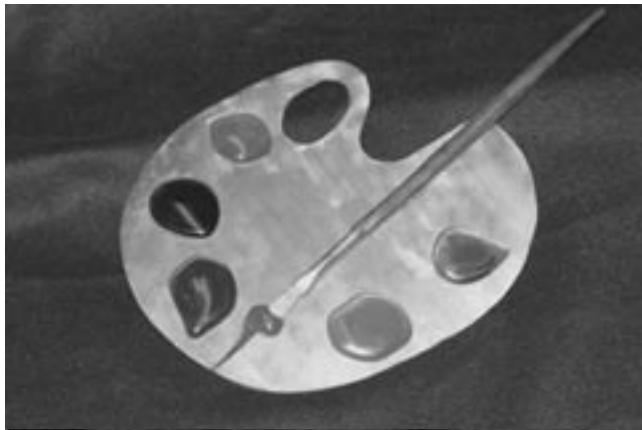


Seth Lancaster

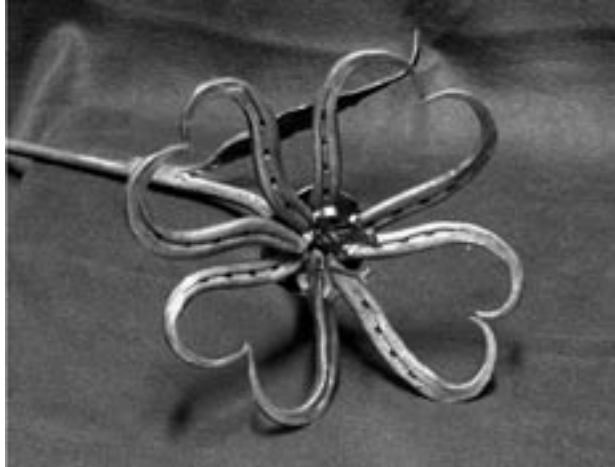
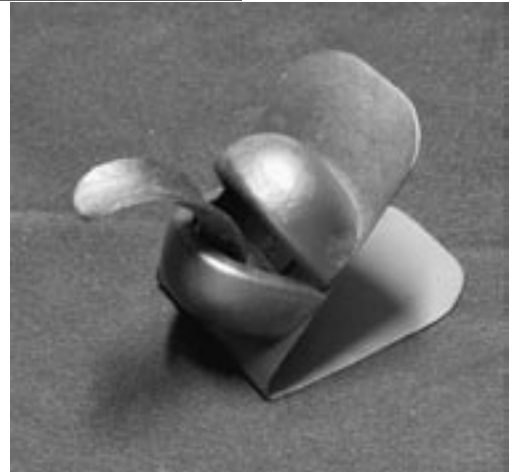


Fred Arnhold

Don Birdsall



Mark Lawson



John Huff

Randy Carrier



Two For the Price of None

The Boy Scout Merit Badge workshop

By Mike Gorzel

I organized a group of 14 Boy Scouts that were interested in earning the Metalwork Merit badge. I knew fellow BAM members have run these workshops in the past. Having just started the art of blacksmithing last December, I knew I need to have some people with more knowledge, skill and equipment than I had to be able to pull this off.

Esther and Ned Digh agreed to host yet another scout merit badge workshop for Boy Scout Troop 72 from St. Peters, MO at Nedco Forge. After many emails back and forth and getting some instructors confirmed we had a plan in place with only one final detail left to cover, the cost per student. While talking with Ned I asked him "How much do we need to bring to cover your cost?" Ned simply said "Scouts never pay in my shop." This came as a big surprise, of course. He was going to host two metalwork merit badge workshops at no cost to the scouts

I talked to Ed Durrill a few times about how the class was going to run. Being a new Metalwork merit badge counselor we decided to have Ed run the classes, but during the second class I would do the demos. During the lecture part I planned to keep good mental and written notes on the history stuff he was presenting.

So after hours of prep work cutting, moving and setting up for the class by Ned and Esther, Gary Boyd, (maybe a few others I did not mention) a few days before the first class on Saturday, September 14th, the instructors were ready for the first group of boys and a couple of adults. The 4 boys got up early to meet at the Kohl-Jeck VFW post 2866 that sponsors the troop for the 1 hour 45 min. drive to Hams Prairie, MO from St. Charles, MO for the 9 AM class.

When we arrived, Ed Durrill, the head instructor, and merit badge counselor, Tom Patterson, Gary Boyd, and of course Esther and Ned were there ready for the boys and myself. The first thing covered was shop safety. Next Ned discussed the different types of



anvils. We then got the forges started and went over how to complete a square taper the end of a length of metal that will later become an "S" hook with a twist after the taper has been rounded, the middle squared off and the other end tapered. Then Ed covered a brief history of blacksmithing.

The next project was to create a kind of squared "J" hook. The hook had one end flattened with a hole for a screw to hang it later. The boys used the anvil to square the first 90 degree bend. The second bend the vice was used to finish the

bend. We then had the students join some metal pieces together by riveting them together with annealed steel rivets and pop rivets. Some of the boys used the manual pop rivet gun other opted for the pneumatic pop rivet gun.



After lunch and some great brownies that the one of the Dighs made, I'll let you guess who made them, we got back to work on the requirements for the merit badge. Esther showed us all how to do some enameling on copper, talked about how to do repousse and how to work harden and anneal copper. I was looking forward to this myself.

All I was told was Esther was going to do a copper demo. Ned next showed the boys how a swage block

Boy Scouts continued . . .

worked by making a small bowl or cup

The final step of course was to protect our work from rusting which we did with a mixture of Naptha, Linseed oil and wax applied to warm metal.

This brought us to about 4:30 and the end of the day. So with a few tired arms and some small blisters we loaded the boys in the van and headed home.

For the second class on September 28th we had 7 boys and two adults. Again we met at the VFW hall in St. Charles for the drive out to Nedco forge. This time we had Ed, Gary, Lou Degginger, Ned, Esther and I as the instructors.

The class ran the same except that we had 7 boys this time and 2 adults. There were few heavy rain showers which were quite loud on the metal roof at times and one boy got his fingers burned a little when he grabbed the "cold end" of the large "S" hook. We quickly had his hand in water and Gary was there seconds later with a cooler of ice for the fingers. Fortunately, the burns were not bad and he was able to continue.



Beginner's Class at Ehrenberger Forge

When I had kind of a luke warm response to the beginner's class I held last year, I wasn't sure that I wanted to go to the trouble again. Ken Jansen talked me into giving it another try. This year I not only filled the class, I had a waiting list of as many more wanting to take it. It turned out that half of the class was from Northern Missouri and half of the class was from the St. Louis area. Most of the guys on the waiting list were also from the St. Louis area. We really need a class near St. Louis.

Thomas Ratliff assisted both days while Rick Meyer helped the first day and Scott Stager helped the second. So every forge had an instructor.

Last year I had a lot of work to get ready. I built a third forge, made tongs, and made extra hardie tools. This year wasn't quite so bad. I did some maintenance on the borrowed blower I was using, made tongs, and made some punches and chisels. I also made a full set of hardie tools for my new anvil, but I would have had to do that any way. I sort of cleaned my shop, mainly just enough to make room to set up the extra forges.

The guys all did a good job and completed their exercises and projects. I would have liked to have gotten them through making a pair of tongs like last year, but we ran out of time, and it's kind of extra for a beginner's class any way. I hope they make it to Ken's on Black Friday to make their tongs.



Homemade Anvils

Ken Jansen's Anvil

I am attaching a pic of the anvil I made it weighs 112 lbs. It was made from three sections of 2 by 6 inch forklift fork. I cut the pieces and then torched a fillet groove to within 1/2 inch of the center of the where the two vertical pieces met. I then welded from alternating sides and only short beads at each place on each side until I got it welded up. I turned another piece flat and welded the other two in a "T" configuration. I did the shaping with a portaband and grinder and finished with a flap wheel.

2 by 12 and 14" tall without the stand.
The angle on the butcher section is about 50 degrees

This is patterned after an anvil that Bryan Brazeal brought to a BAM conference. Bryan demonstrated making his fabulous horse heads on it.



Tom Patterson's Anvils

Bob, I was down at Tom Patterson's today and he wanted me to send you a couple of pictures of two homemade anvils he has for your article for the BAM Newsletter. All I know is that Tom did not make either one since he is not very bright!

The first
say it weighs around 20 pounds. The second is the larger of the two and I would guess from 85-90 pounds. It's welded up anvil out of some t
Tom may send you a note and correct all the stuff that I have guessed about!
Mike Gentzsch

Bob, M
sale and the 90lb Shop made anvil at a farm sale. I don't know why the waist was welded together if it was made in someone's shop but then again I don't know why the Hardy hole was round instead of square with no pritchel hole? The only homemade anvil I ever had was a piece of main line RR rail that I used for a couple of years when I first started making knives. Thanks for this and all of the work you do!
Tom P



Searching for a Blacksmith Shop on the Roof of the World

By Ned Digh

An item on my bucket list has been to stand on top of the world, which would require going as far North as possible on the North American Continent. An added feature would be to look for a blacksmith shop. Barrow, Alaska is the most northern city and about 12 miles north is Barrow Point, a former WW II naval base and that is as far as you as one can go without stepping in the Arctic Ocean.

The first stop was Ketchikan, Alaska after an Alaska Marine Highway ferryboat trip from Seattle. The ferry boats are not cruise ships but could be called the Greyhound bus (ferry boats) system of Alaska, transporting people and vehicles between Alaska ports. The ferryboat accommodations were nice except for the ladder to the top bunk in our room, not senior age friendly. Some of the more hearty and younger bring tents with lots of duct tape and camp out on the fantail of the boat.

In the center of Ketchikan, to our surprise, there was a blacksmith demo site as the many shops there are to appeal to cruise boat tourists. The blacksmith owner has a shop several miles outside of town and we did not get to meet him but his assistant and a high school student manned the demo site. The blacksmith assistant is a Russian emigrant; his parents brought him to the U.S. when he was quite young. He said he sells quite a few knives made from RR spikes and he likes Ron Gunther's "Super Quench". When discussing his equipment, he said that used blacksmith equipment, especially anvils, is hard to find in Alaska and priced high. The high school student was making hooks and hangers from some free material they get from the fishing boats and selling to the tourists.

The next stopping point was Anchorage and driving to Palmer for the Alaska State Fair where blacksmith Mark Couch, a farrier and blacksmith, annually does a demo. Mark attended a class at Tom Clark's school once and I had corresponded by email two years ago when we were preparing to fly out to the Aleutian Islands to do WW II research and maybe find a blacksmith shop. In addition to a busy farrier schedule, Mark does a lot of custom blacksmith work from decorative house items to door locks. There have been many zucchini messages on Around the Anvil; Esther at the Alaska State Fair took the attached zucchini photo.



The next leg of the trip was to fly to Barrow; the flight was filled with Eskimos and people working for the oil and gas industry. While waiting in the Anchorage airport for a couple of hours, an Eskimo gentleman waiting for the same flight hugged and warmly greeted every Eskimo that came to that area. I cornered him and asked about possibly finding a blacksmith shop in the Barrow area. He quickly brushed me off and went back to greeting Eskimos. I found out later that he is a former mayor of Barrow and currently has a humpty-hump political position in Washington, D.C.; obviously I don't look like a voter from his neighborhood.

From the airplane, the terrain reminded me of the bottoms along the Missouri River after the floods of 93 and 95, mud holes and bare ground. On the ground, the uninhabited land had tundra, which looks like good pasture but we are told it is squishy and covers uneven ground, which is risky to walk on. Many of the natives live in small huts among lots assets, which makes the surrounding area to my shop look neat.



The search for a blacksmith shop in Barrow failed but we did find an Eskimo knife maker. At a native workshop, several men were there doing scrimshaw on whale bone (baleen) and one man was making knives. He makes knives from stainless steel and high carbon steel with handles from caribou horns, walrus tusks, and whalebones. He is a quality craftsman, astute about metal and able to hold his own answering questions from an outsider. He had finished a SS knife and was working on a high carbon steel knife. Holding up the SS knife, I asked, "what kind of SS is this?" he replied, "I don't know, "I buy it a NAPA, I buy big knives (think machete) and cut out a piece of metal to make a knife". I laughed and made a comment that NAPA sells auto parts. He countered my skepticism by saying "up here, NAPA also sells shotguns, pistols, ammo, and all sorts of sporting equipment". I asked if the knife made of high carbon steel would rust and with a tinkle in his eye, he said, "I don't know about that because I sell them quickly". My final question was how did he learn to make knives and he said it was a family tradition, his dad taught him and his grandfather taught his dad.

On the Internet, I read a lot about Waterman Joe's private museum, which has 35 years of collections of anything and everything. Lucky for us Waterman Joe Shults and his brother Mike flew on the flight with us from Anchorage to Barrow. Mike graciously agreed to be our tour guide while in Barrow, including a private tour of Waterman Joe's museum. The museum did not have any blacksmith related items but has an enormous amount of items related to living on the North Slope and native artifacts.

Barrow is a whaling community and the natives still harvest whales twice a year. One Eskimo gentleman working part time in the local grocery store was eager to talk to us about whaling. The Eskimos are very proud of their culture and when walking around town, one man gave Esther and me Eskimo names. Mine was short but Esther's was too long to remember. The natives have an alcohol problem and the sale of alcohol is strictly controlled by the State of Alaska. A tradition of the Eskimos in this area is to hug when they greet each other. We attended church and Esther got a lot of hugs but I only got one and she doesn't look any more Eskimo than I do, maybe my hair style turns them off.

Mike Shults took us to Barrow Point and we stood on the edge of the Arctic Ocean. I asked if any local idiots do the Polar Bear Plunge in the Arctic Ocean, our guide laughed and said he had done it twice. On the subject of polar bears, Mike said only one polar bear had been seen in Barrow during this calendar year and if we happened to see one while with him, he would outrun us.



Knife Maker



Ketchikan Demo Booth



Mark Couch at AK State Fair





From the President

Dear Members,

ABANA is 40 years old and we had a great convention in Columbus, Georgia to celebrate it! I thought this would be a good time for you to hear from our 2nd Vice President and founding member, Peter Renzetti.

Thank You,

David Hutchison

Communication and Sharing

Well, here we are, after celebrating the 40th anniversary of ABANA on March 17, 2013; we look to our future with enthusiasm. At the convention, seven of the original “founding fathers” were able to attend. We installed a plaque on the forge door commemorating the event. The remembrances of our founding days and what inspired us to dive in deeper to discovery and sharing was very uplifting. The weather was perfect, as if we were blessed, and the demonstrations and presentations were inspiring. There were over 200 attendees at the Westville, GA site, with local groups demonstrating as well. The banquet had over 100 people with good food, great conversations, and wonderful memories to share. Sadly, as time goes on, there will be less of us founders to pass on what we know, and share what was given to us. I was, and am, very proud to be one of the founding members. And I am doing my best to serve ABANA as a board member. I also think of ABANA as a team. We have to work together to advance ourselves and others. To promote, practice, and share all that we have for the future of the craft. Communication is the key to any successful endeavor. We are here to serve the membership with information, resources, guidance, and inspiration. We ask that you, the members, share with us your ideas, tips of the trade, and articles of interest. Also, please share what (or who) inspired you to further your knowledge of the smithing trade. We are working hard to improve and upgrade our website and resource network. We ask that you share what you have so that we can make it available to us all. Actively participating by sharing and passing on your inspiration (along with your renewal membership) is the glue that holds us together. As the old saying goes, “united we stand, divided we fall.” Sometimes a few well-thought words mean more than volumes. My favorite is, “the more we share, the more we have.” What is really neat is that it works just as well in reverse—“the more we have, the more we share.” So take a few minutes, think about our team, send in your dues, articles to share, ideas, etc.—and tell us what is on your mind. We’ll listen and pass it on!!

Cheers,

Peter A. Renzetti

‘The Unknown Blacksmith’

ABANA Conference



Conference Details Here:

www.abana.org/2014

ABANA 2014 Conference planning is under way. The only thing that can make this better is affiliate representation in the gallery, sponsor support, banner displays, and much more. Affiliates are encouraged to set up an information table, at no cost, to share with everyone what you are doing. Feel free to bring your “colors” and display your banner too.

As always, we need sponsors (individuals and organizations) to all aspects of the conference. With a monetary donation you can sponsor a demonstrator, tent, gallery, set up crew, or anything you think is representative of your affiliate. There are some specific amounts for certain aspects, but ABANA wants any support you can give. Your Affiliate name will be proudly displayed in the area of your support along with a listing in the conference booklet.

Please contact Bill Clemens or David Hutchison if you are interested in supporting the conference:_
billclemens@abana.org -- (570) 239-6439.
davidhutchison@abana.org - (410) 310-3347
Central Office (423)913-1022

Registration Fees:

ABANA Members - \$175 - **\$125 before 15 Jan 2014** - Late Registration - \$225 after 1 Jul 2014
For Non-Members - \$225 - **\$175 before 15 Jan 2014** - Late Registration - \$275 after 1 Jul 2014
Membership ID is required to Register at the Member Rate
Family Members - \$40 each for Spouse, and Children 12- 17, Children Under 12 Free

All paid Registrations before 1 Jul 2014 Receive an Official Conference Tee Shirt at Check-In (Doesn't apply to Children under 12)

Buy, Sell, Trade

Individual Classified ads

For Sale: 4 ft. Cone Mandrel \$450 Pick Up Only
Champion 400 hand-crank Blower w/Stand \$100 Pick Up Only
(Smithin Magician type) Guillotine forging Tool w/ 2 1/2 x7/8
H-13 die blank. New \$150
Edwards #20 mechanical Shear. Good blades \$100 Pick Up
Only
Anvil's Ring Magazine collection (24yrs.) 1989-2013 \$480
Roy Plumlee, 6271 Swan Rd., Tamaroa, IL 62888. Ph. 618-496-
3198 Cell 618-534-2013. e-mail: royplumlee@frontiernet.net

Commercial / Resource ads

Services:

Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened. Remove blades from shear and ship to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670 \$41 includes return postage, additional cost for deep notches or blades previously sharpened at angle.

Little Giant-- We can do repairs on any or all components of your Little Giant front assembly. Contact Roger Rice, Midwest Machine, 6414 King Road, Nebraska City, Nebraska 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

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.

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

oldschoolcrafts Blacksmith School, Joe Davis 12625 Lawrence 1175, Mt Vernon, MO 65712 phone 417-461-0387 on the web www.oldschoolcrafts.org E-Mail oldschoolcrafts@hotmail.com

David Norrie blacksmithing school in Colorado
David Norrie 303-859-0770 <http://www.forgewithintention.com>
or <http://www.davidnorrie.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

Send check/money order for \$30 to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013. Includes postage to US and Canadian addresses. Other countries e-mail clay@tirehammer.com for price. 256-558-3658. Tire Hammers for sale contact me for current price.

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

Rochester Arc & Flame Center! Featuring Blacksmithing, Welding & Glass Blowing Over 30 classes available for all levels of interest, rocafc.com 585-349-7110

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

Products:

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

Heavy-Duty Fry Pan Blanks 9" diameter, tapered sides 12 or 13 gauge steel (approx. 2 pounds) no predrilled holes for the handle \$12.00 each..1-4, \$10.00 each..5-9, \$9.00 each...10+. shipping:\$5.00 plus\$1.00 each frypan Bob Tuftee 563-332-4800 6 Hollows Court LeClaire IA 52753

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.

Buy, Sell, Trade, Continued ...

Chile Forge- Next generation **gas forges**

www.chileforge.com David Starr 520/360-2141

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

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) 794-5175. 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:

Blacksmith business cards. I would like to put together a collage of Blacksmith business cards. Bring them to a meeting or mail them to me with your dues.

Bruce Herzog
2212 Aileswick
St. Louis, MO 63129

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 there is a sign up link on the bamsite.org or send an E-Mail to Bernie Tappel at bamweb@embarqmail.com and he will get you signed up.

Check out back issues of BAM newsletter on www.bamsite.org. It now has a search feature to help you find old articles.

Ad Policy: Blacksmith related ads are free to BAM members. Personal ads will run for two issues. Resource ads are ongoing at my discretion. Send to bameditor@centurytel.net, or call 573-633-2010

Demonstrator for January meeting

I would like someone to help out with the January meeting by doing some of the demonstrating. If you are interested contact me at:

573-633-2010

or send an e-mail to:

bameditor@centurytel.net

The 2014 meeting schedule is full, but it's not too early to make plans for 2015. Contact Bob Ehrenberger or Doug Clemons if you want to host a meeting in 2015.

New Blacksmith School In Michigan

Ken Jansen found this blacksmith school just outside of Kalamazoo Michigan while working up there. He got a quick tour of the shop and it is well setup for classes. He talked to the guy that was running it and he said he would like it if we linked this place on our website and magazine.

http://www.tillersinternational.org/blacksmithing/classes_blacksmithing.html

Tire Hammer Workshop

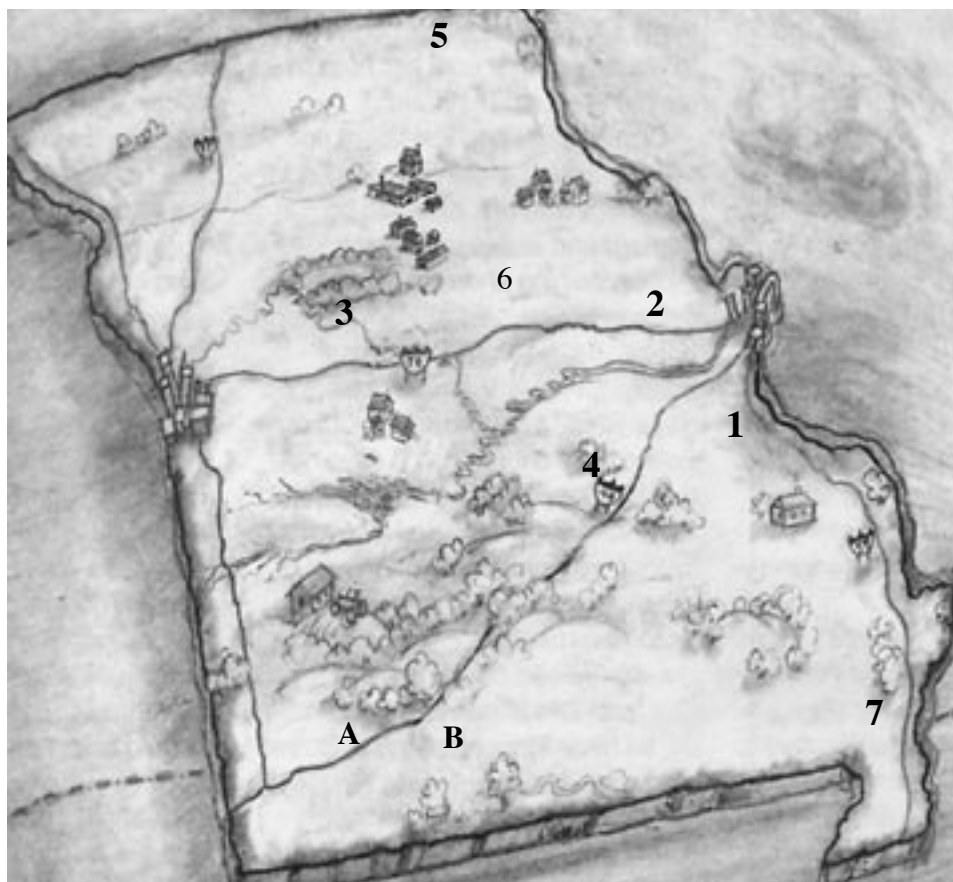
The Oklahoma group (SCABA) is planning a tire hammer build workshop, to be led by Clay Spencer.

They have invited any BAM members that are interested in building a hammer to join in their workshop. If you want to participate, contact Jim Stubbs at blacksmithingone@gmail.com Please put "power hammer workshop" in the subject line. Or you can contact Diana Davis at 580-549-6824 and she will forward the information. There is a fee for this project. It will be determined by the number of participants and the cost of metal and expendables.

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 Carter Rd.,
Moscow Mill, MO. 63362

3. Doug Clemons, (660) 595-2257
29377 Durango Avenue
Malta Bend, MO. 65339

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

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

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

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

Price \$14.00 per bag BAM members, \$19.00 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. Good blacksmithing coal for sale \$13 a 50# bag with bulk delivery available. .
Matthias Penn Rt. 1 box 479-S Ava, MO. 417-683-9000 E-mail: tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events:

- September 21 - BAM meeting Matthew Burnett, Cameron, MO. 816-575-2798 Trade item: a tomahawk or hatchet.
November 2nd - BAM meeting Don Birdsall, Rolla, MO. 573-364-7223 trade item [art object]
November 29 - Black Friday Hammer-in Moscow Mills contact Ken Jansen 636-295-5844 Project: Tongs Making
January 1 - Application deadline for February Scholarship awards.
January 11th 2014, - BAM Meeting A & K Cooperage, Higbee, MO 660-456-7561 Food will be available Trade Item: Hand made tool
January 18th Newsletter submission deadline
March 15th 2014 - BAM meeting Chris Miller, Doniphan, MO 573-996-4931 Trade Item: Door Handle
April 1 - Application deadline for May Scholarship awards
May -**BAM Ozark Conference**, Sedalia, MO contact Mike McLaughlin cowpie42@hotmail.com
May/June 2014 BAM meeting Ned Digh, Ham's Prairie 573-642-9502
July 2014 - BAM meeting Denis Yates, Hohn Boy Scout Camp 573-480-7737
August 7-17 - Missouri State Fair Sedalia, MO contact Kent Harbit (660)-647-2349 to volunteer
August Hamilton Steam show,
September 13th 2014 - BAM meeting Bob Ehrenberger, Shelbyville, MO 573-633-2010 Trade Item: flint striker
October 1 - Application deadline for November Scholarship awards.
November 2014 - BAM meeting Don Nichols

Learn to Make Tongs

On Behalf of Ken Jansen

Ken Jansen's annual "Black Friday Hammer-In" for 2013 will be dedicated to making tongs. Ken and a host of experienced blacksmiths will be present to teach and guide those interested through tong making. You can bring your own stock or Ken will have sucker rod on hand for tong making. There will be three or more different tong making methods shown.

Numerous BAM members have expressed a need for tongs and the ability to make their own tongs. This is an opportunity to learn from experienced blacksmiths who will teach timely and efficient tong making methods. Tentatively we will have Bernie Tappel, Pat McCarty, Bob Ehrenberger, and Ken Jansen showing tong making methods and assisting people in making tongs.

Be sure to bring your camera to make photos of tongs and tong making jigs used by experienced blacksmiths. Lunch will be available so plan to spend the day and go home with one or more pairs of tongs.

Experienced tong makers: bring jigs you use for tong making and be prepared to mentor those wanting assistance.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 29th AND PLAN TO ATTEND TO ATTEND KEN'S BLACK FRIDAY HAMMER-IN. BE PREPARED TO MAKE TONGS OR ASSIST SOMEONE IN MAKING TONGS.

New Members

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

Coats, John
5901 South River Hills Road
Columbia, MO 65203
coatshighridgefarm@gmail.com
573-445-6118

Jehle, Charles
352 East 900 Road
Baldwin City, KS 66006-7150
785-594-6680

Long, Tim
119 Old Vienna Road
Freeburg, MO 65035
573-578-8714

Downen, Dan
2525 Reed Road
Sparta, MO 65753
drdownen.dd@gmail.com
417-409-7451

Lewis, Cole
202 North Wells
Odessa, MO 64076
816-405-3821

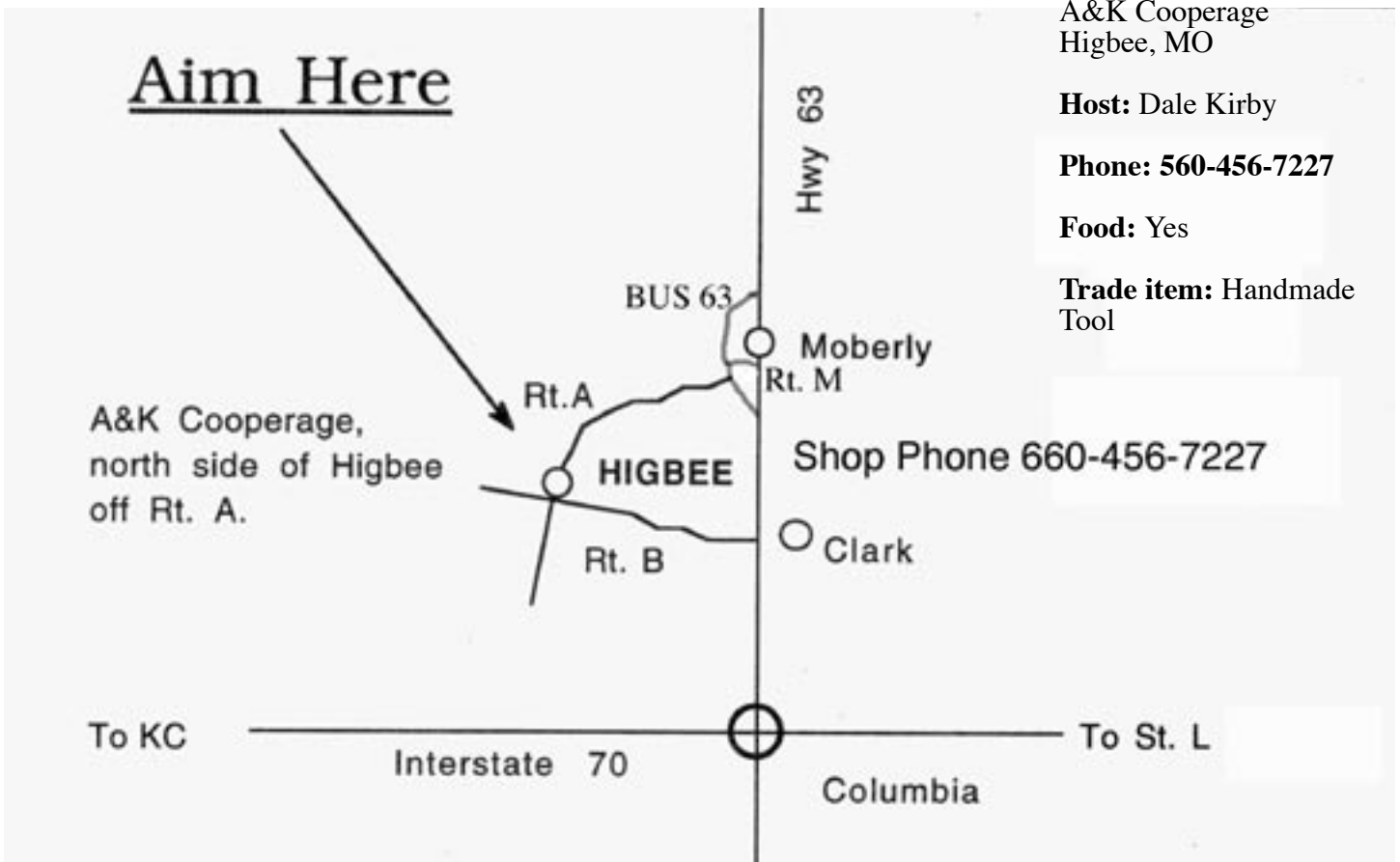
Meier, Jim
P.O. Box 62
New Melle, MO 63365
bzyguy61@yahoo.com
314-452-6833

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@charter.net

Next Meeting: January 11 Higbee, MO



Location:

A&K Cooperage
Higbee, MO

Host: Dale Kirby

Phone: 560-456-7227

Food: Yes

Trade item: Handmade
Tool