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MARCH/APRIL 2014



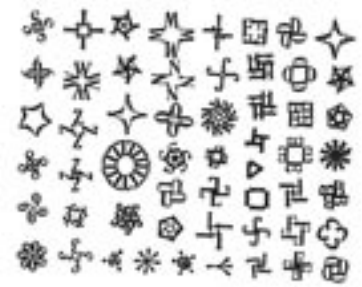
Chris Miller Flower Demonstration

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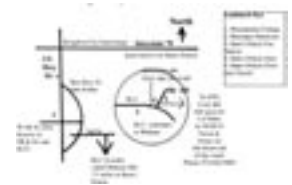
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No room for ABANA news



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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

Volume 31 No. 2

March-April 2014

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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@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.

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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.

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From the Editor

By Bob Ehrenberger

The winter really intensified after the January meeting and I got in almost no shop time until the last week of February. The Around-The-Anvil news group was also pretty quiet, though some of the guys managed to get some winter projects done. Luckily the weather broke just in time for the March meeting. They had a perfect day, and a good turn out.

Chris and his group of blacksmith friends in Doniphan put a lot of work into meeting preparations. I'm glad that the weather cooperated. It looks like Chris has progressed in his blacksmithing skills. It takes a lot of confidence to do a forge welding demonstration. Chris also provided a write up on the meeting and an article on his demonstration. That's a big help thank you. Thanks also to Bernie for sending trade item pictures.

Information Needed: OK guys, I'm still trying to finish up the history info on the web site. I didn't have the info on the 1997 conference chairman. I THINK it was Lou Mueller. I have gone through the old newsletters and see one reference to Lou in connection with the conference. Does anyone remember if Lou chaired a conference?

Bernard Tappel

Meeting info from Ned Digh:
June 14th, BAM meeting at our shop.

Trade item is a hammer, any size, metal or wood handle OK. This will be our annual food drive for local food pantry. Bring two canned meat items in exchange for lunch. If you forget to bring the canned meat items, there will be a donation bucket. Esther will have some kind of program for the ladies during the blacksmith demo. There will be entertainment during the lunch hour.

We have water and electricity for 5 RV hookups if you desire to come

March-April 2014

on Friday. Covered dish supper Friday night, call or e-mail Esther so she will have a head count for covered dish supper. 573-642-9502. ewdigh@gmail.com

Don't forget to make something nice to bring to conference. We need stuff for the boutique and the auction. We would also like to see what you have been working on, so show off a little and put it in the gallery. There was some talk a while back that everyone that got Jerry Darnell's book should make one of his projects for the auction. It's a pretty good idea, yes.

I was able to put the 4WD to good use this winter. The most snow



we got at one time was only 15" and I might have been able to get up our hill with 2WD, but it was a snap with the new truck. I had more trouble with frozen pipes than in recent years, but my wood pile held out and I even have a start on next year.

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

I'm planning on having a beginner's class in my shop this Aug. or Sept. I thought we would have

both days on the same weekend to cut down on student travel. If you are interested contact me 573-633-2010. Give me your preference of weekends and whether a Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun session would work best.

This would also be a good time to think about hosting a meeting in 2015. I'm hoping to confirm that Dale will host the January meeting, but the rest of the year is wide open.

The next Newsletter submission deadline is May 24th. This is before Ned's meeting, so get stuff to me right after our conference if you can.

My dad and I just want to let you all know that Vera, my mom and V.J.'s wife passed on Sunday March the 9th 2014 at 1PM. She was 66 years of age.
Thank You Kevin McCrackin

Demonstrator Needed:

We are getting ready to open an old-fashioned Blacksmith Shop at Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead and looking for Blacksmiths to operate the shop. Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead is a Kansas City attraction located in Overland Park, Kansas which is 15 minutes south from downtown Kansas City. We are open April 1st through October 31st and last year we had over 400,000 visitors.

Thank-you,
Charlotte Seiler
Supervisor, Educational Programs
Recreation Services

City of Overland Park
13800 Switzer Road
Overland Park, KS 66221
913-897-2360 x 31 (w) | 913-940-7270 (m)
charlotte.seiler@opkansas.org | www.opkansas.org

BAM MEETING FOR March 2014

Hosted by Chris Miller

Minutes by Don Anders

Treasure's report given by Don Anders for Bruce Herzog BAM. Current membership is 557

Demonstrators were Chris Miller and Bernie Tappel. Chris made a forge welded flower and Bernie did a demo on various scrolls

Phil Cox has the new fire pots for the BAM forges they need to be installed in the forges if someone has time.

Nominating Committee needs a 1st V.P. preferred to be located in the South East portion of Missouri, also looking for a secretary if anyone is interested.

June BAM meeting at Ned and Esther Digh's. please bring food donation for food pantry as donation for lunch.

Conference 2014 Karen is looking for Iron in the hat volunteers, 2 or 4 hour shift. General volunteers needed.

Civil War Days in Doniphan April 11-12.

Don Birdsall looking to build up a list of volunteers that may be able to move the MTS trailer.

Karen is checking out BAM logo Denim long sleeve shirts \$25-28 and polo shirts \$16-18.

Gallery will be located this year in large building across parking lot from Swine Barn. Bring something that you are proud of or a trade item that you feel needs to be displayed.

Please contribute to Auction and Boutique.

Meeting adjourned.

TRADE ITEM DOOR HANDLE

MADE BY	TRADED TO
Jim Mann	Mark Clifford
Pat McCarty	Walt Graves
Dan Wedemeyer	Jim Holland
John Sherwood	Gary Schefe
Randy Carrier	Steve McCarthy
Walt Graves	Ken Jansen
John Gries	Randy Carrier
Mark Clifford	Dan Wedemeyer
Larry Lutz	Jim Mann
Jim Holland	Pat McCarty
Bernie Tappel	John Gries
Ned Digh	Bernie Tappel
Steve McCarthy	Walt Graves
Chris Miller	Don Birdsall
Ken Jansen	Ned Digh
Walt Graves	John Sherwood
Gary Schefe	Chris Miller
Harold Van DeMark	Larry Lutz
Don Birdsall	Harold Van DeMark

IRON IN THE HAT

DONATED BY		WON BY
Martin Monfee	??	Jeff Collins
John Gries	rake tine	John Sherwood
Larry Hults	farm magazine	John Gries
Don Birdsall	BRC Racos	Mark Sampsel
Ned Digh	welding Magnet	Dennis Quinn
D Mohrmann	turntable	Jeff Collins
John Sherwood	litter buckets	Dennis Quinn
Maurice Ellis	brass bowl	Larry Hults
D. Mohrmann	2lb hammer	Jim Mann
D. Mohrmann	blacksmith print	Steve McCarthy
Maurice Ellis	copper ladle	Pat McCarty
Ken Jansen	hardie fuller	John Sherwood
Steve McCarthy	post vise	John Gries
Larry Hults	insulated glove	Dennis Mohrmann
Jim Mann	springs	Mike Gusy
Larry Hults	magazine	Dennis Quinn
Don Anders	2 ton strap	Bernie Tappel
Maurice Ellis	copper bowl	Daniel Wedemeyer
Chris Miller	demo piece	Gary ?

President's message;

Nancy and I were unable to attend the meeting in Doniphan this year due to the death of Nancy's father. Thanks to all of you who sent condolences. We had made reservations to spend the night Friday and come home after the meeting Saturday. I had even made a couple of different door handles for the trade item. I had not decided which one to bring so I was going to bring them both and decide when I got there.

This is the second time that I have missed the Doniphan meeting hosted by Chris Miller. These are the only two meetings that I have missed since I became president. The first would have been my first regular meeting as president. I had to miss it because it was the weekend of my son's wedding. My wife and daughter in law strongly suggested that I attend the wedding rather than the meeting. This last week would have been my last regular meeting as president.

I repaired my small gas forge and brought it back into my shop this winter. I had taken it out a couple of years ago and stored it in a shed on the farm. When I went to get it some of the wool on the doors had deteriorated or had been attacked by rodents. I was able to block one end with fire brick but still needed some wool for the door. I sent a request to some of our members on our e-mail group asking where would be a good place to purchase a small amount. I received a few offers from other members to share some of their left over wool with me. Bob Stormer sent me more than enough to finish both doors. I cut the burners off so I could get in and clean them then welded them back on. So now my forge is working like it should. I guess I had forgotten how handy it is to have a small gas forge ready when I need it. It also helped heat my shop this winter.

Plans are coming along well for the conference I understand. The conference requires a lot of work. Those planning it have already spent countless hours behind the scenes getting things together for it. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Consider bringing something for the auction or boutique. This is our major source of income for the year. Also if you have something that you would like to display in the gallery bring that as well. The raffle drawings will be held Sunday morning. If it is possible try to stay around a while Sunday morning and help with the clean up. More information about the conference is available on our website.

This will most likely be my last column as president. After the conference in May we will have a new leader. It was an honor to be chosen as our president and to serve these last three years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president and for all your support.

Our next function will be our conference May 1 thru May 4 at the Missouri State Fair grounds in Sedalia, Missouri. Hopefully the weather will be cooperative this year and we will not have to dust the snow off of everything again on Saturday morning. I hope to see you there.

Doug Clemons



Substitute President

March Meeting Report

By Chris Miller

The March 15, 2014 meeting of the Blacksmith's Association of Missouri (BAM) was held at the Tom Kennon Blacksmith Shop at the Heritage Homestead in Doniphan, Missouri. The meeting was hosted by local BAM members, Chris Miller (and wife Becky), Steve Eikerman, Dennis Mohrman, Dawn Cochran, Martin Monfee and our youngest member, Ben Ray.

The morning began with coffee and donuts around 8 am while the local crew was setting up tables and chairs and Chris Miller and Dawn Cochran fired up both sides of our masonry forge. A good crowd of around 40 people had assembled by 9 am when Chris welcomed the group and described the demonstrations planned for the morning including one by himself and one by Bernie Tappel.

Chris' demonstration was the fabrication of a flower and leaf assembly forge welded out of 3/8 inch round and a 2 inch diameter 18 ga. flower blank. The entire forging and assembly demonstration took about two hours. Then Bernie Tappel gave a one hour demonstration of free form forging various scrolls including a half penny and snub end scroll using 1/4" x 1" and 1/2" square stock. He gave a particularly interesting demonstration of how to use all the surfaces of the anvil in his forging operations including the step and the side of the faceplate.

Steve Eikerman displayed a portable forge he fabricated along with a simple, but effective bending jig.

A Barbeque Sandwich Lunch was provided at Noon and the weather cooperated with a brilliant blue sky with near 70 degree temperature in the serving line.

After lunch, the business meeting started at 1:00 p.m. conducted by Secretary, Don Anders. Chris Miller thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone of the Civil War Days hammer in to be held in the same spot on April 11-12, 2014.

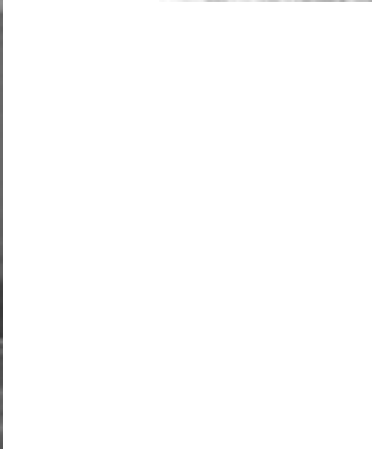
The trade item was a decorative door handle and we had great participation. There were quite a few unique ideas and lots of sophisticated work.

The Iron in the Hat had something for everyone but it was strange how many winners went home with multiple prizes.

After the conclusion of the formal meeting the Shop was used for over two hours of open forge time. Bernie Tappel and Steve Eikerman found two of the teenagers in attendance and gave them some quality instruction time. Chris Miller also led a small party up to the Courthouse Square for a private tour of the Current River Heritage Museum.

By 4:00 p.m. the local members had the grounds policed and tables and chairs stored and closed up shop for a well deserved rest. We all looked forward to Ned Digh's June meeting near Fulton, Mo.

Bernie Tappel Demonstration



Forge Welded Flower with Leaves

By Christopher J. Miller

This article is a follow up of the demonstration given by Chris Miller at the March 15, 2014 BAM meeting in Doniphan, Missouri. The forge welded flower and leaf assembly is a good start towards many types of projects, including ring projects, grilles and hooks. An example of this type of assembly for a ring project is shown in Figure 1. Or you can just stick the finished product in a vase and put it on a shelf with no need to ever water or tend it again (other than occasional dusting).

You will need the following:

Stock

- 1 Piece of 3/8" round stock 9" long
- 1 Piece of 3/8" round stock 6" long
- 1 2.5" diameter circular 18 ga. sheet
- Clear Acrylic Glaze for Finish

Hand Tools (In Addition to Your Anvil and Post Vise)

- Forging Hammer
- Rounding Hammer
- Texturing Hammer
- Smithing Magician with Butcher Dies
- Monkey Tool
- Ball Peen Hammer
- 3/8" Round Tongs
- Wood Sinking Block
- Veining Chisel (dull)
- Bull nosed chisel
- Hot Cut
- Scrolling Tongs
- Scrolling Pliers
- Baling wire
- Bending Fork
- Welding Flux
- Power Wire Brush
- Brass Hand Wire Brush



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

I start with forging a Leaf on one end of the 9" rod. Using the Forging Hammer, forge a square point on one end of the stock. Then, using a sharp edge of the anvil, notch the rod about an inch to an inch and one half back from the point of the rod from the shoulder to form a stem for the leaf. (See Figure 2). I use the horn of the anvil to aggressively draw out the stock and then use the face of the anvil to flatten and round a tapering stem. (See Figure 3) The Good Old Square, Octagon, Round technique. You want the stem about 1/8 inch diameter at the shoulder tapering back 2 1/4 inches from the leaf mass into the 3/8 rod. (See Figure 4)

Now flatten out the base of the leaf mass near the stem on the face of the anvil and work your way to the pointed end to develop your leaf shape. However, stay away from the point which you want to stay sharply pointed!

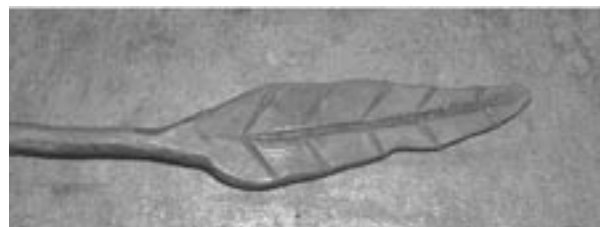


Figure 5

When satisfied with the shape of your leaf, use your veining Chisel to inscribe the veins in the surface on one side. (See Figure 5)

In order to give the flat leaf some dimension, use a hard wood sinking block and a ball peen hammer to sink the body of the leaf, vein side down, into the block with the point of the leaf outside the sinking hole. (See Figure 6) The pointed tip should then be flattened against the wood block to give the finished leaf a wavy pattern when viewed edge on. Sometimes you might want to bend the last 1/16" of the point in either direction to suit your sense of "rightness" for the leaf. Before losing your heat, gently bend the leaf at the stem about 30 degrees off center of the rod so that you can get your tongs to fit on to the 3/8" section of the rod to work the other end.

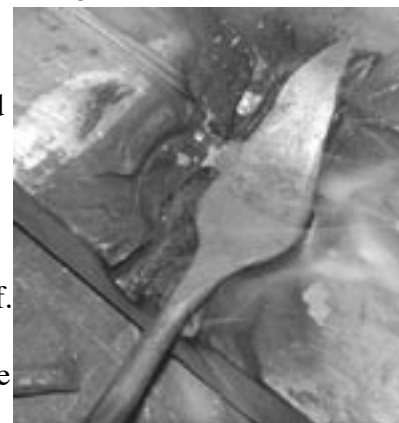


Figure 6

Now repeat the entire process on the other end of the rod so that you have leaves and stems on both ends.

When the 9 inch rod has been completed with leaves on both ends, use your texturing hammer to texture the surface of the 3/8" portion of the rod. Then place the 3/8" portion of the rod on the hot cut hardy at a point which is an inch or so off center and cut the rod halfway through. Then bend the rod over at the cut to bring the two leaves close to one another. (See Figure 7) Do not close up the bend completely because you will have to insert the flower stem between the two legs of the leaf stems for forge welding at a later point.



Figure 7

Now work on the flower stem. Take the 6" rod and use your texturing hammer along the whole length. It is now time to make the tenon on the rod that will go through the flower blank when it is completed. The hole in the flower is drilled to 1/4 inch diameter, so the 3/8" rod needs to be worked down to 1/4 inch shoulder. I use a guillotine with a butcher die to segment off about 1/2 inch of one end of the 3/8" rod. Then use either a sharp edge of the anvil or a set hammer to draw out the 1/2 inch segment down to 1/4 inch diameter that will fit through the hole in the flower. If you have a monkey tool to fit it will help in better defining the shoulder and make a tighter fit on the final riveting. You only want about 1/8" sticking through the flower to rivet over upon final assembly, so cut off all but that 1/8" plus the thickness of the flower from your tenon using a hot cut.

Now flatten and slightly taper the other end of the flower stem rod so that it can be inserted in between the stems of the leaves. Since this assembly will be forge welded it will help with the welding to slightly flatten the round rods of the assembly where they will make contact.

Now complete the flower stem and leaves assembly by heating the leaf stems at the bend and insert the flower stem between the bend of the leaf stems. (See Figure 8) Tap the leaf stems together on the flower stem until you have a tight fit and then quench.



Figure 8

When cooled, use the baling wire to wire up the assembly as tight as you can get it and use enough wire to insure that the area to be forge welded will be held together until the joint is at welding heat. Baling wire is cheap. Don't skimp on

Flower Demonstration continued..

Take a near welding heat and apply flux. Then return to the fire and bring it up to a welding heat being sure to rotate the work to heat all sides evenly. When ready, remove and forge weld until you lose your welding heat. Take another welding heat and continue to forge the joint down to a square taper and then a round taper to a point.

The flower is made from a sheet metal circular blank about 2" in diameter. Using a center finder, mark, center punch and drill a 1/4" diameter hole in the circular blank. Then using your metal pencil or scribe, quarter the circle and the divide again into 8 segments. (See Figure 10) These will be the petals of the flower. You can work this next step cold with a good chisel. Use the chisel to cut inward along the lines from the rim to about 1/8" from the hole in the middle. You do not need to go very deep; about half way through the blank. (See Figure 11)

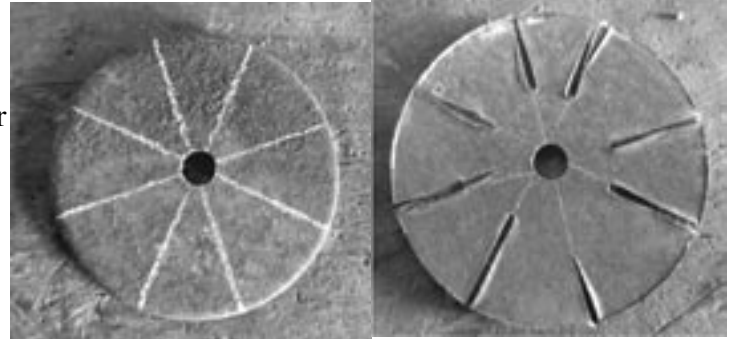


Figure 10

Figure 11

When all chisel lines are done, put the blank in your post vise and use a hack saw on a line to saw down towards (but not into) the hole in the middle. I usually go no deeper than the width of the hack saw blade. Rotate the blank in the vise so the next line is perpendicular to the vise and repeat for each chisel line. To avoid cutting into the hole, insert the blank deep enough that the hole is below the top of the vise jaws so it is well supported and less likely to tear out with any vigorous action of the saw blade.

When finished with the saw work it is time to heat the blank and do some punch work. The petals of the flower at this stage are unadorned and need some design elements to draw the eye. I use a bull nosed punch to go along the rim of each of the 8 petals and punch a depression in the rim that forces the metal to pucker out a bit. (See Figure 12) You could also texture the petal with a veining chisel or put circular indentations with an eye punch to disguise the bare sheet metal surface.



Figure 12

After the surface embellishment work with punch and/or chisel, reheat the flower blank and, using a scroll pliers, bend the exterior rim of each petal about 30 degrees in the opposite direction from the adjoining petal. This will give the flower its final shape. Don't get too aggressive in the bending because you still have to rivet the stem onto the flower and you need to be able to get the peen of a ball peen hammer into the center hole to do the riveting of the stem. Quench the flower and dry fit it to the tenon on the flower stem. Make sure you have a good shoulder for the flower blank to rest on and then heat the stem to an orange/yellow color and clamp it in the post vise with about an inch of the tenon exposed. Quickly drop the flower blank over the tenon and use the ball of your ballpeen hammer to mushroom the tenon until it sits tight on the shoulder. (See Figure 13)



Figure 13

You are effectively done at this stage, but you may want to put the entire assembly back in the forge to heat it for bending the flower stem and/or the leaf stems into a pleasing posture using your post vise and scrolling tongs.

When satisfied, make any final adjustments to the assembly and then use a power wire brush on the leaves and

the flower to remove as much scale as possible. (See Figure 14) Then, when the assembly is still at a black heat, wire brush the top of the leaf with a brass brush until the leaf picks up a brass finish. Do the same with the outer edge only of the flower to give the edge of the flower some brass highlights. (See Figure 15)

Then quench, dry and spray with a clear acrylic coating to prevent rust and protect the brass highlighting.

Next, plant the whole thing in a heavy vase and admire. (See Figure 16). No need to fuss with it or water it ever again.

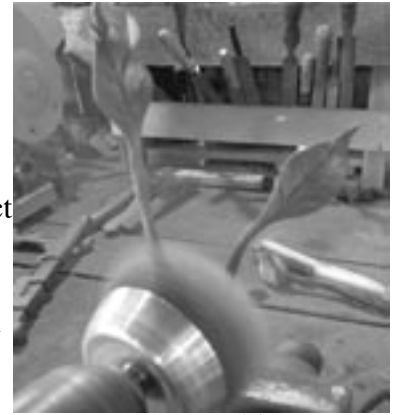


Figure 14



Figure 15



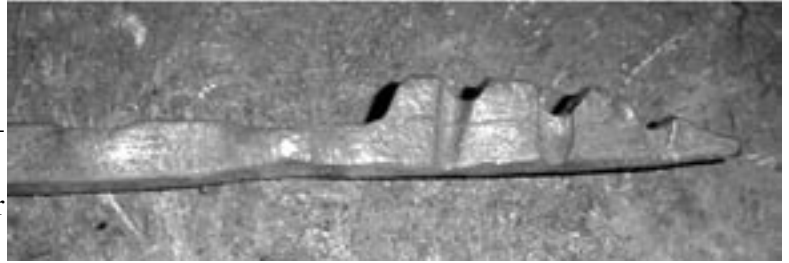
Figure 16



New Towel Bar Motif

By Bob Ehrenberger

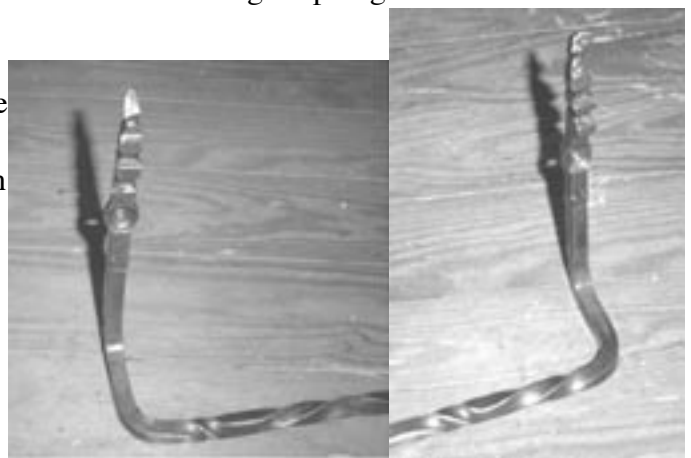
I recently had a customer order a set of towel bars for the bathroom in their new home. They wanted it all, long towel bars, hand towel hangers and a TP holder. The problem was that he didn't want any of my usual decorations, leaves, hearts, or scrolls. They had already bought the light which was pseudo-iron work. He wanted me to make something that complimented it. He sent me a picture of their light, it had a main bar terminated with a series of rings of various sizes with spacers between them.



Side view of finished Motif

I decided to use a taper with a series of fullered lines in it to give the appearance of the separation that the light had. I also felt that it needed to stand out above the bar, which meant doubling it up to get more material at the very end.

Starting with a piece of 3/8" sq. The first step was to forge a scarf on the very end, note: make the scarf as short as possible. I then cut part way through the bar about an inch back from the end and folded it back on itself. This area was fluxed and welded down, making sure to blend the scarf into the main bar.



Close ups of the two ends

Next, forge a square taper on this larger section.

Once the taper is formed, I fullered it on three sides to make the design. Leaving the back smooth since it will be up against the wall when installed. At this time I use a ball punch to locate the screw hole and put on my touch mark.

This completes the first decoration, the towel bar needs to have one on each end so you have to decide how long the bar needs to be and how far it is offset from the wall. The stock length needs to be the bar length + 2 times the offset + 8".

Once both ends are decorated, you make the first two bends. Find the mid-point of the bar and then measure half the bar length both ways. Bend both ends up to define the finished length of the towel bar.

Then I like to do a series of reverse twists to decorate the bar.

Once the twists are complete, measure the offset distance on both ends and make the final two bends.

I like to finish indoor work with a linseed oil clear coat.



Finished towel bar

Shop Tip, Blade Vice

By Bob Ehrenberger

I made this tool for Daniel when he first got into knife making close to 20 years ago. The intended purpose was to be able to securely hold the knife by the blade while working on the guard and handle without damaging the blade. After Daniel had made knives for several years he got into flat ground blades with a hand rubbed finish. For these knives he would use the vice to hold the blade by the tang while he was finishing the blade.

The design is pretty simple, there are two pipes where the inside diameter of one is the same as the outside diameter of the other.

The larger pipe is slit lengthwise on the top and has two pair of bars welded to it which can be used to squeeze the pipe and clamp the smaller pipe, which can be rotated to any angle needed. Daniel has told me that he usually only tightens the front clamp so you probably could get by with only one set of bars. The larger pipe also has a flat bar welded to the bottom which is used to secure the tool in another vice or our Workmate while in use. Note: I've seen other versions of blade vices that had a plate with holes in it that could be used to screw it to a bench.



I turned a piece of oak to fit inside the smaller pipe and then split it in half lengthwise. You need to remove enough material to allow room for a blade and padding. I then glued leather to the inside surfaces of the two pieces of oak. Daniel also uses some loose pieces of leather to take up space on very thin blades.

The top oak block is countersunk to recess a washer in for the tightening bolt to push against. The top of the smaller pipe is drilled for the tightening bolt to pass through and a nut welded over the hole. The end of the tightening bolt is ground down to register into the washer on the top block.

I also welded two small plates on the ends of the smaller pipe to keep the bottom block from sliding out. Note: the top block is held in place by the tightening bolt.

I also made a key which fit the socket on the Allen bolt used as the tightening bolt.



Back side of vice holder



Tightening bolt



Note:
No special material sizes, it was all just scrap I had on hand.

*Clamp
tightening
key.*



Top block with clamp socket washer

March Trade Items



Bernie Tappel



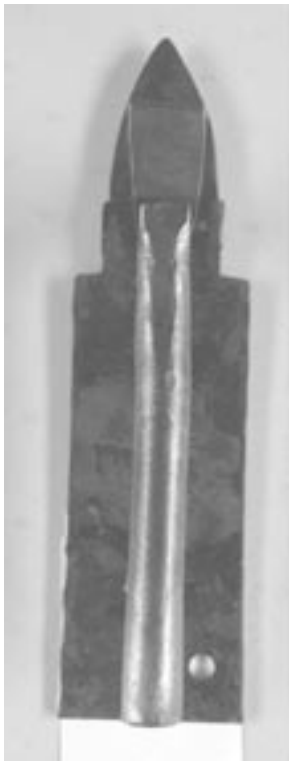
Mark Clifford



Gary Scheffe



Jim Mann



John Gries



Walt Graves



Randy Carrier



Chris Miller



Don Birdsall

March Trade Items



John Sherwood



Steve McCarthy



Larry Lutz



Jim Holland



Ned Digh



Harold Van DeMark



Ken Jansen



Pat McCarty

Go Nuts: *My Journey with Walnuts*

By Bob Ehrenberger

I really like Walnuts and try to eat a few every day. One of the good things is that a lot of people with walnut trees don't like them and are happy to have you come and pick them up. One of the bad things is they are a mess to clean and hard to crack. For the cleaning part I use a hand crank corn sheller to remove the hulls and then wash them in a 5 gal. bucket using a special stirring tool mounted in a 1/2" drill. For convenience I made a stand for my corn sheller out of rectangular metal tubing.

For the cracking, initially I just used my big post vice. Then someone told me that if you supported the sides it did less damage to the meat. So I forged some rings and sunk a ball peen hammer into them to make kind of a cup shape. This worked pretty good, then I took it one step further and made a cup from one of the ends that we cut off the pins that Don Nichols always has. This worked even better.

Taking it one step further, I forged a cup shape into one of the tool blanks for my hydraulic press and forged a bottom tool from a disk of 3/8" plate. This works great, the only problem is I have to be careful not to over smash the nuts into dust. The bottom tool is nice because it holds the nut on end and I don't have to put my fingers in harms way while cracking them. A flat ended top tool works about as well as the cupped one, but doesn't contain the shattered shells as well. I think I need to make a new top tool with just a little depression, about half as deep as the one I currently use.

As you can see it shatters the side of the nut without damaging the nut meat. I crack a small tin of nuts (about a dozen) when I go into the shop every morning, and then pick them out while watching TV at night.



Don's Nuts Too

By Bob Ehrenberger

When I mentioned my nut cracking arrangement on Around-The-Anvil, Don Davies picked up on the idea and decided to make tooling for his press. As we see at every meeting with the trade items, if you give a dozen blacksmiths the same assignment you will get a dozen different and functional solutions. Don liked the corn sheller idea and mounted his on the side board of a wagon. He then uses a cement mixer to wash them. He brought some of his nuts to the January meeting and they came out cleaner than mine. I suspect that is because he could turn on the mixer and walk away. A cement mixer is also a good way to remove forging scale off of small items.



Don said that he had a good supply of large bolts, so that's what he used for his press tooling. The top tools just have a depression drilled into the bolt head. For the bottom tool he has two bolts that are partially drilled, one that he roughed up with an angle grinder cut off wheel, and one that he left plain. He welded these together and mounted on a flat plate that he can move around to register the tool he wants under the top tool.



Don had a different goal than I did. Instead of wanting to eat a few nuts every day, Don wanted to process all his nuts as fast as he could to put the job behind him and nut meats in the freezer.

Don cut the sides out of a bucket which he places on the press to catch all the fragments when the nuts shatter. The tool with the lines cut into it is used to do the second crack on nuts that only partially crack the first time.



To speed the sorting process he uses multiple sizes of colanders to separate the shells from the meats. A large smooth table is used to do the final sorting and grading. The big channel locks are used to crack any shells that survived the press.



MTS Workshop at Ray Scott'

Ray Scott hosted the BAM Mobile Training Station (MTS) Program on February 8th and February 15th at his shop at Eminence, Mo.

Six BAM Members completed the workshops.



From left: Ray Scott host and instructor, Sam Schulz, Andrew Dixon, Bud McMillen, Gary Underwood, Steve Schwerdt, Don Birdsall Instructor, Mr. Gary Schulz Photographer (Not in picture)

The first morning the members were taught how to make a leaf hook.
In the afternoon they made a heart hook.

The second week they each made a coal forge poker with a pineapple twist in the handle.
After lunch they completed a square shoulder jamb hook, with an upset ball on the hook end.

A big thank you to Gary for taking the pictures.

Also a thank you to Member Steve McCarthy who moved the trailer from Ray's, back to my shop.

Don Birdsall

Bob
Please run this information in the next news letter.

I had the MTS trailer brakes repaired at Cowtown USA Inc. at Cuba, MO.
The lights and brakes now work correctly.
Don Birdsall

Meet the Conference Demonstrators

Peter Ross

Peter's interest in early ironwork developed accidentally as the result of part time employment at a local living history museum. He spent weekends and summers working in the blacksmith shop, watching the pieces he had just made be put to use in correct historic context. After attending the Rhode Island School of Design and a year studying with blacksmith/whitesmith Dick Everett in East Haddam, CT, he opened his own shop.

In 1979 Peter was hired as a journeyman blacksmith by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Two years later he took over the shop as Master; a position he held for 23 years. In addition to reproducing hundreds of different pieces of 18th century hardware, utensils, tools, etc, Peter and staff helped re-discover pre-industrial methods long out of use.

For the last 30 years, he has been a frequent demonstrator at ABANA national blacksmith conferences, given hundreds of classes and workshops on historic tools and methods at prominent Craft schools, regional blacksmith conferences, and museum sites.

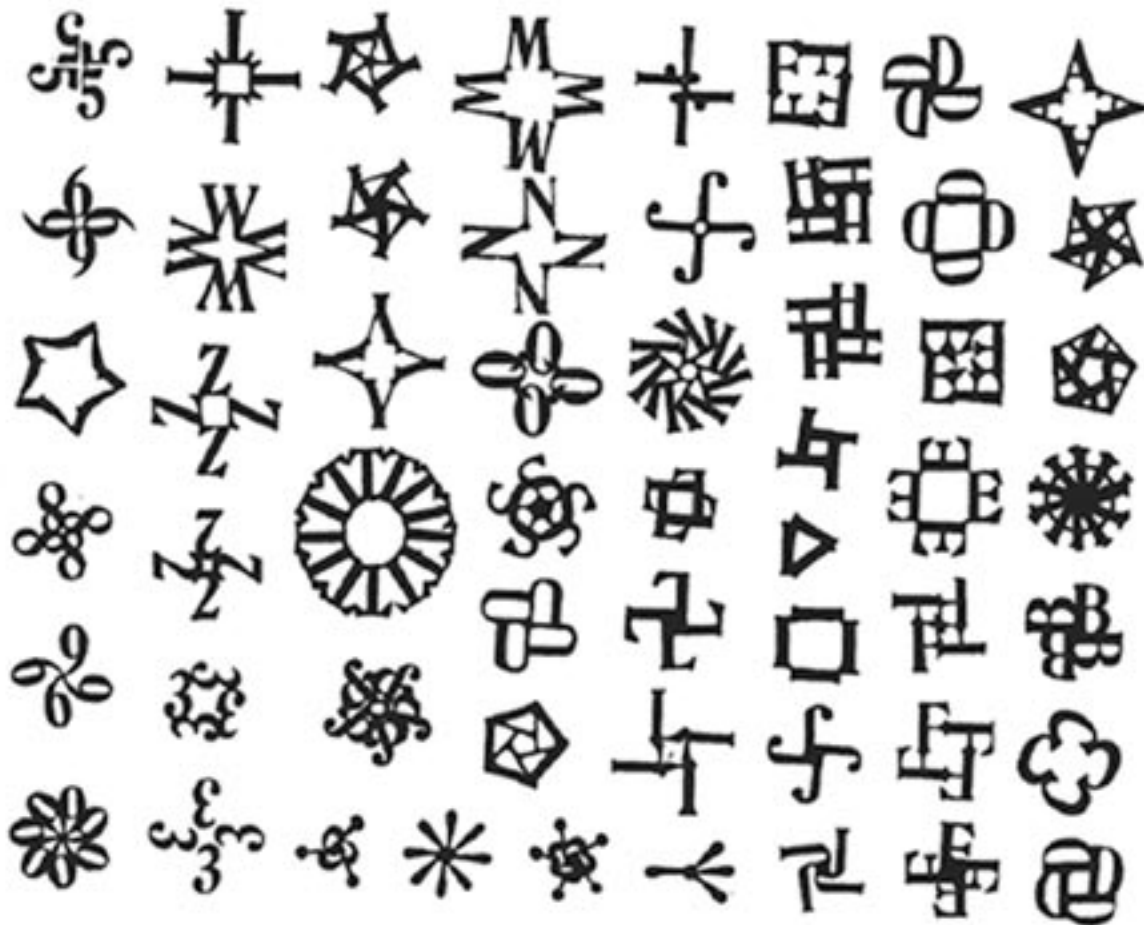
Peter now operates his own business in Siler City, North Carolina making museum quality reproductions of 18th and 19th century hardware. Recent projects include hardware for the distillery at Mount Vernon, door locks for Monticello and Montpelier, and other private restorations.

James Crowell
676 Newnata Cutoff
Mountain View, Ark. 72560
870-746-4215

James Crowell began making knives in Mt. View, AR in 1980 and is a past Ozark Folk Center, State Park, Resident Blacksmith and Knife maker. He earned the distinction of Master Bladesmith from the American Bladesmith Society in 1986 and was certified as the first, non founding father, Instructor for the American Bladesmith Society (ABS) that same year.

Jim is a long time faculty member of The Bill Moran School of Bladesmithing at Texarkana College and teaches all over the country at seminars and "Hammer-Ins". His flawless work regarded by many as among the best hand forged knives produced has appeared in every trade publication and is in collections throughout the world. He has won many awards including the first American Bladesmith Society Bill Moran Knife of the Year, the Blade Magazine Best Forged Knife and was the winner of numerous American Bladesmith Society Cutting Competitions. Jim won the first World Championship ABS cutting competition in 2003 at the Blade Super Show in Atlanta Georgia.

Using Alphabet & Number Stamps As Decoration



“A study of geometric rosettes comes from two boys in a grammar school who have a font of rubber stamps. A few of the rosettes produced are seen above. They illustrate the contention of Ruskin’s friend in “Two Paths,” that “the essence of ornament consists of three things: contrast, series and symmetry.” They show also the surprising possibilities of very commonplace units.” School Arts Magazine – 1907

Editor’s Note: Rosettes like these shown above, can be reproduced in ironwork using a set of steel stamps – use different sizes and font types to vary the results. Also, try using letters or numbers to make a boarder along the edge your work.

Reprinted from: Michigan Artist Blacksmith’s association March-April 2014 www.miblacksmith.org

BAM Editor's note: When I saw this, my first thought was "These would make great patterns for touch marks". It would be a natural if your first and last names started with the same letter, but even if they don't I'm sure you could make an interesting design with any letter combination. Bob

Illinois Valley Blacksmiths Association 33rd Annual Summer Conference

June 13th, 14th, & 15th @ Thresherman's Park, Pontiac, Illinois

This year's conference will feature a beginner training class, vendors, tailgating, a forging contest, a trade item exchange, open forges, "iron in the hat," and a public auction.

Featured Demonstrator – Steve Williamson from Tennessee

32nd Annual New Salem Hammer In April 12 & 13, 2014

10 A.M. - 4 P.M. each day

This Year's Demonstrator is: Walt Hull

Joshua Miller's Blacksmith Shop, New Salem State Historic Site

New Salem State Historic Site is 20 miles northwest of Springfield, IL on Route 97. Hammer In is in the maintenance building. Look for the the anvil signs. There is food & lodging near the demonstration area. Lunch is available on site.

New Salem has campsites available with or without electricity.

For more information email me at bluestoneforge@gmail.com

Registration or at the door: \$20/day

Friday June 13th - Beginner Training Class 8:30 – 4:30. Limited space. Sign Up Early!

Friday evening "Forging Contest"

Pre registration helps us to plan for food and supplies.

Conference Fees Includes Spouse and Children

Full conf. \$30.00 _____

Sat. only \$25.00 _____

Sun. only \$10.00 _____

Sat. Pork Chop Dinner per person \$8.00 _____

A food vendor will be on site Fri.

thru Sun. for other meals.

Camper Electric Hookup \$10.00 _____

Beginner Training Class Free to IVBA Members

How many beginning students? _____ Free

Make checks out to: Velma Schmidt, IVBA Conference, 424 Crestview, Wood River, IL 62095

AACB BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE

May 16 & 17, 2014

Murfreesboro, TN

www.appalachianblacksmiths.org

www.facebook.com/pages/AACB-2014-Blacksmith-Conference

Register *online* with PayPal/credit card!

● MAIN DEMONSTRATORS ●

Brian Brazeal: Tool Maker, Artist

Elmer Roush: Lock Making, Viking Ax

— MINI DEMOS —

Dave Smucker: Metallurgy / Heat Treatment

Lonnie Farmer: Frying Pan Forging

Broadus Weatherall: Cowboy Hat, Cross, Door Pull

Mike Rose: Layout & Design

John Williams: Joe Humble Door Knocker, Stories

Gary Bowman/Jason Bivens: Knife Handle Making

Buy, Sell, Trade

Individual Classified ads

For Sale: Anvil's Ring Magazine collection Sept '73 thru Present. \$350 Bob Woodard Edwardsville, IL 618-692-6508

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.

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

Buy, Sell, Trade, Continued ...

Kayne and Son Custom Hardware, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 fax (828) 665-8303, e-mail: kaynehdwe@charter.net, web site: www.blacksmithsdepot.com. Offering 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.

MTS Help Requested

A request of BAM Members who have a vehicle that can tow the MTS trailer, weight 8,000 pounds. On April 1st 2014 I will have the trailer ready to go to the BAM Conference. The trailer needs to be at the Conference around 1pm on Thursday May 1st, 2014.

On Sunday May 4th, 2014 when the Conference closes I need someone to move the trailer to Lou Mueller's shop in Sunset Hills, MO. The trailer needs to be at Lou's shop by 7am on Saturday June 7th 2014.

On both of these moves, it would not be necessary to move it all the way at one time, it could be moved part way and then complete the move at a later date, as long as it is there on time. It would not be necessary for one member to do all the towing if more than one member was willingly to help relay the trailer.

Also if the trailer is going to the ABANA Conference, I would like to talk with who ever is going to be towing the trailer. Since the trailer probably will not be here at my shop after the BAM Conference I will not be able to repair any damaged tools.

After Lou's workshop I could inform the driver of any tools that might need repair and maybe he could do the repair.

Since this exposor at the ABANA Conference has in the past been very well received, we need the tools to be in good shape when they arrive.

In closing, please call or e-mail me as soon as possible if you can help with any of these requests.

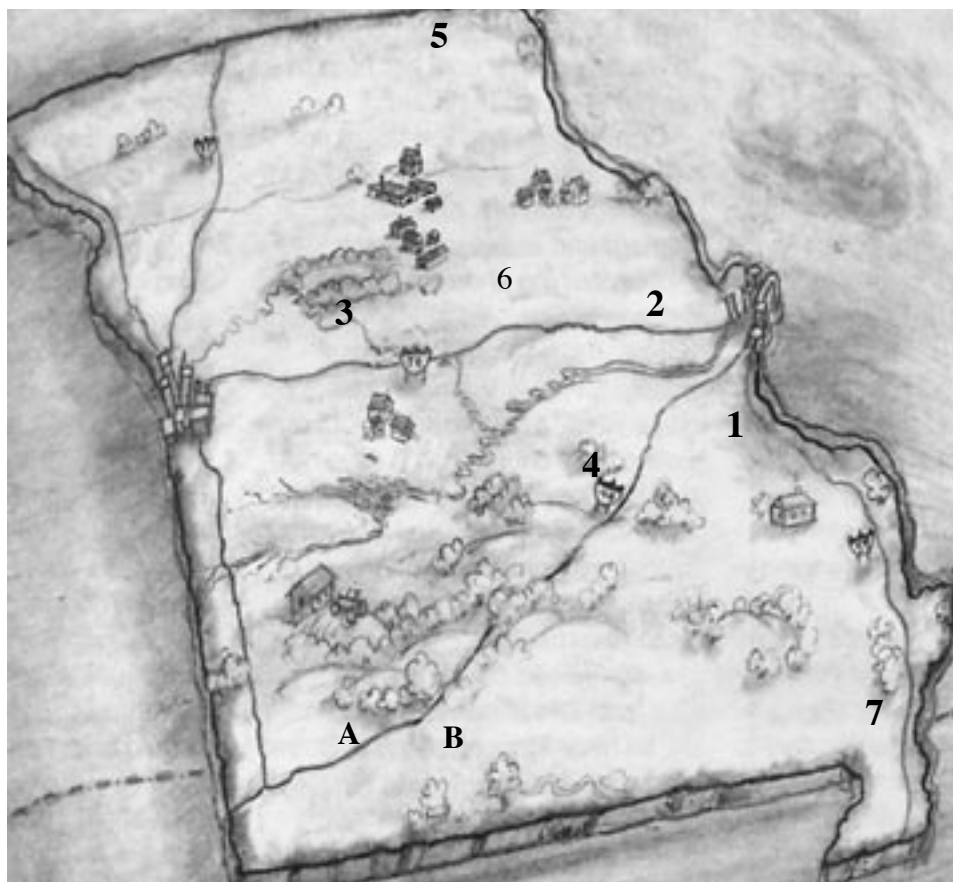
Thank you
Don Birdsall 573-364-7223
E-mail: birdsalldon@gmail.com

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

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:

April 1 - Application deadline for May Scholarship awards

May 1-4 - **BAM Ozark Conference**, Sedalia, MO contact Mike McLaughlin cowpie42@hotmail.com

May 24th Newsletter submission deadline

June 14th BAM meeting Ned Digh, Ham's Prairie 573-642-9502 Trade Item: Handmade Hammer, Meal provided for a food bank donation

June 7th MTS Beginner's class part 1 Sunset Hills, Don Birdsall 573-364-7223

June 14th MTS Beginner's class part 2 Sunset Hills, Don Birdsall 573-364-7223

July 19th - BAM meeting, Phil Cox, Hamilton, MO 816-583-4337 Trade Item: Back Scratcher

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

January 1 - Application deadline for February Scholarship awards.

January 2015, - BAM Meeting A & K Cooperage, Higbee, MO 660-456-7561 Food will be available

MTS Workshops (Mobil Training Station)

Number 1 beginner workshop Saturday June 7th 2014.

Number 2-beginner workshop Saturday June 14th 2014.

Location: Lou Mueller, 12951 Maurer Industrial Court, Sunset Hills, MO. 63127

Start time 8:00 am. Sharp. Students should be there and ready to go at 8:00 am. Both days.

Students must wear safety glasses while instruction and workshops are being run.

Students need to bring a lunch both days. Water will be available.

Students should wear cotton or wool clothing, no synthetic type of clothes. Gloves and aprons are not provided.

Must be a BAM Member (Insurance requirement) \$25.00 dollars for a one year membership.

Cost of each workshop is: \$30.00 dollars per student per day.

Instructor: Don Birdsall 573-364-7223 e-mail: birdsalldon@gmail.com

If not a member, sends membership dues (\$25.00 dollars) to: Bruce Herzog, 212 Aileswick Drive, St. Louis, MO.

Send payment for workshops to: Don Birdsall, 11570 CR 5480, Rolla, MO. 65401

Any questions call: Don Birdsall, 573-364-7223 E-mail: birdsalldon@gmail.com

New Members

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

Breeden, Gene
907 Henderson Avenue
Canton, MO 63435
zxanth@gmail.com
417-252-4364

Dixon, Andrew
10202 Welch Road
Mountain Grove, MO
65711

Hatfield, Roger
P.O. Box 168
Waynesville, MO 65583
573-855-7083

Mathena, Richard
2123 Peace Pipe Road
Pacific, MO 63069
rick.mathena@yahoo.com
573-259-6049

Shoemaker, Tommy
5169 County Highway266
Oran, MO 63771
573-794-2319

White, Paul
1509 Lindell Ave
Hannibal, MO 63401
gunpacker@sbcglobal.net
573-822-2526

Craig, Tom
2629 U.S. Highway 65
Louisburg, MO 65685
417-298-8743

Flores, Jennifer
4001 West Rock Creek Rd
Imperial, MO 63052
spyderwoman1966
@hotmail.com
314-239-1072

Jennings, Jason
3958 Burlage Road
Lonedell, MO 63060
jasondjennings76
@yahoo.com
636-208-9886

McCain, Charles
2810 S. Owen School Rd
Independence, MO 64057
mccaincm@gmail.com
816-229-6074

Smith, Stephen
7511 182nd Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
wsmith@wheelersphc.com
785-608-4753

Whitworth, Jacob C
P.O. Box 101
Moundville, MO 64771
jbeon2002@yahoo.com
417-922-3585

Day, Mark
10650 Mesa Dive
Conway, MO 65632
dmday01@yahoo.com
417-588-6124

Gillespie, Derek
2048 Krausetown Road
Owensville, MO 65066
kdjldr@yahoo.com
573-619-6341

Kirk, Bill
2123 Palatine Court
Fenton, MO 63026
bk41559@gmail.com
314-398-3630

McMillen, Bud
2612 Ridgewood Road
West Planes, MO 65775
417-505-9554

Stockhorst, Zachary
113 North Hobby Hut Rd
Leasburg, MO 65535
zacharystockhorat
@yahoo.com
636-388-6660

Woods, Harman
2 Spirea Court
St. Louis, MO 63119
harman.woods
@charter.net
314-968-9759

Dickson, Matt
220 Pleasant Road
Pevely, MO 63070
mattjendickson
@yahoo.com
636-475-2804

Giuffrida, Santo
1774 Roth Hill Drive
Maryland Heights,
MO 63043
santogg@global.net
314-434-3791

Martin, Andy
309 East Peoria
Paola, KS 66071
andym@myway.com
913-406-5543

Schulze, Samuel
1014 Perrine Road
Farmington, MO 63640
pawn57@gmail.com
314-813-0259

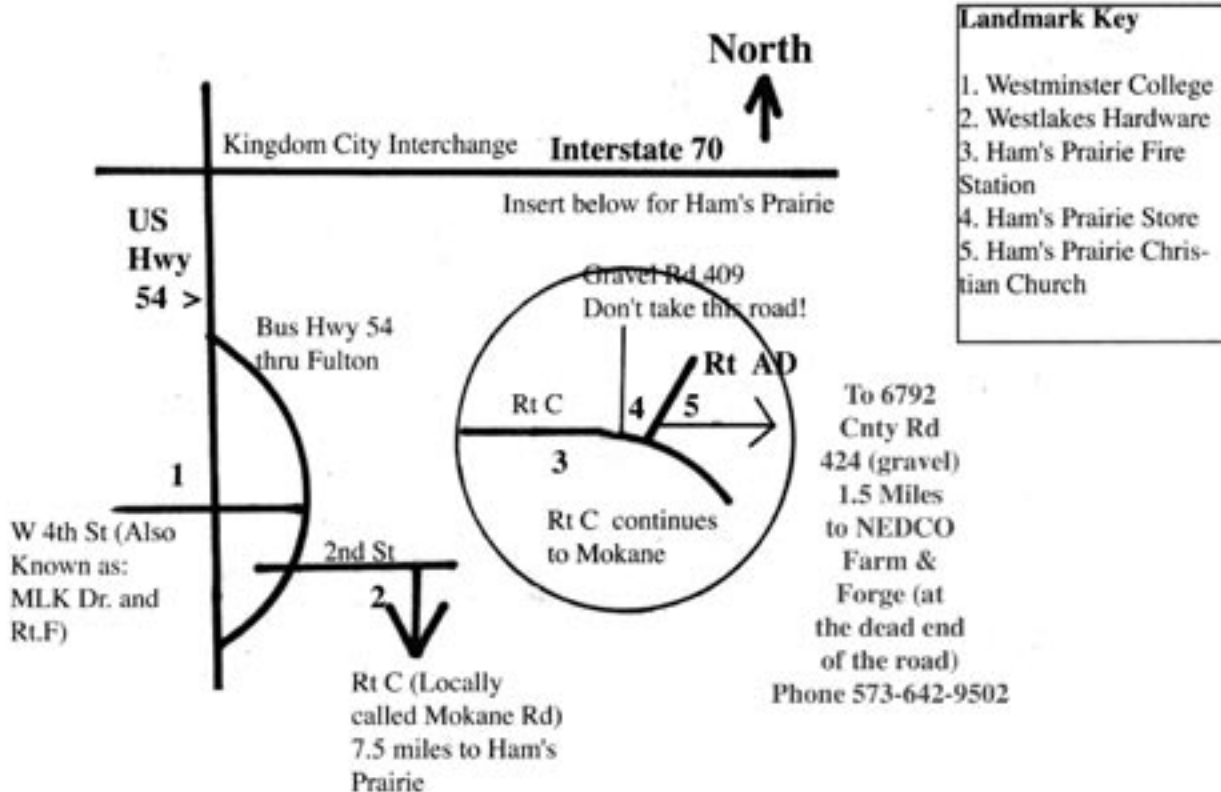
White, Zack
14A Bluff Court
Fairview Heights,
IL 62208
anvilfire700@yahoo.com
618-806-4667

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: June 14th Ham's Prairie, MO



Location:
NEDCO Farm & Forge

Phone: 573-642-9502

Trade item: Hand Made Hammer

Host: Ned & Esther Digh

Food: Yes, Bring canned food to donate to the food bank

Camping with hookups available & pot luck meal on Friday night.