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NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
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See reverse
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.

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ABANA
NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
From the Editor

Wow, what a conference. I really had a great time and learned a lot. I think that this format worked pretty good and for the most part the weather cooperated.

It was nice to meet members of the ABANA board and well known smiths from all around the country. We thank all those who traveled to Missouri and helped make our conference a success.

Thursday night we had a bull session with Clifton Ralph, Wayne Coe, Rome Hutchings, Stephen McGehee, and several more that drifted in and out of the area. Clifton did most of the talking as Wayne tried to get a word in, here and there. I had heard of Clifton for years but this was my first time meeting him. He is renowned for his power hammer work and has a background as an industrial smith working with the really big stuff. I got a DVD of him working from UMBA so maybe I can give a better report in a future newsletter, after I have had a chance to digest the DVD.

After getting a couple UMBA DVDs last year, I really loaded up on them this year. Jan was not thrilled to see me bring in 8 DVDs, but when summer reruns hit we will have plenty to watch. I’m sure I’ll learn a lot and Jan will have time to work on baby quilts.

Speaking on babies, my daughter delivered our 5th granddaughter, Abigail Selah Rupp, May 18th.

Tom Clark was too sick to attend, but his presence was felt everywhere. He provided several power hammers for the demonstrators, as well as sending his staff to set them up and watch over them. His staff also brought his extensive line of tools to sell. Tom was also honored by ABANA with the Bealer Award, which is their highest honor, for his contributions to ABANA and promotion of blacksmithing world wide.

I was presented with the Bob Patrick-Founder’s Award for my work on the newsletter and helping with the MTS program. When I see how hard everyone on the conference committee worked, I’m not sure I deserved it, but I do thank you for encouraging me. I hope I can keep up the standard that BAM has come to expect.

Something interesting came up as we were approaching this conference. Kirk had his domain name hijacked. He didn’t get it renewed on time and as soon as it expired someone else registered it. They then tried to sell it back to Kirk at an inflated price. Kirk refused to pay the ransom and was forced to change his E-mail and web site. Don’t let this happen to you, if you have a personal domain name, make sure you renew it on time.

Mike Williamson wanted me to mention that the BAM library has a lot of material out and unaccounted for. Apparently members have been borrowing books and not signing the check out log. If you have a book or video please bring it back or get it to one of the BAM officers. The library is a great resource and we need to take care of it so all BAM members can benefit from it.

We are in the final stages of planning Daniel and Jennifer’s wedding. In all likelihood, by the time you receive this newsletter it should be a done deal. We might even convince Daniel to come to our July meeting and bring his bride for you all to meet.

Now about the upcoming meeting here in Shelbyville in July. I have not decided what I will demonstrate yet, but it will probably involve my new power hammer. Jan has agreed to demonstrate soap and cheese making. So if any of you have spouses interested in such things, please feel free to bring them along, I’m sure they will have a good time.

Please note that Ned Digh has changed the date for the September meeting from the 27th to the 20th.

I would like to give a special thanks to Bruce Herzog who sent me 386 pictures of the conference, and my friend Paul Agregaard who spent several hours preparing the cover photo.

The next Newsletter submission deadline is July 19.

By Bob Ehrenberger

bamsite.org
Minutes BAM Meeting
5/2/08  By Peggy Williamson

Thanks to BABA for coming and setting up their display.

Thanks to all the volunteers and demonstrators.

Thanks also to J.C. Campbell for donating a full scholarship to our auction.

Lynn Bodett presented an award to Pat McCarty as someone who has consistently been there to help everyone. The award was an angled cross pein hammer.

Tsur Sudan looked after the power hammers for Tom Clark. He also presented Kate Dinneen a special striking hammer for all her help with the conference.

Don Birdsall, as chairman of the scholarship committee, presented two scholarships to Matthew Burnett and Kenneth Lane.

Don Birdsall, as the 2007 recipient of the Bob Patrick founder’s award, presented it to Bob Ehrenberger.

Stephen McGehee represented BOA (Blacksmiths of Arkansas) in presenting the prizes to the winners of the forging contest. The winners were Daniel Haumesser and Joe Davis.

Bruce Herzog asked people to recycle their badges and bring them to the registration desk at the end of the conference. He also asked that those with winning bids in the auction to please pay before leaving the hall.

Lou Mueller introduced Dick Quinnell, who said a few words about ABANA, and thanked BAM for involving them in our conference.

Rome Hutchings thanked BAM for our involvement in the Lady Liberty ring project which he headed up.

Bob Patrick, on behalf of all blacksmiths of America and especially BAM, was honored to present Tom Clark with the ABANA Bealer Award. The award was given to Tom at the Ozark School of Blacksmithing the week before the conference and then brought on to the conference for us to see. It will be returned to Tom after the conference.

An appeal was made for workers for State Fair this summer. Contact Peggy Williamson.

It was announced that there would be music in the swine building after the auction.

Elections:
President - Ken Jansen
1st Vice President - Larry Hults
2nd Vice president - Ed Harper
Secretary (East) - Don Anders
Secretary (West) - Fathom DeGrate Claxton
Treasurer - Bruce Herzog will remain in charge as the general treasurer and keeper of membership information, with Michael and Katy Camden taking over conference registration and finance.

Meeting adjourned.

BAM's current membership is 619.
Conference Registration 405 including 38 (vendors, demonstrators, etc.) who attended at no charge.

Rome Hutchings tried to organize a group buy for the Lady Liberty panel so that it could stay with BAM. $2200 in contributions was raised from the group. But that price didn’t hold up during the auction when the Lady Liberty was won with a bid of nearly twice that.

BAM member Larry Crow conducted the auction after the business meeting. He did a fine job and everyone had a good time.

Here are the results of the Iron-In-The-Hat:
Anvil -- won by -- Ean Willard
Damascus Hammer -- won by -- John McNair
BAM box and tools -- won by -- Frank Berlan

By Peggy Williamson
Pat McCarty and Lynn Bodett
Letter from the president;

Well I guess it is my turn, I have read all the letters from the president in the past newsletters and never really given them much thought. I guess I need to do so now. I'm going to take this opportunity to give you all a little idea who I am and what my background is. I know I said a little about this at the conference but in deference to a fast meeting I didn't really say much. I come from a background of family owned farming when I was a child, I joined the military and learned metal working skills there. I got out of the military and started working in metal fabrication (I welded welding machines together) and then got on with a printing press manufacturer in St Louis. I worked in several areas of this company before ending up in field service. I have been doing field service on printing and book binding equipment for about 19 years now.

If you were at the conference, I made mention that I travel quite a bit in North America. This means that I will not make all the meetings and therefore will count on the vice presidents to help me out. If you need to contact me, one of the best ways is via email. For those of you who don't want to look it up my email address is kjansen@msn.com Please feel free to contact me anytime.

So, next item, I think the conference was great. I of course didn't get to see as much as I wanted (who does) but what I did see was fantastic. I think there were some organizational issues we might have handled better but that sort of goes without saying since things can always be improved. I welcome any comments about the conference, positive or negative, as we cannot improve without this kind of feedback. I think the half day per demonstrator really helped to be able to see more demonstrators. I think the tailgating went well, even though we were running out of space. We were able to finally get all the vendors inside (thanks Kate) so that all were under one roof. I am hoping that next year it will be even better. It may not be as long, maybe only two full days, with a setup on Thursday and teardown on Sunday, but that is only a thought and will need to be decided by the conference committee.

So, speaking of committee's, we need to discuss some business. We need a conference committee, we need this soon so we can get started on next year. I know for some of you, you will not even begin thinking about the next conference before Christmas but it needs to be started now or we will not have what we need in place and will be scrambling at the end. Believe me, I know, I have been part of three conference committee's, and know what it is like. I have one volunteer for the conference committee already and will need at least 4 more and would prefer 5. I need a chairman and other members. We have been blessed with some great conferences the last few years and that was due to the tireless work of a few people and just a couple in particular carried a great part of the load. I am not going to mention names, they know who they are. I need some new blood to step forward and carry part of the load of creating a conference that is probably the envy of many other clubs. We will have all the resources (people who have done prior conferences) to draw on and they have agreed to help but they want a break (AND DESERVE ONE). Was that too subtle?

Being part of the conference committee is a bit of work, but it also carries a lot of satisfaction with it. I am planning on breaking down the responsibilities more or less like we did at this last conference and it worked out well. So step up, and help carry our organization into the future.

Other business, we have broken the secretary job down to an east and west secretary. The job can be done easier if we don't have to have one person to try to drive all the way to a meeting that might be 2 states away.

We are also going to try and break the conference registration job out from the treasurer's job, to give Bruce a chance to breath. I think this is a good idea.

We need to consider other options for a library, apparently we are having issues with books being taken but not signed out and also some of you have borrowed books and not returned them. If we cannot get these back, we will have to disband the library permanently. I would like all the books returned in the next two meetings and then we can decide if we have enough books for a library.

On another note, please take an opportunity to say thanks to our past president, who was also the conference chairman at this past conference, (a feat I don't intend to repeat). Regardless of whether or not you agree with him and his methods, he always did what he thought was best for BAM and did a great job with the conference.

I have talked to Tom Clark and he was home from the hospital and recovering. Please keep him in your minds and hearts, we wish him a speedy recovery.

One more item I would like to bring up. This is something some of you haven't done and others may not have done for a while. Find out who lives near you and have a hammer in at your shop. Most of us are hobbyist smiths and we don't get the time to work out all the things by ourselves. You bring a group of people to your shop as few as 2 and as many as you like and you will be rewarded. We are all in this for the fun of it. You can have a project or a technique you want to try and see how many ways it can be done. I get more out of having people over to the shop than it ever costs me in time and resources. It really is a lot of fun.

Happy smithing, Ken Jansen
kjansen@msn.com

Kirk Sullens turns over the presidency to Ken.
Thanks for Helping

Here’s a big thank you to all of the Iron in the Hat contributors. Len Ledet did an excellent job of selling tickets for all the wonderful items that were given for the daily Iron drawings. Folks and businesses who donated are: Don Birdsell, Richard Cross, Monti BYGD (please excuse any typos or wacky spellings, I’m copying this from a handwritten form) Mike Lanham, Tom Dean, Blacksmiths of the Potomac, Blacksmith Journal, Blacksmith Supply, John Elliott, Charles Staley, Blacksmith Depot, Chuck Stone, Howard Foust, Tom Kennedy, Ed Harris, Dave Hammer, SOFA, Jerry Shouse, John W. Steel, UMBA, Bill Benett, John Teters, Peggy Williamson (who also donated the base plate for Josef Habermann’s sculpture) Larry Cole, Roger Mc Millan, Bob Tuftee and E.C.McCormack.

Big, big thanks to Pat McCarty for once again crafting a gorgeous BAM Box. I’m waiting till he gets really good at it and then I’m going to win it. What do we say to Tom Clark who filled the box with tools, offered the anvil and with Hank Knickmeyer provided the exquisite damascus hammer? The hammer was won by a gentleman in Mississippi, John McNair, who was beside himself when I called and told him of his good fortune. Thanks to all three of you for what you do for BAM.

What a conference! It seems like most folks had a good time and for that there are many folks to thank. First of all, thanks to our demonstrators and vendors for their patience when things were a bit chaotic. Thanks to Steve Austin for housing Mark Aspery and Darryl Nelson and getting them to the airport for their return flight. Thanks to John Sherwood for picking up and housing Josef Habermann and for getting him back to the airport, also for all his work in the Gallery. Thanks to John Murray for driving the Williamsburg boys between the airport and the Swine Pavilion as well as assisting Bob Patrick in his demos.

Thanks to Tom Clark, who despite a high level of pain, managed to get together a great crew who worked hard before and throughout the conference to make sure that all the demos had working power hammers. I think it is amazing how well it worked! Thanks, Tsur, Tom M and all the rest of Tom’s crew.

Thanks to Walt Hull and his Gallery crew, who did a marvelous job putting together a nice show with pieces brought in at the last minute.

Thanks to the BABA folks, especially Mike Roberts for coming all the way from England and putting up with the rather rustic conditions in the Swine Pavilion. Every morning he and various helpers had to find and rehang almost half of the photos which were blown off the walls during the night. Thanks to Tracy McCarty for helping Mike out and for helping me out whenever I asked.

Thanks to Heiner for suggesting the Memorial for Alfred Habermann, to Dick Quinnell for his words and to Bob Bergman for his own memories. I do believe that Josef was touched by the event.

Thanks to all the Auction folks. I haven’t seen any numbers but it sounded like we did pretty well.

Thanks to all the folks who I called for help fairly late in the process. Phil Cox, Pat McCarty, Don Birdsell (who did an great job with the Teaching Station and Mark Aspery) and Ken Jansen to name a few. Our BAM contact at the State Fairgrounds Community College, Kent Harbit, made life so much easier for the Gallery crew and the access he gave BAM to the large fork lift made set up and tear down less of a chore.

Thanks also to Bob Ehrenberger for providing the equipment and tools for the Make a Picket for Bonnie site and to Walt Hull for donating the material, to Bob Alexander for bringing the coal and leading the music sessions which I heard were much appreciated, to Stephen McGeehee for tee shirts and running the Forging Contest, which was sponsored by his affiliate in Arkansas.

I’m sure I’m forgetting some very important people, kind of like when you’re in the shop and you just can’t find the tool you need and you finally break down and ask your partner for help and he points at it right in front of your nose. It is great to know that I’m part of such a wonderful group of people, BAM has some very talented smiths, but also some very decent and capable humans. Thank you all for your help.

And thanks to Walt Hull for listening!

Kate Dinneen

There have been a couple of suggestions that BAM put on an enhanced conference on the off years of the ABANA conference cycle which would mean possibly doing another enhanced conference in 09. If we as a group decide to do that, I’d like to consider having the conference be more of a hands on event than the ABANA conferences tend to be. Perhaps having a couple of the old guard, well known names and a couple of less known but talented youngsters. It sure looked like the MTS was well used and I know Mark Aspery thought it was a good time.

Kate
Thanks From ABANA,

Kirk, Kate, Pat, Kelly and all the rest of the BAMers,

Thanks for stepping and filling the void for Blacksmiths and ABANA.

We had a wonderful time and were treated royally. Your help and cooperation made our goals and aims attainable.

We had great board discussions and got a lot of valuable work done. The board only meets once a year in November and this mid-year session was invaluable. We have been discussing this and have hopes that next year we will be able to have 15 board members attend for more of the same. You made us feel welcome and wanted.

We enrolled 35 new members for ABANA and sold a lot of T-shirts and other merchandise. We were able to get several to file petitions to run for board seats this year.

Kirk told me that this BAM conference was about twice as big as your usual conferences. Do you plan to maintain this type conference or was this a one time shot because you were filling the void left by ABANA this year?

If you need a grant to be able to meet your goals for next year, please file your grant request so that the funds can be allocated before it is all spent on other grants or scholarships.

Thanks again and please keep in touch with me and the rest of the board.

Wayne A. Coe

LETTER TO Editor

Dear BAM members, I wish to thank you for getting me started on my railing project. Special thanks to Al Stephens, Walt Hull, Pat McCarty, Bob Ehrenberger and Kate Dinneen. The Conference was great and I had a ball working with Clay Spencer’s tire power hammer. It was very easy to control for a first time power hammer user-Thanks Clay.

Thanks also for the many “Doug stories” and hugs.

Love, Bonnie Hendrickson

Tom Clark Update:

I talked to Tom today (May 15th) to check up on him, we were all very concerned when he was too sick to attend the conference. He is doing much better and was in the office for the first time in weeks. Tom wanted to set the record straight so that there would not be any undue speculation. In February, he had his bladder and prostate removed because of a malignant cancer. Tests at the time indicated that the cancer had not spread. Those tests were wrong, and when the pain didn’t go away, it was discovered that the cancer had spread to his penis and urethra. There was more surgery and more chemo. They are pretty sure they got it this time. Tom had lost nearly 40 pounds and is extremely weak. The doctors told him he needs to gain the weight back and start exercising. He is going to take it slow, but is encouraged that he feels so good now. Tom wanted to thank everyone for their cards and letters. He especially wanted to thank everyone that helped him get equipment ready for conference. Bob Alexander, Todd Kennick, Pat McCarty, John Murray, and some others went above and beyond by coming to Tom’s shop to grind dies and anvils and put the finishing touches on the power hammers needed for conference. Kate Dinneen and Phil Cox really helped Kirk put things together in Sedalia. And Tom’s staff of Tsur Sadan and Tom Misbauer represented the Ozark School of Blacksmithing well during the conference.

I am grateful for all that Tom has done for BAM and look forward to his complete recovery. Bob Ehrenberger

MAY-JUNE 2008
MTS at the BAM Conference
by Don Birdsall

The Hands On Training Area was well received by all who participated, we had overflowing crowds on Friday and Saturday. Thursday was light, due to the fact very few knew about the program or where it was being held. When word got out, that rapidly changed the next day.

Mark Aspery from California conducted all three workshops, with Don Birdsall assisting.

Thursday's workshop covered some basic blacksmith techniques. Mark demonstrated why he does not use a hot cut hardy but prefers a chisel to part the metal. Seeing the difference it makes, I will be using a chisel in the future myself.

He also demonstrated how to round up a taper or a round bar that has been forged square.

Over time a word has been dropped or omitted and that word is equal. Forge the four corners down to 8 corners and so forth. It should be stated to forge the four corners into 8 equal sides, then into 16 equal sides, if done this way, there are no flats left where the square bar ends and the round or taper starts.

Mark went on to teach his way of making a leaf.

On Friday, Mark made several tools for making a wizard. The tools were made from S-7.

Mark also taught how to heat treat them. His method is going to raise a lot of questions; he water quenched the S-7. After heating the working end to critical temperature, he dipped the very end in water and counted out loud 1001 and pulled the tool out of the water and said 1002 and put the tool back in the water, repeating until he was at 1010. He quickly polished the end and when the color on the very end turned blue dipped it again into the water for one second intervals again for ten seconds. He repeated this a third time, then let it finish air cooling. This technique will need to be tried several times to master.

Then he proceeded to make a wizard and all those present made and completed a wizard.

On Saturday, Mark taught forge welding. Every one made a least one weld with most of the students making several welds. The end result was a spoon.
BAM Conference 2008 Wrap Up by Bob Ehrenberger

At Pat McCarty's New Year's Day 2007 hammer-in, Tom Clark and Kirk Sullens laid out their plan for BAM to host the ABANA 2010 conference. It had been 13 years since we had hosted the conference in St. Louis in '94 and it was about time to take another run at it. The 2006 ABANA conference had been less than a great success and Tom thought they needed a new direction. The 2006 conference had gotten so big it was out of hand. Tom wanted to scale the conference back and make it so more of the participants could see more of the demonstrators.

The idea was proposed and approved at the January BAM meeting, and then there was a twist. The New York group that was planning the 2008 ABANA conference was unable to put together a workable plan. Because they were planning on putting on the conference on a University campus and had several international demonstrators scheduled, the costs were out of control. With some misgivings, BAM decided to offer to step in and host the 2008 conference instead of the 2010 conference. ABANA said thanks, but no thanks. They were not prepared to put on a conference with such short notice. They wished us the best, promised to help where they could, but didn't want it to be an ABANA conference.

At the BAM 2007 conference in Sedalia, we were so impressed with the facility that we decided to look at the possibility of BAM putting on an International class conference. Kirk went home and ran some numbers, and it was decided that it was possible. We would expand on what we were already doing (about double) and we wouldn't go broke doing it. ABANA came through with their support by sponsoring an international demonstrator and Rome Hutchings offered to run the ring project. Things were off and running.

It took a huge effort, but with Tom Clark providing some experience and direction, Kirk recruited the help of Phil Cox and Kate Dinneen and a dozen other BAM members pitched in to pull this thing off.

If the goal was to make the demonstrations more accessible, they surely pulled it off. I watched 5 different demonstrators plus I caught Phil Cox making a mini anvil back behind the bleachers. Just to summarize what I saw I watched Heiner Zimmermann make a flower, a swan, a raven, and a sculpture of a man. Heiner was a delight to watch and when I stopped to ask some details about his demonstration he took my note pad and made the sketches for me, pretty nice. I then watched Steve Mankoski of Colonial Williamsburg make a two different types of stirrups and an andiron. I watched Shelton Browder, also of Colonial Williamsburg, make two different types of adz and a trade ax. I watched Bob Patrick make a fleur-de-lis, a fancy oak leaf, and an element for a grill which incorporated a Clayton clamp which I had heard of but never seen used. Finally, I watched Joe Bonifas make a pair of tongs and demonstrate several interesting tools to be used under the power hammer. When I saw the animal heads that Darryl Nelson made I wish that I would have had time to watch that too. Other things I missed were Josef Habermann who was assisted by our own Joe Davis, Don Hanson making knives, Dave Sloan doing powdered metal damascus, and Michael Bendele making copper vessels.

The Mobile Teaching Station got a lot of use once the word got around about Mark Aspery and the great job he was doing.

Bonnie Hendrickson had some pretty good participation at the "Bang a Bar for Bonnie" area. She told me that she had never really gotten into blacksmithing, that was Doug's thing, but she had a great time.

There was a good bunch taking advantage of the family craft program. They had to put up with the wind on Friday but were much more comfortable when they relocated indoors on Saturday.

The fire place grill that Ken put together was beautiful. BAM members really came together to support it by providing 15 rings.

The Lady Liberty panel put together by Rome Hutchings was stunning. There were more than enough rings submitted to fill it and some of the rings that didn't make the cut were real works of art in their own right.

Something that was new to our conference this year was to have daily Iron-In-The-Hat drawings. The program seemed to be a big success, and it helped keep the number of small items in the auction to a minimum. They also had an auction of the stuff made on Saturday before everyone went home. I wasn't sure how that would work out, but the people that watched the Saturday demonstrations were eager to bid on the things they watched being made.

The banquet and auction were great fun, as usual. I don't know how much we made at the auction, but I'm sure we did pretty good, even after splitting part of the proceeds from Lady Liberty with the groups that helped make her. The visitors from ABANA, BABA, and several of our neighboring affiliates brought their check books and kept the bidding lively.

By the end of it all, my brain was fried from trying to take it all in, but that's a good thing. I have a year to recover and do it all over again next year.

With so much to cover, I probably don't have room for how-to articles in this newsletter, but will try to put my notes on paper for the next one. If you watched a demo that you want to write a how-to article about it, please contact me and we will work it into the newsletter.
Heiner Zimmermann

Heiner did a good job of getting the audience off their seats and into striking position. We see here several people helping him make a flower, pictured below. In the picture above Heiner shows off a swan before the final bends are made.
Bob Patrick
Steve Mankowski

Stirrup and andiron by Steve.

Ax and tongs by Shelton.

SHELTON BROWDER

Colonial Williamsburg
Bealer Award given to Tom Clark

This spring ABANA presented Tom with the Bealer Award, which is their highest honor, for the person that they feel has contributed the most to the blacksmithing community. The Award is a Fro which was Alex Bealer’s favorite tool.

Following is a letter that Tom wrote to John McNair who won the hammer that Tom and Hank Knickmeyer donated to the conference.

Dear John,

First let me congratulate you on winning the BAM Damascus Hammer in the Iron in the Hat. It seems maybe you appreciate it as much as Hank and I did in making it.

Hank and I have made several hammers together. His part is to make the mosaic Damascus steel block. He never ceases to amaze me with his design capabilities as well as his ability to be able to assemble the steel in such a manner that when I forge it, it does not come apart.

You have asked for bio information on both Hank and I. I have forwarded your request to Hank and he said he would be providing that information. He is the main man and I am just the simple toolmaker. It always pleases me that he will trust me with his precious metal.

There is something extra special about this hammer. Hank was running late with getting the steel prepared and I rushed him along telling him that something was going on with my health that I did not understand but it was causing me to have an unusually high number of rejects while making hammers.

A couple days after my first surgery (that revealed I had cancer) Hank called. It was a Thursday and he asked me if I still wanted to forge hammers on Friday. I told him of course as I was not sure what was happening to my body but surely things would not be good for a while. Hank’s reply was “I have good news and bad news. As you know, we normally forge four hammers at a time, but I ruined all but one of the billets. Do you still want me to come over?” I told him yes, as we were running out of time. We still have to try.

When Hank arrived, he had some of our friends with him. Pat McCarty and John Murray. There may have been others but my mind is not 100 percent clear on who.

When I approached the hammer to begin forging I could not believe the way my hands were shaking and how intimidated I was. Suddenly a calm came over me and I believe that God guided my hands through making that hammer.

As for the value of the hammer, I can say that art and art’s value is in the eye of the beholder. However, the last one that we sold went for $1600.00.

Our long term plan is that these hammers will become attractive to the groups of people that are putting large sums of money into hand made Damascus knives.

While my health is uncertain at this time, I have a positive outlook and I recently told Hank I want to make another of these hammers at the Helfstyn Castle competition in the Czech Republic in 2009. His reply was “I want to join you on this one.” So, we have plenty of time to make plans.

The Helfstyn Conference is made up of 12 forging stations where groups of 1 or more people may set up and have two hours to produce a product of their choice. Then they are judged as a group in different categories.

I am anxiously looking forward to Hank’s design for the Helfstyn conference which we can turn into a hand hammer.

Best Regards,
Tom Clark
BAM Grill/Ring Project

The frame was built by; Ken Jansen, Don Anders, Karen Bouckaert, Larry Hults. The rings were made by the aformentioned and also Bob Ehrenberger, Dan Nedemeyer, Kirk Sullens, Elda Haynie, Dan Sisk, Pat McCarty, Kate Dineen, Charlie Comstock, Mark Hemmer, and Mike Maddox. I hope I didn’t miss anyone.

Ken Jansen

Bang a Bar for Bonnie. This program was spearheaded by Walt Hull to help Bonnie Hendrickson complete a project that Doug just never had time to get to before he got too sick to do it himself.
Joe Bonifas and Michael Bendele

Joe showed how he does most of his work under the power hammer using hand held tools and jugs clamped to the bottom die.

Below, Michael makes a large disk from a large billet of copper. Right, after clamping the disk in a fixture, Joe heats it with a torch for Michael to sink unto a bowl.

Joe making tongs under the power hammer.
**Darryl Nelson**

Darryl creating lifelike animal heads out of steel.

**Don Hanson**

Right, Don works a blade under the Little Giant.

Far right, Dave Sloan puts together a billet of powdered metal damascus.
Josef Habermann
Family Program

Other interesting things to look at.

Giant home-made heave hammer. This baby really shakes the earth.

Blacksmith shop in miniature. Forge blower is treadle operated. Line shaft equipment works.

History of power hammers.
Greetings Friends of Blacksmithing,

Spring has come with cherry blossoms and get out of the house weather. Conference season is starting for blacksmiths in many ABANA affiliates. And as usual there’s news about ABANA happenings, news for Members, and news for Affiliate groups.

ABANA Happenings:

Long time ABANA board member Dorothy Stiegler stepped down from the board on February 17. Her statement is posted on the web site business main page. (www.ABANA.org/business/index.shtml) Three candidates were identified as potential replacements and in due course, Doug Kluender was appointed to the board. Doug’s brief bio is also available on the web site business main page.

In other business news, the By-Laws committee with approval of the ABANA board has completed a thorough revision of the ABANA by-laws. This is posted on the ABANA web site and questions, suggestions and comments from members are sought so that your opinions can be taken into consideration. Comments from members and answers from the board are posted on the By-Laws Blog page. (www.abana.org/business/Bylaws_blog.shtml) The by-laws revision will be put to a members vote in August.

Please consider running for the ABANA Board. Contact Jim Masterson, Nominations chair. (Jim@ABANA.org)

News for Members:

Last time the members discount program was announced -- now it is fully operational. (See www.abana.org/resources/discount_program.shtml)

Now a brand new program is ready for ABANA members! ABANA has partnered with Grainger to offer members access to the all of the offerings in the mammoth Grainger catalog for at least 10% off catalog each prices and discounts of up to 45 - 55% off list on hand tools from Proto, Blackhawk and Stanley, 46 - 48% off DeWalt and Milwaukee Power tools, 28% off motors and power transmission items, etc. Plus Grainger will pick up the freight cost to deliver these items to your door or you can do business with your local Grainger branch. John Cosenza is Grainger’s contact person for ABANA members (800-237-3174 ext. 384 or john.cosenza@grainger.com.) To order you’ll need ABANA’s Grainger account number: 873522098 and your ABANA member id number – your ABANA membership must be up to date.

Please get your ABANA dues payments in on time. Dues are payable during the entire quarter ending with your membership expiration date; if your dues are over 15 days late you will miss out on the next quarters Anvil’s Ring. A year’s membership will still get you 4 Anvil’s Rings and 4 Hammer’s Blows but late payment will result in a gap in your library.

News for Affiliate groups:

Affiliate libraries may subscribe to ABANA publications at library rates – but subscriptions are not memberships and thus cannot participate in ABANA member discount programs.

The Affiliate List on the web site (see www.abana.org/affiliates/affiliate_list.shtml) is being enhanced to have major events of affiliate groups. This is a cross reference to the Events calendar. Email me with requests.

The demonstrator list is seriously out of date. Please encourage all those talented demonstrators out there to check it out and submit updates. (see www.abana.org/downloads/demo_web.pdf)

Best Regards and please be in touch (pboulay@abana.org).

Paul Boulay

ABANA Affiliate Relations Board Member
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – April 2008

Well, they tell me that this message I’m writing is for the Spring issue. From where I am, you couldn’t prove it by me, but hopefully, Spring is on the way. Don’t get me wrong, I like winter just fine, but I am ready to keep the shop doors open for a while. And I am ready to get out to some conferences and see old friends and make some new ones as well as see some great blacksmithing. Time to start making plans to attend local and regional gatherings of our smithing cohorts. Spending a weekend in the company of other folks getting fired up about hot metal always leaves me with new ideas and new energy, new ways to see the problems we all face in our work at the forge. Did you know that the ABANA web site, www.abana.org, has a calendar with listings of blacksmithing classes and events all over the country? Check it out. You can find it under the “Resources” tab at the top of the home page. Take a look. Make a plan. Get out and see some blacksmithing and make some friends. While you’re there checking out the events calendar, take a look around the site. There is a lot of new information for smiths of every level. No password required – we don’t even need to know your mother’s maiden name. It is there for you, so take advantage of it, and if you know of something that you’d like to see there, drop us a note. We’re adding and improving every day.

Wherever you find your information, if you are reading this, then chances are you’re an ABANA member, and that means you are ready to run for election to the ABANA Board. That’s right, it is Spring, and that means it is almost election time again. The next issue of The Anvil’s Ring will include the voting ballots for the 2009 ABANA Board of Directors, and your name could be there! So another thing you can take care of while you are out at the conferences of your choice would be to get the signatures of ten other ABANA members on a piece of paper to qualify your candidacy. Not interested? How about suggesting someone else run, while you are having that conversation about everything you wish ABANA would be. I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: this is our organization, everyone has a vote, and everyone has the same chance to help guide ABANA into the future. Chances are, you have skills the ABANA board can use.

What sort of skills do we need? There are many ways to serve. Interest and willingness to do a little work for your fellow smiths is plenty, but we are also 15 people serving an organization of almost 5,000 members, and we have all the needs of any organization that size. We need people with publication, graphic arts or editing knowledge. We need people with leadership and management experience. We need people who can coordinate projects. We need people who know finances and budgets. We need people who understand data management, computers and the Internet. We need people who know sales and who know administration. We need connections to related fields. But most of all, we need people who care enough to share in the work of leading ABANA. We need people who will pick up the phone and make a few calls for ABANA. We need people who will get out and listen to members. It doesn’t take that much. Being an ABANA board member is one of those volunteering jobs that will take as much time as you care to give, but if you can spend a few hours a week with e-mails, and participate in the committee work that is always going on, you have enough to give. Every year, five of our fifteen slots on the Board are up for election. It is no secret that we didn’t have an election last year, because there were only two candidates for the five slots. Now seriously, how pitiful is that? My inbox and phone bill tell me that there are a lot more than two members who want to take a stab at guiding ABANA. Time to step up. If you have the interest, Internet access and can use e-mail, (that’s how we conduct most of our business throughout the year) the only other thing you need is votes. We already know that there are going to be some big shoes to fill this year.

Of the five seats that will be up for election, at least two, Maegan Crowley and Eric Ryser, will not be running again; and there may be others. Maegan has chaired the communications division for years and puts a tremendous amount of work into the magazines. Eric has been the secretary, managing the ABANA Central Office through transition and keeping track of our board business. These two retiring members alone will leave plenty of space for new members to find their contributions, but there is always plenty of work to do. And there will be five members whom we will have the opportunity to choose to do it. Having an opinion is reason enough to vote. What I really hope is that from our membership will come a group of candidates that will represent the diversity of ABANA, bring the skills ABANA needs, and make each of us hopeful as we vote, but only you can make that happen. Board members, yes, and that’s not all. In this year’s election you not only get the chance to run and to elect five members to the ABANA board of directors, you also get the chance to ratify changes to ABANA’s bylaws. The proposed changes are posted on the web site. Take a look. Send us your comments and concerns. We’ll do our best to explain the reasons for the changes we’re proposing, and if you point out something we’ve missed, we’ll address that, too.

If you are interested, or if you know of someone who might be like to run for a spot on the ABANA board, please contact Jim Masterson. Include the interested person’s name, phone number, and e-mail address.

Jim Masterson, Elections & Nominating Committee
E-mail: jim@abana.org Work phone number (901) 774-6380
Forge on!

Chris Winterstein, ABANA President
Buy, Sell, Trade

Individual Classified ads

For Sale: Two post vises, about 4” jaws. 75 each, one Canadian-Otto blower with adjustable handle and stamped Western Chief and Royal, one Champion 400 blower on tripod stand, one ratty old Mouse Hole anvil, about 125lb. Tom Moran Cavecreekfarm@yahoo.com

For Sale: Antique blacksmith’s post vice, a tool I have used. Spring is missing. Jaws open to 4 inches and are 4.75 inches wide, weight is 47 lbs without anchoring bracket. I am in Kansas City, Mo, north. $120.00 or best offer. Dan Ravenelle 816-453-5709

Commercial / Resource ads

Services:

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

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

Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened. Remove blades from shear and ship to Clay Spencer, 934 Partridge Lane, Murphy, NC 28906. $35 plus postage, additional cost for deep notches or blades previously sharpened at angle.

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

Ozark School of Blacksmithing - Tom Clark
Tom: tomclark@centurytel.net
School: www.ozarkschool.com
(573) 438-4725 Cell-(573)-747-8648

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

Subscribe to Jerry Hoffmann’s Blacksmith’s Journal, a monthly publication for blacksmiths. 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


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

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

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

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

New England School of Metalwork
www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com 1-888-753-7502

Blacksmithing classes, Arrowhead Forge, Buffalo, Wyoming. David W. Osmundsen 47 N. Lobban, Buffalo, WY. 82834 www.arrowhead-forg.com

Products

Heavy duty Frying Pan Blanks: Steel, approximately 9 inch in diameter with 2 inch sides. 12 gauge (2.5 lb.) or 14 gauge (1.75 lb.) thickness. Contact: Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722; bobforge@hotmail.com; (563) 332-4800.

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

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


NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
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.

Persimmon Forge PEDAL HAMMER sit down treadle hammers for sale. Contact Dave or Betty Edwards by e-mail at djedwards@cableone.net, or write or call the manufacturer, Daystar Manufacturing at 3701 West 6th, Emporia, Ks., 66801, (620) 342-4440. For more information, go to www.persimmonforge.com and click on both “Pedal Hammer” and “Video Demo of Pedal Hammer.”

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

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.blksmth.com Phone (308) 384 1088

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

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

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

Hammer In 2008 at the John Deere Historic Site
August 2, 3 2008

We are very excited about this event. We are continually adding more to the event. Registrations are starting to pour in as most folks like to plan their year in advance, especially when travel is involved. The event promises to be one of the largest 2 day events being held. As described in the flyer, this is our third event. In addition, there will be a special joint project between woodwrights and blacksmiths and will include Roy Underhill as a participant. We will also have the Mastermyr Replica Project on display, along with Mastermyr Find books on sale. Several TV shows are planning to film the event, including Heartland Highways, which is broadcast nationwide on satellite.

This Hammer In is a little different than most as it involves public attendance, active continuous demonstrations by the registrants, features Roy Underhill from PBS’s The WoodWright Shop, includes many other related craft demonstrators, is held at the wonderful John Deere Historic Site in Grand Detour Illinois, the site of John Deere’s original blacksmith shop, and is mainly intended to educate the public about blacksmithing.

We appreciate your support in promotion of this significant, historic event and the continuance of blacksmithing in general. I apologize for the large attached file. If you have any questions, please email or call.

Terry Husted
Hammer In 2008 Planning Committee
H(217)935-2483
W(217)937-3834

Shop Tip
I have been replacing my old fluorescent lights with the new 150 watt equivalent compact fluorescent bulbs, because they put out more light and use less energy. One compact bulb cost about the same as two 40 watt fluorescent bulbs. A 150 watt equivalent compact fluorescent light bulb uses 42 watts. A fluorescent light fixture has two 40 watt bulbs for a total of 80 watts. I’m not sure what the wattage equivalence is on the 40 bulbs but the compact bulbs seem to be brighter.

Ed Harper
Need Coal?
Check on Availability
Coal Captain: Bob Alexander

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

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

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

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

5. Jeff Willard, (417) 742-2572
   P.O. Box 416,
   Willard, MO. 65781

6. Denis Yates, (573) 286-5316
   343 Lamp Dr.
   Sunrise Beach, MO. 65079

7. Joe Hurley (660) 379-2365
   Rt1 Box 50
   Downing, MO. 63536

I think there is a new station in SE Missouri but couldn't get
hold of Bob. If you live down there, Bob is your current closest
station and he can direct you to the new station, if available.

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

8. Non BAM coal. $15.00 per 50#. The coal is located in Camden Point, Mo. I can be reached at 816-992-3352
   Thanks, Vernon Adkins, adkinsfarms@gmail.com
Upcoming Events

June 21, 22 - MTS #1, #2 Workshop (Basic BS) David Smith, New Haven, MO
July 1 - Application deadline for August Scholarship awards.
July 12 - BAM Meeting Bob Ehrenberger, Shelbyville, MO. (573)-633-2010 Trade Item - Nut Cracker
July 19 - Newsletter Submission Deadline
August 2, 3 - John Deere days Grand Detour, IL., Terry Husted, 217-935-2483
September 13 - MTS #1 Workshop (Basic BS) Don Birdsall, Rolla, MO (573)-364-7223
September 20 - BAM Meeting Ned Digh, Ham's Prairie, MO. (573)-642-8332
October 1 - Application deadline for November Scholarship awards.
October 11 - MTS #2 Workshop (Basic BS) Don Birdsall, Rolla, MO (573)-364-7223
November 1 - BAM Meeting Don Birdsall, Rolla MO (573)-364-7223
January 1 - Application deadline for February Scholarship awards.
January 17, 18 - MTS #1, #2 Workshop (Basic BS) William Tobler. Drexel, MO 816-619-2296
April 1 - Application deadline for May Scholarship awards
Note: For all MTS (Mobile Training Station) classes contact Don Birdsall for information (573)-364-7223

New Members

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

Elliott, John
P.O. Box 3766
Chester, VA 23831
jelliot@blacksmithsupply.com
804-530-0290

Grayson, Bum
25920 W 215th
Springhill, KS 66083
whileago@yahoo.com
913-686-3155

Wallin, Jeff
374 Metal Museum Drive
Memphis, TN 38106
jwallin@metalmuseum.org
901-774-6381

Hargett, John
3617 E. Sterling Circle
Tampa, FL 33629

Tolbert, John
1804 Bates Street
Midland, TX 79707
tolbert@aggienetwork.com
432-695-4544

Tanner, Mike & Linda
15421 Fiveforks Road
Amelia, VA 23002
thetanners@tds.net
804-561-5399

Cuzzilla, Steven
7825 Sarah Anne Drive S
Southaven, MS 38671
steven@metal museum.org
901-647-0871

Vidlak, James
5920 South 120th St
Bennet, NE 68317
jim@oldworldmetal.com
402-782-2074

Wareham, David
2165 Underwood Parkway
Eln Grove, WI 53122
262-825-0029

Berlin, Frank
15206 Highway UU
Clarence, MO 63437-3203
660-699-3795

Roquorovsky, Paul
2N 042 Grady Court
Elburn, IL 60119
novorol@sbcglobal.net
630-232-6544

Pollard, Gerald
14309 Friendswood Lane
Austin, TX 78737-9104
512-301-4368

Hines, Tee
21803 Ann Circle
Magnolia, TX 77355
281-356-1340

Porcarelli, Chris
8005 Ashworth Ave North
Seattle, WA 98103
206-245-7994

Spiller, Ray
4335 Mt Sharon Road
Greenbrier, TN 37073
Mountsharonforge@aol.com
615-382-0848

Gilmore, Ralph
16 Sexaver Street
White Gull, Alberta, Canada
T9S1R9
rfgilmore@mcsnet.ca
780-675-5750

Kye, Andrew
1425 66th Street
Berkeley, CA 94702
akye@gmail.com
510-912-1702

Shipman, Marion
24025 Cumberland Gap Ave
Wasar, MO 65355
660-547-3899

Brunner, Eric
3660 Saturn Road
Hillard, OH 43026
brunner55@osu.edu
614-219-2201

Melancon, Marcus
401 Yvette Marie Drive
Lafaytte, LA 70508
337-216-0784

Kluender, Doug
73 W. Holley Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Tuthill, David
1122 N.W. 46th Street
Seattle, WA 98107
ird@speakeasy.net
206-781-2428

Starke, Gerald
425 Hwy P
Rhineland, MO 65069
573-252-4517

MAY-JUNE 2008
Next Meeting: July 12th Shelbyville, MO.

Location:
2 miles east of Shelbyville on Hwy 168.

Host: Bob Ehrenberger

Trade Item:
Nut Cracker

Lunch:
Will be provided

Phone: 573-633-2010

Demonstrators:
Bob Ehrenberger,
New power hammer
Jan Ehrenberger,
Goat milk soap and cheese.

Camping:
We have plenty of room for camping (no hook-ups) and the fishing in our pond is pretty good. So feel free to come on Friday and spend the night.

BAM
2212 Aileswick Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63129

Please send changes to Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129 or e-mail to bjherzog@msn.com