



NEWSLETTER November 2009 Volume 2 Issue 11

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Driver Days 2009 by Joe Gentile

It was good to be back at Driver this weekend, after missing last years Driver Days due to some administrative problems with the event coordinators. Once we arrived we barely had time to set up before people started showing up wanting to see us strike the hot iron. We first assembled the guild tent then got the fires started. But we soon realized that the wind was just too gusty and had to take off the tarp after some of the top poles started to bend. There was a good turn out on Saturday with plenty of interest from the Civil War re-enactors who set up camp right next to us. Mike was tasked with making a custom wedge for a pipe fitter and I was busy entertaining the kids by making leaves. Sunday's weather was on the cool side but it was easy to warm up at the forges. There were a few lucky dogs that stayed around until the end of the day and were treated to some free corndogs courtesy of the corndog vendor at the event. Thanks to all those who came out Vince Parrish, Tom Herendeen, Mike Lambiase, Tim Edney, Tony Pirrone and Steve LaPaugh.



The top had to come down due to high winds!



Blacksmith Interview: This month was really a bonus month. Not only did I manage to find a skilled and willing participant, but I also was able to meet and see first hand the talents of:

Dale Morse

Clay Hill Forge

www.clayhillforge.com

Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing

1304 E Market ST, Suite G

Charlottesville VA 22902

phone: 434.244.7833

vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

During Blacksmith Guild of Virginia's meeting/demonstration on the 17th of October. Now you might have noticed that this is an address that isn't particularly that far from us. Dale informed us that this address will not be correct, but for a few months longer while he is transferring his operation to Waynesboro, so keep checking his website for information. He is still not that far away and you might want to take a class with him, if you don't see anything that your interested in maybe you can call and work something out that will work for you. You need to visit his website and see the work that he produces, really top notch, don't take my word for it; check out his website!

I began blacksmithing at the age of nine in the National Park Service as a living history volunteer. The location was the Booker T Washington National Monument in Franklin County, Virginia and it was the bicentennial year, 1976. My parents and my sister and I all participated in the various aspects of interpreting life on a poor 1860's era tobacco plantation, but I was especially drawn to the fire of the forge. Fire and sharp pointy things, I was in heaven. I continued to volunteer at the park for the next ten summers till I went to college. During that time I matured from sharp pointy things to things more useful. I also put together a small craft show oriented shop and business when I was around fourteen years old. That continued up through my college years and for a couple of years after. It was only when I was in college, though, that I decided that I wanted to be a professional smith and I obtained a business administration degree to facilitate that aspiration. And it has to some degree, though making a living as a professional blacksmith is an ongoing challenge and I am still searching for the best application of my skills to maximize that living.



Dale Morse at his power hammer



The gate & bird from the Web Page opening page

In my work, I prefer what is commonly referred to as traditional joinery. Traditional is a matter of interpretation, however. The term mechanical joinery may be more appropriate meaning joinery that avoids modern welding as much as possible. In truth, at the heights of historical ironworking, smiths would finish their work to as high a degree as possible to belie the hammer, especially in high end work. Today, this isn't as difficult as you can arc weld and grind a joint smooth with little effort and a modicum of skill. To be valuable in high end work in our times, the mechanical joinery must be left proud and worked into the aesthetic of a piece. Often, work that would have been considered poor or rough craft 250 years ago is work sold at a premium

today. To my taste, a visible mortise and tenon joint is far more visually appealing than even a well cleaned electric welded joint. That does not mean that I have an aversion to modern welding. I use it in my tooling on nearly a daily basis as it is a very quick and efficient way of gluing metal together. It also finds its way into my work in unseen or less visible areas. Time efficiency is paramount in making a business in blacksmithing profitable.



Marine Door Knocker



Rose Detail of fencing

On tools, I have a German style 3 pound cross peen hammer that is my favorite for no other reason than that it is the one my father bought for me when I first started my business as a teenager. It was way too much hammer for a 14 year old and neither of us knew better, but I learned to use it and use it well. For my students, I recommend a two pound hammer. I have had many anvils over the years and prefer at least 250 pounds or more. I have developed an appreciation for the European two horned anvils. I make many of my own tools and tongs to suit my preference. I have two mechanical hammers and have plans to purchase a more modern air hammer. My advice to new smiths, especially those trying to sell their work, buy the bigger, better tool. You can make the big tool do smaller work much easier than you can make the small tool do bigger work. You will also ultimately spend more money buying only tools big enough to meet your needs now without an eye to how much your business will grow in the future. To those budding smiths thinking about making a full time career in the field, marry someone with a good job and benefits. It is a very rewarding career that will take you places you never imagined, but it is seldom lucrative.

To those who want to make a little money as a part time or hobby smith, don't undersell those who are full time smiths. It cheapens the work for everyone and makes it even harder to make a living at it.

If you have a friend who is a full time smith, find out what their hourly rate is and charge for your work accordingly. Trust Me; it is better for everyone that way.

I have had a number of people, who have influenced me over the years, most notably, my Mother who was a watercolor artist whose subject was mostly natural plants and scenes. Nol Putnam, Fred Crist, Manfred Bredohl, Joseph Stokes, Gabrielle Curtolo, Tal Harris are among many who have influenced my work directly. Francis Whitaker and Samuel Yellin have influenced me through their works and writings. But one of my biggest influences has been the many, many students of the art that I have had the privilege of knowing over the years. The energy and creativity of people learning the art is an endless source of inspirational energy and I highly recommend blacksmithing as a creative outlet to anyone interested.

To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,

Bruce Woodward resigned from the Board on November 22 due to personal reasons. Bruce had this letter all but done when he stepped down. Out of respect for his service to ABANA and the hard work he has put forth I have only made minor additions to this. Please join me in thanking Bruce for his enthusiastic service to the ABANA Board. I will be taking over his Affiliate responsibilities. My contact info is as follows:

Peyton Anderson
peyton@abana.org
434-390-6203

The 2010 ABANA Conference

The ABANA Conference next year is first priority in the thoughts and actions of everyone at ABANA. Our great country and most of the world is in the middle of the worst recession since the great depression of the 1930's. Unemployment has hit unbelievable numbers and people have stopped spending money in an effort to survive. And that includes many blacksmiths and unfortunately many of their customers. But blacksmiths can adapt to their situations. What they can't buy, they make. What they can't make, they modify. And that is what the Conference Committee is doing so the conference will fit the times and be a success despite the fickle economy. The Committee is doing everything possible to keep the registration cost and other expenses such as food and lodging as low as possible (car/tent camping and RV hookups permitted) etc. See ABANA's web site under Latest News for the most up to date information as we get closer to June 2010. There is also a Blog where you can express your thoughts as well which can also be viewed through the website. Also attached to this letter is the registration form. No better way to get the conference juices flowing than early registration!

Affiliates and affiliate members can also help ABANA keep the cost down so the blacksmithing community can have a successful event at a low cost to blacksmiths by directly sponsoring one of the Conference venues or demonstrators. Contact Lance Davis (lance@bentoaks.org) or Paul Boulay (pboulay@earthlink.net). Several Affiliates have stepped up to sponsor parts of the conference already. Take a look at the demonstrator list. Are any of the demonstrators in your area? If so, why not show your support for them by sponsoring them!

ABANA Conference Demonstrators

Joe Anderson : forged kitchen ware and sculpture.
Mark Aspery : tool -making.
Gerald Boggs : teaching station.
Dan Boone : dragon's heads.
Dan and Judy Boone : round table discussion on how to market their wares.
Phil Cox : mechanical and air hammers use and rebuilding.
Dan Nauman : repousse.
Darryl Nelson : forging animal heads.
Steve Parker : power hammer tools and forging.
Tom Latante : and the Meticulous Metalsmiths forging a lock.
Mark Aspery : run the Green Coal teaching station with Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs.
Amit Har-Lev and Tsur Sadan (of Israel): team forging

ABANA Conference Volunteers

Conferences take a lot of labor. People to set up and tear down the demo sites, people to be there during the demo, and many other chores. ABANA also needs experienced area managers who can take charge and get the job done efficiently and well done using the volunteer help available. And for a successful conference many volunteers will be needed. Smiths and affiliates throughout the region are urged to contact the ABANA 2010 Volunteer Coordinator, Ken Preiser (ph: 931-393-1610, email: kpreiser@charter.net).

ABANA Conference Ring Projects

Calling all blacksmiths and metalsmiths. ABANA is sponsoring three different ring projects at the Conference. The themes are: Mississippi River, Memphis Music and Metal Museum. Each theme frame will hold four rings. After the selected rings are installed in their frame they will be auctioned with 50% of sale price returned to the donor. Rings not used with the frames will also be auctioned under the same terms. See ABANA's web site for details (http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/Ring_Page.shtml)

IRON 2010 Exhibit

Congratulations to the selected artist-blacksmiths for the Metal Museum's exhibit of contemporary blacksmithing. See the Metal Museum's web site.

New ABANA Board of Directors Member

Jack Parks from Piedmont, SD is one of the founders of Dakota Artist Blacksmith Association. Jack has been a practicing smith for over twenty years. Welcome on Board, Jack.

Warmest Regards to all!, Forge On!, Peyton Anderson, Affiliate Rep.

First call for: ABANA 2010 Conference Gallery Submissions and BAM Box Tool Donations.

2010 ABANA Conference will host an open to the public Gallery event in conjunction with the Memphis conference. This is your "First Call" for Gallery submissions. The conference Gallery will host an opening reception, inviting the public to an evening event and the opportunity to meet the artists. We invite you to consider donating your Gallery items for the conference auction. Funds raised by the conference auction go to support the mission of your association and are gratefully accepted. Please be sure to indicate whether your Gallery item is for "Display Only", "Auction Item", or "For Sale by Artist". Please Contact Steve Williamson for Gallery Submissions and Valerie Ostenak for Gallery Opening Reception information.

Steve Williamson, BAM Box Tools and Gallery Submissions Coordinator
3434 Pulaski Hwy
Columbia, TN 38401
H: 931-381-7910
Cell: 931-374-1190
sslw2@aol.com

Valerie Ostenak, Gallery Opening Reception Coordinator
4393 E. Matley Dr.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
928-646-7078
valerieostenak@earthlink.net

Notice: Call for BAM Box Tool Donations!

2010 ABANA Conference will once again be having the "Iron In The Hat" fund raiser for our educational mission. Our Scholarship and Grant programs depend upon these funds raised during this event. Please consider making a donation of quality, well made tools! Select any of the items from the list! Any additional tools received, after the BAM Box has nicely filled, will go to the "Iron In The Hat" daily drawing. Please consider applying your personal Touchmark to donated tools as it will add special meaning to the new owners.

TONGS, NAIL HEADER, BACKING PLATE, TWISTING WRENCHES, BENDING FORKS, TRAVELER (Small), CHISELS, PUNCHES, CUT OFFHARDY, WOOD Mallet, ANGLE BLOCK FOR VISE, DIVIDERS, STEEL RULER 24", CENTER FINDER, CIRCLE DIVIDER, DRIFTS, COLLAR BLOCKS or any other tools you find useful.

A very special ABANA 2010 Conference BAM Box Hammer has been donated by Nathan Robertson of Jackpine Forge, 52765 Robertson Road, Max MN 56659 Phone: (218) 659-4590 jpine@paulbunyan.net so please contact your local ABANA Affiliate Group and buy those raffle tickets! Or you can purchase tickets on-site during the 2010 Conference in Memphis

The ABANA 2010 conference will be held at the AgriCenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. Opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Thursday through Saturday will be full days of forging demo's and excitement ABANA style. Saturday will conclude with a pay as you go Memphis BBQ banquet and the conference auction.

The theme of the conference is to be "ABANA's Greatest Hits" in keeping with Memphis' musical heritage. The ticket price will turn the clock back at least 8 years... The site ([click here](#)) is within a few miles of thousands of reasonably priced hotel rooms. Camping and RV hook-ups and hot showers will be available on site. Stay tuned for additional announcements.

AgriCenter International is located at 7777 Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.

The ABANA Board has set the early registration fees and bundled reduced membership as a package deal!



Here's a picture of a project that Mark Widen of "The Blacksmiths III" forge just completed. Some of you might remember that I interviewed Mark in March of 2008. His website is www.blacksmiths3.com, He has posted some pretty cool videos on youtube of him working on the gate parts; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-RUHPorcO8>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2JLo4BW60c>. Mark also has some of his work on etsy.com at www.blacksmiths3.etsy.com, check it out and let him know what you think.

Steve's Trip: Steve LaPaugh sent in a couple of photos of his trip to Durham, NC which included a visit to ye old blacksmith shop.



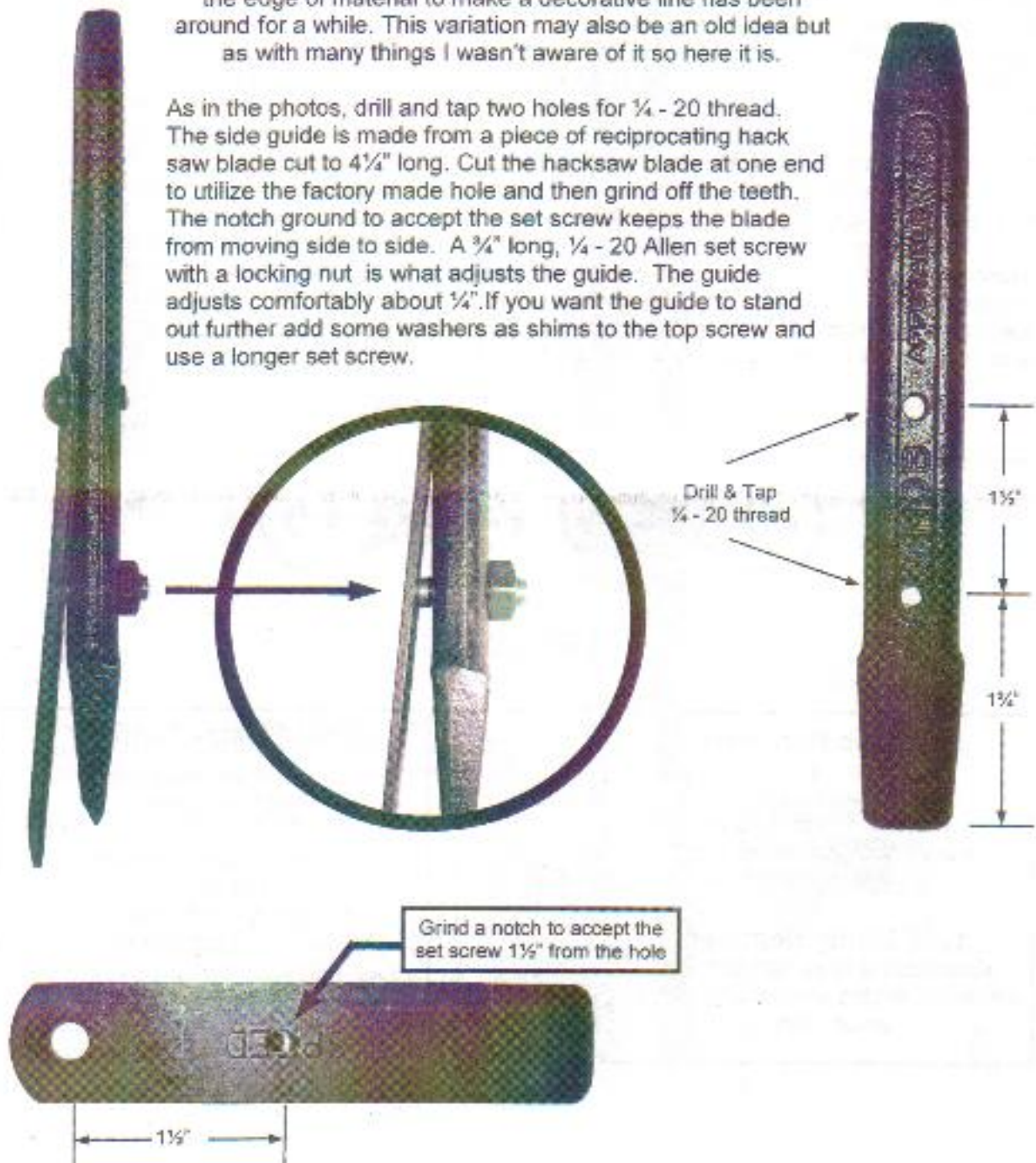
Take a look at these photos; notice that they are using a very fancy flue pipe and that there is a plastic shield in front of anvil to prevent welding splatter. A little better than my suggestion of a shower curtain on a cable, hey at 3 bucks who cares if it gets holes in it, hahaha. Thanks Steve!

Adjustable Chisel Guide

By Carl Davison
Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Welding a metal piece to the side of a chisel to guide it along the edge of material to make a decorative line has been around for a while. This variation may also be an old idea but as with many things I wasn't aware of it so here it is.

As in the photos, drill and tap two holes for $\frac{1}{4}$ - 20 thread. The side guide is made from a piece of reciprocating hack saw blade cut to $4\frac{1}{4}$ " long. Cut the hacksaw blade at one end to utilize the factory made hole and then grind off the teeth. The notch ground to accept the set screw keeps the blade from moving side to side. A $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, $\frac{1}{4}$ - 20 Allen set screw with a locking nut is what adjusts the guide. The guide adjusts comfortably about $\frac{1}{4}$ ". If you want the guide to stand out further add some washers as shims to the top screw and use a longer set screw.



Editor's Note: Here it is almost Thanksgiving, where has the year gone! I hope that everyone is taking time to do some work around the house as this beautiful weather will soon give way to cooler temperatures and force us all indoors. Well not everyone's forge is indoors, but that doesn't mean that you can't forge away, just pump a little more air and you will soon be post toasty. Our next meeting is at Annie Roche's barn and I hope that everyone is making something special for Iron in the Hat. Thanks for hosting us Annie.

As the Christmas season gets closer we will all be busy making plans with our families and friends. I hope that you will all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and have much to be thankful for. Let us not forget that before Thanksgiving we have Veteran's Day. I know that veterans and active duty military are in the spotlight today, it is not always so. Try to do something that signifies your recognition of the dedication and hardships that Veterans past and present either have or do make for our freedom. Thank You Brothers.

Please remember that nominations are due this month for TBG Officers. Please consider serving a term, it is our guild and it is what you make of it. Different individuals have different visions and plans and an eclectic mix is what makes a well rounded organization, so throw your hat in the ring. Elections are in December and tallied during the December meeting. This year Steve LaPaugh and Nancy have graciously invited us back. Steve has made many improvements since last year, so he really expects us to have a good time. I know that I always enjoy myself at his place. Thanks in advance Steve.

Remember that we are looking for someone to take over as Editor for the newsletter. I am resigning as of January 2010. Why, because I have several endeavors that I need/want to pursue. Some of them are artistic and some of them are practical, but all of them need to get done. I have enjoyed putting the newsletter together, but things change and this is one of them. Give it a try! You might find that you like it!

I'll see ya at the forge!

Vince Nakovics



This is a 12 Pdr Garrison Carriage completed by me and my fellow worker Mike.

On this particular carriage I remade the cap squares to fit better. The wheels are cast, so I have never had to make them. I did once repair a large casting defect in one a while back.

From the left Rusty Healy, Vince Nakovics, Jim Scott, Dan Franks (centered), Joe Gentile, Rob Costello & Tim Peaks
Francis Land House 2006



Tidewater Blacksmiths Guild Mission Statement

“The Tidewater Blacksmiths Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the craft of Blacksmithing and to increasing the public awareness of the history of Blacksmithing while at the same time demonstrating that in this world, things hand made still exist and remain objects of art”

2007 - 2009 TBG Officers:

President: Travis Covington	(757) 617-9174	travis@covforge.com
Vice Pres: Tom Herendeen	(757) 548-8800	twoherrons@aol.com
Treasurer: Steve LaPaugh	(757) 877-5684	slapaugh@verizon.net
Secretary: Joe Gentile	(757) 965-6878	amx-ray@cox.net

2009 – 2010 Board of Directors:

Diane deBeixedon	(757) 627-9962	ddebeixedon@cox.net
Bear Short	(757) 485-5117	hydraconstinc@aol.com
Annie Roche	(757) 485-3246	anniesgirls@verizon.net
Lemuel Brown	(757) 647-9832	brownstonewall@aol.com
Mike Lambiase	(757) 464-3857	mhlambiase@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs:

Demonstrations:

Tom Herendeen	twoherrons@aol.com
Vince Parrish	snoozp@aol.com

Website::

Travis Covington	travis@covforge.net
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Scholarship:

Mike Keeney	scforge@cox.net
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Librarians:

Diane deBeixedon	ddebeixedon@cox.net
Kaitlin deBeixedon	

Newsletter:

Vince Nakovics	restoreman123@msn.com
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Building Fund:

Joe Gentile	amx-ray@cox.net
Diane deBeixedon	ddebeixedon@cox.net

Tidewater Blacksmiths Guild meets every third Sunday of the month. Location of the meeting is posted on our website:

<http://www.tidewaterblacksmiths.com> .

www.blacksmithsupply.com

<http://www.yesteryearschool.com>

ABANA members receive discounts at www.Graingers.com, eligible for Life Insurance and Health Insurance Programs! and More!

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