

Now and Then
Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild
July 2016

Inside: Club Information Meeting Notes General Notes Items of Interest	Editor's Notes: If you have been hammering lately, you will surely have noticed that Summer has arrived. Please remember to hydrate when you are hammering <u>and</u> when you are working or playing outside! SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com P.S. Thanks for all the loving outreach to Ray and me this past week since our barns burning down and Ray getting injured. More on this on last page...
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Club Information

SVBG Board of Directors

President...Dewey Baker contact preference through email: chevy38truck@gmail.com
or message him on Facebook by typing in Dewey Baker and messaging him;
if you must contact him by phone only call between 8 am & 8 pm at (540) 421-5510; He is
unable to be reached by phone on Monday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Boy Scout Meetings
and the 1st and 2nd Tuesday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Ruritan Meetings

Shop Master...Everette Burkholder (540) 879-9260

Secretary/Treasurer...Karen Robertson (434) 989-2206 email: ksrobertson7@gmail.com

Librarian...Daniel Burkholder (540) 879-9260

Safety Officer...Matt Williams (910) 465-0463 email: stonecrestforge@gmail.com

Web Master...Darrell Gilman email: web.svbg.darrell@gmail.com

Photographer...Dirk Gold email: dirkgold@gmail.com

Coal Manager...Ed Fleming email: flemishfoke@hotmail.com

Facebook Administrators... Drew Alexander email: magicdrew88@gmail.com
Dale Morse email: vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor...Susan Plank (540) 896-1232 email: SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com

Guild Master - Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing, Dale Morse (434) 960-9718
email: vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

More information on the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild can be found at these locations:

The Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild website can be located on the internet at

<http://svbg.squarespace.com>

and

On Facebook, like us at Shenandoah Valley Blacksmithing Guild

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Club Information - Continued

2016 SVBG Calendar of Events

Note: There are still chances to demonstrate this year. Three demonstrators are needed in September. Contact Dewey Baker, SVBG 2016 President, at our monthly SVBG meeting or contact him by using information on the previous page.

Has occurred:

January	14th Monthly Meeting - James Spurgeon demonstrated "Venturi Style Propane Forge Burner"
February	11th Monthly Meeting - Lanny Campbell demonstrated "Brian Brazeal's Crane" 27th - Boone Pasture Party Hammer In held in Louisa, VA
March	10th Monthly Meeting - Dale Morse demonstrated "Leaf"
April	14th Monthly Meeting - Beginner and Mentor Night 1. Drew Alexander mentored 2. Matt Williams mentored "Hooks" 3. Daniel Burkholder mentored "Tongs" 4. if needed, Dewey Baker 15th, 16th & 17th-Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac Spring Fling 2016 in Berryville, VA; Demonstrators were - Jymm Hoffman and Colonial Williamsburg Gunsmith, Richard Sullivan
May	12th Monthly Meeting - Jerry Veneziano demonstrated "Mermaid from Farrier's Rasp" 21st & 22nd - Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland Blacksmith Days in Westminster, MD; Demonstrators were Shel Browder, retired Colonial Williamsburg Blacksmith, and James Michael "Mike" Walker
June	9th Monthly Meeting - Bill Fox demonstrated

Still to look forward to:

July	23 SVBG Work Day - at Al McDorman's new smithy 14th Monthly Meeting - Ray Plank was going to demonstrate a "Rasp Snake," but Daniel Burkholder will be replacing Ray since our barns burnt down. Thanks Daniel!
August	11th Monthly Meeting - James Spurgeon 15th through 20th - Rockingham County Fair
September	8th Monthly Meeting - Beginner and Mentor Night 1. 2. 3.
October	13th Monthly Meeting - Jim Oates
November	10th Monthly Meeting - Al McDorman
December	8th Monthly Meeting - Rudy Dean demonstrates "Mokame"

Alternate - Daniel Burkholder

Meeting Notes

January 2016 SVBG Monthly Meeting

James Spurgeon demonstrated “Venturi Style Propane Forge Burner”

article and photos by James Spurgeon

pages 3 through 9

SageBrush BladeWorks
Venturi Propane Forge Burner

I designed this burner based on a hybrid of a blower burner and Ron Reil's Venturi burner with the original intent to use it as a Venture burner only until I could put together a blower assembly for it. But it works so well I have never bothered to do the blower.

According to the BTU calculator on Ron Reil's burner page (ronreil.abana.org/design2.shtml) when tuned to a neutral burn, this burner produces 46,000 BTU per hour at 5 psi and 93,000 BTU per hour at 20 psi. Those figures are consistent with my gas consumption rates, so I am fairly confident in calling them accurate. I will say it is easily capable of welding heat in a properly sized forge.

At forging temperatures, this is producing damaging levels of IR spectrum light! I strongly recommend the use of IR Shade 3 glasses whenever looking into a hot forge!

(My personal thanks to Dave Stephens for this piece of advice!)

***DO NOT USE GALVINIZED PIPE, use only brass and black iron piping as specified, parts of the burner will get hot and galvanized pipe releases NASTY fumes when heated.**

Parts list: (with approximate cost)

- \$7.54 1/4 in ID gas rated quarter turn ball valve
- \$4.49 2 in long 1/4 in ID threaded brass pipe
- \$5.99 4 in long 1/8 in ID threaded brass pipe
- \$2.99 1/8 in brass Female threaded coupling
- \$2.69 1/8 in male brass plug
- \$*.** Brass contact nipple for MIG welder (0.035 in ; 0.9 mm) [**\$6.98 / 10**]
- \$6.78 1 1/4 in Black iron pipe T junction
- \$3.77 1 1/4 in x 1 in Black iron reducer bushing
- \$3.77 1 1/4 in x 3/4 in Black iron reducer bushing
- \$2.28 3/4 in x 1/4 in Black iron reducer bushing
- \$9.21 12 to 18 in long x 1 in Black iron pipe
- \$0.64 2 in square sheet steel or single gang electrical cover plate
- \$*.** 3/4 in #6 machine screw [**\$1.98 / dozen**]
- \$*.** 5/32 in x 3/4 in coil spring [**\$2.79 for 2**]
- \$*.** Pipe thread sealant RATED FOR Propane!!! [**\$7.38 / 4 fl. oz. Bottle**]
- \$3.88 High Heat spray paint (I used Rustoleum brand, rated for 1, 200 F)

Tool list:

Pipe wrench

Tap wrench

Crescent wrenches

#6 NC 32 tap and 7/64 in drill bit

1/4 in NF 28 tap and 7/32 in drill bit

1/8 in NFP tap

5/32 in drill bit

Instructions:

Assemble the Black iron pipe as shown using a small amount of thread sealant:



1 in pipe off one side of the long axis, reducer bushing(s) down to 1/4 in on the opposite side with the perpendicular opening left open.

Once assembled, clean of any excess thread sealant so the paint will stick, and then paint the entire assembly with the High Temp paint.

Set that aside and start on the Brass fittings use plenty of thread sealant, I don't bother to paint the brass.

On the inflow side of the ball valve, attach whatever propane fitting is needed to connect to your propane source. For mine this was a 3/8 in flare fitting.



Take the 2 in long x 1/4 in brass pipe and tap one end with the 1/8 NFP tap, and then thread the opposite side into the outflow end of the ball valve.



Take the 1/8 in brass male plug and drill a 7/32 in hole through the center of the face and tap it with the 1/4 in NF 28 tap. Then thread the MIG nipple into it, the plug into the coupler and the coupler to the 4 in long x 1/8 in brass pipe:



Next slide the 1/8 in brass pipe and MIG nipple assembly down the 1 in black iron pipe such that the end of the 1/8 in brass pipe protrudes from the 1/4 in reducer bushing and the MIG nipple points down the pipe.



Thread the 1/8 in brass pipe into the end of the 1/4 in brass pipe that was tapped earlier:



Then slide the brass assembly in to the black iron pipe threading the 1/4 brass pipe into the 1/4 in reducer bushing:

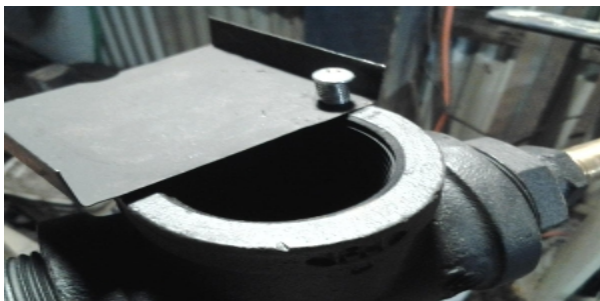


The 1/8 in brass pipe and MIG nipple assembly should point down the center bore of the 1 in pipe extending through the T and into the 1 in black iron pipe.



The careful observer of the last picture will note a small hole in the rim of the open end of the Black iron T. That is 7/64 in hole tapped with a #6 NC 32tap for attaching an air control damper.

Drill a 5/32 hole in the corner of a small piece of sheet steel (or use a predrilled single gang electrical box cover), place the 5/32 coil spring over the shaft of the #6 machine screw then put the screw through the corner of sheet steel and thread into the drilled and tapped hole on the rim of the Black iron pipe. Note, the spring needs to be stiff enough to keep the sheet steel in whatever position you slide it (open; closed; partial...)



Here is a pic of me and my assembled burner during its first test burn in 2008 (NOTE: This burner will not sustain a flame outside the forge unless the damper is closed, the excessively robust air flow will literally blow the flame out. I have my hand covering the opening on the T since I had not yet fitted the damper.)



SageBrush BladeWorks
Burner Flare-Firebrick Forge

My forge is heavily used for pattern welding, so it is basically built of firebrick set in a steel frame.

Parts List:

- 12 - 3x9x4.5 in Soft Firebricks
- 2 - 1x9x4.5 in Hard Firebricks
- 4 - 14 in lengths of 5/16 mild steel rod (weld steel; not galvanized)
- 4 - 18 in lengths of 1/2 in x 1/8 in angle iron
- 2 - 18 in length of 1/2 in square tube
- 2 - 6 in lengths of 3/4 in x 1/8 in mild steel bar
- 1 - 1 in length of 3 in black iron pipe
- 1 - 18in x 9 in steel sheet
- 2 - 3 in x 9 in steel sheet
- 1 - 18 in x 9 in steel sheet
- 8 - 5/16-18 nuts
- 3 - 1/4-20 thumb screws
- 12 - 1/4-20 flathead machine screws with nuts

Tool List:

- Screw drivers
- Crescent wrenches
- Channel lock pliers
- Tap & Die wrenches
- 5/16 in NC 18 Tap & Die set and 17/64 in drill bit
- 1/4 in NC 20 tap and 13/64 in drill bit
- 1 in masonry drill bit
- 5/16 in masonry drill bit
- Masonry hammer or light weight forging hammer
- 1/4 in Cold chisel
- Saw with masonry blade
- Face shield
- Respirator or particle mask
- (Optional) 1 3/8 in spade drill bit



The frame holds the burner in position at a hole drilled through the top center brick.

Note the respirator and full face shield. I strongly recommend using both when drilling or cutting refractory brick.



The hole is first drilled to fit the 1 in burner tube then I use a small hand chisel, masonry hammer and a couple masonry drill bits to taper the inside hole out to roughly 1.5 in.



Once the general shape has been cut, I use a tapered 1 3/8 in spade bit to smooth it out.

After inserting the burner into the assembled forge, I seal around the burner tube with a mixture of fine sifted clay and fireplace ash.

So, now that my forge is back up and running, here are some pics of the burner in action.

In all of these pics the burner is running at just 4 psi.

Burner flame coming through the flare nozzle right after I lit the forge, while we can still see it.



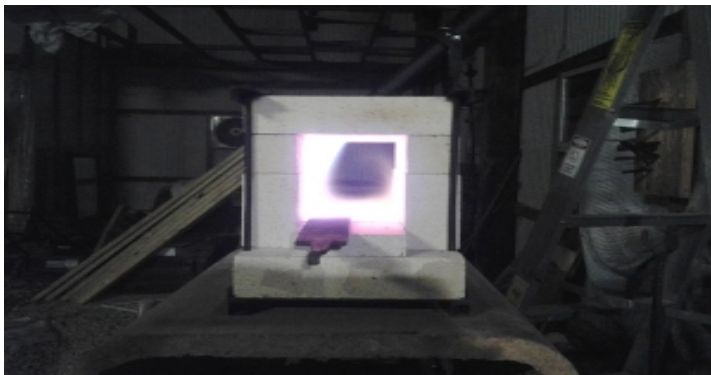
Then I put in a large farriers rasp I plan to turn into a few knives.



5 minutes later:



Another pic so we can see the swirly in the forge. Not bad for a square forge:



Meeting Notes - Continued

March 2016 SVBG Monthly Meeting
Dale Morse, SVBG Guild Master demonstrated a “Leaf”
photos by Dirk Gold



Dale Morse and Karen Robertson



Texturing



Textured



MAKE PLANS for the SVBG Workday and Picnic July 23, 2016

The SVBG Workday and Picnic will be held this year on July 23, 2016 at Al McDorman's new smithy located at 188 Staymen Lane, Staunton, Virginia 24401. This Thursday at our July SVBG Monthly Meeting, there will be a food sign up sheet for you to write what you will be bringing to the pot luck lunch and a section for you to write how many hotdogs you think you and your family will eat - SVBG will be providing the hotdogs.

On Saturday, July 23, 2016 plan to bring: 1. your own lawn chair(s) 2. your blacksmith tools and safety gear 3. your Iron-in-the-Hat donation item(s) 4. your signed up food or beverage item(s). The SVBG Workday and Picnic will be an outside event, remember to bring your sunscreen and whatever you use to keep yourself cool. Arrive around 8:45 am; 9:00 am to 12:00 noon we will work on designed project(s); 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm we will have lunch and do Iron-in-the-Hat; 1:30ish pm to 4:00ish pm we will complete designed project(s).

State Route 262 loops from I-81 around the west side of Staunton and meets up with I-81 again. You can take the northern most Woodrow Wilson exit or the southern most Staunton exit to get to State Route 262. From the northern exit you go through 3 intersections until you find State Road 720 W which is Morris Mill Road, go west. From the southern exit there are no intersections between I-81 and State Road 720 W/Morris Mill Road. Go west on Morris Mill Road passing Nature Trail, Lone Oak, Blue Bird and Hite Lane. Turn right on Rome Avenue at the Apple Hill Estates sign. Pass York Court. Take a right onto Staymen Lane. Turn left at 188 Staymen Lane. You will be looking for a gravel driveway with Al's Victoria style house up on the hill to the left of the driveway.

Upon your arrival, you may drive up to the house and smithy and unload, but then you will need to move your vehicle for parking on the right of the driveway. We hope to have the “no parking” area roped off, but if you arrive before this happens...PLEASE Do Not park between the blackberries and the well [that area is located at the front of the house to the right of the drive].

Hope to see you soon at this SVBG event!

General Notes

Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac 2016 Spring Fling

For those of us who attended the BGOP Spring Fling this will be a quick recap and for those of you who did not attend, maybe it will interest you for next year. This year the three day weekend fling ran from April 15 through April 17, 2016. The featured blacksmiths were Jymm Hoffman from Hoffmans Forge who says “Keep it simple and make it elegant” and Colonial Williamsburg Gunsmith, Richard Sullivan. The only disappointment was that the broom maker, John Alexander, another featured demonstrator did not make it.

The weather cooperated the entire weekend and was a pleasant change from many previous years. On Friday night, dinner was followed by Jymm Hoffman doing a presentation with video explaining the differences in wagons. It actually was quite interesting.

Saturday and Sunday were packed with lots of eating, interesting demonstrations, contest and display judging, tailgating, iron-in-the-hats, auctions and visiting with old and new friends! Jymm Hoffman while demonstrating discussed various strategies and suggestions for blacksmithing his way. There seem to be lots of “ways” of blacksmithing. Note in the picture below Jymm has Albin assisting him with the sledge hammer using a cross over style where the sledge hammer is being used by Albin's dominant hand and his opposite arm is crossed over in front of his body. [just a note the term “cross over style” is my description of what he did, not Jymm's term]



This way of using the sledge hammer is supposed be better on the body. Note the safety precautions being exhibited - seen: safety glasses, cotton clothing, apron and unseen: ear plugs and closed toe shoes. Richard Sullivan was reaming out the rifle barrel he had forged during a previous BGOP Spring Fling.



Even when the demonstrators are not smithing, the equipment being used is not light! This project of Richard's showing the making of a rifle has been quite interesting. So far we have seen brass casting, forging of the barrel and other parts of the rifle along with file work on some of these parts.

General Notes - Continued

Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac 2016 Spring Fling - Continued

article by Susan Plank with pictures by Susan Plank and Skip Roberts

The BGOP contest this year was “a ring, any size, any material.” The imagination of the entrants was AMAZING! The winner was Mike Briskin, a BGOP member, taking his participation in the yearly BGOP contests to a whole new level. His contest entry created the concept of “a ring” forging an intricate finished piece that produced the sound of a ring from an “actual” ring being hit by a hammer. The few pictures below are ones that I took at home or were shared with me. Sorry but my camera decided to stop taking indoor pictures this weekend so I cannot show the contest or display table winners, or more contest or display table items. The display table had many pieces to look at and “Hmmm” over.



Ray Plank's dragon ring



Skip Roberts' ring



Ray Plank's "Mama and baby dragons" display



Connie Badowski's doll display

Just a note on the BGOP Spring Fling next year. The BGOP Spring Fling will still be on the third weekend in April, but the location will no longer be at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds. The new location will be at the Frederick County Fairgrounds located at 155 Fairgrounds Road in Clear Brook, Virginia. This new location is not much farther for us to reach from here and they are hoping it will be a better fit for what they would like to include in future BGOP Spring Flings. By February 2017, the BGOP 2017 Spring Fling Registration form along with demonstrator and direction information is usually on their website www.BGOP.org. Remember they have a preregistration date that will save you money on your weekend entrance fees. If you live close enough to attend it is within same day driving distance or tent and camper sites will be available there. This is a great weekend to enjoy blacksmithing demonstrations and purchase blacksmithing supplies...so plan ahead!

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland 2016 Blacksmith Days

article and pictures by Susan Plank

A few of us from the SVBG have attended the BCGM Blacksmith Days in the past. Ray and I went again this year and enjoyed ourselves immensely. The weather this year was not quite perfect, but definitely not as bad as the sideways rainstorms last year.



There were two blacksmith demonstrators at the BCGM 2016 Blacksmith Days. Shel Browder, a retired Colonial Williamsburg blacksmith, is pictured to the left with Sam Salvati striking. James Michael Walker is pictured on the right. These guys hammered out so much great stuff, I cannot list it all! Also again this year, the



Maryland Farriers Association had farriers doing demonstrations from the back of their mobile shops. On Saturday, they added a new twist with a farriers tool making demonstration and a farriers tool workshop. With all of these opportunities, just know you missed a great time! As always at this gathering along with the demonstrations, there was food, contests, iron-in-the-hats, auctions - live and silent, tailgating, raffle drawings and visiting with old friends while making new ones.

Ray and I both entered the BCGM contests this year. They had three at home forged contests: Forged Wrapped-eye Tomahawk, Forged Candlestick Holder and a Decorative Twist Sample - no longer than 6". They do allow contestants to use their blacksmith shop if they were unable to complete their entry before the fling. I think this is a very nice offer for those who want to enter the contests but do not have time before or do not have a smithy. As seen below, there were a lot of creative contest entries!



Ray Plank's 1st place wrapped-eye tomahawk entry is at bottom left, 2nd place to the right of Ray's forged rasp by Dave Hammer and 3rd place was a Damascus forged by Jacob Selmer



1st place is the upright candle holder on bottom left forged by Fred Shaffer and 2nd place is the dragon candle holder on the upper right forged by Ken Strosnider



Ray's 3rd place entry is the double spinning candle holder on the upper right and Susan's "Aw isn't that cute" birthday candle holder is on the right in front



1st place is the twisted blacksmith rake by Bob Baugher



2nd place is the 3 part twist on the bottom left by Ken Strosnider



3rd place is the twist on the bottom right by Lee Badger

Next year's 29th Annual Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland Blacksmith Days will be held on May 20 and 21, 2017 at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, MD. The three demonstrators will be Nathan Robertson from Jackpine Forge demonstrating "Tool Making", Rob "Deker" Dekelbaum demonstrating "Pattern Welded Steel and Bladesmithing", and Jacob Selmer demonstrating "Forging Sheet and Armor". From here it takes about three to four hours to get to this blacksmith gathering, but it is another good one to try to attend.

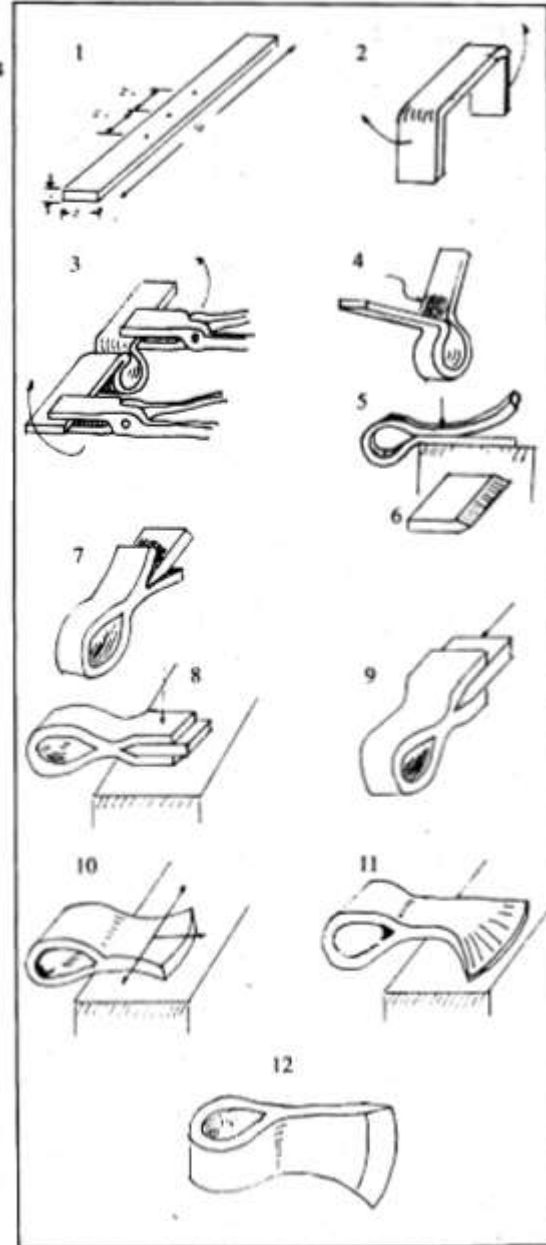
Items of Interest

PROJECT NOTES—ANOTHER “WRAPPED EYE” TOMAHAWK

Author: Larry Wood. Reprinted with permission from the Fall 1984 issue of *The Anvil's Ring*.

[Editor's note. If I recall correctly, this is the technique NE Chapter BOA member Richard Ross uses to make his signature tomahawk. If you haven't seen it done, ask Richard to give you a demo—he is really good at it.]

1. Select a piece of mild steel 10" long, 2" wide, and 1/4" thick. Center punch the strip 2-1/4" on each side of center.
2. Heat and fold the two ends over the center punch marks.
3. Reheat the center section to a uniform heat and grab the two ends with tongs. Rotate the two corners together to form the eye.
4. Brush the oxide off and sprinkle on welding flux in the area shown. Fold the two ends closer together, and heat to welding temperature.
5. Working from the center to the top on each edge, hammer the weld together. The weld should be 1-1/2" long.
6. Cut a piece of old file to the width of the strap, and hammer one edge into a point as shown.
7. Heat both pieces to an orange heat, clean with a steel brush and sprinkle the flux on both sides of the file piece and the inside of the spread ends.
8. Gently fold the two ends over the file, being careful not to drive out all of the flux.
9. Reheat to an orange heat and tap the file piece firmly into the folded-over ends.
10. Heat to a welding heat and start the weld from the center out to each edge and toward the end.
11. Reheat to an orange heat and with the fuller and cross peen spread the hatchet end as shown. Continue the final forging to the shape desired. Straighten the handle hole with the anvil horn or a drift.
12. The top of the tomahawk hole should be larger than the bottom.



[SVBG *Now and Then* Newsletter Editor's Note: Article used with permission from the Blacksmith Organization of Arkansas' *VOICE* June 2016 Newsletter. Ray Plank states that this is not the way to do the tomahawk with a poll like he brought to the SVBG June 2016 Monthly Meeting for the display table, but is a good simple wrapped eye tomahawk design.]



Items of Interest - Continued

BLACKSMITH CLASSES AND BLACKSMITH ITEMS FOR SALE:

[Note: Susan wrote this up, so if any dates and prices are incorrect, please do not hold Phil accountable. It will have been all my fault as I am trying to write this after our barns burned. Susan]

Looking for more “local” blacksmith classes, blacksmith tools and/or accessories? Phil Travis, Dragon's Breath Forge, is only about an hour north of Harrisonburg and has these available. He can be reached by email at Phil.Travis@verizon.net or by home phone (540) 955-3380 or by cell phone (256) 348-6489



Blacksmith Classes will taught by Phil Travis and will be held at 2330 Crums Church Road, Berryville, VA 22611. Class times are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For questions contact: Gale Bowman-Harlow by email at gale.bowman-harlow@opusoaks.org or by phone (540) 539-6685.



All classes are designed to introduce you to Blacksmithing skills & techniques. You will be working with coal forges, hammers, tongs & anvils along with small hand tools to complete several projects in each class. All materials provided and are included in the cost. Class size is kept small to better help each student with any questions. No prior experience is necessary, only a desire to learn and have fun. Pick a class or two, bring a lunch and let's forge some memories.

Class: Basics 5-Day Class

Date: Mon. thru Fri., July 18-22 Age: 16 and above

Cost: \$285.00

Description: Learn basic blacksmithing skills. Class will cover working with a coal forge, hammers and anvil to make a set of forge tools and a few small projects.

Class is perfect for those who want to make tongs & hand tools to equip their own shop.

Class: Basics 2-Day Class

Date: Sat. & Sun., July 30 & 31 Age: 16 and above

Cost: \$175.00

Description: Come learn some of the basics of blacksmithing. This is an abbreviated version of the week-long course. It will cover working with a coal forge, hammer & anvil. Make a few small projects while learning blacksmithing skills.

Phil has nice blacksmithing items for sale and I have pictures to put with the items, but not the time or patience at the moment to put them below...sorry! Hopefully I can put the pictures in the next SVBG Newsletter in a few months. You can set up a time to visit Phil and shop till you drop! His contact info is above.

Anvil - London Pattern 82 lbs...cost \$280.00

Anvil - Block...cost \$50.00

Anvil - T Stake...cost \$ 80.00

Small Fire Pot 6"x9"x3" ... cost assembled \$175.00 or cost unassembled \$150.00

[Ray just put one of Phil's firepots in his traveling grill forge.]

Swedge Block 7"x7"x3" on faces - spoons and ladles and on sides - hex, round, V & Taper round... cost \$125.00

Swedge Block - Skillet...cost \$100.00

Swedge Block - Shovel pattern...cost \$30.00

Gouge Tool...cost \$75.00

Items of Interest - Continued

Ray and Susan's July 4th, 2016 Fire Update

article by Susan Plank

First let me say a great big **“THANKS”** for all of the support from our blacksmithing friends! Ya'll are a great bunch of people! For those of you who have not heard our two barns caught fire sometime between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Monday, July 4. We now know what caused the fire...Ray built his Battle Axe Forge smithy around 2003 and of course plugged in electrical items and promptly put stuff in front of the outlets like most everyone does. One of the items had never been unplugged since then and even though nothing was turned on the electricity from the outlet still flowed into the plugged in item. We were told by the Broadway Fire Inspection that items plugged in over 5 years...did you get that...need to be unplugged. The plug then needs to be cleaned and let dry before plugging back in to remove the dirt, grim and any general everyday buildup of gunk on the plug. The fire was ruled accidental as an catastrophic electrical failure with resistance heating. Ray got second degree burns from his right bicep to left shoulder front and from his neck to about 6 inches down. He had pain at the time which we were told was a good sign; then lost feeling for a couple of days and now the pain is back when getting cleaned and debrided. There is no sign of infection which is wonderful! Of course he is chomping at the bit to get down and start cleaning up the fire debris, but is having his reins tightly held by me!

We were insured, we now know how under insured. We will be getting the entire insured amount for the two barns and will be able to rebuild at least one of them. We are still listing the contents of the two barns, but because we had at least two of most of our high priced items, we are being told we will be getting the entire insured amount for contents. We are going into sticker shock on prices, for example his small size 4 oxy-acetylene set-up to replace will cost over \$1,000! I couldn't face asking how much his large set-up would cost. Last Saturday, I went to an estate auction and found some basic supplies for him...chainsaw, air tank, electric drill and drill bits, pitchfork, shovel, table saw, generator, weed eater and a bit of small miscellaneous stuff. We also found a Steiner model 420 tractor, mower, snow plow and slip scoop that we bought and the owner very nicely delivered to us last night.

Ray has replaced or has a line on replacing some of the blacksmith tools needed for the demonstrations he has agreed to do in mid August and on the first weekend in September. If you have one of the needs items that he could borrow that would work or if you have one for sale, please contact us by phone at (540) 896-1232. If we don't answer, please leave a message and a good time to call you back. Thanks!

Ray still needs -

Smithing hammer - Swedish or German pattern cross pien or straight pien doesn't matter about 2 1/2 lbs - (1000 grams),

Small ball pien hammer - 8 to 10 ozs

Small Vice grip pliers

Single bulb trouble light

There will be other stuff we will be in the market for when we get our barn rebuilt. We will get a list out ASAP with these items along with brands and sizes to see if you may have any extra in your smithy that you would be willing to sell.

THANKS again for all of the thoughts and prayers you have already sent our way. We will still need quite a few more before he is healed up, so please continue. I have said it before and I will say it again now...ya'll blacksmiths are a great bunch!!!