

Premiere Edition: April 2010



Hampton Roads Hammer

Director's Holler:

Well we have really gone and done it now. It was discussed at the meeting today that we should have some sort of newsletter and that since I had all that great experience with writing newsletters and having interviews and articles written elsewhere that I was the obvious choice to fill that position. I have accepted and thank you for the opportunity to provide you with a hopefully great newsletter.

Switching hats, I want to thank Joe for taking on the **Controlled Hand Forging** training program, integrating it with a project program that will make it a relevant and fun program all around. ABGT has hit the ground running and we can all appreciate the fact that we are moving forward. Since much of our time has been spent on doing a project for the ABANA conference there have and will continue to be less emphasis on other projects until after the Conference. I know that you all understand. There will be a detailed article published after the conference on all aspects of the Conference Project. The project is not being published nor named for now as we want it to be a surprise for anyone who happens to see it at the conference. I think it will be an excellent addition for the auction items and hope that the conference participants spend lots of money on it so ABANA can use the funds to be better.

We have some great stuff planned for next month and the months of July and August will be about making the tools needed to make a hammer. Joe's CHF program will continue with the project side of the program with at least one project depending on the number of members who have completed the training lesson at this time.

I know that at this point and time we are few in number and are little like nomads right now. We will continue to make efforts to find a place that we can hold larger events and develop our public demonstration contacts.

April Meeting:

We still had a terrific time. Joe Gentile hosted this month's meeting. His wife Gitte was kind enough to treat us to a delicious Chicken stew. Steve LaPaugh brought another huge pot of Chile. It was good eating by all. We conducted our business meeting at 1100 and proceeded out to the forge to discuss the plan of the day. We had lunch and Joe began the CHF training in earnest. He proceeded to demonstrate two different ways to taper a 1/2" bar ending up with a 3" taper. A robust and engaging discussion was



conducted about the effects of using the horn versus the face of the hammer. These differences were very noticeable especially since both Steve and I were using all of Joe's hammers and his anvil. It was a very informative process. I want to thank Gitte & Joe G. and Steve for taking the photos.



Note: We are looking for information about Joe's Buffalo Forge #600. Anyone having any info about it please contact Joe G. The two protrusions on the front pictured above could be used for a lot of stuff, but Joe would really like to know the correct purpose of them.

We went astray by a discussion of coal vs. industrial coke vs. propane, which lead to a discussion about a project that Joe had seen Kim Thomas do a while back. I was asked how I would forge scroll pieces

onto a main stem to make them look like they were coming off or out of one piece. I was at a disadvantage here not having seen the original project. Joe and Steve were able to explain it to me in enough detail to do a practice piece. We came to several conclusions and developed several questions at the same time. I did one weld with a cut and wrap around the tip and the second without. The second wound up with a hollow spot that would need to be worked out.

The first method was best, split it and wrap it around the tip and repeat as necessary. The other process that we did not have time to explore was to make bird mouth cuts along the main stem and forge weld the branches on that way. Of course we had a lengthy discussion on fluxes, clinkers and dirty fire's effect on welding ability. That will be an article for another day.



Next Month: Next month's meeting will be May 8th.

Steve LaPaugh has graciously invited us all to his place, Warwick Forge in Newport News.

That seems right around the corner doesn't it? I expect it to be a pretty interesting meeting as we will be making the project out of the tapers that are finished from CHF lesson #1.



The Conference is just around the corner and I know that we all have great expectations for it being a smash hit. Here! Here!

There is a call out for attendees to volunteer 1 or 2 hours to help out with some of the necessary jobs that if we do will keep the cost for everyone down for these events. Please volunteer if you can. Thanks in advance!

There will be Iron in the Hat and an Auction so if you are going to the conference, please bring something for at least one of those things.

Eric's Dan Boone Dragon
Story Board
Eric demoed his dragon for Tidewater
Blacksmith Guild in March

Nice Job Eric!



Just a bit of history that I thought you would all enjoy. It is from NEB and we thank them for sharing this information.

Photo # 79951 Blacksmith's Austin J. Durney, USN



AUSTIN J. DURNEY,
Blacksmith, U. S. S. Nashville.

Blacksmith Austin J. Durney, USN,
(1867-1926)

Blacksmith Awarded the Medal of Honor

Austin Joseph Durney was born on 26 November 1867 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy from the State of Maryland and served during the Spanish-American War on board the gunboat Nashville. On 11 May 1898 Blacksmith Durney was one of several men who participated in a boat expedition that cut the underwater telegraph cable off Cienfuegos, Cuba. For his "extraordinary bravery and coolness" under enemy fire during this operation, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Austin J. Durney died on 17 November 1926 at Ridgely, Maryland.

Photo # 79952 USS Nashville's Cable-Cutting Crew at Cienfuegos, Cuba



MEMBERS OF THE CABLE-CUTTING CREW AT CIENFUEGOS.

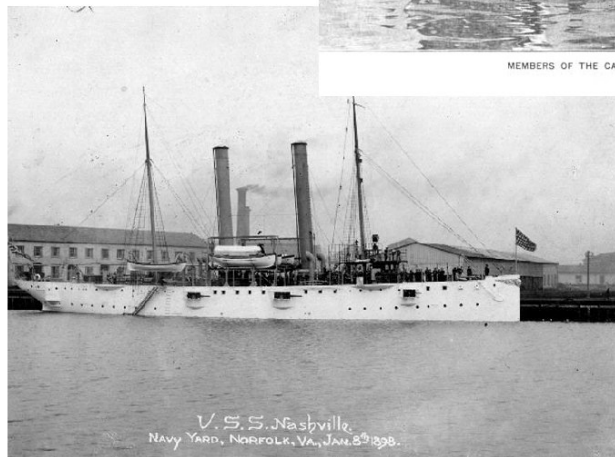
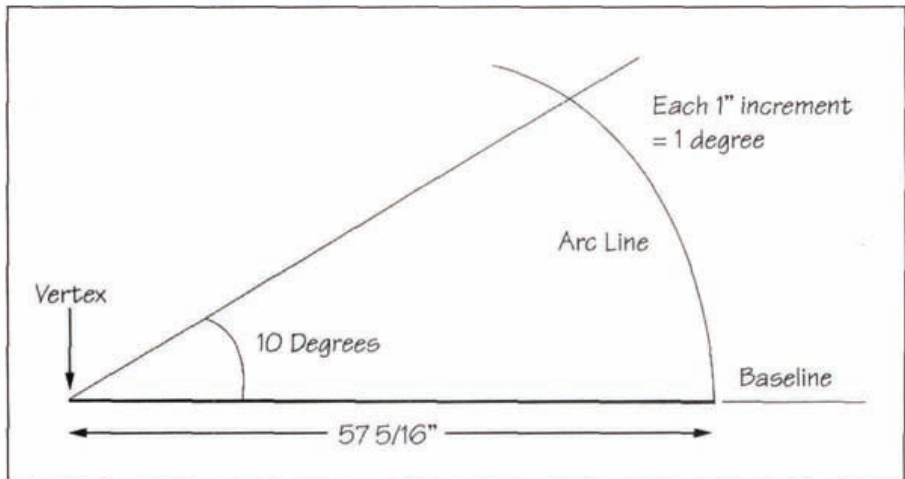


Photo # NH 63415 Nashville at Norfolk Navy Yard

Reprinted in the NJ BSA Newsletter
 An Easy Way to Lay Out Angles by Rick Hartline
 Originally published in the Upper Midwest Blacksmith Association newsletter

You want to lay out a 100° angle for a project. Mark a point on your layout table or floor where the two angles intersect along the baseline (vertex). Measure 575 " from the vertex along the baseline. Swing an arc line starting from the vertex crossing the baseline at 575/16". Use a set of dividers set at 1". Step off the dividers along the arc. Each 1" step of the dividers equal 10. A 100° arc would require 10 steps of the divider. Mark the line between the vertex and the point along the arc to establish your line for 100. 4



Picket Spacing 101

by Graham Robinson, England, from Artist Blacksmith, Winter 2004

Measure length of rail excluding stiles and posts. Enter into calculator, add diameter of one vertical bar and divide by number of spacings. So if you want 10 bars, that's 11 spacings, and make a note of the figure as you will need it in a moment. Take away half the diameter of one bar – this figure now gives you your first center. Add to this figure the division figure you noted. This gives you your second center. From now on, all you need do is press the equals (=) button on the calculator for succeeding centers. Thus, all measurements are taken from one end of the rail, eliminating compound measurement errors. As my Aunt Ann would say, "It's as simple as that!"

Example

Length of rail excluding stiles and posts: 3m = 3000mm. Add diameter of vertical bar, say 20mm = 3020. Divide by number of spacings: 10 bars = 11 spacings. 3020 divided by 11 = 274.5 (note this figure). Then minus half bar diameter: 10mm from 274.5 is your first center. Add to this the noted figure for the second center. Then press equals button for subsequent centers.

So the sums are:

Rail: 3m = 3000 Plus 20mm = 3020

Divide by 11 spacings = 274.5 (note)

Minus half bar: 10mm = 264.5 (first center)

Plus noted 274.5 = 539 (second center)

Press equals button = 813.5 (third center) And

so on, = 1088, = 1362.5, =1637 4

Magnet Reminder

From: Wayne Coe, Talking Rock, Georgia (Anvil's Chorus, Spring 2006)

Remember that a magnet holds on to all pieces of ferrous metal, even small sharp ones that are not easily seen. Today I had a magnet on top of the anvil. While shoving it out of the way, lo and behold, I got a nasty, dirty, deep slice across the heel of my hand. I won't soon forget that lesson! *September/October 2006 California Blacksmith*

Mission Statement

We are an Artisan group that has joined together to make the most of our diverse skills and outlooks. It is our sincere desire to promote, encourage and show the public and other interested persons the tremendous contributions and skill of the traditional Blacksmith and the relevance of their contributions in the modern world. We provide continuing skills training for our members, along with a place to develop their artistic skills with like minded persons, regardless of the modern or traditional expression.

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Eric working on his Dan Boone Dragon.

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