

December 2010



# Hampton Roads Hammer

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## **Director's Holler:**

Where did the year go? It seems just a little while ago that we put up our new calendars and just got used to putting 2010 on our checks. Now turning my thoughts to the new year, thinking of our upcoming projects, trips and demonstrations, it is hard to imagine forging ahead with a better group. We will Ring in the New Year! Hammering more and making less design on the fly, that is my resolution to help all of us do better work and to learn one totally new skill this year.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

Our regular January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be hosted by Steve & Paula LaPaugh. We thank you for hosting the December meeting and thank you in advance as you always allow for us to have a great meeting.

A note of interest to all Yesteryear School of Blacksmithing ([www.yesteryearshcool.com](http://www.yesteryearshcool.com)) will be hosting a class by Frank Turley May 19th-22nd 2011 the training will be on "Door Hardware beginning the cane bolt" . Who is Frank Turley?

An excerpt from his website:

**T**URLEY NOTED that in the horse oriented magazines, at least 10 horseshoeing schools were advertised in each issue, but that there were no blacksmithing schools. This gave him the idea to open such a school, which he did in 1970. His students were learning about him through Stewart Brand's popular "Whole Earth Catalog." In the same year, Alex Bealer published "The Art of Blacksmithing." Bealer's book and Turley's school helped to foster a resuscitation of blacksmithing in the U.S. © F. Turley

Mr. Turley doesn't make it out this way very often and unless you are planning a trip to New Mexico here is an opportunity to attend a class very near your home and at a significant savings of time and money.

Once again here's looking at a great New Year and hope that we are all **Healthy and Prosperous!**

Vince

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** at Steve LaPaugh's Warwick Forge in Newport News was called to order at 1100 with Vince, Joe, Steve and Matt in attendance. There was a decision to ask Vince to make a few modifications to his project drawing for comparison. Vince agreed to have the drawings completed by next meeting, before making scale and full size drawings. The Ring Project is scheduled for showing in March. There are now four members confirmed to attend BCGM's Blacksmith Days 14-16 May. If you are interested in going please contact Joe Gentile to make arrangements. It looks good for Farmer's Market Heritage Event and the Newport News Heritage Festival Demonstrations.

The bulk of our meeting concentrated on the repair of our colonial style anvil. We used 7018 rod and pre heated the anvil to slightly more than 200 degrees. Joe made his traditional Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Leaf and the meeting was over! Time flies when you're having a good time.



Nice Work!



There was lots for the show & tell table: Matt's Bowl & bottle opener, Steve's trammel hook, spoon & candleholder, Joe's crosses, mini spike knives & Christmas trolls, Vince's object d'art & candleholder. Well done guys!



Yes, we concur the patient needs extensive work on the cheeks and a little on the face wouldn't hurt either.



Almost done now



Ah! Just a little more tweaking here.



Steve  
cleaning  
it good



Take it easy there Vince



Steve standing fire watch for Matt



Joe makes his Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Leaf

## Steve's Belt Sander Modification: (formerly known as **Green Monster**)

It didn't take Steve long to find that his new Green Monster Belt Sander (It should now more properly be called the Gray Monster) needed to be fine-tuned.

**The problem:** the space between the idle roller and the platen wasn't enough to allow fine tuning of knives and other shaped items.

**Steve's Solution:** Add a 2-1/4" diameter roller about 2/5 the length of the platen from the idler end. This increases the soft belt area to about 20". That's a pretty good amount of soft area. The pictures pretty much tell the story, but if you have questions please contact Steve: [slapaugh@verizon.net](mailto:slapaugh@verizon.net).



It works 200% better than before with so much "soft" belt area. Another benefit is that it put a lot more tension on my 89" belts. I haven't tries one of the 88" belts yet to see if they will still fit on it with the additional roller, but is sure works great and by removing two screws it can be removed from the machine if there is a need for the flat platen.

Remember to Lock-Tite the bushings into the roller and the bushings to the shaft so that the rotation is only in the ball bearings, not the bushings.

This modification could also be done to the Harbor Freight's 4x36" belt sander and would be an easier fix than cutting a notch in the bed as shown in the last Hammers Blows, although you may need to order a longer belt. The height of the third roller could be designed to fit a standard belt length. You would use a 1/2" roller with a 1/4" gap for a total of 3/4".

Another great job Steve, I have a 4x36 craftsman that doesn't have a regular purpose anymore and I think this will make it a more used tool in my shop. Thanks for this idea.



## **A Master Speaks: Secrets and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Understanding:** by Vince Nakovics

Peter Ross, Master of Anderson Blacksmith Shop at Colonial Williamsburg for over 20 years and world renown for his prowess in the Smithy. He is the Master who was speaking and had the eyes and ears of over 100 Smiths and aficionados of the Blacksmith Craft at Blacksmith Guild of Virginia's Hammer-In this past Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. There are many times when we wonder "How did they do that?" Well Peter Ross provided some of the answers to that very question.

The andirons that he made were mighty nice in the end. All the while he was making them he shared his processes for making them. You know, the ones with the multifaceted heads, yeah those, the ones we all want to make and somehow don't quite get that head right. Well if you had attended you would have learned that you don't start with a square, or a faggot weld. You do start the head with a rectangle; in this case it began as a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " sq. stock with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" flat bar you collar welded to the end. This gives you the beginning of the finished product. I didn't know that, maybe you did; now I know why they don't look quite right when I attempted to do that.

Now we have all seen Peter's beautiful dividers. How does he do those fingers and have them operate so well. Peter revealed to us that he has a very expensive tool; it is made from a piece of  $\frac{3}{16}$ " T x 2" x 3" steel (about the size of a credit card). Now what was special is that Peter had a notch, straight on one side and at an angle on the other. I could say something like you should have been there, but I will refrain and tell you the angle was between 30 and 45 degrees. Depends on what angle you want to wind up with on your dividers. Peter uses this for a spacer and to act as a means to work the knuckle to the dividers. I do mean work them. Peter also explained that it makes a big difference which side of divider legs you weld your steel on to for the point. You can just weld it willy nilly without any thought and the steel tip will be gone all the faster for your lack of mental efforts. If you think about it you can see that welding it on the inside face will provide longer lasting tips due to the steel being longer on the inside due to the scarf weld surface. You only file and sharpen the outside surfaces so you will be removing iron or mild steel long before you get all the high carbon steel that makes your point. One more good idea from Peter.

Peter took the time to explain that in order to make something from the 18<sup>th</sup> C. one must try to emulate the thoughts of an 18<sup>th</sup> C. Blacksmith. Today we all pretty much think in terms of post industrial revolution and post 1920's manufacturing techniques of mass production. That is not the way a blacksmith thought back then. Items made did not have to be made perfectly because the Smith would make the pieces of the item fit as he made them. There was no such thing as interchangeable parts. Smiths would work on one part at a time and do assembly as they went along. Peter retold us the story about when he was making a lock and made all the parts and then when he went to put it together, it didn't go together. That is when he started rethinking his processes and began applying these practices. Peter did mention that it only took him 20 years to realize this. In short, break it down and make each part in order that you will put the item together and only work on one part at a time.

I cannot think of a single instance when I have had the good fortune to observe Peter Ross work and not learn something just from observing him. Whether it is the way he stands or uses his hammer. One can learn much just by being observant. It's always great to see Peter; I just wish I could absorb more via osmosis because I can't watch him long enough to learn it all! Thanks Peter for a great Demo!

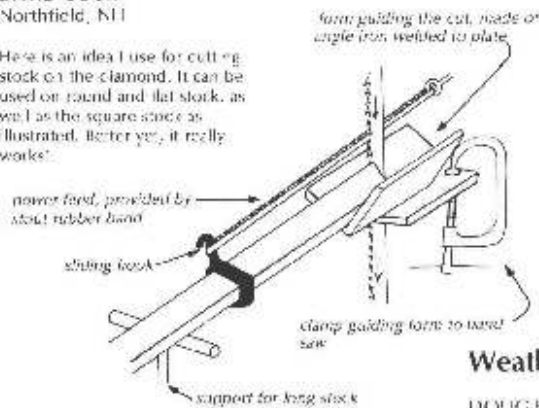
Don't you wish you had been there! I couldn't help myself, because you should have been there!

I don't have what issue this came from, but Thanks to Doug Hendrickson & Fred Mikkelsen and New England Blacksmith Association (NEB) for sharing it with us.

### Sawing on the Diamond

DAVID COUR  
Northfield, NH

Here is an idea I use for cutting stock on the diamond. It can be used on round and flat stock, as well as the square stock as illustrated. Better yet, it really works!



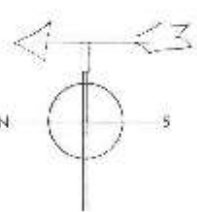
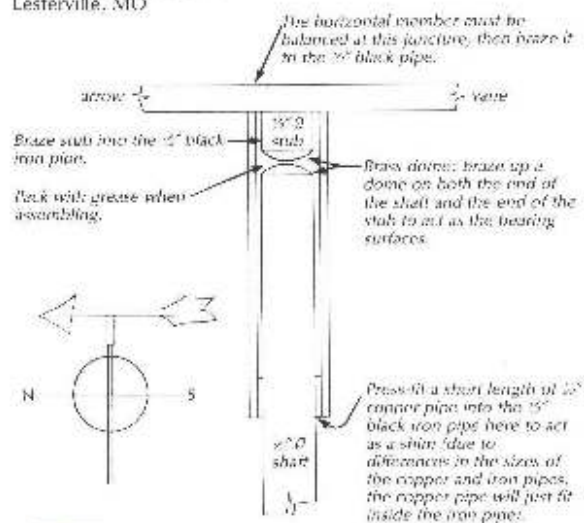
### Weather Vane Bearing

DOUG HENDRICKSON  
Lesterville, MO

The late Doug Hendrickson was sometimes known as Dr. Iron and may be remembered for his innovative twists at Gitchner Gatherings.

Sometime, someone suggested using an old bike pedal as a base for weather vanes. The bearings are somewhat sealed and easy to obtain. I never tried it. Have any of you?

Make sure you get the one with a right hand thread if you plan on a threaded connection! It'll be stamped with R on the bolt end.



A pipe nipple on the end or better yet, a pipe sleeve that slides all the way to the other end, will give you what you're looking for. The more I think about this the more I think Francis Whitaker made the suggestion.

Fred Mikkelsen  
A check of "The Blacksmith's Cook Book" shows it to be found on page 88-89

### 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.*

Director: Vince Nakovics  
1<sup>st</sup> Director: Joe Gentile  
Training Coordinator: Joe Gentile  
Newsletter Editor: Vince Nakovics  
Resident Photographer: Steve LaPaugh

[restoreman123@msn.com](mailto:restoreman123@msn.com)  
[jganvil@cox.net](mailto:jganvil@cox.net)

[slapaugh@verizon.net](mailto:slapaugh@verizon.net)



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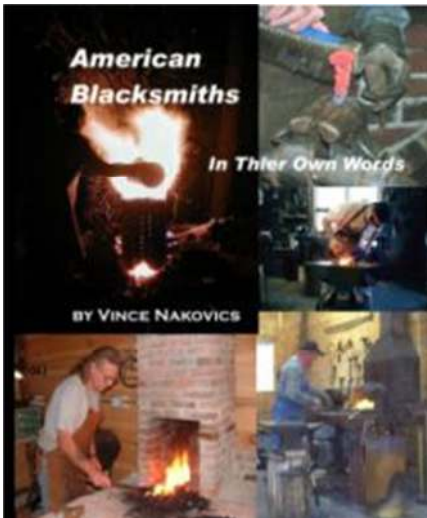
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[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

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[www.yesteryearschool.com](http://www.yesteryearschool.com)

Gentile Forge  
[www.jganvil.com](http://www.jganvil.com)

Warwick Forge  
[slapaugh@verizon.net](mailto:slapaugh@verizon.net)

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