

MARCH 2011



# Hampton Roads Hammer

**In this Issue: \* Meeting \* Ring Project \* Matt's New Forge \* Old Dog-New Tricks \***

## **Director's Holler:**

This month is ABGT's anniversary month and I have to say that the members participating in the Anniversary Ring Project really came through, check out the pictures below. Thank you everyone! We had a fast paced year and really had some fun getting the Group set up to do demos and projects. I know this year will be even better.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> project of the year is already in motion; the Anniversary Ring Frame. Joe Gentile and Matt Sieber are heading the design committee. At the May meeting they will present the final design for the frame. We are hoping that they will have a rough design for us in April so that we can have an idea of how much work we will need to do. I unveiled the final design of the ABGT Banner Easel and will begin working on it this week.

We set up part of the demo schedule for this year. We are definitely doing the Waterman's Museum Fall Festival, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> and Newport News' Fall Festival of Folklife on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are still two events that have not posted the dates as of yet, so we may have a total of four that we will participate in if the dates are good for us.

I did a broom tying demonstration. Some who had never seen it done are going to give it a try and a couple of old hands brushed up on the techniques of broom tying. So I guess it was a success.

March is a busy month as the days become noticeably lighter and longer. Spring cleanup and blacksmithing will begin to clash. Something will have to give, clean up later!

I am looking forward to April's meeting which will be held at Happy Haven Forge. We will be making a basket weave handle for a fireplace poker, have to try out the method that Tom Boone did such a good job of demonstrating for us at BGV's on the 19<sup>th</sup>. I will be showing off my new anvil base, I bought it, couldn't pass it up, cheap. That seems to be a trend with us.

See ya at the Forge!

*Vince*

Meeting Photos:



Matt's wall of firsts



Matt's new anvil nicely cleaned up!



Getting ready to tie some broom



Finishing off the tying



A stitch in time saves nine, there is only nine!



Glad to see somebody's having a good time

**Ring, Ring, Ring- No it's not bells:**



**Steve LaPaugh – Steel Ring welded– Iron Roses**



**Joe Gentile – Steel Ring welded – Copper Repousse JGANvil**



**Bob Orcutt – Steel Ring welded – Steel Eagle Heads**



**Matt Sieber – Steel Ring riveted – Leaf Scrolls**



Vince Nakovics – Steel Ring riveted – Steel Octopus with Copper Hat – Stainless HHF Banner



Eric Hinckley – Steel Riveted Ring Forged Dragon



Tony is standing in for Steve – Eric is absent and so is his Ring.  
Eric missed the big prize. We are sworn to secrecy so he will never know that he missed out on an ABANA T-Shirt!

**Matt's New Coal Forge:** by Matt Sieber

Here is the forge in her final location. Actually it is still mobile. I just have to place it under the chimney when using it inside. It can very easily be rolled outside for working out in the elements if so desired. (The chimney can pull double duty and ventilate the gas forge when the coal unit is not in place ((easily movable))). The fire pot has been rebuilt using 3" angle iron with the tuyere carried over from the brake drum pot. The side draft chimney is also movable from overhead draft, to side draft, to completely out of the way depending on the needs of the task. The blower is a HF item, plumbed with HVAC items to direct the air accordingly. The blower unit has a rheostat switch so the airflow can be controlled as needed. Runs nice and quiet as well. I couldn't be happier with this forge, it works magnificently.

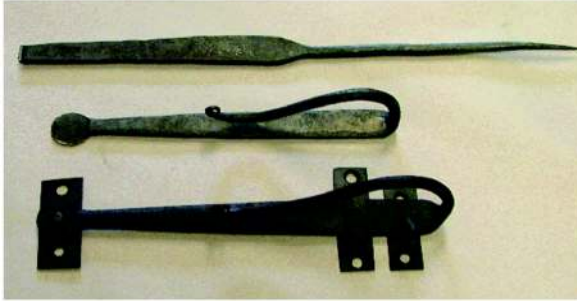


My tumbler is built from a recycled drill press. The rollers are 5/8 all thread with duct tape for traction. The plywood wheels have grip tape on them to add traction as well. The square bucket works perfectly as a constant agitator. The media is a ceramic material used traditionally in vibratory tumblers, but works well in this application. Works great, but the sounds produced can get annoying.



## Old Dog – New Tricks

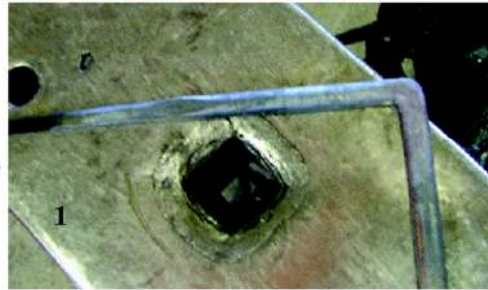
It seems that no matter how far we go or how long we have been forging, new tricks surface on a daily basis. Proof of the point is comment made by **David Court** at the 2010 Spring meet about the use of the ‘V’ section of the swage block and how handy it is for chamfering bar material or strap hinges by holding it securely in place while forging. Recently this came into play with two separate, but similar projects I had in the shop.



I have, for years, produced a rat-tail handled closet latch, which I would produce using 3/16 X 1/2" flat bar, drawing the rat-tail to one side for either the right or left configuration, then drawing down the other end for a nicely tapered catch bar. This new idea came into being after rendering quite a quantity of round wrought iron bar into rectangular section bar for slide bolts and shutter dogs. As you can see by the picture, I have taken the stance of creating the latch bar for either the right or left, by keeping the rat-tail in the center of the section.

This latch ( seen above) was done with 3/8" round rod, steeped off for the rat-tail, and tapered on the other end before flattening the whole section of 3/8" to create the soft edges and be as wide as I want by forging thinner, then pull off the bean or spade finial end.

Given this procedure, I then had to produce several shutter latch catches with a right angle, bending the material the hard way. So, as by the pictures you can see that I first made an upset corner with the 3/8" material, then bend this up so I could work the material straight on the anvil, drawing the rat-tail material. Once this had been accomplished, a simple flattening operation created the desired effect to make the right angle bend the hard way.



Even after 30+ years of forging – this is inspiring – we are in a teachable moment whenever or where ever we are. Cheers – and let's hear your stories of inspiration. Leigh Morrell

Although an Old Dog, I'm always ready to learn stuff!



Thanks Leigh Morrell and NEB for sharing this with us.

Correction. I told you in last month's issue that Judy Gardner owned Blue Moon Press, that's wrong! It's **JUDY BERGER**, remember that in the future will you. Picky, Picky, Picky you'd think I get paid to do this. ☺ Sorry Judy!

#### 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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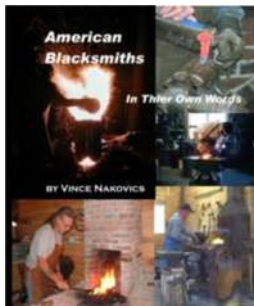
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