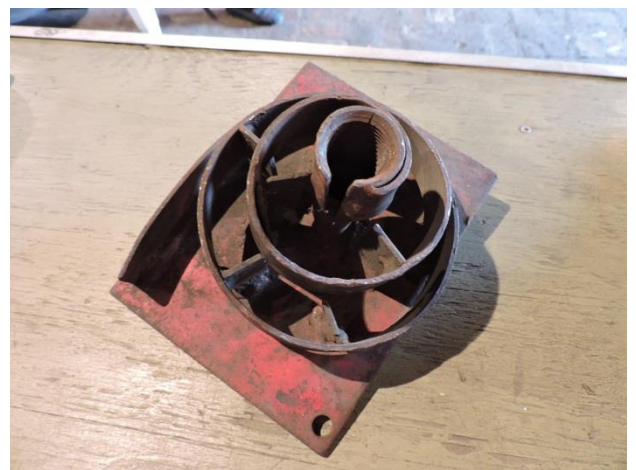




# Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association

July/August 2015

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It seems Buzz and Zolli worked long and hard to figure out an efficient way to create a Treble clef hook. The problem with making something you like is figuring out a good way to make it look the same the next time. You don't want them to be exactly the same, but you want it to work out. You know how that is. To make this Treble clef, you get to use the scrolling jig. Practice with some scrap metal to see how it works. You can make all sorts of artistic designs with this one tool. Thank you to Buzz for demonstrating.

## **Really Sharp August Demonstration**

Thank you yet again to Rhea Cole for his presentation of the photos he took on his latest European tour. By request, he took lots of photos of various types of blade work. While I had to miss this meeting, I did have the opportunity to see these pictures at a Green Coal night. The blades were impressive, but the handles, guards, and other decorative work were also beautiful.

## **Explore the Shop**

I have been a member of RCBA for at least 12 years now, and I am fairly familiar with the shop. I have helped clean and organize on several occasions. I have even squeezed my poor self under some of the shelves to retrieve long lost objects. However, a few weeks ago I saw something I had never seen before. It was hanging on the wall right next to the front forge. It was a hand forged hinge. Has it always been there? How could I have missed it? Longtime members and new members, take the time to look through the shop. Dig through the boxes under the shelves. Look in the cabinets. Ask!!!! someone what things are. If you look under the shelf by the middle window in the front room you will see a box of chunks of wood. Do you know what these are for? If you like to make knives, the wood is there for you to use for a handle. Do you know where the wood mallets are? ...the wire brushes? ...the jigs? Feel free to look around and poke through things. Just remember to put things back where you found them if you choose to use them. New Green Coal students, please take some time to look at all the tools in the shop for you to use and the tools and forged items hanging on the walls. I don't know the history of all the tools on the walls, but I do know they were donated by local families. So, about that hinge, has it always been there? I think I would like to try my hand at making some hinges. Who wants to teach that workshop?

## **T-shirts**

We need new t-shirts! I have gotten some estimates and have one more business to talk to before we decide with whom we want to have a long term logo relationship. My personal opinion is that we work with a well-established company with a variety of resources and options. These companies may be a bit more costly, but they are more likely to stay in business over a long period of time, and they have a wider variety of other products we may want to consider: decals, coffee cups, hat pins, hats, refrigerator magnets (YES!), Christmas ornaments, etc. Many of us like the embroidered shirts, but we don't like the way they tend to curl up. Larger companies can enlarge this design so the curling doesn't happen. Larger companies also employ artists who can clean up a design so it looks just the way we like. This is an issue!

See the top left corner of this newsletter to take a good look at our current logo. At the July meeting it was suggested that we consider making a change. The logo is inside a horseshoe, however, we are not a group of farriers. Most of us would consider ourselves either hobby or artist blacksmiths. Should we change the logo? I don't know the history of the logo. If you do know the history, please let me know because I am very interested, and I would like to be able to inform the current membership. The current trend for AACB and SBA seems to be forming a design within a ring. Do we want to change the horseshoe to a ring? Let's make this decision by the September meeting. My wardrobe is suffering.

### **Business Cards**

We now have business cards. Thank you to..... Please give them out to interested visitors.

### **Membership Cards/Nametags**

An overworked schoolteacher can work on these, or a print/t-shirt business may be able to help. We need to make some membership cards/nametags. There are a lot of us at the shop these days. That's a good thing, but we need to know each other's names. In the meantime, please use one of the sticker type nametags so folks won't have to figure out a way to address you if they don't know your name.

### **Uncle Dave Macon Days**

Thank you to everyone who came out to demonstrate on Uncle Dave Macon Days. It was hot and miserable, but you came through for RCBA, and you are appreciated! You may have noticed that the UCMD crowd was very thin, but RCBA still made over \$700. I'd say that we had fewer than half the visitors from the previous year, but more than half the proceeds. Thank you to Bob and Laura for donating the little freezer and the freezer-pops. What we didn't sell we can enjoy ourselves. I know my dog, Tuff, appreciates the leftover freezer-pops. He isn't picky about the flavor. Please enjoy these yourself, but they are still for sale at 50 cents each.

### **Closing Days**

Harvest Days, aka Closing Days, is October 24. The shop will be open, and you can demonstrate as much as you like. Please make some things to sell for the benefit of the shop and some things for your own benefit. We will be taking donations for water and freezer-pops if it is hot or coffee and hot chocolate if it is cold.

## **New Gate for the Shop**

We can all probably agree that the current gate in the front room of the shop no longer suits our needs. It certainly doesn't represent the talent of RCBA members. Joe McDonald handed out design grids for you to fill in with your design ideas at the June meeting. Please bring your design ideas to the September meeting. We need to get to work on this. We need a gate that represents our membership. It'll be a fun project to work on over the cold months.

## **Project of the Month**



Congratulations to Laura Taylor for her backscratcher entry. Hmmmm...a little lower and to the left. Yeah, right there. Project of the Month for August is any kind of musical note. I was not able to attend the August meeting. Were there any entries? Should we carry the project over or change it? Fall is coming. Leaves make a good project for project of the month. Let me know what you want to do.

## **More Information**

AACB Meeting at Fiddlers Grove on August 29. Come see the new addition to the shop. Check out the AACB website. What a good-looking bunch of blacksmiths! Watch for emails about more upcoming events and information.

**Please pay 2015 -2016 dues to continue receiving this newsletter. Your continued membership is important to us.**