



Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association

June 2015

RCBA, Inc.

President: Clint 'Buzz' Busbee

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The June Meeting

The June meeting opened to a full house – over 30 members! The June meeting is an important one, however, it also takes place at the beginning of Summer vacation season. So, thank you to all who were able to be present. To those who were on vacation, we will expect a presentation of all the metal work you are photographing.



When Buzz talks, people listen.

We all have different interests when it comes to the art of blacksmithing. Buzz has developed a deep interest in the tools of the trade. He is interested in the history, the usefulness, the value, and the availability of the large tools: anvils, blowers, forges. He is also interested in all the other necessary tools. Buzz talked to us at the June meeting about several different types of anvils. He described Peter Wright and Mousehole anvils from England, and Hay Budden, Fisher, and Trenton anvils, which are made in the USA. He also

discussed the presence of and uses for the Hardy hole and the Pritchel hole and how to determine a general age for an anvil depending on whether or not these holes are present. So, what kind of anvil do you want? The way I see it, anvils are like wine (or beer, Jeremy). Do you like it? Does it serve your purposes? How much do you really want to pay? And... can you move it if necessary? Do you really want a 500 pound anvil? What if you find the anvil of your dreams, but that anvil is dinged up a bit and needs some repairs??? Do your research, then talk to Buzz. He's happy to help you make your choice.

Love the smell of that shop!

Have you ever been the first one to get to the shop? You unlock the door and gate and walk in and breathe in that wonderful smell of coal smoke that has permeated all the walls and benches. The shop is cool, and the odors are familiar, comfortable. You close your eyes, take a deep breath, with a smile on your face, then.....

YIKES!!! What is that smell?????

(This is a re-enactment.)

We are all fairly used to the feral cats at Cannonsburgh Village, and generally they stay away from us. However, one foolish pole cat (aka skunk) decided to pay a visit shortly before the June meeting. How I wish I had been there to witness the brave blacksmiths who were present, Ron and Jeff, try to coax that furry creature out of the shop. Well, maybe not, since it sprayed under one of the benches. It was an aromatic evening, to be sure. Today you can take a deep breath, smell that wonderful coal smoke, and, it is almost gone, but the scent of the South's perfume is still lingering if you are standing in just the right place. (Thank you to the Lodge at Buckberry Creek - Pigeon Forge, TN- for the skunk. The anvil is a Kohlswa from Sweden.)



It's HOT

Yes, it is HOT outside. It is also much hotter in the shop. Please make sure you open all the windows in the original building, plug in the window fans, plug in the big 'attic' fan in the back room, and plug in the big fan in the McDonald Annex. Then, drink water! The refrigerator is full of cold water. Please help yourself. There is a donation basket in the refrigerator. Throw a dollar or two in as you help yourself to water, or donate a case of water every now and then. Look in the freezer and you will find the push-up type popsicles. Help yourself to these as well. No donation necessary. It's my treat. They are sweet and refreshing, and they will help you stay cool. Please, though, drink plenty of water. It's easy to get caught up working on a project and forget to stay hydrated. This is dangerous. We love you all, and we want you to stay healthy.

Free Coal

Yes, free. Rhea Cole has a neighbor who needs to get rid of some unneeded coal. I will put a sign-up sheet in the shop for all who are interested. Then Rhea can make arrangements with his neighbor for a day and time to go pick it up.

RCBA Gate

There has been sporadic discussion over the years about replacing or making improvements to the gate. It would seem appropriate that the RCBA gate should reflect the talents of the blacksmiths. Joe McDonald, Buzz Busbee, Phillip Glass, and Ron Nichols have agreed to form a committee to design a new gate. The goal is to find a way for all members to have the opportunity to make a part for the gate. If you are interested in helping, or if you have some ideas in mind, please contact one of the committee members. In the meantime, google the National Ornamental Metal Museum. You should see a map and a picture of the gates next to the map. There should be a 'see photos' on the picture of the gate. Click on that, then zoom in and look at the variety of ornaments attached to the gate. Maybe you will get some ideas. Better yet, go to the museum. Take a picnic lunch to eat in the gazebo overlooking the Mississippi River.

Uncle Dave Macon Days

Uncle Dave Macon Days (UDMD) is July 10 – 12. A list of members who have already shown interest in demonstrating, along with a list of current members who may be able to demonstrate, has been sent to the UDMD committee. When you come to demonstrate, you will need to give your name at the gate. You may demonstrate all three days if you like. It's also good to have some folks at the shop Thursday night as everyone in the village is getting set up.

UDMD is a good opportunity to make some money for RCBA. We usually sell a lot of water! We sold hundreds of bottles last year. We would love for everyone to donate a case or two of water to sell – and to drink while you are demonstrating. We can also sell items that we make in the shop. Last year several members made and sold pieces then donated the proceeds to the shop. We continued to do this over the course of the year. All donations are appreciated. You are also able to make and sell pieces for yourself. Visitors at UDMD expect to see a variety of hand forged pieces for sale, so get busy forging.

Copper Workshop

Have you ever wanted to work with copper? You will have an opportunity starting on August 17. This will be a five day workshop, costing \$350. There will be room for 10 students. Please contact Bob Gillen if you are interested.

Stumps

There are a couple of stumps in the shop that are free for anyone who wants them. You will need to cut it to the size you want and level it if you plan to put your anvil on it.

Project of the Month

Hmmmm.... It's McCullough vs. McCullough!!! Both lovely pieces, to be sure.



Billy's entry (our June Winner!)



Gabby's entry

Project of the Month for July is a backscratcher. Come demonstrate at UDMD and work on your entry.



Look what I found. Thank you, Jeff, for sending a picture of this adorable, aromatic critter.

And Speaking of Pictures

Would those of you who took part in the advanced class please bring your project to the July meeting. I want pictures to go in the next newsletter – you and your project.

Dates

Uncle Dave Macon Days – July 10 – 12

July RCBA meeting – July 13

AACB Clinch River – July 18 at 8:00 AM Meeting will be held at House Mountain Baptist Church, 8621 Washington Pike, Corryton, TN.

Wilson County Fair – August 14 – 22. Come visit and/or demonstrate with the Fiddlers Grove crew.

Workshops

Ron's workshop went so well that it will most likely be offered again if there is enough interest. Those who took part in this past workshop are encouraged to help teach the next one. Teaching is the best way to learn, and it is the best way to remember and reinforce what you just learned how to do. There are also plans for a twist class and a simple knife making class.

Elections

Annual officer elections took place during the June Meeting. Buzz, Joe, and Julia were reelected to their positions for another year. Jeff Haselden and Ron Nichols are our at-large board members. I would personally like to thank all RCBA members and friends who have been so supportive this past year. There have been a lot of very positive and productive changes to go along with long time traditions. Your time, support, encouragement, donations, patience, hard physical labor, suggestions, and good humor are very much appreciated.

RCBA On-line

Don't forget to check out our website – www.rcblacksmiths.org. Gary Brown has done a wonderful job!
<http://www.rcblacksmiths.org> (I just may have made this a hyperlink.)

We are also on facebook. Search for RCBA as you would search for a friend.



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