



Rutherford County Blacksmith Association

April May 2015

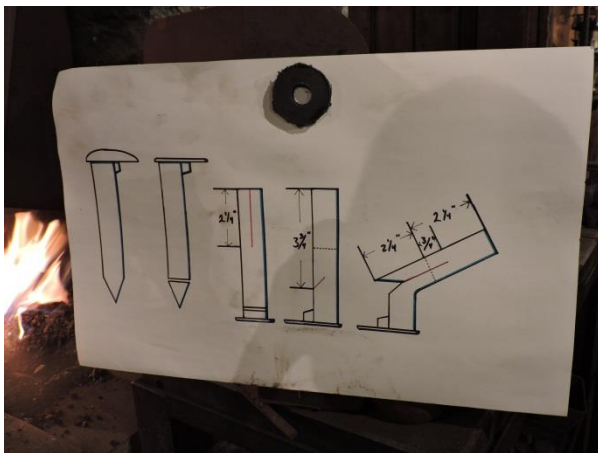
RCBA, Inc.

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April RCBA Meeting – Thank you to Dan Broomhead for demonstrating how to make a cross from a railroad spike. As beautiful as this cross is in the picture, it is even more beautiful in reality. Dan starts by flattening the



nail head end of the spike so it can stand up when finished. The following shows how to make the cuts.

These crosses can be made with any size square stock. The distance the cuts should overlap is equal to the width of the stock. Adjust your measurements to the size of your stock. Check google images for dozens of examples to inspire you. Etsy is also a good place to look for inspiration. However, no image can take the place of getting to watch our own Dan, and his assistant Paul, work together to create this cross.



Project of the Month for April was a dinner bell. No doubt both of these would bring the kids in for dinner. The winning bell (left) was made by Billy McCullough. Jerry Shouse made the bell on the right. Thanks to Billy and Jerry for their contributions to POM.



Gary Brown was our featured demonstrator at the May meeting. Gary showed us how to make a horsehead bottle opener. You may recognize this from the March Project of the Month.



Gary formed the horse head end first. He used a variety of chisels to add detail. See the array of tools on the stump? Gary suggests purchasing an inexpensive set of chisels and grinding them to your liking. As you have time, you can make your own set from good tool steel, but repurposing inexpensive chisels is a quick way to get started. Gary used the slitting and drifting method to start the hole for the opener end. He enlarged the ring on the horn of the anvil. Thank you, Gary. As you can see, you had a spellbound audience!

May Project of the Month



A few months ago we were delighted to be able to welcome T. J. Waldron back at RCBA! As you can see, he's getting back into the swing of things in a big way. T. J. made both sets of tongs! Both sets were declared winners. Do we have a future 'Jack



Wheeler' in our midst? Green Coal students, I feel sure T. J. would be happy to give you advice on your tongs project.

So, what is that guy's name again?

RCBA has had the pleasure of welcoming a lot of new members over the course of the year. Some come on Monday, and some on Thursday. Some come every week, and some less frequently. The same goes for those who have been members for several years. It's hard to keep up with faces and even harder to keep up with names. So, be prepared to have Jeff Haseldon take your picture. Jeff will be working on making the pictures available at the shop so we can all be familiar with RCBA's many members. Getting back into the habit of wearing nametags wouldn't hurt either.

AACB 50th Anniversary

Wow! What a success! Here are a few pictures from the second day of the event.



Dueling tong teams. A full blacksmith shop was set up under the shed. Thanks to Bob Gillen for organizing this setup. Going up against Jack Wheeler was a gutsy move, but our guys sure



And here are the tongs. Anthony declared the competition a tie.



Music in the Village

The next Music in the Village event will be June 19, from 6 – 9. Word is spreading, and these music nights are becoming very well attended. We had dozens of visitors in the shop in May. There were some exceptionally well behaved, polite, interested children who watched the demonstrations and asked very good questions. This was a real treat! The car club is also there showing off their beautifully restored cars. They are more than happy to chat with you and answer all your questions. Bring a snack, your tools, some metal, and your creativity, and plan to have fun playing on the forge for a few hours.

Uncle Dave Macon Days

Uncle Dave Macon Days will take place July 10 – 12. This is Cannonsburgh's largest event of the year. The RCBA shop will be open all three days, and probably the evening of the 9th. Bring your tools to the shop earlier in the week since parking and easy access to the building will be restricted. More information about UDMD will be coming soon.

RCBA Monthly Meetings

The next RCBA monthly meeting will be on June 8, starting at 7:00. Annual dues are due in June! Annual elections will take place during this meeting. Please plan to attend. Project of the Month for June is a candle holder.

The next meeting will be July 13.

Bring items for Iron in the Hat, and also bring items you have made for the show and tell table. Your works of art are an inspiration to the rest of us.

Tents

What would you do when faced with a mountain of tent parts, a massive tangle of unmatched poles and hardware? You would call Billy and Gabby McCullough, of course. Billy and Gabby met this challenge head on, dove in, and came out with three complete tents, and it looks as if a few more tents might emerge in time. The donation of tent poles and hardware came from a friend of Ron Nichols. AACB purchased the canvas, and Billy and Gabby did the hard work of putting the tent puzzle together. AACB now has three 12 X 20 tents which will be used for AACB events, but can also be used by individual AACB member forge groups.



Advanced Class

Ron Nichols is teaching an advanced blacksmithing class on Tuesday nights for the next few weeks. Students are making this sample piece. They will learn how to make traditional corners, scrolls, and Clay Spencer style flared curves. They will also learn the traditional joinery methods of collars and mortise and tenons. At some point in the future, not too far, I hope, these skills will be used to make a Clay Spencer style table. We'll be looking for the finished pieces on the show and tell table at a future RCBA meeting.



Well, this is something to be proud of. RCBA has four new Green Coal graduates. Paul McIntyre, Gabby McCullough, Gary Brown, and Owen Turner have all completed the Green Coal requirements. Not only that, they all can frequently be found around the shop teaching, demonstrating, and helping out wherever needed. What a great bunch! And what's more...there are more GC students getting very close to being finished.

Owen, we are happy to have your brother, Morgan, follow in your footsteps. You are a wonderful example for him to live up to.

You Won't Find This at the Local Hardware Store!



Please go to www.rcbablacksmiths.org for more information about and pictures of this toolbox. This toolbox springs from the imagination of Ron Nichols and the hands of Ron, Buzz Busbee, John Couch, Bob Gillen, and Johnny Woolsey. It is magnificent! Ron brought this to the May RCBA meeting to let everyone see and admire before taking it to the SBA Conference where it and a set of tools sold for \$2000.

Everyone who knows Ron Nichols knows that he is the very definition of a perpetual motion blacksmith machine and an all around good guy! However, even Ron can be laid low by the hazards of getting just a little bit older. Ron put out the call for help and was rewarded with the company and talent of Buzz, John, Bob, and Johnny. Ron would like everyone to know how much he appreciates the contributions of these blacksmiths and good friends. Ron, they loved helping you!

Many of you will remember one of our young members, Zack Peaden. Zack joined the Navy and left us in September to begin his service to our country. Well, Zack was on leave for several days in May, and he decided to join us for our May meeting. What a treat! He's the same ole Zack.... only different. I don't remember the exact conversation, but the result was an invitation for Zack to come visit me in my classroom at Siegel Elementary in the next day or two. He came on Tuesday, and I put him on the spot by asking him to speak to my class about the expectations he now has to live up to and the academic requirements for pursuing specific jobs in the Navy. Zack did a wonderful job relating his Navy life to day to day elementary school expectations. So, thank you, Zack. You are welcome any time.



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