



# Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association

**December 2015**

RCBA, Inc.

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President: Buzz Busbee

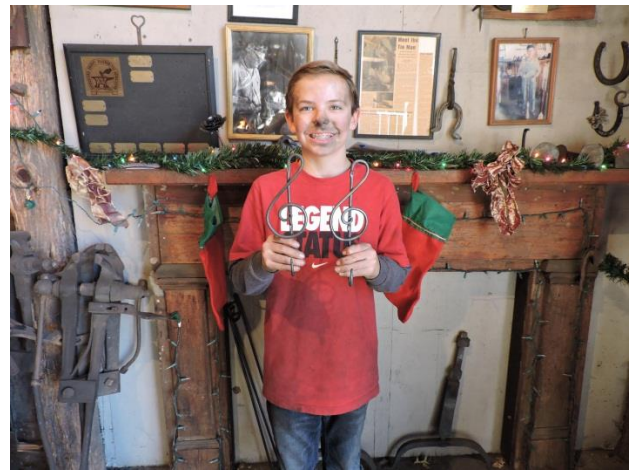


Sparks from the hammer and hot metal weren't the only things lighting up the RCBA Blacksmith Shop over the Christmas holiday season. Lights, lights everywhere! Aren't they pretty? Thank you to all who came out to help clean up and decorate the shop. It looks wonderful.

While most folks went to the Appalachian Center for Craft for the annual AACB Christmas party, a few of us hung back and demonstrated for the Cannonsburgh Christmas Open House. It was mostly fun and games, but Santa was watching, so we were on our best behavior.



So, who does this adorable Mrs. Claus remind you of? Could it be that one our very own members modeled for this sweet lady? She watched over us and a steady stream of visitors all day long.



Lots of really good demonstrating going on,



....and lots of pretty things for sale. One of these days I am going to have the good sense to make a list of everyone who comes out to help on special occasions so I can thank you all personally in the newsletter without worrying about leaving someone out. We had young and well-seasoned alike helping out all day.

The second annual RCBA Christmas party took place on our regular Monday meeting night. Well, it actually started much earlier in the day with open forges and lots of yummy treats to eat.



Now that's a happy face!



Ron doing what Ron does best.



I just LOVE this picture! Do you see who I see?

...and then came the awards! Four months of Project of the Month awards were handed out.



Laura won in July for her backscratcher.



Paul won in October for his leaf keychain.



Billy won in June with his candleholder.



Gary won in November for his steak turner.



This is Laura's backscratcher. I put the wrong picture in the newsletter.



Paul's leaf keychain. Thank you also for demonstrating this in September.

Project of the Month for December is always a Christmas ornament. Here are the entries.

Basket handles made by Ron and Billy



And the winner is.....



Joe McDonald with his hammered copper Man in the Moon.

Project of the Month for January is a ladle.

Taking part in Project of the Month is wonderful way to show off your individual creativity and how you apply it to your knowledge of the basic skills of

blacksmithing. The monthly competition is open to all members, from the newest Green Coal student to the more well- seasoned and experienced members.



Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association has a new **Life Member**. Congratulations to John Couch who was presented with a Life Membership on December 8, 2015. John, we all appreciate your many years of support,

generosity, and dedication to RCBA and the art and craft of blacksmithing. You are a wonderful teacher, mentor, and friend.

## **UPCOMING VERY IMPORTANT EVENT**

RCBA hosts the January AACB meeting on January 16, 2016. You do not want to miss this. We start the day with breakfast, continue with an entertaining demonstration (You will learn more than you can imagine.), break for a gut-busting lunch (If you go home hungry, it's your fault.), then end the day with a general meeting and a HUGE Iron in the Hat. Well, that's not really the end. Hang around and chat with friends and spend your money on tailgate sales. This event takes place no matter what the weather. Plan ahead.

So, who is going to demonstrate? You're in for a treat. Armand Bussell from Cookville has graciously agreed to be our featured demonstrator. I have some good pictures of Armand from other events, but I decided to use a picture of a figurine I bought in the South of France. Yes, all the way from France! It looks exactly like Armand!!! Not only is Armand a really good blacksmith, he's good for a joke or two as well. What is he going to show us??? You need to come to the meeting to find out. You won't be disappointed.



Bring a pencil and paper so you can take notes. And bring these pictures. It really looks just like him.

We need all the help we can get with the January meeting. The first thing we need is as many members as possible to come to the shop on January 9 to help with a wall to wall and floor to ceiling cleanup. We vacuum everywhere! Bring your shop vac if you have one. The McDonald Annex needs to be spotless because that's where all the food goes. Come early. We'll have coffee and maybe some doughnuts. The second thing we need is for you to bring some kind of side dish on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We need food such as baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, mac and cheese, cornbread, green bean cassarole, and deviled eggs. You get the idea. Bring what you like to eat. Chances are good someone else will like it as well. Also, bring dessert. Blacksmiths love their sweets. Bring something for Iron in the Hat. You can bring tools, metal, or, even better, something you made yourself. And finally, bring yourself. You will have a great time!

Please check out the RCBA facebook page and website for notices and information. To find the facebook page, just type in RCBA in the 'Search Facebook' bar on your facebook page. The website is [rcbablacksmiths.org](http://rcbablacksmiths.org).



Just a few ideas.

