



Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association

2016

RCBA, Inc.

rcbablacksmiths@yahoo.com

President: Buzz Busbee

Dates to remember:

April 11 – RCBA Monthly Meeting – 7:00. Come early to visit with friends. Project of the Month is gun hooks or a gun rack. This is carried over from March.

April 16 – AACB Meeting at Choo-Choo Forge in Chattanooga. This is always a wonderful meeting. The forge is at the end of one of the Tennessee Valley Railroad lines. You'll get to watch the crew turn the locomotive around on the turntable. The Choo-Choo blacksmiths always provide a wonderful demonstration and a delicious meal. Bring something for dessert if you like, and bring something for Iron in the Hat.

May 3 at Cannonsburgh – There will be children on a field trip visiting the shop. As part of our agreement with Cannonsburgh we are expected to do short demonstrations for the kids. Volunteers?

May 19 – 21 – AACB Conference at Cannonsburgh Village. You do not want to miss this! For more information about the conference, see the display in the shop or visit the conference website – aacbbblacksmiths.org.



I like to take pictures of flowers. Imagine my surprise when this little beauty blossomed on the side of the anvil. We need to come up with a name for it.

The flower bloomed on March 26, the day of the Cannonsburgh yard sale. Connor's efforts produced the petals for this flower. Thanks to Connor, Phil, Paul, Noah and Julia for spending a few hours demonstrating. We all had a good time, and Connor made his first sale!

Backing up to the March RCBA meeting

While it was still in the planning stages at the meeting, several of our members were looking forward to a workshop at Ron Nichol's shop. The result of the workshop is several new anvil stands. The old stumps had become dried, cracked, unstable, and dangerous. We now have safe stands in the McDonald Annex. Thanks to all who worked on these.



While most of us don't intend to make a living as professional blacksmiths, we do like to have the opportunity to sell some of the things we make. After all, we need the money to buy more metal and tools. Visitors to the shop usually don't carry enough cash for larger, more expensive items, so Gary explained how to set up an account so you can accept credit card payments. He also talked about how to set up an ETSY account for online sales. And, even if you don't want to sell things through ETSY, this website is a treasure trove of forging ideas. Many thanks to Gary for his hard work on our RCBA

website – www.rcbablacksmiths.org. You'll find dates and information about upcoming events, lots of beautiful pictures, and of course, information about the AACB Conference. Check out information about the demonstrators.



No, that is not a two-headed blacksmith! That's just Gary keeping an eye on Buzz. Buzz demonstrated how to make and use a hand held fuller.

Every meeting Buzz tells us about all the upcoming events for RCBA and AACB. What an active bunch we are! There are workshop and demonstration opportunities that fit all our interests. Thank you Buzz for sending out frequent reminder emails as well. Buzz also gave us an update on the AACB Conference in May. He and John Couch had the opportunity to go visit Samuel Stoner's forge. Samuel will be demonstrating knife-making at our conference. Samuel uses true horse power to power his shop. We are truly fortunate to have him demonstrate at our conference. Samuel also gave us information about a source for purchasing good forging coal for a reasonable price.

See the AACB and RCBA websites for more information about Samuel Stoner.

And moving even farther back...

February RCBA meeting



Thank you to Ron Nichols for demonstrating how to make handles for hand tools. Ron recommends using 5/16 round stock as it is heavy enough to provide the needed strength and of a size that fits comfortably in your hands. Of course, you have to make a tool first. Ron is a genius when it comes to making tools and jigs! The tool consists of a piece of flat bar stock with two holes drilled at the width you need your handle to be. Ron positioned his 1 1/8 inch center to center. He then welded a piece of black pipe that has been smashed to an oval to the back of the flat stock. He used 1 1/4 in pipe. Insert the ends of the handle into the holes and pipe. Put the handle end into a vice. Turn. See photo on the left. Look in the McDonald Annex next to the drill press to see how these handles can be attached to chisels and punches.

Project of the Month



There were two entries for Project of the Month. The entry on the left was made by Connor White, and the one on the right was made by Gabbie McCullough. And the winner is...



Connor White. At the time, Connor was still a Green Coal student, and the ladle was his current project. Here is a challenge to all Green Coal students. Take part in Project of the Month. You might win, and if you don't, you'll still learn new skills.

Project of the Month for March is a gun rack of any kind. (There were no entries for March. The project is carried over to April.)

Information:

Murfreesboro Art Crawl. RCBA is now on the Art Crawl map. We'll open the shop and demonstrate on Art Crawl nights. You will have an opportunity to sell your things.

Blacksmith Radio www.blacksmith.com See the website for more information.

Postcards – Sam Jenkins took a beautiful picture of the shop, and they have been turned into postcards. They will be sold in the Cannonsburgh gift shop for \$1.00. We also have them for sale in the shop. Thank you Sam.

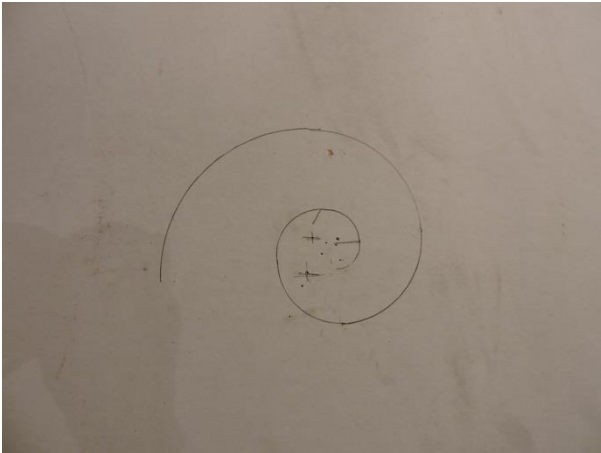
...and back...

January RCBA Meeting



Billy demonstrated how to make a hold down tool that will fit any anvil. Hammer down on the bend to make it hold. Tap just behind the bend to get it to let go. There are several at the shop. Give one of them a try.

Then Ron demonstrated how to draw a scroll. You don't need a jig to make a scroll, but if you want to make identical scrolls, you need a good drawing.



Thank you Billy and Ron.

At the time of this meeting we were preparing for the AACB January meeting which will take place at our own shop. As usual, we were making sure we had enough breakfast for everyone. It's tradition, after all. (We had plenty!!!)

We also have been invited to use the Car Club facilities again this year. Since we always have a big crowd, and the weather is unpredictable, we truly appreciate having a warm, dry space to eat our lunch.

Prior to the January meeting we have to do some serious cleaning up. Thank you to everyone who showed up on Saturday to help.



Is that a ghost in the mist walking the floors of the shop? No, that's....uh....Ted? That's what a blacksmith shop looks like when the men take blowers to it. There was a lot of vacuuming and clutter clearing going on as well. The windows got an annual cleaning, too.



Paul and Bud



Show and Tell



Everything in a blacksmith shop is dirty, hot, and/or sharp. Guess which these are.



Armand demonstrated how to make swirly, whirly things. Very pretty.



I think these are Samuel Stoner creations. See how he does it at the AACB Meeting in May.

We have lots of ways to keep in touch and keep everyone informed about upcoming events. Check out our facebook page. Thank you, Sam Jenkins, for maintaining our fb account. Our website is www.rcbablacksmiths.org. Thank you Gary Brown for building such a beautiful site. Buzz keeps us informed about upcoming events through email. If you are not receiving emails, please let Buzz know. You can contact RCBA by emailing rcbablacksmiths@yahoo.com. And occasionally, you get a newsletter.

Hope to see everyone on Monday.



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