



# Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association

**October 2014**

RCBA Inc. [rcbablacksmith@comcast.net](mailto:rcbablacksmith@comcast.net)

President: Buzz Busbee (615) 962-9140

## October Meeting



Ron and Christian



Punch and tool for finding 120 degrees



Bolster Plate, chisels, and drifts



Here's what you can make!

Ron will be demonstrating how to form the tenons at our November meeting.

At some point, all blacksmiths need to find a way to join two pieces of metal in order to complete a project. One method is to use a mortise (the hole) and tenon. Ron Nichols demonstrated how to slit and drift a proper sized hole. Ron started with some explanation of the tools used in the process. You will need a center punch to mark where you want to make your hole. Since this mark is sometimes difficult to locate once the metal is hot, you can also make a punch mark on the edge of your metal. To make the hole, you will need a punch and a drift. The punch should be very slightly larger than the hole you want. This will prevent your metal from lengthening as you send the drift through. When punching your hole, start on one side, then turn your metal over and punch through from the opposite side. Also, turn your punch around so your slit is even in case the punch is not perfectly symmetrical. Ron cautioned against punching when the metal is too hot. The punch should shear the metal. If it is too hot, the punch will cause the metal to collapse to the inside. Once the hole is slit and cleaned up, the next step is to hammer the drift through. Ron recommends using a short drift. The longer the drift, the more heat the drift pulls out of your metal. Use a bolster plate with an appropriate size hole drilled into it so your drift can pass through. The bolster plate allows for the sidewalls of the hole to be supported as the drift goes through. And last, but certainly not least, it sure is nice to have a good helper. Christian Campbell, one of our Green Coal students, did a wonderful job maintaining the fire, heating the metal pieces, and holding the metal for Ron to strike. Great job of heat control, Christian!

## **Keeping Warm**

Winter is a good time to work on the forges. You are guaranteed some heat for yourself, but staying cool is a simple matter of taking a few steps back. So what about those who are at the shop but not working a forge? We have a new wood/coal burning stove – well, new to the shop. It's called a Warm Morning. From what I have read on the internet, this stove is capable of providing heat for quite a few hours with minimal attention. I believe it needs



a bit of TLC, but we can all once more look forward to staying warm this winter. I think it would be worth our while to have a lesson on how to use it properly.

We have some wood right now, but we'll no doubt need more before the winter is over.

The woodstove purchased earlier from Clark Metal is for sale - \$150.



## Harvest Days

Cannonsburgh Village's end of the season event could not have fallen on a more beautiful day. The Sun was out, and the air was comfortably cool. There was a gentle breeze all day long, on which came the delicious scent of kettle corn through the shop windows. Kettle corn pairs well with coal smoke! We had a steady stream of visitors through the shop from beginning to end. Thank you very much to all who came to demonstrate – Dan Broomhead, Owen Turner, Mark Roddam, Paul McIntyre, Christian Campbell, Alec Lanter, and Julia Harris, and Ted Esker came by for a visit. I hope I didn't forget anyone. We all had a good time talking to visitors and still got a little forging done – Mark completed one of his roses. Yea, Mark!

## Keeping the Shop Clean and Other Improvements

It should never be expected to pass a white glove test, but the shop sure does look nice. Several members have been working hard to find, organize, and store tools and other shop supplies. There is a new cabinet in the McDonald Annex in which you can find treadle and power hammer attachments as well as our supply of newspaper. The new cabinet in the back room has general supplies and paper products. Take a look so you will know where to find what you need. Several members are in the process of making new sample boards for the Green Coal projects. These will be portable so you can take what you need to the forge with you. Also, our library collection is growing. Take a look to get ideas for a project or a source for tools and supplies.

## Halloween

Buzz, Paul, and Julia braved the wind, rain, and cold to pass out candy to an adorable bunch of kids at Cannonsburgh on Halloween afternoon. Those kids sure did have to work hard against the weather for that candy! My favorite costume was a little girl who was

dressed as a squid. She said she loves giant squids, so she decided to design her own costume. Sadly, I did not get a picture. However, no less cute was our own Paul's family. I did get a picture as Paul made sure he handed out just the right candy to his boys.





## Project of the Month

Project of the Month for October was an S-hook. We had two entries – Paul McIntyre on the left and Mark Roddam on the right. The judges determined Paul's hook to be the winner.

The other entry in September's Project of the Month was from Donnie Fergus. Thank you, Donnie.

November's project is a plant hanger - shepherd's hook type or otherwise.

## Dates

RCBA Monthly Meeting - November 10 at 7:00. Bring your entry for Project of the Month, something for Iron in the Hat, and something for taking notes during Ron's demonstration. He will be demonstrating how to make tenons.

AACB Christmas Party – December 6, starting at 9:00 at the Appalachian Center for Craft in Smithville. Bob Coogan will be demonstrating. Bring a dessert, something for Iron in the Hat, and perhaps something for the auction.

The AACB meeting for January will take place on January 10. Plan to bring side dishes and/or desserts. Also, we'll have some work days to make sure the shop is super clean and in good working order.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AACB Hammer In – April 17 – 18 2015. More on that later.

**Certificates** – Every time I work with Word, I learn just a bit more about it. With the information Tammy sent to me – Thank You! – and my bit of Word knowledge, the likelihood of getting certificates made increases. Thank you for your patience. JH



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