



FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the "King of Crafts"

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths

www.viliblacksmiths.com



COMING EVENTS

Jan 25 2009.....Annual General meeting
Feb 22 2009 Meeting at Luxton

Annual General Meeting Sunday Jan 25th



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By Royal decree, all VIBA members are hereby summoned to be present at the Annual General Meeting Sunday Jan 25 2009. We will choose our club officers for next year and our current President and Vice-president have completed their term limits in office. All officers positions are up for re-election each year, with a two year term limit imposed on each position. It is time for you to due your duty to the Queen, and your fellow members, and volunteer your time. None of the officer positions involves an excessive time commitment, so please consider running for office. Our club will only be as good as the volunteers that run it, and each member only gets out what he or she puts in.

2008 - Executive

President: Charlie Dowdeswell
478 2460

Vice Pres.: Ray Orchard 478-9839

Secretary: Charlie Low 479-6712

Treasurer: Norm Norby 478-3589

Librarian: Skip Kennedy 478-8172

Editor: Dennis Gillett

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Submissions & Contributions

Submissions to "Forge" can be made at any monthly meeting or by snail mail to:

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President's Report

By: Charlie Dowdeswell



Presidents Report Charlie Dowdeswell January 2009

With recognition of all members past and present, a very big thank you as **VIBA** celebrates its **22nd anniversary year**

Wow, what a ride! With the A.G.M. on January 25, 2009 marking the end of my two-year tenure as president of V.I.B.A., I look back over these past two years with a little nostalgia and a lot of pride for all of the members of our Association. Without the support and hard work of the members, V.I.B.A. of course, would stagnate and it would have been impossible for anything to have been accomplished, even the little bit that I hope that I have been able to contribute.

As one must sometimes look back to be able to look forward, I think of the gratitude

Pres report continued Pg 10

Secretary's Report

By: Charlie Low



Reported by D Gillett in Charlie's Absence Meeting called to order at 11:00AM by Pres Charlie D.

Show and Tell

Don Startin brought his award winning entries to the Cobble Hill Fair exhibit. The prize winners included hoof pick, candle holder, knife, tongs and clothes hook. Don was able to pay for his trip to Cobble Hill and meals with his prize money. Ray brought a "what is it" (not sure what they decided it was....some sort of nibbler). Ray also brought 2 duct gates from Lee Valley tools he wants to sell ...a 2" and a 4" \$9.59 and \$12.90 plus a truck load of free steel incl. axles, leaf springs and a brake drum forge. Jake brought in the sculptures made by Henry and Adrian at the summer demo they put on at his shop. Keith brought a hanging bell and table bell he made following Willy's German pattern. Dennis brought in a horseshoe knife with leather sheath.

Minutes of Oct meeting accepted

Old Business

No further news about CanIRON VII this summer. Looking like it may not happen.

New Business

Keith had the club chop saw repaired. Frank Clayton will be producing a video in conjunction with the Saanich Artefacts Society on tempering tools, knives and springs in the near future. Details to follow.

Reports

Skip announced several new library additions, particularly donations by the estate of Jim Montgomery
Treasurer Norm reported our healthy bank balance

Meeting Adjourned to be followed by a hinge demo by Skip

ABANA President's Message November 2008

First of all I want to thank our 2008 board for all of their hard work. Being a volunteer has its rewards; it has its challenges, and frankly speaking, its frustrations. Also, to those who have served and moved on, my hat is off to them as well.

In the past twelve months we have seen a nearly complete turn over of the board. With the exception of Jill Turman (who we could not do without) and Jim Masterson, the 2009 ABANA board has served one year or less. For all intents and purposes we are a new board and we are already hard at work.

Next on the agenda, I want to thank the 2009 ABANA board for their confidence in me, by electing me as your President. I have made the commitment to my fellow board members and now to you the ABANA membership, that in the months ahead I will do my best. You will be hearing from me and your board, about your ABANA, what our challenges are, what our goals are, and what you can do as a member to further ABANA's mission.

I'd like to make a point here. I have been told that in order to bring back the membership to levels of the past (5,300+), ABANA must publish the financial statements for the last ten years. The financial statements are available to all ABANA members who ask for them.

Furthermore I have been told that ABANA must admit to the mistakes of the past. This might be true. I can assure you that your 2008/2009 ABANA board of directors is painfully aware of the past. Hopefully we can use these past events to guide our future.

For those of you who care to debate the issues of the past, please consider this, your ABANA board is made up of fifteen volunteers from a diverse set of experiences. ABANA's past board members were too; they did the best job they were capable of; my hat is off to them.

You may be asking yourself, "Where is he going with this"? If you need an apology, please accept this as one. If you need someone to admit to the past shortcomings of the organization and promise to do the right thing in the future, consider this that confession and resolution.

Now moving on as to our future, we have much work to do. I hope that you will consider rolling up your sleeves and join us on the happy road of destiny. How can you help? Consider what you can offer in terms of time and other resources and contact a committee chair in your area of interest.

In closing, here are just a few of the accomplishments brought by you by your 2008 ABANA board. We did a complete revision of the By-Laws, including term limits. The Members Only Discount program was implemented; Constant Contact email system was brought on-line. The ABANA Trust is now on a level footing with three new trustees appointed, thanks to our 2008 president Chris Winterstein. The Health Insurance program was rolled out, and a new Shop insurance plan is coming soon! We relocated the Central Office and contracted with WH&L, a professional management firm. Last in the "short" list is.....drum roll please...yes there will be a 2010 ABANA Conference! Set your sights on Memphis Tennessee, early June 2010. It's back to basics, no frills, but lots of educational opportunities, friendship and camaraderie! The low early registration fee will shock and delight you! Way to go conference committee!

For Love of the Craft,
Rome H. Hutchings, ABANA President

Show and Tell

Photos by D Gillett



Don Startin's award winning tongs, hook, hoof pick, and knife



Keith's hanging bell and yellow rose of Texas table bell



Ray's donated brake drum forge



Charlie's herb knife from bearing race



Ray's nibbler?



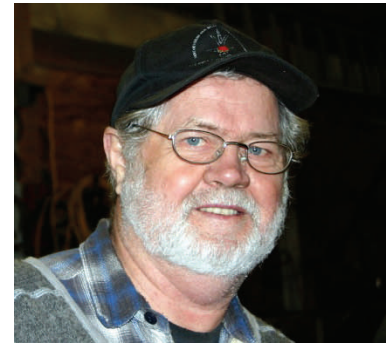
The two sculptures from the Henry and Adrian demo



Dennis's horseshoe knife and sheath



Hinge demo by Skip Kennedy



Skip shows us how to make a hinge for a door in this month's demo



Step 1

Start by making a bevel on the end of a flat bar $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{16}$ " x approx 6" long (or whatever size material you want your hinge to be) The bevel helps when rolling the edge allowing it to tuck in producing a nice tight fit

Step 2



Roll up one edge over the anvil as shown. A $\frac{3}{8}$ " pin is used to size the rolled edge as shown



Use a hot cut to tuck in the bevelled edge



Step 3 Make a second hinge half exactly the same way as the first



Step 4 mark the roll into thirds as shown and transfer the marks to both halves of the hinge with a hacksaw. Cut completely through both rolls with the hacksaw.



Step 5 Cut off the outer one thirds on one half of the hinge with the saw and using a hot cut remove the inner one third on the other half of the hinge





Step 6. Rivet the two halves together



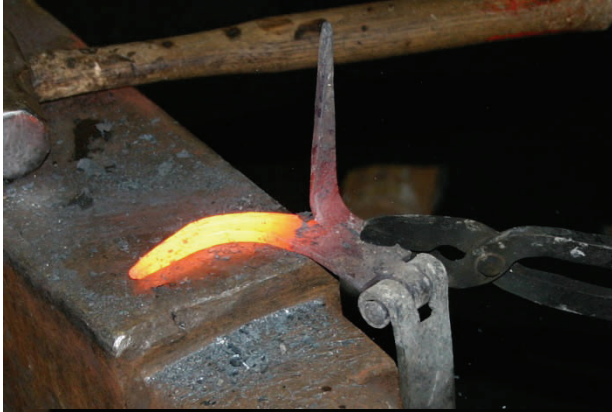
Step 7. Using a hot cut take off one corner of the hinge body as shown. This makes tapering the hinge body much easier



Step 8. Taper the hinge body to a blunt point



Step 9. Split the hinge body with a hot cut



Step 10. bend one leg out of the way and taper and shape further



Step 11. Repeat the process for the other half

Thanks to Skip for a great demo

that overwhelmed me when the membership put their trust in me, a relative newcomer, to take the helm and lead the club for the following two years. I sincerely hope that I have lived up to that trust.

I think of how lucky I was to be able to see and take a small part in CanIron VI which was incredible. I was in a position to witness members who devoted, I'm sure, the majority of their time over a two-year period to make this a successful venture. Also the thousands of man-hours devoted to this project which were shared many other members . Amazing!

I was able to see the 'redistribution/spreading of members tasks' idea, in particular concerning the Fairs, Rodeos, Production Days, Shop maintenance etc., taken very close to total fruition. I must also note that I see the monetary success of the Fairs and Rodeos, the events that keep us going, has increased. I think the re-organization has and will allow this trend to continue.

Along with many many more, these are some of the highlights I look back on that show me what blacksmiths are really made of. It makes me proud to have taken up blacksmithing, albeit as a retirement hobby, and to be able to now call myself a blacksmith. I thank you all for your tolerance, good faith, and the continuous help along the way that made my job easier.

This is the point that I wind down one position and am preparing to jump into the next with both feet. My next endeavor with V.I.B.A. will be the development of a 'Portable Traveling Gallery', primarily to have at our 'Denonstration Venues'. The work displayed in this Gallery will be all 'juried' by the Westshore Arts Council and will take us one more step in showcasing to the public just what blacksmiths really can do. I will do my best to develop this outlet and will be leaning, as always, on fellow V.I.B.A. members for the next few months. After this 'season', my intentions are to turn the gallery over to someone who can take it to the next step. I'll try and keep everyone informed as to the progress of our 'Portable Traveling Gallery' with wee blurbs in the forge each month.

I wish my successor all the very best for his/her tenure and to enjoy- it really is a great 'ride'.

Again, thank you all,
Charlie Dowdeswell, Blacksmith.