



# FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the "King of Crafts"

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths

www.viblacksmiths.com



## COMING EVENTS

- July 26 2009 ..... Meeting at Luxton
- Aug 8,9 2009 ..... Coombs Fair
- Aug 7,8 9, 2009 ..... CanIRON VI Ness Creek Sask
- Aug 21,22,23 .. Vancouver Island Exhibition (Nanaimo)
- Aug 22 2009 ..... Cobble Hill Fair
- Sept 5,6,7 2009 ..... Saanich Fair
- Sept 18,19,20 2009 ..... Luxton Fall Fair
- Sept 27 2009 ..... Meeting at Luxton and Picnic

## Index

Executive Reports.....	2,3
Show and tell .....	4,5
Bending fork.....	6
Chisel guide.....	7
CanIRON VII.....	8
Membership.....	10

### Oppression!! Local blacksmith group the target of Stalinist Metchosin Farmer's Institute wrath

The above photos show the Vancouver Island Blacksmith smithy only days after an extensive facelift was completed. The Supreme Leader and Central Party Chairman of the Metchosin Farmer's Institute (our landlord) decided the new paint scheme represented a narrowly disguised attempt to promote capitalist freedom of expression and ordered its removal. The blacksmith's Freedom of Expression Committee chairman, Dr Charles Low, has not been seen lately and it is feared he has been arrested and transferred to a north island gulag. The Metchosin Farmers institute explained that it has chosen grey as the only acceptable color, in keeping with that organizations general outlook on the world and plan for future development. "Drab grey, or preferably 'Cinderblock Grey' promotes controlled, communal thinking" explained an MFI spokesman. Blacksmith reaction was swift and there were several reports of an open display of weapons (see Show and Tell pg 5) at their last monthly meeting. Hopefully bloodshed can be avoided in the future.

(Ed note. the newsletter print version with black and white photos does not do justice to the new bright and lively paint job on the smithy. See it in full color at <http://viblacksmiths.com/newsletter.html>)

## 2008 - Executive

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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: Ray Orchard



So, after all that work resulting in the dazzling new look of the smithy, it unfortunately has to go. Our landlord, the Metchosin Farmer's institute says there are only two approved colours for buildings on the grounds. Our base of black coal surmounted by gigantic yellow, red and orange flames just does not comply. Oh well, when the supply of approved (drab) paint is provided we'll put on another coat.

While they dealt with the perceived paint problem promptly, the M.F.I. board has not, as of this writing, responded to our generous increased rent offer for the space we occupy. I will be away from the meeting on July 26, but any new information received will be passed on by Marty or Charles D., whoever makes it to the chair.

The busiest part of the summer is upon us with Coombs, CanIRON VII, Nanaimo exhibition, Cobble Hill, Saanich and Luxton fairs all taking place before we meet in September. Turn up and help VIBA put on some great shows.

September 27 will be another short meeting because of the decision to roast some meat and party on that day. It would be nice if everyone noted the date now, and then turn up for a great gathering. Please bring something like salad or desert.

The beef will be provided, along with liquid refreshments. Spouses, significant others, and perhaps even other others are welcome. See you then.

## Minutes cont from pg 3

the name of anyone who did not want to have people know he is a blacksmith, and make up a list which can be added as an insert to next months newsletter, so when we are trying to organize work parties or just get in touch, there will be a wider selection of people to contact.

Ray met Richard Madison of Dunford Trading Post. He has an anvil for sale, probably about 150 pounds. If anyone is interested, Ray can tell you how to get hold of him.

And then we adjourned.



## Secretary's Report

By: Charlie Low



June 28 '09 Minutes

New members: Antonio Nolasco, and an old member who has not been around for a while, Ross Holden

Show and Tell: Frank brought in a very nice copper repousse of a blacksmith that he picked up at a flea market, in a frame he made, and a statue of blacksmith apparently in copper, but actually in copper clad plastic, that he bought in Spain

Dennis brought in his failed blade. To be a journeyman bladesmith, you have to make a blade less than 10 inches long, less than 2 inches wide, and subject it to a variety of tests. First, it has to cut a hanging piece of 1 inch hemp rope, in a single stroke, then it has to cut through a 2 x 4, then it has to shave the hair off an arm, all of which his blade did, and then it has to stand being bent 90 degrees. Dennis had edge-hardened the blade, and clamped it in the vise too close to the end, so he was bending mostly hardened metal, and it broke, thus failing his test. When he gripped it farther down, it bent just fine, but that was too late. He also brought in a hunting knife, of 5160 steel, with stainless hardware, a tigerwood handle, in a hardwood sheath fitted with a yttrium (AKA rare earth) magnet- definitely a thing of beauty.

Keith brought in an adze made from a piece of spring and a maple branch, with the blade slotted into a groove in the wood, and secured with 2 screws and a hose clam, and a small garden hoe, made after the pattern that was in the Forge a few months ago

Ray brought in a mystery hammer, small, with a very flat square face and closely spaced claws. It was determined by a cobbler that it was not a cobbler's hammer, and the consensus was that it might be just a tack hammer variant

Don brought in a mystery tool, like a pair of pliers with a concave face opposed to a cutting blade. Someone identified it as a hose cutter

The minutes were adopted as published in last month's Forge.

Business arising: Ray reminded us that the Cobble Hill 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary fair wants exhibits. The fair is Aug 29, and to give Raynier a chance to do the paperwork they should be in by the first of August. It was mentioned

that gardeners can enter produce, and winemakers can enter their wines.

For CanIRON VII, there is a move afoot to produce a panel for the obelisk. Charlie D has accepted the responsibility of being in charge, so get in touch with him if you would like to contribute.

The seed money from CanIRON VI has been passed on to them.

New business: Our lovely paint job is not acceptable to the Metchosin Farmer's Institute, so we are going to have to repaint in grey. On the plus side, they will arrange to provide the paint.

Our contract with them has not yet been finalized, but as was reported a couple of months ago is under negotiation.

The fairs: as a general thing, our demos are reasonably organized. The first one coming up will be the Metchosin celebration, formerly Lavender Days, and it will not be in the usual place, but at the end of Langford Parkway. If you would like to help out, Charlie D is the man in charge. I have it listed as July 11 and 12, but I think it is just a one day thing, so make sure of the date before then, so you don't turn up all alone wondering where everyone is.

We are planning to have a barbecue, probably at the September meeting, Sept 27. Ray will barbecue some beef, and we will all bring pot-luck stuff- so plan on making something you are good at.

Reports: Norm reports we are nicely in the black, and made a profit on Adrian's demo last month

Charlie D reports that the blacksmith art displays will happen next year, as there is still some work to be done on the trailer, as well as some other loose ends to be tidied up.

Skip reported that there are quite a number of new books in the library. I got a bit behind in listing them, but if you make a point of having a look at the library next month, you will see them.

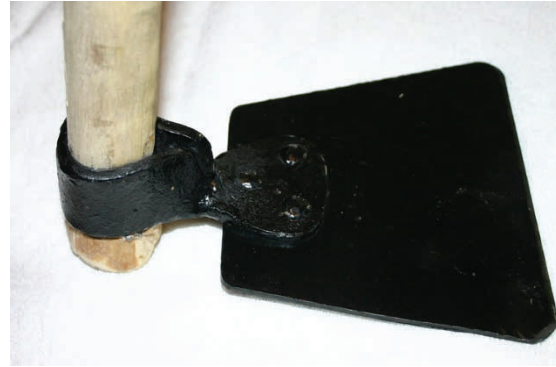
Benoit reports that the power hammer is not well. The motor sparks and overheats, possibly due to grit in the works. He will look into getting a fully sealed motor. Also, there is a plan to raise the platen to table height. Ray has some good heavy angle iron which he is willing to donate for legs, and Ben will look after the construction. Again, this is a point at which he can probably use some help.

Various people would like to have the list of addresses and phone numbers of the members. At the sign-up at the AGM there was a box to indicate if one did not wish one's name made available, so it was agreed that Norm would go through the list, remove

Continued minutes pg 2

# Show and Tell

Photos by D Gillett



Keith's hoe



Copper repousse and cast bronze blacksmiths brought by Frank



Keith's adz



Railroad spike tongs made by Don



Hunting knife and Performance Test blade that Didn't....(perform that is) by Dennis



# For your Tool Box

## Paul Garrett's Three Fingered Bending Fork

by Dave Smucker

Bending forks have been around forever and there are many ways to make them, but I think that Paul's idea is something new or at least it is a design that I have never seen. I even said to Paul "It makes me mad, because I didn't think of it myself."

What makes a 3-fingered special is the way you can easily use it to bend stock both toward you and away from you.

The sketch on this page is of a fork that Paul made that is 24 inches long the drawing is about 1/3 actual size.

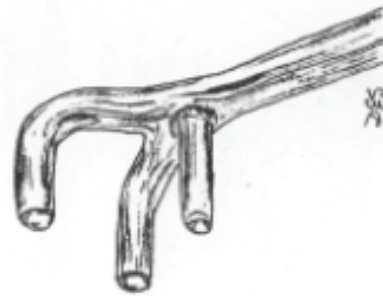
This fork is made from a raze-car axle of Hy-Tuf steel. For more on this steel see the article in this issue on "Two Interesting Steels." Paul has this type of material for sale from time to time.

For those that may not know Paul, he is the resident blacksmith at the John C. Campbell Folk School. Make a point of coming to the November meeting of the AACB at the Folk School and meet Paul.

On the following page are some sketches of the 3-fingered head and one way to use this bending fork.



To make the fork Paul first drew out the axle and then flattened the bending end. He then split this end and forged the two fingers and bend them 90 degrees. He then hot punched a hole in the base of the wye for the third finger. This finger he drew out of additional axle material fitted in place and arc welded top and bottom.



Here is a view from the other side.



This view shows one way of using the fork. In this position, the blacksmith is bending the material towards themselves. In other words, towards the bottom of the drawing. (There are many positions you can use the fork because of the many ways you can place stock between the three fingers.)



In this view, the smith is bending away from himself or herself, towards the top of the picture.

The really neat thing here is to make a correction to an over bend one does not have to reposition the fork, only shift from one pin (finger) to the other. This requires a handle movement of only about 90 degrees, much much less than in a 2 pin or fingered bending fork.

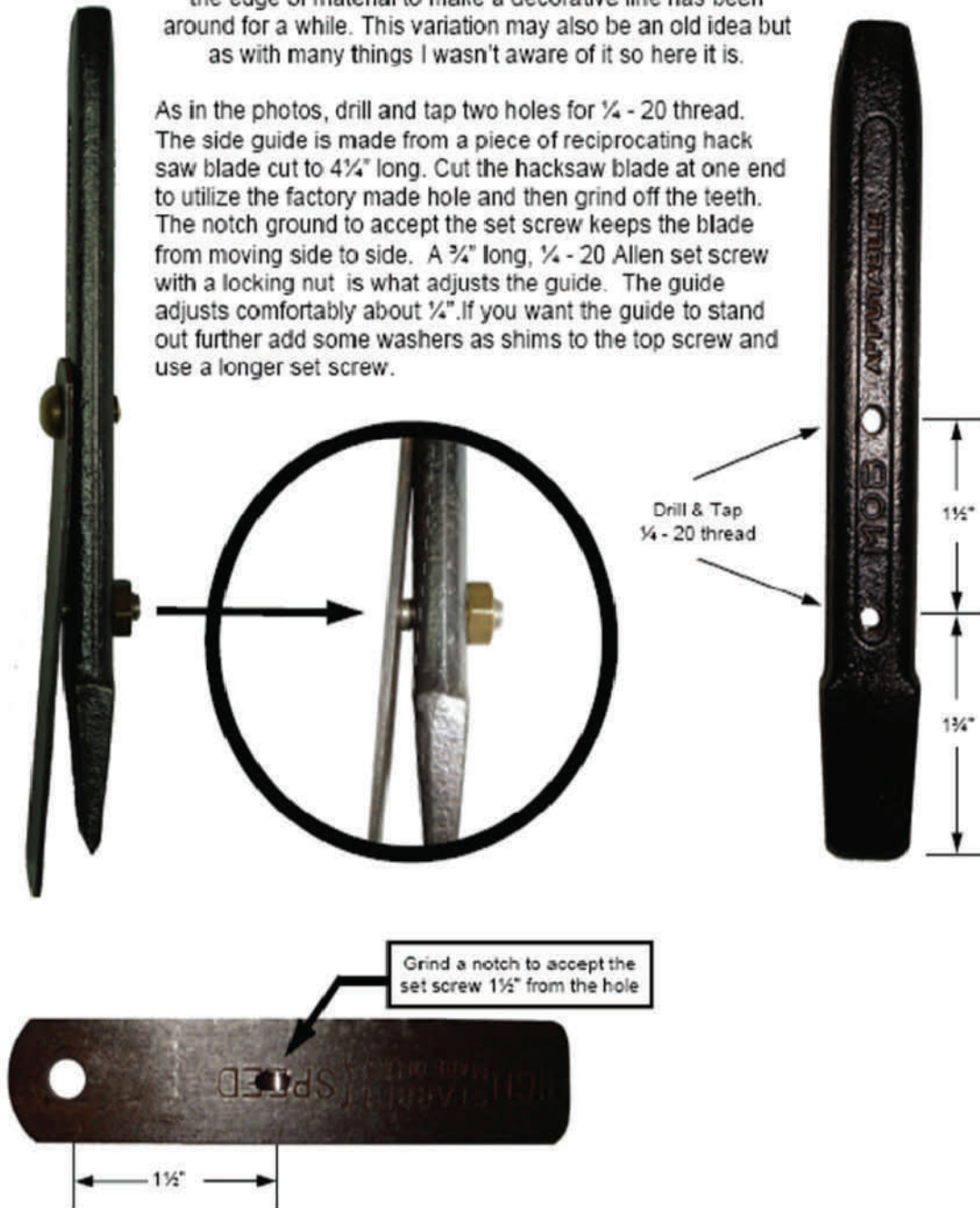
Making this tool out of a 220,000 psi (pounds per square inch) steel makes this a super tough tool you can really lay into. Make some of these forks in different sizes and you will really like them.

# Adjustable Chisel Guide

By Carl Davison  
Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Welding a metal piece to the side of a chisel to guide it along the edge of material to make a decorative line has been around for a while. This variation may also be an old idea but as with many things I wasn't aware of it so here it is.

As in the photos, drill and tap two holes for  $\frac{1}{4}$  - 20 thread. The side guide is made from a piece of reciprocating hacksaw blade cut to  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " long. Cut the hacksaw blade at one end to utilize the factory made hole and then grind off the teeth. The notch ground to accept the set screw keeps the blade from moving side to side. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long,  $\frac{1}{4}$  - 20 Allen set screw with a locking nut is what adjusts the guide. The guide adjusts comfortably about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". If you want the guide to stand out further add some washers as shims to the top screw and use a longer set screw.





The Saskatchewan Chapter of the Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild proudly host the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Blacksmith Conference



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### **CANIRON VII DEMONSTRATORS**



**Adrian Legge**



**Sandra Dunn**



**Al Bakke**



**John & Nancy Little**



**John Montesth**



**Murray Cook**





How could you even consider covering up this masterpiece with grey paint??



**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association  
Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a: New Member  Renewal

Regular Membership \$30.00 Annually

Contributory Member \$100.00 Annually

Members are required to sign a Liability Waiver

Make cheques or money orders payable to:

**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc. (VIBA)**

**1040 Marwood Avenue**

**Victoria, BC CANADA**

**V9C 3C4**

**Artist Blacksmiths Assoc. of North America  
Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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Senior Citizen (age 65+).....\$40./year

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Dumfries, VA, USA, 22025-1212

Email: abana@abana.org



*German artist, Otto von Bismarck portrayed  
as a blacksmith, XIX century, patined bronze*