



# FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the "King of Crafts"

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths

www.vibblacksmiths.com



## COMING EVENTS

**February 25, 2007**—VIBA meeting starting AT 11 am. Luxton Fairgrounds.

**March 25 2007**— VIBA meeting starting at 11:00am Luxton fairgrounds

**June 29-July 2 2007** — CanIRON VI

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## Saint Eligius; Saint Eloi

Submitted by Mac Tipton

Bishop of Noyon, born Chaptelat, near Limoges, France 590.died Noyon, 659. He was a **master goldsmith** and was placed in charge of the mint under King Clotaire. The kings son and successor Dagobert made him his chief councilor. He was a source of edification at court, building and restoring several monasteries, the most important of which was at Solignac, where he introduced the Irish monastic rule. On the death of Dagobert, he left court and entered the priesthood, becoming **Bishop of Noyon**. He converted the numerous pagan tribes in his diocese and continued his work of building churches. **He is the Patron Saint of goldsmiths, blacksmiths, and workers in metals.**

## 2007 - Executive

President: Charlie Dowdeswell  
478 2460

Vice Pres.: Ray Orchard 478-9839

Secretary: Clint Montgomery 360-6910

Treasurer: Raynier Pipke 743-9945

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:

VIBA - The Editor  
1040 Marwood Avenue  
Victoria, BC Canada  
V9C 3C4  
OR  
Email: dgillett@shaw.ca

## President's Report

By: Charlie Dowdeswell

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Association for entrusting me with the presidency. It is an honour, in particular for one who is a relative newcomer to the 'King of Crafts', to be given this responsibility. I will do my utmost to be worthy of the position and to do all that I am capable of for the Club and its dedication to the revival of the Craft. Thank you.

To firm up the final details, letters are ready to go out to all of the groups and the societies responsible for the fairs and for the exhibitions that we attend as demonstrators each year. I know it seems early, but with CanIron and all the preparation involved, I have drafted some Fair/exhibition volunteer sign-up forms that will be passed around at the February meeting for perusal and hopefully sign up. These forms will then be placed in the shop downstairs. There is a sign-up space for a volunteer coordinator for each event as well as sign-up spaces for the volunteer members who man the forges, pound the iron, and generally interact with the public. This is going to be an extremely busy year and I hope this allows the club members to 'firm up' and to integrate their club activities with their personal activities for the spring, summer and fall.

I thank all members in advance for their participation as I know the draw for volunteers is going to be extreme this year with the addition of CanIron to our regular fair demos. Alternatively, we must not forget the positive, powerful impact our club and other volunteer clubs like us have on the public, in particular on the youth.

## Secretary's Report

By: Clint Montgomery

### V IBA January 2007 meeting minutes

The meeting called to order by President Keith Kupitz at 11:14 am.

### **Show and Tell**

Jake brought in some pictures and a book from Mac and Isabel Tipton Glen brought in a nice door handle he made using a rope twist motif.

### **Old Business**

Raynier moved that the previous minutes be accepted as presented.

Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

Keith asked that the issue surrounding the installation if the gutters be tabled until the next meeting. The general consensus was that the cost should be approximately \$200.00.

### **New Business**

We had three new members in attendance for this meeting that we welcomed into the club Steve Johnson, Bruce Medd, and Jacob Medd.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Raynier provided details of the treasury report to the membership and all is well.

### **CanIRON Committee**

Neil reported that things are well underway. The site, demonstrators, lodgings and catering have all been confirmed.

There is much detail work to be done in the next 5 months ~ **YES 5 MONTHS, that's it!**

# Dues are now due for 2007...you need to pay to play

## Secretary's Report con't By: Clint Montgomery

### There is a call out for volunteers at all levels!

Raynier called a motion for adjournment at 12:11 pm.

Clint seconded. Motion passed.

### VIBA 2007 Annual General Meeting

Raynier read the details of the annual treasurers report and all is well.

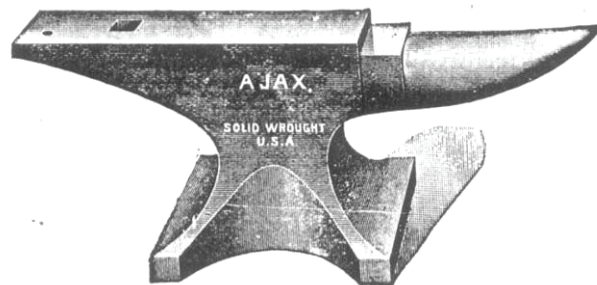
The election of officers for the two open positions of President and Vice-President took place and Charlie Dowdeswell is the new President of VIBA and Ray Orchard is the new Vice-President of VIBA. Congratulation!

Raynier Pipke and Clint Montgomery will remain as treasurer and secretary. A big thanks goes out to Keith Kupitz and Charlie Low our retiring President and Vice-President.

Motion to adjourn was called by Charlie at 12:55 pm, seconded by Clint, motion passed.

## Gate Making Course By Jake James

Jake has proposed a week long intensive gate making workshop to be held at his forge in late May or early April for 4 interested members. The finished gate will go into the gallery at CanIRON and then into the auction. Tentative date April 19-23. If 8 people are interested he will run two workshops. Cost \$550 per person including materials. Contact Jake at 250 642 6984 or [jake@jakejames.ca](mailto:jake@jakejames.ca).



**Volunteers needed.** Galen Kennel has **Volunteered** to act as **Volunteer Coordinator** for CanIRON. We now need some **Volunteers** for him to coordinate. Please call him 382-4667

**Remember, we need everyone to think of people we can contact to get sponsorship and donations for CanIRON... for the auction/iron in the toque etc. Contact Jake James with suggestions at above phone, e-mail address.**



Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.  
PO Box 816  
Farmington, GA 30638 USA  
706-310-1030 tel • 706-769-7147 fax  
[abana@abana.org](mailto:abana@abana.org) • [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

President's Message  
February, 2007

## ABANA NEEDS YOU

Well it's happened ... the kids (ABANA Affiliates) are showing the old folks (ABANA) how it should be done. Yes, I am admitting that you put on more efficient conferences than we do.

Some of you have already known this and are probably saying right now, "Hey, we've been trying to tell you this for years." And again you'd be right. All I can say at this point is this - the straw hit the camel's back ... and it broke.

No longer can ABANA sponsor conferences as before. They have become too cost prohibitive to produce and attend. Now is the time for us to learn from you. Here are just a few fine examples -

Quadstate RoundUp in Troy, Ohio  
Southern Blacksmith Association Conference in Madison, Georgia  
IronFest in Grapevine, Texas  
CanIron in a different Canadian Province every two years  
California Blacksmith Association Conferences in California

So where do we go from here? What I would like to start is a dialog with you. I will be getting in touch over the next several months with many of you to discuss conferences and ABANA. In the meantime you can get in touch with me, [clareyellin@abana.org](mailto:clareyellin@abana.org)

Our ears are open and with your help and guidance the parent can learn a thing or two from the kids.

Clare Yellin, President  
721 Moore Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
(610) 527-2334  
[clareyellin@abana.org](mailto:clareyellin@abana.org)

### **BLACKSMITHING CLASSES WITH JAKE JAMES.**

I AM TEACHING INTRODUCTORY ONE DAY CLASSES FOR 4 STUDENTS. WE WILL BE COVERING THE FUNDAMENTAL TECHNIQUES OF BLACKSMITHING THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO EXPLORE THE WORLD OF FORGED METALWORK.

I ALSO RUN A FOLLOW UP WEEKEND CLASS TO INTRODUCE MORE ADVANCED SKILLS. CLASSES WILL COST \$100/DAY, PLUS PST.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. I WILL PROVIDE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND THE TOOLING NEEDED.

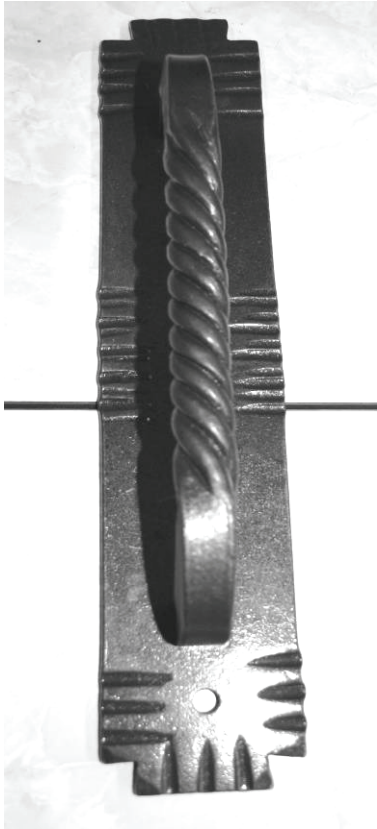
I HAVE SPACES FOR AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OF FEB.

FROM MARCH ONWARDS I WILL BE RUNNING INTRODUCTORY CLASSES ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, AND THE FOLLOW UP COURSE ON THE FOURTH WEEKEND.

[jake@jakejames.ca](mailto:jake@jakejames.ca) 250 642 6984

# Show and Tell

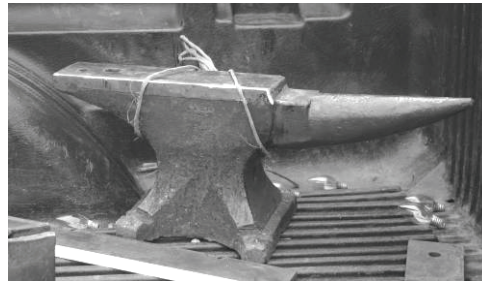
Photos by D Gillett



Glenn's rope twist door handle



Jake's chocolate chip and nut loaf (although I suspect his wife may have had something to do with it)



Keith's anvil refurbished by Benoit

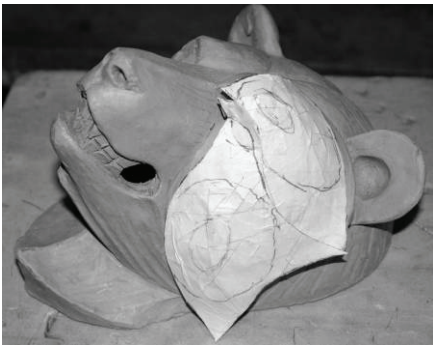


No...this isn't a picture of litter outside the shop...it is the ingredients of **Super Quench** recommended by Jorgen Harle at the powerhammer demo. Dawn dishwashing liquid 32 oz, 5lbs coarse salt and Jet Dry dishwasher anti- spot liquid in 5 gals water will quench mild steel into tool steel ...well almost... according to Jorgen anyway.



Sculpture by Galen

# Dan Orton's Animal heads Demo



1. Pattern lay-out— in this case a clay bear head covered by masking tape that is then removed and flattened



2. Pattern is cut from 1/8" steel then textured. He made a triceratops head for the demo.



3. Triceratops skin texturing hammer



4. Shaping the steel over a stake



5. Some of the stakes he has made to form the steel



6. Looking more like a dinosaur



7. Making a horn using a saddle shaped stake



8. Closing up the horn



9 Attaching the horns



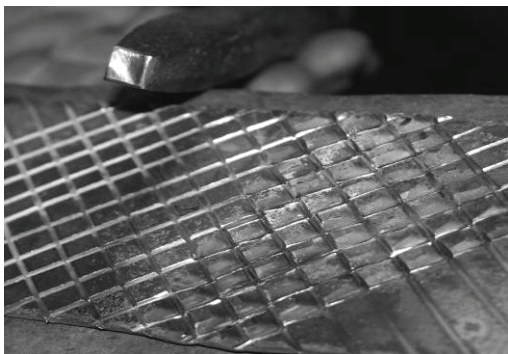
10 Ready for finishing



A previously made dinosaur head



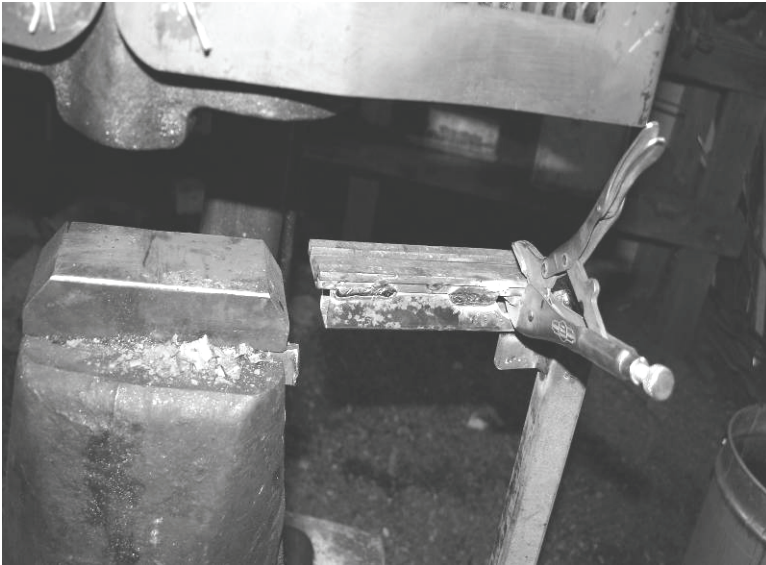
How to make a saddle stake...twist a flat spring, cut out the marked circle and mount on a tapered bottom bar



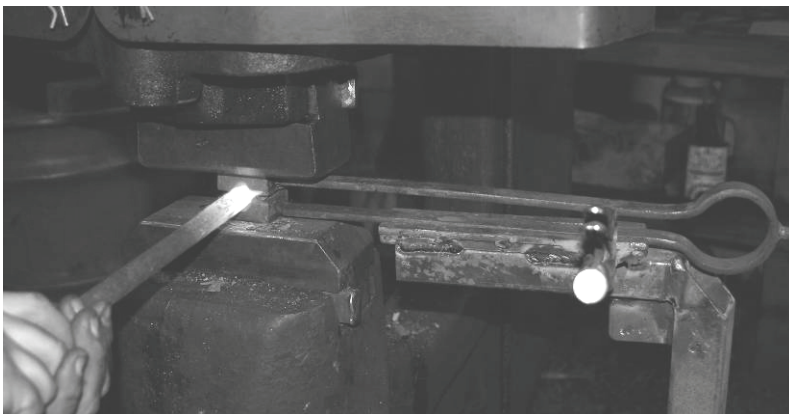
Snake scales are easily made with this chisel

Thanks to Daniel Orton for a great Demo

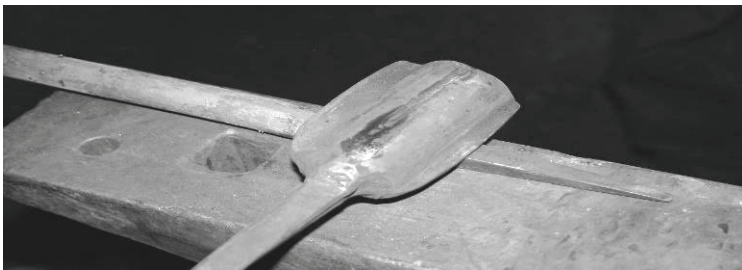
# Jorgen Harle Powerhammer Workshop



Jorgen fashioned a new clamp to secure the die handles under our hammer. He suggested that a genuine Vice Grip clamp be used as the imitation knock-offs don't stand up to the vibration. The lower jaw is welded to the body of the clamp



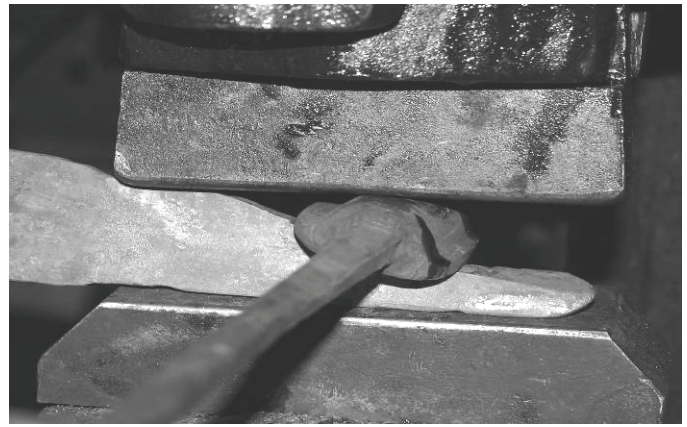
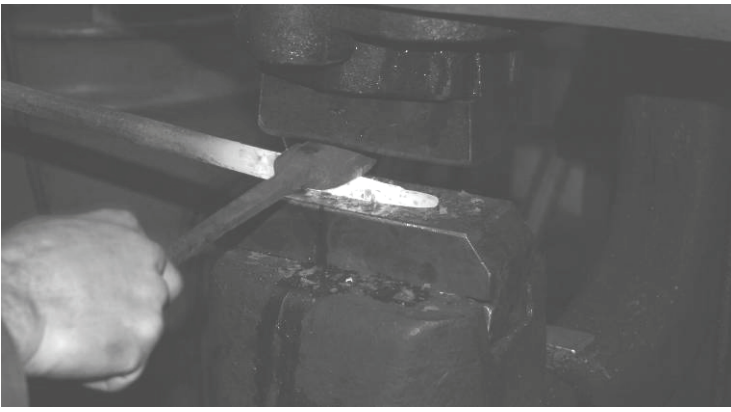
Here is a die clamped in place and fulling some round stock. The clamp body was shortened after this photo so the die could be pulled completely out from under the hammer yet still be clamped.



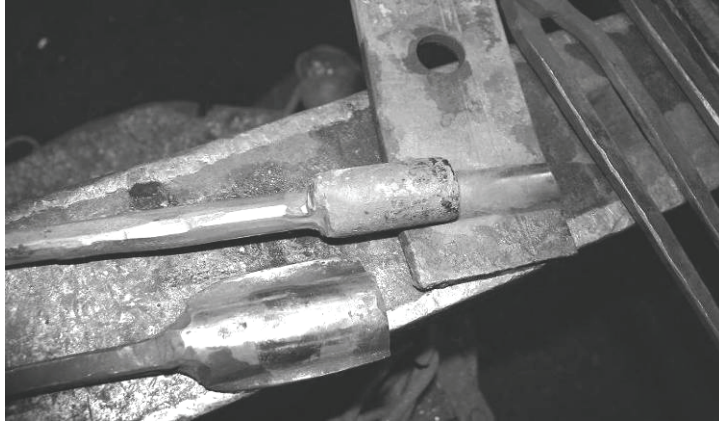
A flatter-fuller. A fuller on one side and a flatter on the other. Jorgen uses this die to draw out material under the hammer. This is a hand-held tool that is used as illustrated on the next page



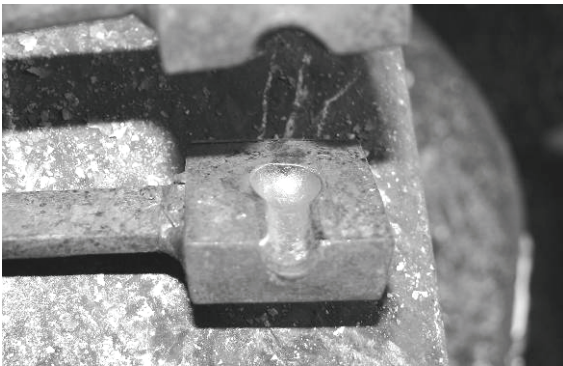




Using the flatter-fuller to draw out stock under the hammer



It is constructed from another die fashioned from 3/8" plate that has had a 1/2 round fullered into it.



Round ended die



Product of the round end die



Creating a die with a spacer

Thanks to Jorgen for a great demo and workout for our hammer

**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association  
Membership Application**

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Full Time Student.....\$35./year
- Regular Membership.....\$45./year
- Senior Citizen (age 65+).....\$40./year
- Overseas Surface Mail.....\$60./year
- Oversea Air Mail.....\$80./year
- Contributory Membership.....\$100./year
- Public Library Subscription.....\$35./year

**Credit Card Payment**

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

by Phone: (706) 310-1030

by Fax: (706) 769-7147

Mail: ABANA, P.O. Box 816,  
Farmington, GA, USA. 306380816



**June 29—July 02, 2007**  
**Victoria, B.C. Canada**  
Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Assoc  
[www.caniron.ca](http://www.caniron.ca) [www.viblacksmiths.com](http://www.viblacksmiths.com)

Canada's biennial blacksmithing conference will take place this year in the city of Victoria on beautiful Vancouver Island. It will be hosted by the Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Association.

Featured demonstrators include;

Richard Bent FWCB, Paul Thorne, Jake James, Daniel Orton, Joe Delisimunovic, Peter Fuller, Al Bakke, Renato Muskovic, Tony Austin, Doug Newell.

We also have a hands on forging/teaching area, repousse' teaching station, demonstrations by the Western Canadian Farriers Association and the Western Canadian Wheelwright Association.

We have arranged for hands on craft classes for spouse/family members, including basketry, felt making, mosaic art, quilting, fragrant wreath making, broom making, traditional metis beading and glass bead making.

Camping & R/V parking will be available on site, offsite dorm rooms at the Royal Roads University, b&b's and hotel/motel rooms close by.

Test your skills at the standards of **THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BLACKSMITHS!!** (est. 1352)  
As part of CANIRON VI we will be hosting an **ADJUDICATED GALLERY** as well as a **LIVE FORGING COMPETITION**.

Check out the website <http://www.caniron.ca/> for more info

