VANCOUVER ISLAND BLACKSMITH ASSOC.

Spring Issue
2015

The Forge

Dedicated to the Revival of the ‘King of Crafts’

COMING EVENTS

DEMONSTRATIONS

PRODUCTION DAY

WATCH FOR
ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA
JOHNS EMAILS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

* ALL SORTS OF VERY
AMAZING FACTS &
FIGURES & STORIES &
STUFF THAT YOU JUST
CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT
KNOWING!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE
CONTRIBUTORS—YOUR
ADDITIONS ARE PROBABLY
MORE APPRECIATED THAN
YOU CAN IMAGINE.

CLUB REGISTRATION –
Last Page

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V.I.B.A.

ALSO SEE

PAGE 5

Also See

Spring Issue
2015
From the President—Neil Gustafson—
 Probably more than you wanted to know. Enjoy the journey. Neil

From the Editor—Hello fellow Blacksmiths!
 Looks like the AGM will have an additional item to be dealt with this year!

It has been dealt with and I must remember to Attend the meetings; Attend the meetings; Attend the meetings; Attend the meetings; Attend the meetings; Attend the meetings.

Just joking—with 3-4 issues a year things are much more under control and do-able.

The Forge.

Changes to Food for Thought from last issue; editor; for a successful, useful and engaging Newsletter it is my opinion that:

1. John is doing a great job of emailing current news and information. DONE!
2. We have a multitude of incredibly talented ‘member Smiths’ as well as access to many, many more for Forge articles and ‘Demos, that we can publish.

WE HAVE SOME HELP BUT NEED MORE SUBMISSIONS GUYS!

♦ The Forge, @ 3 OR 4 ISSUES PER YEAR would consist of ‘How To’ Demos, interesting and useful technical Blacksmith information and other submissions from members as well as articles gleaned from other publications. Some fillers too! DONE!

♦ To reiterate;

♦ THE SIZE OF THE ISSUES WOULD RELY ON THE VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS MAKING, IN MY OPINION, A TRULY, INVOLVED, RELAVANT NEWSLETTER. I have received some articles [ELECTRONIC] and reports from several people, thank you, and would certainly appreciate some more [it is a continuing thing] so I could maybe build a reserve. Hopefully articles etc. from members, or others, will keep The Forge Current and more useful. Thanks!
March meeting minutes from Brendan Aiken:

Show and Tell: Charlie Low brought in a trivet he made by forging six rings out of rebar and welding them together.
Brendan brought in an ornamental key he is working on.
John Archer showed a display of various crafted items he put together with barn boards, as well as a proof of the new VIBA brochure, of which 500 will be printed to be distributed at events and demos, and he also showed some VIBA business cards that he designed and printed.

Old Business:
Welding instruction courses were again discussed, with one of the major hold backs being only having one welding machine to use. This has been discussed many times in the past…Brody Smith will instruct arc welding and Mig (GMAW) welding on a one on one basis when he his work schedule allows.
Club finances are currently nicely solvent.

New Business:
Fairs are coming soon, and discussion was held about who would volunteer to organize our appearance at the various venues. Willie has the Luxton Spring Fair, John Archer has the Highland Games, and Coombs. Neil will look after the Vancouver Island Exhibition at Nanaimo, Charlie Low will coordinate the Saanich Fair. The Luxton Fall Fair needs a coordinator. If anyone wants to volunteer let John Archer know by email.
Benoit will be putting on a demo on Saturday April 25th. More to follow as his plans become refined.
We need more members to craft items to be sold at demos! We will need to set up more production dates to build up our inventory.

The meeting was adjourned and about 12 members stayed on for the afternoon production session

VICTORIA: from Neil
For those of us who have lived here most of our lives -- or for some favored souls, all our lives! (or History Buffs) -- this is a treasure trove of "remember when." (Even the Cherry Bank!)

As the announcer for the Lone Ranger used to say, "Come with me to those wonderful days of yesteryear."
Click on a photo link and enjoy some memories of growing up in Victoria.

http://rcmpsite.com/gallery/Victoria%20History/
Hi,
Got this off the BBC. Thought it might be of some use in the Forge.—

Ron Greig

Viking Blacksmith’s Grave Uncovered in Norway

The spectacular remains of what appears to be a Viking grave, most likely belonging to a blacksmith, has been uncovered in Sogndalsdalen, Norway (as reported by NRK). The grave was found by Mr. Leif Arne Norberg, under a series of stone slabs in his back garden. Mr. Norberg had been carrying out landscaping works when he suddenly spotted a blacksmith’s tongs, followed soon afterwards by a bent sword. On closer examination it quickly became apparent that he had stumbled upon a remarkable Viking Age find. Archaeologists from Bergen University and the County’s Cultural Department were called to the scene and the remains were subsequently excavated. The finds recovered from the grave suggest that it probably dates from the 8th or 9th century AD. They included various pieces of metalwork, a tongs, a sword and an axe, all of which will be conserved before being put on display at the University Museum of Bergen. Personally I can’t wait to find out more information about this exciting discovery.

So much of what we call Management consist in making it hard for people to work.
-Peter Drucker
**Rodeo & Fall Fairs Reports** and advertising

Neil will continue as president,
John is vice president
Norm is treasurer
and
Brendan stepped up to be Secretary,

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**Fair Coordinator** Neil Gustafson

**Luxton Spring Fair**
May 16-18, 2015  John Archer

**Victoria Highland Games**
May 16-18, 2015  John Archer

**Pig barbecue and white elephant exchange**
Aug, 2015 at Low’s,

**Coombs**
August 8-9th, 2015

**VIEX Nanaimo**
August 21-23. 2015  Neil Gustafson

**Cobble Hill**
August 22, 2015  Raynier Pipke

**Saanich Fair**
September 5—7, 2015  Charlie Low

**Luxton Fair**
September 18-20, 2015

**Production Days**
As Required  Willy Tobler

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ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE CRITICAL TO ALL OPERATIONS OF THE CLUB
Help the coordinators and let them know ahead of time when you will attend to have some fun!!!!!!!!!!!
Editors note: There was a written history of CanIRON on the CanIRON Web site a few years ago but it seems to have vanished. I asked Neil if he would kindly do up another one; that was last night; I had it this morning. Thank you so much Neil.

Also, I have some of my own photos for Luxton and Ness Creek; I would like to ask The Forge readers to select a very few photos, or anecdotes, of any CanIRONS and I will put them [and any further content] into a CanIRON History to be published in The Forge and placed on our Web Site and hopefully, on other sites— it is an incredible story with a successful, incredible working structure.

THE STORY OF CANIRON, Neil Gustafson

In the Spring of 1995, Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association had a Demonstrator, Joe Delisiminovic. Joe was the resident Blacksmith at the historic “O’Keefe Ranch”, just past Vernon, B.C. Joe was doing a 2 day Demonstration of different Blacksmithing techniques. During the weekend conversation, an Invitation was made by Joe to come up to the “O’Keefe Ranch” on the July 1st weekend and have a picnic and camping trip with a little Blacksmithing thrown in. About 12 VIBA members, with their families, made the journey and had a very enjoyable weekend. After the weekend and everyone had time to think about what just happened, someone had a thought during a VIBA monthly meeting, “What if we invite members of our neighbour North West Blacksmith Association, to the “O’Keefe Ranch” for next year?”. Everyone thought it was a good idea and at the next NWBA Fall Conference, an official invitation was made.
The same bunch of people from Vancouver Island went up to the “O’Keefe Ranch” for the July 1st weekend, which worked good for the U.S. members of the NWBA who attended, for their July 4th weekend. A lot of the people who had promised to come up, cancelled because they were going to New York for the ABANA Conference in Alfred, New York. It was a very enjoyable weekend with all who were there, but the crew from VIBA were a little disappointed. After everyone went home, Ron Greig had a thought, ‘What if VIBA hosted the ABANA Conference in Canada?’. Ron contacted ABANA and he was told that we would have to post a $25,000.00 us Bond, before ABANA would allow VIBA to host an ABANA Conference. To Ron, this was out of the question! Ron continued thinking about it and then thought ‘What if we hosted a Canadian Blacksmith Conference on the odd number Years, because ABANA Conferences were all held on the even number years?’. Ron got together with Derry Cook, Ed Parker, Barry Schaeffer and Ed Cushing, who were all VIBA members.

They started organizing for a Conference similar to what the NWBA has every Spring and Fall.

The first CanIRON Blacksmith Conference was underway for 1997. A lot of the financing was from the pockets of the Organizing Group, VIBA also helped out with some finances. The Invitation went out to anywhere in the world, that the group could think of, that were part of the Blacksmith network. There were some tense moments when they got to the “O’Keefe Ranch” a week before the weekend, to find that the field that they had been promised had not been hayed yet. There was a huge scramble to get it hayed, so they could have access to the property. That was the start of the learning curve, in the time of crisis. Every hurdle was eventually solved, even if it meant sleep took a back seat. By the time people started showing up, most of the things were in order. A great time was had by all the participants. Jerry Culberson was one of the Demonstrators and he was also the Auctioneer. Before the Auction, the organizing group were in the hole. Jerry managed to sprinkle some ‘Pixie Dust’ on everyone who was at the Auction and by the time the Auction was over, they were no longer in the red. The other Demonstrators were, Darryl Nelson, Dorothy Steigler, John Adolph, Derry Cook, John Smith, Berkley Tack and Joe Delisimunovic. The suggestion had been made earlier that the CanIRON Conference should go from the West to the East. And so it began!!
**THE STORY OF CANIRON continued:**

In 1999, CanIRON II was held at S.A.I.T. (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) in Calgary. Organized by the Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild, Calgary (western) Guild.

In 2001, CanIRON III was held at the Western Development Museum in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Organized by Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild, Saskatoon (Eastern) Guild.

In 2003, CanIRON IV was held at McMasters University in Hamilton, Ontario. Organized by the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association.

In 2005, CanIRON V was held on the main Pier of Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia. Organized by the new Maritime Blacksmith Association.

In 2007, CanIRON VI was held at the Luxton Fairgrounds, near Victoria, B.C. Organized by the Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association.

In 2009, CanIRON VII was held at Ness Creek, Saskatchewan. Organized by the Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild, Saskatoon Guild.

In 2011, CanIRON VIII was held behind the Recreation Facility in Fergus, Ontario. Organized by the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association.

In 2013, CanIRON IX was held at Trois Rivieres, Quebec. Organized by a new group in Quebec, who got together to host this event.

In 2015, CanIRON X will be held in Baddeck, Nova Scotia (Home of the Alexander Graham Bell R&D Facility and Museum) on Cape Breton Island. Organized by the Cape Breton Blacksmith Association.

Photos and anecdotes from CanIRON I through CanIRON X gratefully accepted at charlesdowdeswell@gmail.com

PLEASE LABEL [in subject line and leave your name]

WHICH CanIRON and watch file size. If you are not sure send 2 or 3 I don’t want my computer to herniate—too messy!

THANKS!
In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his/her level of incompetence and work is achieved by those employees who have not yet reached their level of incompetence, but competence, like truth, beauty, and a contact lens, is in the eye of the beholder; or not; cuz if they do not know where they are going, they will probably end up somewhere else.
The Forge

When the White man came we had the land and they had the Bibles; now they have the land and we have the Bibles.

Chief Dan George

Editors Note:
This page and page 14 show our new 3-fold brochure in a slightly reduced size. They are, of course, printed both sides of the same sheet of paper; you can see the folds on page 14 scan.

A big thank you goes to John Archer for getting this and a multi purpose business card done.

who we are

The Vancouver Island Blacksmith's Association (VIBA) is a non-profit society formed under the Society Act of British Columbia for the sole purpose of keeping the craft of blacksmithing alive in British Columbia.

There were under a dozen blacksmiths in attendance at the first meeting in September 1987. At present there are over seventy members and we continue to grow.

Members, both men and women, range in age from early teens to early 90's and encompass all levels of experience from novice to retired professionals.

Info:

VANCOUVER ISLAND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION
1040 Marwood Avenue
Victoria BC V9C 3C4
www.vibblacksmiths.com

VIBA is a chapter of ABANA, the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America

"dedicated to the revival of the king of crafts"
Canada has never been a melting pot, more like a tossed salad.

Arnold Edinborough

where we are

We are located at the Luxton Fairgrounds in Langford near Victoria. The shop was built in 1993 and contains coal forges as well as propane forges, four workstations, MIG and stick welders, a hydraulic press, power hammer, and necessary additional equipment.

Visitors are always welcome, we hope to see you soon.

what we do

Our blacksmith shop has an open house every Monday and Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. A monthly meeting also takes place on the last Sunday of the month at 11:00 am for the transaction of VIBA business, and to share the latest in technique and equipment innovations. After the meeting there is time for everyone to learn and practice. Members teach informal workshops and demonstrations are held from time to time covering the use of oxy acetylene equipment, GMAW (mig welding), and specialized forging techniques. We also host workshops every year featuring professional metal workers and artist blacksmiths.

Every spring, a beginner's blacksmithing course is offered on Saturdays (running for about ten weeks). We are able to take twelve students for this course and it is so popular that we always fill the class.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter containing information on the latest news in the association as well as tips on blacksmithing and technical material on metal working in general.

Every year members demonstrate for visitors at the Coombs Fair, the Vancouver Island Exhibition in Nanaimo, the Cobble Hill Fair, the Saanich fair, the Victoria Highland Games, and Spring and Fall fairs at the Luxton Fairgrounds in Langford.
Our neighbours to the east have been up to some interesting things!

*Like the bicycle shop sign from a customers suggestion of “A Flying monkey on a bike”?*

**Note Regarding our new Brochure**—aren’t people great!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HI Charlie, I want to make sure that when you mention the new brochure in ‘The Forge’ that you give credit for the idea to member **Laurie Etherington**. She came up with the idea at the Saanich Fair last September when a member of the adoring public asked her if we had a handout with information about our organization. All she had to give this person was a very old homemade form with telephone numbers and website information added in with pencil. Thanks, John.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

VANCOUVER ISLAND BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

Name

Address 1

Address 2

City

Province/State

P/Zip Code, Country

Email

Ph: (

New [ ] Renewal [ ]

[ ] Regular Membership $50.00 Annually
[ ] Contributory Member $100.00 Annually

Members required to sign a Liability Waiver
Make Cheque or Money Orders payable to:

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Association
1040– Marwood Avenue Victoria, B.C., CANADA, V9C 3C4

SOME OF THE INLAWS

It is great to have tons of friends, but sometimes it creates glitches, which means, I must say sorry to multitudes of understanding friends, as there is only space for a limited number of addresses below.

Of course if you have a bit of a disjointed nose, just send a worthy article & [if possible with drawings or photo] to charlesdowdeswell@gmail.com Name will appear in its full glory Subject to space consideration & editing. Appreciation and thanks in advance!

www.abana.org
Artists Blacksmiths Assoc. of N.A.

www.blacksmith.org
North West Blacksmiths, Longview, Wash

www.baba.org.uk
British Artists Blacksmiths Association

http://cbblacksmiths.com
Cape Breton Blacksmith Association

http://maritimeblacksmiths.ca
Maritime Blacksmith Association

http://www.abana.org
Artists Blacksmiths Assoc. of N.A.

http://www.blacksmith.org
North West Blacksmiths, Longview, Wash

http://cbblacksmiths.com
Cape Breton Blacksmith Association

http://maritimeblacksmiths.ca
Maritime Blacksmith Association

http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/SearchResults/ARTS-CULTURE-BLACKSMITH/ /N-lqgl
Haliburton College

http://www.saskblacksmiths.ca
Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild, Saskatchewan Chapt.

http://www.wcbg.ca
Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild, Founding Chapt

http://www.kootenay-blacksmiths.ca
Kootenay Blacksmith Association

http://www.viblacksmiths.com
Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Association