

On the Anvil NEWSLETTER

PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD

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Ryan Calloway and Tim Chorbadijin, Winners of the blacksmithing competition by Jason Anderson

means. The conference was special as it's been 4 years since we had it! Deals were to be found and vendor sales were plentiful. The demonstrators were a special draw, and of course seeing old friends and making new ones! Green Coal classes were held and your fellow psabg members were volunteering and teaching there! Family programs and the Local Talent Forge where our own Jason Anderson took a turn at demonstrating as did Owen Riedesel for NCABANA.

Of course, the ever popular Iron in the Hat including the tool box full of donations from multiple members generosity. We thank you greatly for those items, and wouldn't you know it Jim Looper took it home! I offered to keep the anvil but he said he had room, His loss! Our guys represented well in the forging competition, Tim Chorbadijin and Ryan Calloway teamed up and took first place—the third Conference is a row that PSABG won the forging competi-

Hello blacksmiths!

Our last meeting was held down in Magnolia Gardens, the weather was perfect and we all had a great time. Our attendance was lighter, all counting about 35, a lot less than usual due to all the other events going on around the State and in Charleston that weekend. I could not believe the traffic! The IITH brought in \$377 for the scholarship funds –Hey, it was a small crowd!.

The attendance wasn't bad this time even with all that was going on. Well at least for me anyway. Instead of our usual demonstrations Ray scheduled a talk with a very talented, very interesting revolutionary war reenactor and gunsmith, Joshua Shope I thoroughly enjoyed his talk on gunsmithing and his incites on manufacturing them during the late 1700's. He had several examples and an amazing collection to look through. Truly a great time and I hope the Guild can have him back sometime in the future.

The 20th bi-annual SBA conference is now over and I think those of us that attended are resting up as it was a heck of a weekend! I have to say you're doing a disservice to yourself by not attending if you have the

tion!

We had our usual dinner but I missed it due to being so distracted, as I always am, though I am sure the chicken was good! We didn't see Meck this time around, he and family were missed due to a medical issue Meck is working through—please keep him in your prayers. I hope we get to see them next time.

I'd also like to give a special thanks to our unsung heros: Jesse Barfield for being to the go between and attending all the meetings that make and organize the conference; the ACBA, Matt Garton and Owen Riedesel for building the rocking chair; Robert Thomas for donating the metal for the rocker; Ray Pearre for doing so much to get this project done and to the Conference.; and all of the members who donated tools for the toolbox. Without them we would not have had the success we did!

I'd like to welcome the new members of the Guild" Eric Fritsch; Doug Rankin; Melissa Cantrell; Steve Hendrix; and Douglas Hinkle. I hope we will see you in June at Gail and Roger's in Westminster!

Jody

Iron in the Hat

Item	Donated By	Won By
Knife Calendar	Ben Secrist	Johnny Marks
Farriers Rasps	Mackie Bryant	Ed Harmon
		Ed Harmon
		Mark Ramey
Necklace and Box	Jamie Herndon	Curley Lawson
Rose Blank	Jody Durham	Bill Williams
Ornamental Bracket	Dave Bush	Bill Williams
Mild Steel	Dave Bush	Mark Ramey
Handled Bolster	Phil Rosche	Carol Alston
Blacksmith Knife	Mark Ramey	Johnny Marks
RR Spikes	Benjamin Cooke	Curley Lawson
Rebar Snake	Ed Harmon	Mark Ramey
Holland Anvil Tee	Ed Harmon	Steve Murray
Shirt		
AACB Candle	Pam Bush	Carol Alston
Stand		
Candle Holder	Gerald Alsbrook	Ray Pearre
Pecans	Bill Burgess	Chuck Baldwin
Pecans	LaDonna Burgess	Chuck Baldwin
Misc Metal	Steve Murray	Johnny Marks



Joshua Shope

Not seeing the type of information you want to see? Let me know.
Barry



The PSABG knife that won the Knife Competition made by Todd Elder and Ben Secrist!

Ergonomics at the Smithy

Patrick Beck, Pori, Finland

This is the second Part of a three part series of articles. The previous article was about ergonomics at the anvil. The follow-up article will be about exercises for the blacksmith to be able to stay in good working condition. Even though the article has been written together with a physiotherapist, don't apply it to your workshop without questioning. Your body, age and overall condition might require a different approach. Talk to your local physiotherapist or other specialist to find tailored solutions to your situation. Your body will thank you.

As stated in the first article the smiths and metalworkers most important tool is his or body. Most often it is not possible to reverse the damage done, which makes it even more important to prevent as much as possible.

Standing or sitting is up to personal preference. At best interchange them frequently

Differing from the mainstream opinion, sitting as such is not a big issue. The issue is sitting too much and therefore staying too long in the same position. Another factor is that chairs come with a back support, which easily leads to bad posture.

As stated in the first article it is very important to change the working position often. Changing between standing, moving and sitting is a good idea. It might be helpful to plan the workshop such that some machines are supposed to be used in sitting position. In my opinion a bench grinder and a power hammer are good options for working in sitting position. Working on a bench grinder is relatively static work and the body is more stable when grinding seated. Having a seat which is hanging from a spring at the power hammer serves in two ways. First it is easier to use the foot pedal if one is not standing on one leg only. Second the spring can take some momentum out of the shock, if the angle between power hammer and work piece goes off. Seats used with old water hammers can provide inspiration for this type of seat.

A stool in a height that enables sitting without going much lower than standing position is very useful. With such a stool one can conduct most work in standing height, but can alternate to a seated position. For example at the machine brush and the drill press. Also, for texturing pieces or when doing chisel work at the anvil. A stool with adjustable height and without back support is a good alternative.



*Stool for switching to a seated position.
This one is adjustable in height and does not have a back support.*

Shoulders have to be relaxed

Whenever standing or sitting, the working height should be such that the shoulders can be relaxed. Most of the time, the lower arms should be in an angle between 90°-100°. Of course this will change depending on the work. Also depending on the size of the work piece, filing and welding will lead to different working heights.



Shoulders should be relaxed.

Ergonomics 2

Assembly Table - Height

Probably the most frequently used workspace is the assembly or welding table. Therefore, it is very important to have it in a suitable height. There are tables which allow adjusting the height of the table. These are really practical if one has different sizes of workpieces or different people work on the same table. Tables which are adjustable are as expensive as they are practical. Probably for most blacksmiths and metalworkers it makes more sense to have a suitable fixed table height. Whenever another height is needed for the working surface, it is improvised. For example with stands, working on the workshop floor or elevating the workpiece with a vise or a box at a suitable height.

The following setup works well. The main worktable is set up for standing height. On top sits a middle-sized vise which is not attached to the table. So it is possible to move it to where it is needed. If it needs to be fixed is impermanently fixed with clamps. In addition, there is a pair of stands which either takes a wooden pallet (which is also useful for a striker or children) or a piece of sheet metal. In addition, all workplaces should have a block which allows you to change your standing position (see previous article).



Middle-sized vise to be moved around the welding table where it is needed.

When bending over support the back with the arms

Often one bends over to pick something from a box or a lower surface. When bending over it is advisable to support the movement with the arm which is not grabbing. This eases the load on the back and spreads it more evenly to the body. Especially when one has already had issues with the back.



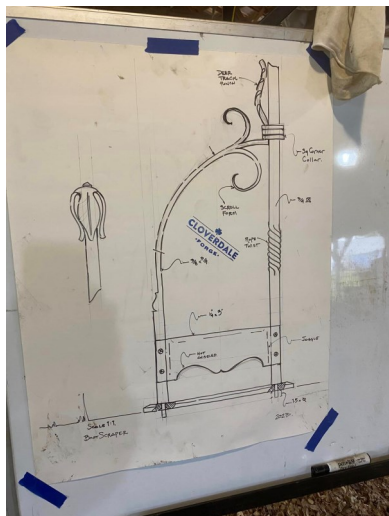
Support your back when lifting things with the other arm.

Use rolls and mechanical cranes when possible

A general guideline in the smithy is the heavier, the better. The materials in use are heavy too. Therefore, it can be very helpful to have a cart or a wagon jack in the workshop. A table with rolls to hold material and tools needed for the recent process can be very helpful too. For example moving several pieces from grinding, to drilling, to welding to wherever else gets a lot easier with this kind of table.

Another good addition is a crane. Either mounted to the ceiling or as a moveable a-frame model. The a-frame can easily be fabricated from rectangular tubing with a stick welder.

Photos from Madison, mostly from Chris Carroll, Tim Chorbadijin, Bob Stukes and Jim Looper



Footscraper Project Drawing



Rusty Osborne Level 1



Rocker Unloading



Charlie Meyer in Rocker



Roger and Gail with Rusty



Chris Carroll with SBA Sign



Gail Marcengill's Sculpture



Jody Durham's Horse Head



Chris Carroll's Rose



Jason Anderson and his Rose



Bob Stukes and Clay Spencer



Jason Anderson's Magnolia



Rap Pearre at the Green Coal



Jason Anderson and Guild Poster



Charlie Meyer and Johnny Mariks



Owen Reidesel and Jim Carothers



Jim Pender's Horse Shoe Cowboy



Tal Harris' Grill Corner



Our Rocker



Alex Bealer's Rocker



FABA Rocker



All the Iron Furniture



Almost all the Greenville Boys
With a photo bomber



David Chambers and Chris
Carroll



Green Coal students and Us



Jim Looper and his student



Al Jenkins and friend John

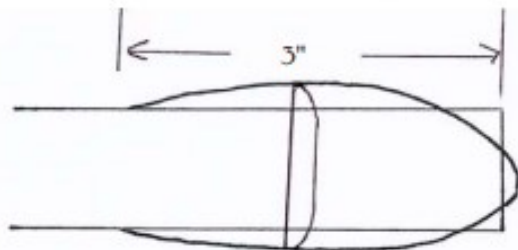


Little FEESCH

Drawing, photos and write up by Steve Anderson,
a MABA member

Forging cold steel into a life like form appears magical, but it also is educational. These little fish would be a great demonstration for shows and festivals this summer.

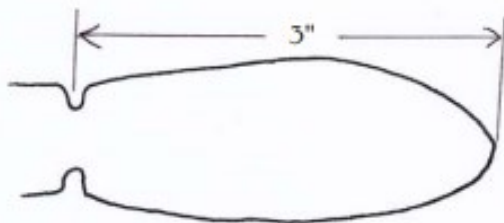
1—Forge the head and body on 3" of the end of 1/4" x 3/4" stock.



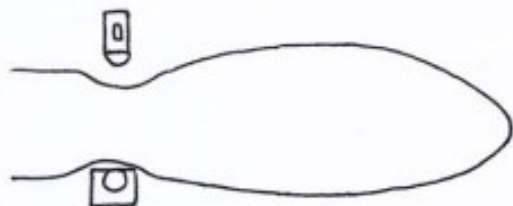
Leave the center flat, but taper the sides and end. File or grind if necessary.

To smooth, planish the surface by heating to red, then lightly hammering to a black heat.

2—Use a small fuller to mark the start of the tail 3" back from the mouth.



3—To forge the transition to the tail, use a small rounding hammer and tip of the horn. A spring fuller can also be used.



Be sure to flip 180° every 2-3 hits.

Also start to rotate 45° between front and back to achieve a smooth, oval cross section.

This process is similar to forging square to round (square ~> to eight sided ~> to round)



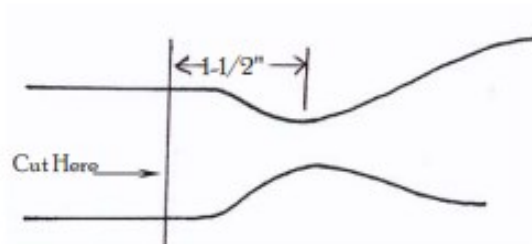
4—Use curved chisels to form the mouth and gill cover. Make the eye with a 3/16" eye punch.



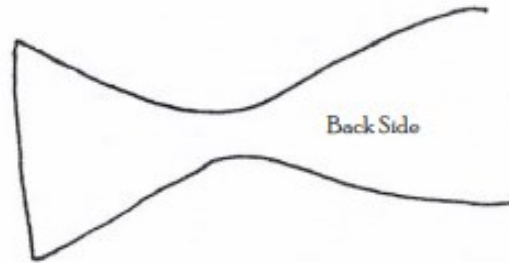
5—Add additional detail if desired. A lateral line can be made by imprinting the edge of a piece of a small file. Spots can be created by using a nail set.



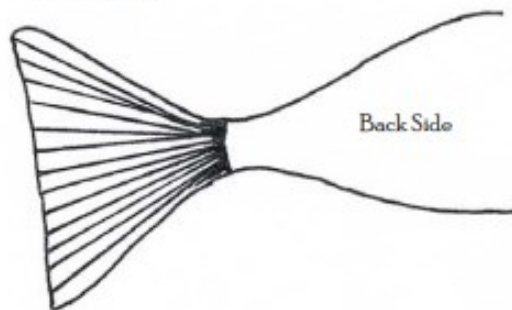
6—Cut the tail 1-1/2" back from the narrowest part.



On the backside use a flat hammer to forge the tail to shape.



Now use a cross peen to continue spreading and form the veins.



7—Finally use a wooden mallet to bend the tail around to the front side using the horn. Adjust the tail so the body stands up on its belly and tail and the fish appears to be jumping out of the water.

8—Wire wheel, apply a thin coat of Penetrol, then 3 coats of wax when dry. Or use a finish of your choice.



Additional Sizes-

3/16" x 1/2", Body 2", Tail 7/8", eye punch 1/8"
 1/4" x 1", Body 3-1/2", Tail 1-7/8", eye punch 1/4"
 1/4" x 1-1/2", Body 5-1/2", Tail 2-1/2", eye punch 1/4"
 Larger stock can also be used with sizes that are visually proportional. Scales can be created on larger fish using a flat round punch at an angle.



Here is a photo of a door knocker made by Howard McCall that Clay Spencer put on Facebook. Howard was one of our Charter Members. Howard hosted a meeting in his shop one time. His was inspiring, being modeled after the Armory at Colonial Williamsburg. He was Ryan Calloway's mentor when he moved to the Greenville area.

For Sale

Fire Bricks – Brand New, Industrial Grade. \$1 ea. Ed Sylvester 803.414.2487

Beverly Shear blades sharpened , \$50+\$10 shipping. Send to Scott Kretschmer, 196 Mule Deer Drive, Loveland, Colorado 80537 Call 970 567 2609, email scott@kretschmershops.com.

Todd Elder is offering Beginning Blacksmithing and Knifemaking Classes. Contact him at (864-978-7232)

Guild Coal (in Sumter): 3 buckets, \$30; 6 buckets or 30 gal barrel—\$45.00; 11 buckets - 55 gal barrel - \$ 60.00; 15 buckets - 1/4 ton - \$70.00; 30 buckets - 1/2 ton - \$140.00; 60 buckets - 1 ton - \$280.00. Contact **Walt Beard** 803-464-8483 in Sumter.

Forktruck tine sections for striking anvils. \$30. Jody Durham, 864-985-3919 ironsmith@gmail.com

Clay Spencer's Tire Hammer Plans \$30. clay@tirehammer.com or check/mo to 73 Penniston, SomervilleAL 35670.

Upcoming events:

Meeting Schedule:

Even Month Meeting: July 8th-Forging Hosted by Ryan at Creative Ironworks in Greenville

August Guild Meeting: 8/19

Even Month Meeting: September 8th weekend-Forging hosted by Pat and Curly at Pat and Curly's Shop in Myrtle Beach

SC State Fair: 10/12—10/22. John Tanner contact—803-422-4714

October Guild Meeting; Lexington County Museum, 10/??? Heyward Haltiwanger 803-345-3474

Even Month Meeting: November 11-Forging hosted by David Bush in Little Mountain, SC

Myrtle Beach Renaissance Fair: November 11-12 and 18-19, Pat Walters 843-446-6676

December Guild Meeting: 12/9 at the American College of the Building Arts. Contact Ray Pearre 843-860-0532

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<http://philipsimmonsartistblacksmithguild.com/>

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Membership Application

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Sponsor _____

Dues are \$15.00 per person/family, per year. **Make checks out to PSABG** Please remit to:

C. Ray Pearre, Jr., 4605 Durant Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during Guild events, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild and guest demonstrators of our craft harmless from liability and expenses arising from of my actions and/or omissions.

When was the last time you paid dues?

There is a note below your address on the last page of our newsletters. It will say something like...

"Dues Last Paid 2022, Dues for 2023 are Due, or Dues Paid for 2023"

This note is updated for each newsletter. We appreciate your prompt payments.

COME to the Westminster!

June Meeting, 6/17

Demo beginning at 10AM

People will be showing up much earlier!

**Bring a side, dessert, or drinks and something forged (or not) for the
iron-in-the-hat**

Ryan Calloway will be doing the demo. It will be great!

132 Ringing Anvil Drive, 864-647-1132

