"Tales of the Western Reserve"

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- FEBRUARY 8 HAMMER-IN
- MARCH 8 HAMMER-IN
- APRIL 12 HAMMER-IN
- MAY 10 HAMMER-IN
- JUNE 28-29 WRABA CONFERENCE
- JULY 12 HAMMER-IN/ PICNIC
- JULY 25-27 ANTIQUE POWER AND STEAM SHOW
- AUGUST 13-16 ABANA CONFERENCE

This year’s ABANA Conference will have several international demonstrators and many from across the US to show a wide variety of techniques. As the “Come Make Connections” in the above poster suggests, most of the demonstrations will be focused on joinery. This will include creative variations on the more familiar types of joinery, as well as completely different sorts of joinery. The Patient Order of Meticulous Metalsmiths—just one of the demonstrating groups—will be working on an ornate coffee mill. Tony Swatton who has become very popular over the last year showing blacksmithing to a younger non-blacksmithing generation via his Man at Arms YouTube series will also be demonstrating. The Teaching Station will include Mark Aspery, Darryl Nelson, Gerald Boggs, and John McLellan instructing the National Curriculum and other projects. Check the ABANA website for a complete list of demonstrators and full details about the conference.
The Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association (WRABA) is a non-profit, educational organization, an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association Of North America (ABANA).

We are dedicated to preserving and promoting the art and craft of hand forging iron. WRABA, our group of blacksmiths meet monthly to share information and techniques at the smithy of one of its members or at Century Village in Burton, Ohio.

A Membership application is on the back cover of this newsletter.

www.wraba.com

Get information on our organization. Find out what is going on and take a look at some great pictures of what we’ve been doing.

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Deadline for articles to be put in the newsletter: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15, Dec. 15th (these dates are in the month prior to the issue coming out on the 1st)

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President’s Letter January 2014
from
Gary Barnhart

Well, my first year is out of the way and it was a good year and you’re stuck with me for another. Don Pfaff is your new Vice-President, Dave Aubuchon is the new Treasurer, and Roberta Barnhart your new Secretary. I would like to thank those who served last year, with a special thanks to the Woodwards. The open forges are bringing a steady stream of new people, now that we have 2 locations (Ralph’s and mine.) I’m curious as to the turnover of people, is the craft harder than they expected, or are we missing something. I feel a more structured program for new people may help. That will be one focus for this year, also stop in to an open forge and pass on that vast wealth of experience. We had a good Christmas party considering the weather, seems only Snow Belt people showed up! The VIP raffle went well, lots of good stuff with the big prize, an auto darkening weld helmet ($200) going to Ralph, thanks Buckeye Welding of Newton Falls! We have received the schedule for Burton village and you should find it somewhere in this newsletter. Coal ($15/#50), we have coal available for members at Burton by arrangement, we will try to have a bag or two at the open forges but a phone call ahead of time would be smart. When the open forges move back to Burton (end of April) coal will be available any Tuesday night. The website continues to grow and someone actually sent Roberta a classified ad! If you have a working shop, get your info into Roberta for the website, we get requests for “local smiths” regularly so you’re missing out on a good resource. Also we have shirts etc. available online at Zazzle (link on webpage). Sign up for email from them, they send out discounts all the time, so you could save some cash. A busy year is ahead of us, so try to make some events as they say “many hands make short work”.

Strike true,

Gary

Hint for computers: you can also left mouse click the above underlined word if you are viewing the newsletter on a computer, or tap it if on a smartphone or tablet, this will also work with other blue underlined words throughout the newsletter. These are hyperlinks that will take you directly to their websites. If you are reading this in print, the newsletter is available electronically on the WRABA website.
WRABA Events

**February Hammer-In**
Saturday 8\(^{th}\) 9:00 AM  
Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch  
Ken Roby  
11193 Taylor May Rd  
Aburn Twp, OH 44023  
440-543-4977

**March Hammer-In**
Saturday 8\(^{th}\) 9:00 AM  
Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch  
Bob Parks  
101 N. Broadway  
Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681

**April Hammer-In**
Saturday 12\(^{th}\) 9:00 AM  
Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

The location of this Hammer-In will be posted on the website when it is confirmed.

**May Hammer-In**
Saturday 10\(^{th}\) 9:00 AM  
Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch  
Brad Weber  
88250 Mill Hill Rd.  
Bowerstown, Ohio 44695

**WRABA Conference**
June 28\(^{th}\)—29\(^{th}\)  
Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

**July Joint Hammer-In and Picnic with NOB**
Saturday 12\(^{th}\) 9:00 AM  
Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch  
Ky Green  
5115State Rt 60  
Wakeman, Ohio 44889
Antique Power and Steam Show
July 25th—27th

Let Bob Temple know if you can demonstrate.

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**Open Forge**

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<td>Maple Leaf Forge</td>
<td>SteelTree Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph Neumeister</td>
<td>Gary Barnhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17231 Messenger Rd.</td>
<td>1961 State Rt. 534</td>
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If you need a forge to use, help with a project, or just to learn something — come to one of the open forges. For the winter, it will be at Ralph’s shop on Tuesdays and Gary’s shop on Thursdays. Watch the website for details. Open Forge will move back to Burton Century Village in the Spring as weather permits.

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**Artist Blacksmith’s Association of North America**

**2014 Conference**

August 13th—16th

ABANA members can register for $175, and non-members for $225. Late registration after 30 June is $50 more. You can register online at [abana.org](http://abana.org) and for more information.
October’s Hammer-In made a lot of Cents
At Don Pfaff’s

Above: colonial toaster

Below: a balancing man upon a tightrope. There are only grooves on the bottom of the feet and the balancing bar to keep this guy from plummeting on Don’s head

These Scented Flowers, featuring pennies on top
Heaven S\(\textit{c}\)ent—Angel wings with a Penny
As demonstrated by Don Pfaff at the October Hammer-In

Start with a 1/4th inch by 1 inch flat stock. Taper the end even on one side and cut of the other end to make a trapezoid. The long side should be about 5 inches and short side 2 inches.

Guillotine the center of the trapezoid (left) to begin defining the shape of two wings (as shown right).

Turn it upside down, and the wings may resemble a moustache.

The penny makes this a great gift item with the date on a penny matching a birthday.
The bottom of each half is then given their wing shape.

A flat circle is lightly punched in the center of the two wings, slightly larger than a penny.
A narrow cross-pein hammer can be used to make the 'feather' marks along the edges of the wings. The wings can also be given some upwards flare.

Two holes are punched or drilled through the top so it can be hung from wire.

Finished wings by Don Pfaff with penny glued in the punched center displaying a birth date.
From the September 2012 issue of *The Anvil’s Horn* from the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association:

**Peter Jonasson: Making a Hand**

1. Mark the fingers on your 1” bar like so. Tip: cut three equally spaced marks for the four fingers and thumb. Like so.

2. Now, cut straight down about the thickness of the bar, in this case cut down 1” or a little more. Then from the thumbs mark, cut at a diagonal angle to the bottom of your first cut.

3. $\frac{1}{4}$" important on the back of the hand mark $\frac{1}{4}$" on an inch below the end of the first cut inside the bar.

4. Now taper out the wrist on the edge of the anvil. Keep going until proper proportions are met.

5. Now fold the Four-fingers into a horizontal position.

6. Now from the thumb mark, cut at an angle to the center of the palm.

7. Mark and cut the four-fingers to proper length. Use your own hand as a reference.

8. Now shape and shorten the thumb, it should be around as long as the index finger. Shape with a grinder.

9. Lay down the thumb to the side.

10. And finally round off and detail the fingers and palm. (Use your own hand as reference as much as possible.) Add in as much detail to the hand as you want and above all else. Have fun!
Classifieds

WRABA now has an online shop at Zazzle.com/wrabashop, also linked on the website. It currently has WRABA shirts, ball-caps, mugs, and calendars of many various styles and colors so you can get exactly what you want with the WRABA logo.

Pictured: a WRABA calendar starting at $20.95, full-color images featuring the anvils of our members

2 post vices—$75

Early American Wrought Iron book by Eric Sonn—$85

Gas forge burners—$65 & $100 each

Blacksmith’s helper—$100

Dies (assorted) each hardened 4140—$60

EZ Weld can—$10

Monkey tools 3/16 to 1/2 inch—$50 for set of 5 or $12 each

Other assorted blacksmith items, call for availability

WRABA Anvils

“WRABA” brass anvils are available. They are 4” long and 2” tall. Their cost is $25.00

Get one at the next WRABA event.

Ralph Neumeister 440-552-9560

Blue Moon Press sold books at our 2012 Conference and generously donated two books for its auction

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WRABA Anvils

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WRABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:_______________________________________________
Spouse’s Name_______________________________________
Address:_____________________________________________
City:____________________State:_________Zip:____________
Home Phone:_________________________________________
E-mail:_______________________________________________
Forge Name:__________________________________________
Occupation___________________________________________
What areas of metalworking are you interested in?__________

_____________________________________________________
Smithing:
Professional___ Hobbyist____ Beginner___ Advanced ___
Dues are payable by MARCH 1st.  $20. yearly single  $25. yearly family
(new members prorated quarterly: March-May, June-August, Sept.- Nov. and Dec.-Feb.)

New membership_______ Renewal_________ Date______________

Send application and dues to:
WRABA
9634 Brixton Ave. NW
Uniontown, Ohio 44685