

# "Tales of the Western Reserve"



## WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- NO JANUARY HAMMER-IN
- FEBRUARY 21 HAMMER-IN
- MARCH 14 HAMMER-IN
- APRIL 11 BURTON WORK DAY
- MAY 9 HAMMER-IN
- JUNE 26-28 WRABA CONFERENCE

## Blacksmith of the Year



James Hyde (right) was presented the 2014 Blacksmith of the Year anvil at the holiday party by our President, Gary Barnhart (left)



**President**

**Gary Barnhart**  
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[gbarnhart2@neo.rr.com](mailto:gbarnhart2@neo.rr.com)

**Vice-President**

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East Rochester, Ohio  
330-525-7836

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**Treasurer**

**Dave Aubuchon**  
Uniontown, Ohio  
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330-497-8706

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](http://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)

**\*\* New Editor \*\***

Ralph Bacon  
456 Plymouth Ridge Rd.  
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**James Hyde 2016**

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**Jason Nass 2016**

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**Ralph Neumeister 2015**

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**Burton**

Bob Temple  
Ralph Neumeister

**Fundraising**

Bob Temple  
Art Wolfe

**Special Events**

Bob Temple  
Roy Troutman

**Hammer-Ins**

Don Pfaff

**Tips & Tricks Editor**

Ralph Neumeister

## **President's Letter December 2014**

from  
**Gary Barnhart**

ANVILS! We are in need of anvils in the 100-150 pound range. We will need these for the new expansion to the shop. If you have one you can donate or sell at an agreeable price, please contact me.

We generate most of our funds through sales and the raffle of items you donate. Those items do not have to be grand, nails, "s" hooks, leaf key fobs; all do well at the Burton sales table and our Hammer-in raffles. So please find some small amount of time to hammer out something.

Some things that are coming up in the near future. Expansion of the new forge, we have built the new coal bin and will have removed the old one by this time. The new support posts are in the old forge as are most of the other materials so we can get an early start next spring.

The Christmas party was held Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 in the basement of the church at the Century Village in Burton, Ohio. We had a gift exchange with lots of really nice stuff. We also had an auction of donated items (it was a good time to clean out the shop!) Also held our VIP raffle, some of you will be receiving your rewards in the near future, yes even though you could not make it you still may have won. I am sure no one went home hungry, plenty of good food & desserts.

Lastly a subject I cannot say enough about, passing on the art of blacksmithing. Please share your knowledge with the next generation, yes I know it is frustrating when they want to make a knife the first time out. The open forge program has really gotten large, we were averaging 14+ on Tuesday night towards the end of summer. The total for the year came to 542 persons attended an open forge with an average of 7 a night. So come out, if everyone in the club came to teach one night a year, the few who regularly supervise would so love the help.

Up and coming events; January NO Hammer-in, Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Hammer-in (Ken Roby's), March 14<sup>th</sup> Hammer-in (Bob Parks'), April 11<sup>th</sup> Work day at Burton.

May your tongs always be hot end down! Gary

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### ***Editor's Message***

This will be my final issue as editor. I started in 2009 as a sophomore in high school (6 years ago). I am now a senior in college and hope to go on to graduate school in Archaeology, which would be out of state. Working on this newsletter has been a great experience. Thanks to all who have helped over the years.

~Jeff Nau



## WRABA Events

### Open Forge

**Mondays:**  
Jason Nass  
4101 Brooklyn Ave  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

**Tuesdays:**  
Maple Leaf Forge  
Ralph Neumeister  
17231 Messenger Rd  
Burton, Ohio 44021

**Thursdays:**  
SteelTree Workshop  
Gary Barnhart  
1961 State Rt. 534  
Southington, Ohio 44470

If you need a forge to use, help with a project, or just to learn something — come to one of the open forges. Open Forge is at Jason's on Mondays. Ralph's on Tuesdays, and Gary's shop on Thursdays.

### January Hammer-In

There is no Hammer-In in January

### February Hammer-In

February 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Ken Roby  
11193 Taylor May Rd  
Auburn Twp, OH 44023  
440-543-4977

### March Hammer-In

March 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Bob Parks  
101 N. Broadway  
Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681  
330-852-1014

Tour at 2:00 of David Warther Carvings, located in Sugarcreek, featuring the history of shipbuilding in ebony and ivory (see <http://warther.org/>).

### Work Day at Burton

April 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

A Spring work day at our shop in Burton Century Village.

### May Joint Hammer-In With PAABA

May 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Brad Weber  
88250 Mill Hill Rd  
Bowerston, OH 44695

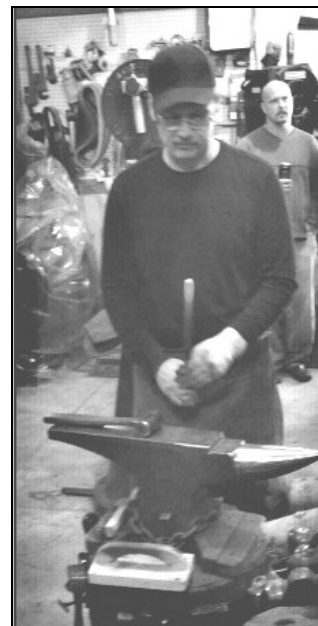
Knobs and Knockers Theme Hammer-In. Make your own and bring it to the Hammer-In.

### WRABA June Conference

June 26<sup>th</sup>—28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

## From the October Hammer-In at Don Pfaff's

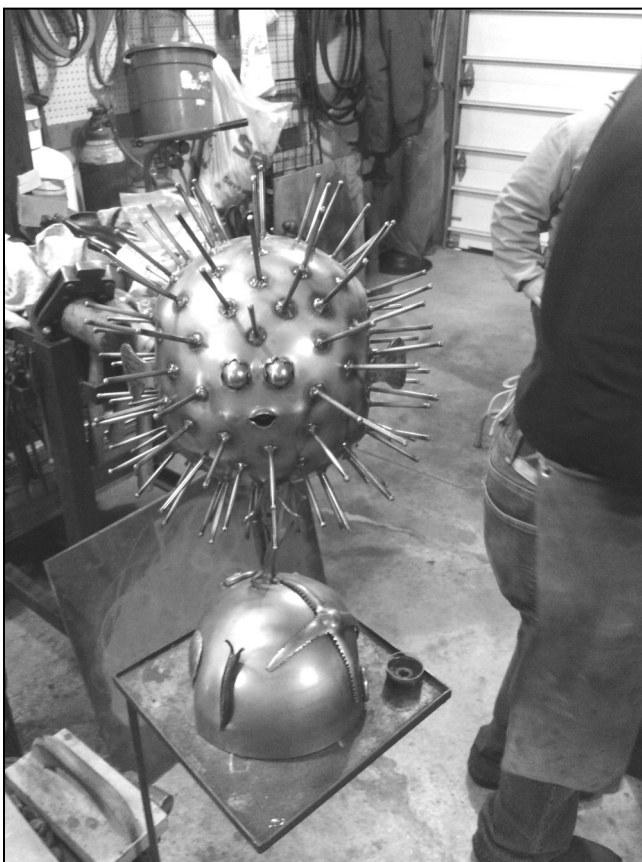


Items made by Don Pfaff

Don Pfaff  
demonstrating

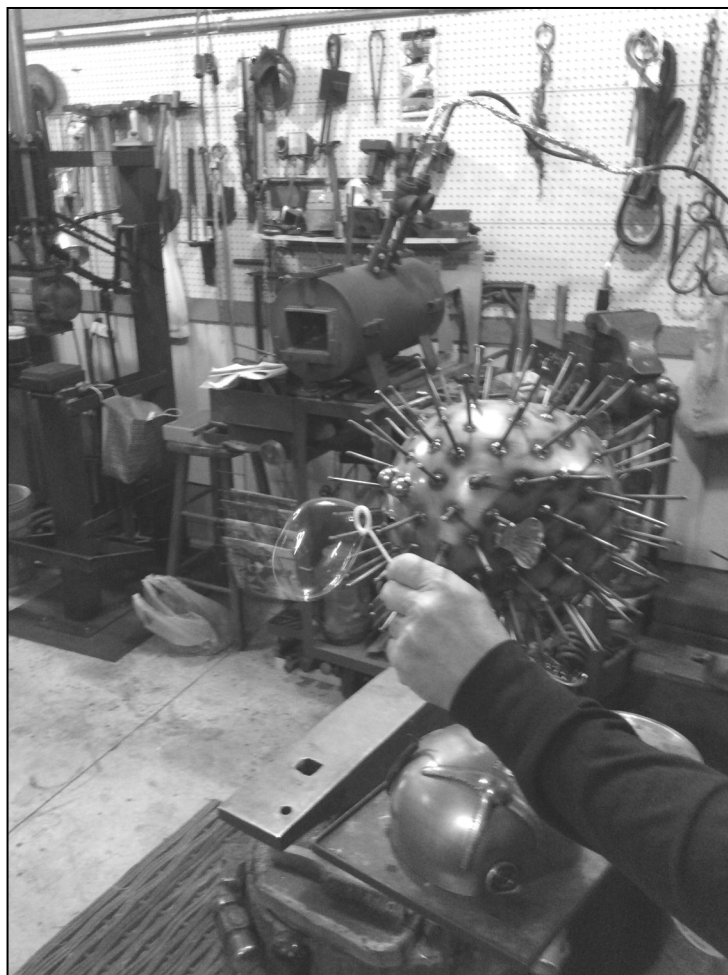


Puffer fish



Don Pfaff demonstrating

Puffer fish blowing a bubble



Base of puffer fish







Bob Rupert demonstrating knives  
at the October Hammer-In

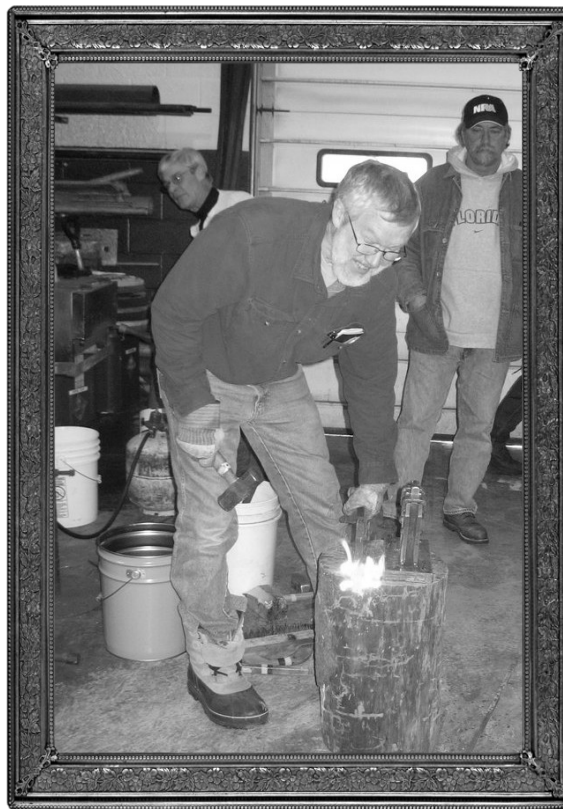
Steps to make a knife



The finished knife

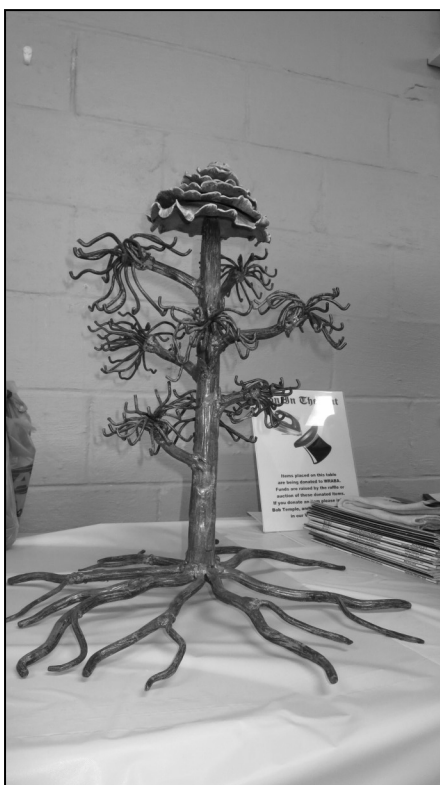


This past year saw the passing of Bruce Woodward on August 3, 2014 at the age of 74. He was an active member of WRABA and in the education the blacksmith craft. Bruce had served as our secretary for many years. He was a former ABANA board member and an ABANA Affiliate Liaison. He was a great teacher, generous, and sorely missed.



## From the WRABA Holiday Party at Burton

Gift Exchange wind chime made by Gary and Roberta Barnhart



Gift Exchange courting candle made by Don Aubuchon



Gift to the Barnharts from Charles Hughes



Auction item donated by Charles Hughes



## THE IRON TRILLIUM

WINTER 2013

## A WORD ON TOUCHMARKS

A little while ago when I started making things that I wasn't burning in the fire so I thought it would be a good time to look at getting a touch mark. Now I had thought of going through the process of getting out my pin files and starting the creative process when I thought I'll design it and look around at having one made. Like a lot of smiths I hit the internet to see what was available in Canada. This was a good eight years ago and I got quotes of \$200 for a touch mark plus taxes and shipping and handling. I then saw why a lot of the guys made their own.

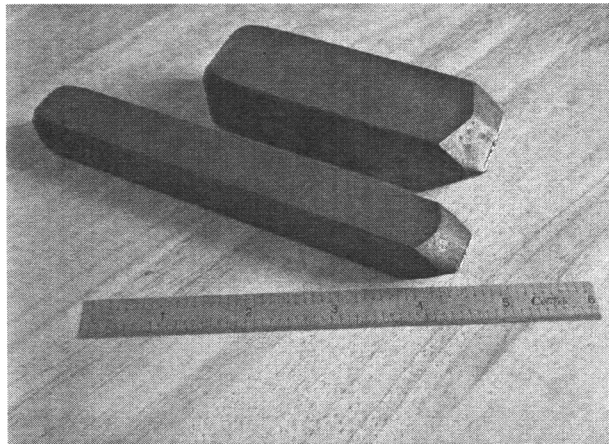
I had a specific design in mind being the traditional anvil and my personal way of doing my initials. So I superimposed my initials on an anvil silhouette and my touch mark design was created. I looked at making my own at this stage but I knew it would be very difficult to get the design made cleanly so back to the internet.



I found the company (Buckeye Engraving). I went with by searching the net and putting in a phone call. The fellow I spoke with was very nice and asked me to submit my design as they had art students on staff that would clean up your design and then send you a proof design for approval before making the stamp. I laid out concerns and specks for the design and at the end of the day I was quoted a price of \$90 delivered to my door with the exchange included. I was happy and they were happy so the business was done.

My first touch mark was one inch long and half inch tall. As I started making more knives than larger items I found I needed my touch mark refined to half the size. I contacted the company

again and they had kept my design on file and they made me a second stamp out of 01 steel half the size for \$100 and I also got a pair of safety glasses with my stamp when it was delivered.



Now time marched on and again I found myself wanting a yet smaller stamp, half the size of the last one I had in other words, 1/4 inch by 1/8 inch. This time I also asked it to be made from H13 steel. My thought being I'm still hitting hot steel but with a much reduced stamp so I wanted a material that could take the heat without going out of shape. Being that it has been some time since I got my last stamp and the price of things never go down the quote I got this time is \$110. Not bad in my estimation since it still beats the Canadian quotes by 90 per cent in the eight year old quotes. They usually give you a ten day window before getting the product and you pay for it up front. I'm anxiously waiting for my new stamp to arrive any day now.

**Daniel Linkenheld**

Check out Buckeye Engraving at:  
<http://www.steelhandstamps.com/>

Located in Kent, Ohio

## Classifieds

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



### 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.



## BLUE MOON PRESS

Was at WRABA 2014 Conference  
& donated books for our auction  
[www.bluemoonpress.org](http://www.bluemoonpress.org)

### Our sponsors helping to continue the art of blacksmithing:



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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

**Ralph Neumeister 440-552-9560**

**WRABA Membership Application**

☐ New Membership    ☐ Renewal – Please fill in all sections so your information may be updated

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Best way to contact me**  
 Spouse/Family Names \_\_\_\_\_ (check one or two)  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Email  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home Phone  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mobile Phone  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mail  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Forge Name \_\_\_\_\_ **May we list your forge**  
 Specialty \_\_\_\_\_ in a directory on the  
 Forge Address \_\_\_\_\_ **WRABA website?**  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes  
 Forge Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Web site \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No

**Smithing Experience: I wish to receive my newsletters**

- ☐ Beginner  
☐ Hobbyist  
☐ Advanced  
☐ Professional

**via (choose one)**

- ☐ USPS Mail  
☐ E-mail (as a PDF file)

**Comments:****Participation:**

- ☐ I am willing to host a Hammer-In  
☐ I am willing to demonstrate at a Hammer-In  
☐ I am willing to demonstrate at Century Village events  
☐ I am willing to host an Open Forge  
☐ I am willing to assist with the newsletter  
☐ I am willing to serve as an officer or board member

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership year starts March 1st. All renewals use the March-May rates. Dues are prorated as follows:*

<b>Join Date</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Family</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> March-May	\$25.00	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> June-August	\$18.75	\$22.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. - Nov.	\$12.50	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. - Feb.	\$6.25	\$7.50

**Payment**

*I'm using the following method for payment:*

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Check - make checks out to WRABA  
☐ Credit card - click here to go to online payment.  
☐ VIP points

**Print form and mail or Email to:**

WRABA c/o Dave Aubuchon  
 9634 Brixton Ave NW  
 Uniontown OH 44685  
[dnl21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnl21@sbcglobal.net)

*Membership valid once dues are received.*

**Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association**

4922 Treeline Dr.  
Brunswick Hills, Ohio  
44212



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