Irons in the Fire

Made by our former editor & won by our current editor in Iron in the Hat
2013 Board of Directors

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Calendar

January 1: 2013 Dues are due
February 12: Board meeting
February 23: Dan Boone’s Pasture Party
March 9: Hunter Perkinson’s
April 13: TBD

NEWS

Our condolences go out to Roger Smith, whose mother, Betty, died on Jan. 8. Roger, we are sorry for your loss. Get well wishes and hope you are feeling better soon to Lori Amidon, George Tyler, and George Smart. Tom Chenoweth just made and installed a cool "bike“ sculpture at Kuba Kuba restaurant in Richmond. Hunter Perkinson was voted a full member of Artful Dimensions Gallery in Fredericksburg. Congratulations! (www.artfuldimensionsgallery.com) Michael Gillespie has a show at Colonial Heights Consignment Gallery. (see article page 11) Kaitlyn Allen was awarded the 2012 scholarship, and she has chosen to apply it to a welding class at John Tyler Community College. Nick Ireys was able to get into the Spring Eight Week Concentration class at Penland School of Crafts. The Guild has made a special tuition contribution of $500 directly to the school on his behalf. Congratulations Kaitlyn and Nick and good luck in your classes.

Have news to share? Submit news items to cvbgboard@gmail.com, subject: Editor
Letter from our Former Vice-President

Hello Fellow Smiths,
I would like to thank the Guild for having the opportunity to be on the Board. Over the last few years I participated on the Board as President and Vice President, offices I never really sought out, but rather stepped up to the plate when called upon. Blacksmithing started out as a hobby for me but turned into a vocation which made it harder for me to give the Guild the time the positions deserved. The Guild has given me a lot of knowledge over the years and I felt like I owed the Guild back a little besides playing host and/or demonstrating at a "hammer in". We all have busy lives and I suppose some are busier than others but I think we all have the love of the art of the Blacksmith in our hearts and that is why our Guild still exists. We have been graced so far with giving members, giving of their time, talents, treasure and even junk. I am sure I haven't balanced the ledger between myself and the Guild but I got it a little closer to even. Just like someone said, "you only get out what you put in". I think we are entering harder times, so I feel it is important for all Guild members to remember what’s important and times past that the Blacksmith persevered. I would also like to thank the newly elected members of the Board and wish them the best in the pursuit of running and hopefully improving this wonderful Guild created by the founding members, a group that I keep in the highest esteem.

Best Regards,
Hunter Perkinson Jr.

Letter from our New President

As I write this, 2013 has just begun, with all the promise, hopes and dreams that come with a new year. 2013 promises to be an exciting one for the Guild, as well. We’ve got a lot of cool things on tap, with an eye towards getting everyone into the fire, working and learning together, growing in the craft and having fun! Some of what we’ve got planned include a series of beginners’ projects, the tool chest project (more on that later), possibly some classes and tours outside of regular meetings, and so much more. To help make these possible, we plan to have at least some Guild equipment set up and available at most meetings, so there’s no reason not to jump in and participate.

I mentioned the tool chest project. Throughout the coming year, we’ll be building a chest and asking each of you to build tools to go into it. As part of the project, you’ll be hearing and reading a good bit about tool making this coming year. The completed chest can be yours…once it is finished, we’ll raffle it off. These are some of our ideas, what are yours? What do you want to do during 2013, or beyond? Let us know – email the board at CVBGBoard@gmail.com, call me at 540-872-3729, or just come talk with me or one of the other board members at a meeting.

I’m looking forward to this year, working with my fellow board members – Ron Capps, Tom Chenoweth, Richard Garrett, Jessie Kimmel, Bruce Manson, Karen Smart, George Tyler, and Bobby Williams – and all of you! See you around the anvil.

Jerry

A couple of railroad spike idea links provided by Richard Robins:
www.mooseforge.com/rrspikes.html
www.mountainhollow.net/a%20bit%20different.htm
From the Editor

First, I want to thank my predecessors – Judy Boone, Tom Boone, Michael Gillespie - for all of their help, suggestions and support. Please allow me to introduce myself. I have been blacksmithing (part-time) for about 16 years. While studying metalsmithing and jewelry at VCU, I wanted to do something different, use more materials than non-ferrous metals. I have always been interested in bladed tools and weapons (knives, swords, axes, etc.), so knifemaking seemed a logical route to take. As others were making necklaces, rings, and bracelets, I made knives incorporating the same techniques. All of the blades on these early knife attempts were ground from flat bar stock. After school I began reading blacksmithing manuals and decided to begin forging knives. I forged my first knife around 1998 and have been hooked on forging since.

The Board has begun working on a number of exciting things. We are expanding our internet presence to aid in communication and outreach/recruitment. You may wonder why one of the world’s oldest professions needs to worry with this technology. I think the words of Dimitri Gerakaris, one of the founding members of ABANA, sum it up, “We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future.” Jerry started the ball rolling in December of 2011 by setting up the Guild Facebook page. It has slowly taken off and continues to grow. Tom Chenoweth is working diligently on updating/upgrading the Guild website. We have established a single email account for the Board – cvbgboard@gmail.com – which has given us each access to all the same information. We have been testing out other social media sites. As we establish them and get comfortable with them we will provide more information to everyone. A CVBG specific forum has been setup on iForgeIron.com. We are opening a Zazzle store (no it has nothing to do with Dr. Seuss). You will be able to purchase Guild branded items (t-shirts, mugs, hats, bumper stickers, etc.) online. This allows you to support the Guild at the same time. A portion of the proceeds go directly to the Guild. The Guild does not pay up front, no minimum orders, no left over inventory. You will be seeing more and more website addresses listed here.

The Board is in the process of checking out a few possible sites for a permanent home. More on that next issue.

We are trying to hammer out a structure for meetings to include some more advanced/different things AND some basics for the new members. Unknown to us or him, Mike’s meeting in January sort of followed our idea – advanced/different demo in the first half, then setup stations and have basic hands on in the second half, followed by lunch, business, and finally Iron in the Hat. With the basic hands on, the thinking is to develop a yearly curriculum of 8-10 sessions covering essential basics. Each participant will hold onto their finished projects and upon completion of the curriculum would receive a reward of some fashion. We will develop this over the course of this year with your assistance and hopefully implement next year.

We have a number of new members. Please welcome – Ron Capps, Jessie Kimmel, James Roarty, Nick Ireys, Michael Harrell, and Nathan White. I apologize if I missed anyone. Please email me at cvbgboard@gmail.com, subject editor, and I will mention them in the next edition along with any further new members.

Please excuse my writing style. I am a metalsmith and an editor, not a writer. Which is why I need you to provide content for this newsletter. I am considering perhaps some themed issues – the business side, knives, photography, railroad spikes, sketching/planning, etc. Thoughts?

What do you think the basic essentials of blacksmithing are? Tapering, twisting, upsetting, etc. What do you think the business side, knives, photography, railroad spikes, sketching/planning, etc. Thoughts? Please mail to me or email us (cvbgboard@gmail.com) your opinions or copy out of whatever blacksmithing book you have available. There are no wrong answers.

Would you like to see member profiles in the newsletter? More pictures of meetings? More projects? Please mail to me or email us at cvbgboard@gmail.com any comments, thoughts, ideas, or article submissions.

I need to know how you want your newsletter delivered to you. Do you want a hard copy mailed to you or do you want to receive it solely via email? Have you paid your dues? Check your mailing label. The number after your name is the last 2 digits of the year your membership expires. If it says 12 or 13 or earlier you need to send in your dues asap or this will be your last issue.

Thank you all for this opportunity and I hope I can live up to the legacy of my predecessors.

Richard Garrett Jr

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CVBG Board Meeting: December 15, 2012
MEETING MINUTES
Start- 11:00 End- 13:20

**Members Present:**
President: Jerry Veneziano
Vice-President: Ron Capps
Secretary: Jessie Kimmel
Editor: Richard Garrett, Jr
Historian/Librarian: Bobby Williams
Webmaster: Tom Chenoweth
Karen Smart appointed as Membership Director
Jessie Kimmel appointed as Secretary (they will both be voting board members)

**2013 Upcoming Guild Meetings:**
January meeting will be at Mike Gillespie’s. He has contacted a demonstrator; if the demonstrator is unable Mike will demonstrate instead.
February is the Pasture Party which will be at Dan’s At this point in time, our March meeting host will tentatively be Nick Ireyes.
--The board would like to have some special demonstrators this year: Caitlin Morris-plan for June (Jerry will get in touch with her.) Possibly Andy White, as well (it was discussed that he was rather hard to get in touch with. Will continue to reach out but no official plans in motion at this time). These will both be paid demonstrations. (COST: $ t.b.a.)
The board would like to suggest a change in the Guild Meeting’s Agenda for upcoming meetings: *Would the guild as a whole benefit from learning something more advanced at the start of the meeting and review less advanced skills toward the end of the demonstrations?*
--It is the board’s thought that this will hold the more experienced members attention, and review something that interests them more, while showing the less experienced members something new, and then allowing time after the demonstration for hands-on experience (may we suggest “stations”). Members with more advanced skills could take this time to help less experienced smith’s to learn at the hand-on stations, or could discuss the whole project amongst themselves and further their own knowledge.
-- The board will now be asking for a few minutes of floor time prior to “Iron in the Hat” to make announcements and ask opinions, regarding upcoming events for the guild and otherwise. This will be a time for any guild business to be brought to the floor by all members, not just the board. We will limit this time to ~15 minutes as to not take much away from our usual monthly guild meeting.

**Activities and Fundraising:**
The board would also like to suggest a group project, in which members would make tools to be placed in a tool chest. Once complete the filled tool chest would be put into a raffle. (When the raffle would take place, and the price of tickets would be determined when/if the project is undertaken by the guild.) It is the board’s thought that such a project would aid to engage more advanced members in guild activities and act as fundraising for the guild.
--Should the above proposal be accepted by the guild, we also propose that projects made at the stations be part of a “Ring Project”. Each member will have a “Ring” made by him/her, and the project the member makes at the stations will be placed on this ring. The ring will be presented to the members who made them at the December meeting as a sort of “token of their learning”.
--The board would like to host blacksmithing classes. These classes would be for a fee (of which the amount is to be determined), and be open to both members and non-members of the guild. The fee for members would be discounted. This will also act as fundraising for the guild. (These classes may be or may involve non-blacksmithing art/crafts as well.)
--The board would like to host a field trip or two this year. Suggested ideas were: Tredegar Iron Works, the National Cathedral, tour Richmond.
--It was decided that we would like to continue to produce and sell calendars.
--“Café Press” was suggested as a fundraising idea. Café Press allows you to place your logo on practically any product. (http://www.cafepress.com/)

**CVBG Business:**
CVBG Equipment needs to be put to use. The current trailer housing the equipment will be put up for sale (since the guild is unable to use it) and the equipment within will need to be stored elsewhere until the guild purchases another trailer that can be used. In the mean time we also need to be able to bring this equipment to meetings (if needed).
--The board would like to suggest that the guild appoint “caretakers of the equipment”. If the guild were to divide the equipment into “sets”, those sets could be given each to a “caretaker of the equipment”. The caretaker would be in charge of keeping the equipment in a safe place and bringing the equipment to the monthly guild meetings and classes. The number of equipment sets would determine the number of caretakers, and the caretakers would be appointed from all members of the guild. (May the board ask that the members appointed, be active and in good standing.)
The board will continue to investigate the possibilities of a permanent location.
The board plans to produce a newsletter every other month. It will be released at the end of odd numbered months starting in January 2013. Any submissions for the newsletter will need to be presented to the Editor by the 15th of odd numbered months starting in January 2013.

**To be Presented/ Discussed at Next Board Meeting:**
Website redesign
Further expansion of social media to expand the guild’s outreach
Scholarship program (accept or revise current rules)
Ideas for classes
Continue to explore fundraising ideas
Has the “caretakers of the equipment” suggestion been accepted? If not, what will the guild do with the equipment? If so, have caretakers been appointed…?

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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?**

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Happy New Year!

Now that all the holiday festivities are over it’s time to get back to blacksmithing! Over 100 folks enjoyed Bill Roan’s demonstrations at the Cichner Memorial Hammer-In this past weekend. So now that you are revved up and ready to go it’s time to plan for Dan Boone’s Pasture Party. The particulars are:

**Date & Time:** February 23, 2013, 9:00AM - 4:00PM

**Registration deadline:** February 15, 2013, contact: jmmb1000@aol.com or 540-967-3267

**Location:** Dan’s Shop, 7381 Parrish Road, Louisa, VA

**Cost:** Something for the Iron in the Hat (which pays for the day)

**Featured Demonstrator:** Glenn Horr, Berkley Springs, WV (air chiseling)

**Other Stuff:** Lots of tailgating, comradery, fun, spouses’ program, good food

**Note:** Most things are outside, so dress warmly... it is February after all!

**Lodging:** Best Western Plus Crossroads Inn & Suites, 135 Wood Ridge Terr, Zions Crossroads, VA 22942.

**Reservations:** 540-872-1700

**Rate:** $95/night. Cut off date: 1/31/13

From Richmond: Take I64W to Exit 148 (Shannon Hill, Rte 605)

Turn RIGHT, go approximately 3 miles

Turn LEFT on West Old Mountain Rd, Rte 640

Go approximately 2½ miles

Turn LEFT on Parrish Rd, Rte 683

Second driveway on the RIGHT

From West: Take I64E to Exit 143 (Ferncliff, Rte 208)

Turn LEFT, go approximately 3 miles

Turn RIGHT on West Old Mountain Rd, Rte 640

Go approximately 3 miles to STOP sign

Turn RIGHT, go a few feet

Turn LEFT back onto Rte 640

Go approximately ¾ mile

Turn RIGHT on Parrish Rd, Rte 683

Second driveway on the RIGHT
To the Editor:

As I travel around to different blacksmith groups, schools and conferences, I realize that the wealth of these places is not in any material thing, but in the people who share a feeling of camaraderie and dedication to shaping hot metal and evolving the craft together. This last place I experienced was John C. Campbell Folk School, which is tucked in the mountains of western North Carolina. I was fortunate enough to receive the Francis Whitaker scholarship to attend a class on traditional joinery taught by Clay Spencer. The class was held in the Clay Spencer blacksmith shop, which is only 2 years old. I had heard a lot about these facilities but it was much more than I had imagined.

This building is an amazing post and beam construction with 12 forges for the students lining the wall and one instructor forge close to the center. In a circle in the middle of the room stand 5 power hammers ranging in size. This set up makes working in the shop easy, safe, and accessible. The shop is fully equipped with all the hand tools and jigs one would need to make almost any project. After climbing up a spiral staircase inside what I imagine was a silo, you cross a walkway lined with hand-made pickets from all over the country and then enter the library and classroom. The library is stocked with just about all the books on blacksmithing one could want, even some from Europe in languages I wish I could understand. Every aspect of this building was well planned and calculated even the ends of some of the beams are carved into different style anvils.

The class was great and I couldn't have asked for a more knowledgeable instructor. Clay has an incredible wealth of knowledge of the blacksmith discipline. We went over many old school joinery techniques such as mortise and tenon, butt welds, slitting and drifting, rivets, and half lap joints just to name a few. I was particularly interested in learning how to use these traditional techniques to make contemporary shapes. One of the skills that I worked on was forge welding large pieces. I had never forge welded anything larger then 1/2 inch. With some help from Clay, I began forge welding pieces that were an inch square and larger. In this class I also learned a way to think. I continued to develop the experience of knowing the correct order in doing things I was able to look at my drawing and know what order I had to make each piece and how to assemble them. This is a growing skill but with each project I find it developing. Each person in the class did a different project which was great because we were all able to learn from each other’s particular challenges and how they were resolved. One of my favorite projects was a rocking chair for a child.

Even though the facilities were fantastic, the true greatness of the Folk school lies in the people. The staff and Paul Garrett, the resident blacksmith are all great. It was just so impressive at how seamlessly the week went even though there were at least 7 different classes. The instructors and students made this week really special. For just a short week all these people, many strangers to one another, came together and formed a creative community that fed off the positive energy of one another. I am just so impressed every time I get a chance to experience a place like John C Campbell Folk School, Touchstone Center for Crafts, or Penland School of Craft. I have had the immense pleasure of experiencing all three of these places and have loved every moment. I would suggest to anyone looking for a fulfilling, energizing, and constructive experience that also is serious about making craft to look into one of these places.

Nick Ireys

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Some educational opportunities: The Woodwright's School, Pittsboro, NC

Making Your Name Stamp with Peter Ross
March 31, 2013 Tuition: $145 Material Fee:$40
http://www.woodwrightschool.com/name-stamps-w-peter-ross/

Forging Hinges & Handles with Peter Ross
March 30, 2013 Tuition: $145 Material Fee:$30
http://www.woodwrightschool.com/butterfly-hinges-w-peter-ross/

Advanced Smithing Workshop with Peter Ross
April 13 - 14, 2013 Tuition: $285 Material Fee: $30
http://www.woodwrightschool.com/advanced-blacksmithing-w-peter/

Pittsboro is about half way between Greensboro and Raleigh; Some of these classes will be taught at Peter's forge in Silk Hope, about 15 minutes north of Pittsboro
December 1, 2012 Meeting
George & Karen Smart’s (all pictures by Bruce Manson)

Candleholder Exchange

Dan & George explain techniques to Jessie.

Dan using the scrolling jig he just made.

The Wilkinson Family Band played for us.

We would like thank George & Karen Smart for hosting us, Dan Boone for demonstrating, and the Wilkinson Family Band for playing some wonderful music for us. Thanks to everyone who participated in the candleholder exchange (hope to see more this year) and to everyone who brought such wonderful food (the Smarts provided the main course of deep fried turkey).
January 12, 2013 Meeting
Michael Gillespie’s  
(all pictures by Bruce Manson)

Mike demonstrating foldforming.

Examples from the demonstration.

John lending a helping hand to Sarah.

Nathan, one of our newest members, forging.

Mike did a great job as both host and demonstrator. He demonstrated various methods of twisting both steel and copper, including using a power drill to twist copper wire before flattening it in the power hammer. He also introduced the group to foldforming, a technique whereby the metal is folded, forged, annealed, and unfolded. Later stations were setup for any to try a little forging. We had over 40 people in attendance and brought in over $300 in Iron in the Hat. A great meeting. [Foldforming by Charles Lewton-Brain $35]
Forge a Heart

For this project, you'll need a length of mild steel no less than 6” long, and no thinner than ¼”. You can certainly use a longer piece, and you certainly should if you use heavier stock. Going smaller than a 6” piece of ¼” will make it harder to work with. I use round stock, but you don’t have to – square stock will work just as well.

Bend the stock in half, and weld the ends together, like you’re forging a chain link.

Weld about ½ - ¾” of the link on both ends, then draw to a point. You’ll end up with what looks like a squished, rounded diamond.

Using a slitting chisel, punches, and the horn of the anvil, open the diamond up.

Heat the piece, clamp about ¼ of the link in your vise, then bend in half.

Work the piece over the horn to round out the “ventricles” and perfect the heart shape.

Now, what to do with it? If you have enough stock, draw it out and make a hook. Or weld it onto cooking utensils. Or, just hang it from a length of nice ribbon, and give it to the one you’ve given your heart to (remember, Valentine’s Day will be here before you know it...).
Identify yourself as a CVBG member & use account #99 121

Blacksmith Supply
www.blacksmithsupply.com
P.O. Box 3766
Chester, VA 23831
804-530-0290

Blacksmithing books
Blue Moon Press
www.bluemoonpress.org
1-866-627-6922
Astragal Press
www.astragalpress.com
1-866-543-3045
Artisan Ideas
www.artisanideas.com
1-800-843-9567

Blacksmithing Coal
Monger Coal & Oil
(Dixie Gas & Oil)
600 Mt Hermon Rd
Elkton, VA 22827
(540) 298-1256

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?
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www.cvbg.org
www.iForgeIron.com
www.anvillfire.com
www.abana.org

From Petersburg Progress-Index 01/10/2013
Colonial Heights Consignment Gallery, 3301 Boulevard, will have an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday for a show featuring works by Michael Gillespie. Gillespie was a career firefighter. For 20 years he has worked with metal. He was highly influenced by his neighbor, Daniel Boone VII, a 15th generation blacksmith, and yes, a descendant of Daniel Boone, the American pioneer. For the last eight years, Gillespie has focused on the metal arts, some sculpture, some utilitarian objects. His work ranges from a 5-foot heron statue to his favorites, industrial flower candlestick holders. His life and work motto is "Do the best that you can, it's a reflection on you."
He says he makes his work to last a lifetime. The reception is free and open to the public, and is handicapped accessible.
The show ends Feb. 8.
For information about the gallery, the show or submitting work, contact gallery director Lora Beldon at 804-614-8478 or LKBeldon@hotmail.com.
Also visit Colonial Heights Consignment on Facebook.

Thanks to Bruce Manson for the article.
# CENTRAL VIRGINIA BLACKSMITH GUILD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

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Are you willing to host a CVBG gathering?  Yes___  No___
If so, when? ____________________________________________

Are you willing to demonstrate for a CVBG gathering?  Yes___  No___

Suggestions for CVBG demonstrations:

Are you a: Professional___  Hobbyist___  Just interested___  Other__________________________________________

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**Central Virginia Blacksmith Guild Liability Release Form**

I, the undersigned, realizing the potential hazards involved in the craft of blacksmithing, will not hold the Central Virginia Blacksmith Guild, its officers, demonstrator(s), or host(s) responsible in the event of any accident or injury incurred during an association function or at any time a sponsored activity concerning blacksmithing or metalworking is occurring. I am aware of the requirement to wear safety glasses during association demonstrations and will do so. I am aware also of the possibility of hearing damage due to the nature of the craft and accept the responsibility of taking the necessary steps to protect my hearing. It will be my responsibility to inform any family member or guest that I may bring to a demonstration of these potential dangers and advise them of all necessary precautions.

Signature ____________________________        Date ________________

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO-**

CVBG Membership Director
Karen Smart
2705 Buckhorn Hills
Maidens, VA 23102

DUES= $20

Central Virginia Blacksmith Guild
c/o Richard Garrett Jr
2707 Dellrose Ave
Henrico, VA 23228