

BAM

January-February 2005



Bill Gichner Died December 8, 2004

www.bamsite.org

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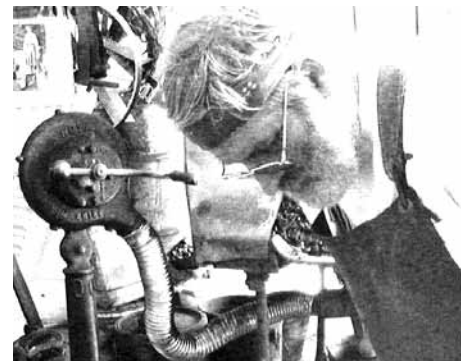
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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

*Volume 22 No. 1
January-February
2005*

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Bob Ehrenberger

Photo

Contributions

Bob Ehrenberger
Ned Digh
Bob Stormer

Presidents Message

Don Nicols

Mailing Labels

Bruce Herzog

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$20/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: Bob Ehrenberger 6192 Hwy 168 Shelbyville, Mo 63469 or email to eforge@marktwain.net BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129; (314) 892-4690 or send e-mail to bjherzog@msn.com. Occasionally some material will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent by the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

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Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Phone: () _____ Zip: _____
E-mail: _____

New Member Renewal ABANA member?

How did you learn about BAM? _____

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$20, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

ABANA Membership Application

Primary ABANA Chapter Affiliation: _____
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See reverse

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enclose \$ _____ as my annual membership dues for one year.

MasterCard VISA Check/Money Order

Card Number

Exp. Date (Required)

Checks must be in U.S. currency
SEND RENEWAL TO:

ABANA
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Dues Distribution:
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The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America, and is devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing and to communication among blacksmiths in Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletter's goal is to support these aims. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale or anything else which furthers these ends will be considered for publication.

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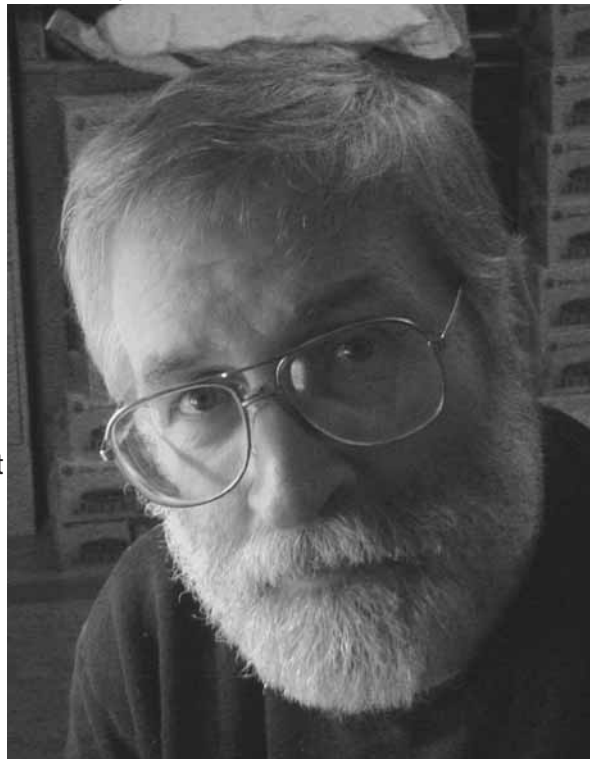
Meet the New Editor

By Bob Ehrenberger

Ned decided he would enjoy his retirement more if he and Esther were free to travel. So a casual comment on my part that I had considered applying for the job when Jim stepped down gave him an out, and put me on the fast track for the job. Like Ned I'm not really a MAC person, but I have used them before. In fact I used a MAC before using a PC. Back when everything was on floppies and if you didn't save your file multiple times on multiple disks you may not get it back. I sure did hate that bomb that came up when a file was corrupted. Anyway I have BAM's eMAC, printer and scanner now and am determined to figure them out. The fact that you are reading this proves that I must have had some degree of success.

A little background on me may be helpful for those of you that don't know me. I have a BS in computer Science from Iowa State University and spent 25 years in software development mostly in communications. In 1995, my son Daniel and I watched Tim Underwood demonstrate at the Lincoln County Threshers Reunion. We were fascinated by the process and spent the entire weekend at Tim's display. Jan (my wife) always knew where to find us, watching the blacksmith. Fortunately Tim had a supply of BAM applications and gave us one. (Note: always have applications ready when you demonstrate.) We sent our application in, and as luck has it BAM was getting ready to have a beginner's class. There was room and we signed Daniel up. Initially this was all going to be part of his home school curriculum (yes we're one of those). Since Daniel was only 13, I had to go with him. Well, even though I didn't swing a hammer all weekend I learned quite a bit right along with Daniel. Most of

the old timers didn't learn my name for several years, I was saddled with the title "Daniel's Dad". Jan had been after me for years to move to the country. Well I worked on farms when I was growing up and knew that I wasn't a farmer, but Blacksmithing opened up all kinds of new possibilities. In 1998 we bought the farm in Shelbyville and I commuted back to St. Louis for 2 years. Then in 2000 I took the



plunge, I quit my day job and went into blacksmithing full time. I had a commission to build a set of gates for a nearby cemetery so I was on my way. Our plan was to do a few craft shows to get my name out and then do custom Iron out of my shop. I didn't find out till later that Bob Patrick had had a shop in Bethel about five miles away and left because there wasn't enough work to keep him busy. As a result, my plans have changed a little. We have figured out how to make a living as a blacksmith the hard way. We now do 20 to 26 events each year, mostly reenactments and historical recreations. We found that stuff sells better when I demonstrate, so most of

our events are demonstrations. That's a lot of hauling my portable forge around, but we are getting better at it and don't have nearly as many crises as when we first started.

My intention is to go to as many meetings as I can. I'll be there unless I have to demonstrate that weekend somewhere else. It is also my intention to write articles about the meetings I attend and do a how-to article on the demonstrations that I see. I'm not as interested in people as I am in blacksmithing, so I probably won't do as many interviews as Ned did. If you like indepth interviews this is your opportunity to help out, please volunteer to interview the meeting host or the demonstrator and write an article for the newsletter. If you host a meeting or demonstrate at one and want to submit a bio I will gladly print it. If I can't make it to a meeting I will also need someone to write an article about the meeting. I'll try to put a notice in the newsletter ahead of time so you know when there is a need. Bob Stormer has been helpful to Ned by taking lots of pictures and sending them in. If you take pictures at the meetings and wish to submit them I wish you would, especially if you get good close ups of the demonstration. I have a hard time taking notes and pictures at the same time.

I hope to see you all at conference. Please bring auction and boutique items. And since I can't be everywhere, volunteer to write about one of the demonstrations. I guarantee you that if you take notes to write an article, you will learn more than if you just casually watch the demonstration.

Board meeting 1/21/05

By Bob Ehrenberger

Bam officers got together the night before the meeting in Sedalia. In attendance were Don Nichols, Ed Harper, Doug Clemons, Bruce Herzog, Joe Wilkinson, Don Birdsall, and myself.

Because BAM spent more than it took in last year, one of the top items on the agenda was to get our budget back into balance. Two of the main causes were, the newsletter cost more to publish than BAM collected for dues, and the high start-up cost of the MTS (mobile training station) program.

The solutions that the board came up with were to raise the dues from \$20 to \$25 in 2006, to make better use of newsletter space by eliminating commercial block advertising in favor of classified ads only, and we are only going to hold a training class if there are 6 or more students signed up. In the past some classes had as little as 1 or 2 students, that just isn't cost effective.

They also decided that the adult children of members needed to become members individually if they wanted to be active in the association, even if they still live at home. The main concern here is that non-members may not be covered by our insurance. For now the age limit is going to be 21 years old. Don is going to check with our insurance carrier to make sure the age doesn't need to be lower.

They decided to keep the conference registration fees the same for 2005. The conference budget will be reviewed after the conference to decide if any change needs to be made for next year. Editor note: Please support our conference by bringing auction and BAM boutique items.

The MTS committee is making plans for another series of basic blacksmithing classes this year. They are also looking to expand the program so that those that have taken Basic Blacksmithing (BS1) can continue to learn in a new class BS2. To this end they are looking for a BAM member with Graphic Arts skills to help with the instruction materials. If you can help, contact Don Birdsall at (636)-667-5398 or email at djbirdsall@networkusa.net.

Because of the enormous amount of time it takes to manage the BAM web site over a dial-up link. The board voted to pay \$15/mo. to upgrade Ed's service to broad band.

The board did vote on life members but you will have to wait until conference to find out who.



Large group at Sedalia meeting watching Charlie Comstock and striker Jason Cooley make a pair of tongs

A Word From Old What's His Name By Don Nichols

Hello Bammers,

The January meeting has come and gone south. The way the wind was blowing that day it seems it may be blown south to warmer weather.

A big thanks to State Fair Community College for a warm room and plenty of space. A big thanks also to Kent Harbit for getting the room prepared for a good meeting. A large crowd of Bammers showed up. I asked someone to go out and check on the tail gaters to see if they were frozen solid sitting on their tail gates. If they sold anything that day it was for Cold Hard Cash.

We did have a good meeting and our demos were Charles Comstock making tongs with Young What's His Name as striker. Then Kent Harbit make a safety pin but I don't know how safe it is because of it's size. Next, Orry Harbit made a horse head on the end of a horseshoe. It's good to see our young Bammers giving it a try. After Orry, another young man named Trace Price did a different horse head on a horseshoe. After these youngins Old What's His Name did a forge weld and it stuck too! Then he slit and drifted a 1/2 inch square bar so that you could pass another 1/2 inch bar through it.

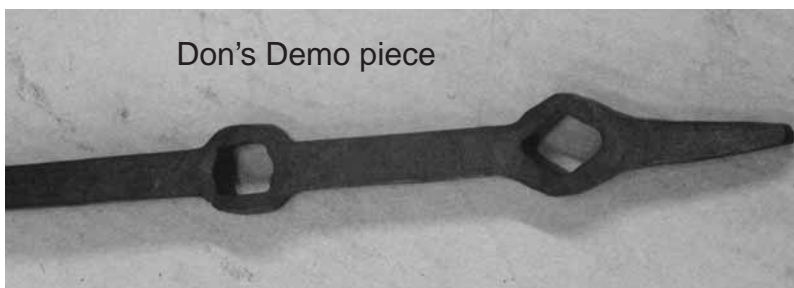
After lunch, we had our meeting. I announced beginning in 2006 our dues for membership will go to \$25.00. I believe that's still a bargain to belong to an organization like BAM. The \$25.00 still does not pay all of the cost for our newsletter for the year.

Because we are Bammers it's important for everyone to try and come to the conference. Please start thinking about things to bring for our auction. Please support it the best way that you can, and any way you can. That way it will be a great conference for all.

Remember **"Let Not the Opportunity pass, for it may not return."**

See you in March at Maurice & Bess Ellis
Old What's His Name

P.S. I went to the treadle hammer workshop. All that attended the workshop worked hard and finished all the tooling early on Sunday afternoon. It was good to see Clay Spencer again. As usual Clay did a superb job leading the workshop along with Bob Alexander as his assistant. I got a duck head swage block. So Thanks again Clay and Bob.



Trade Items

Trade items were submitted by the following members.

Ed Harper, David McCord, Bob Ehrenberger, Doug Clemons, Trace Price, Ken Lane, and Don Nichols.

This is a good way to push your skills into an area you may not usually go. It's a lot of fun and you may even take home a real treasure.

Pat's New Year's Day 2005 Hammer-In

By Bob Stormer

No better way to ring in the New Year than with an anvil's ring. That's the tradition at Pat McCarty's shop every New Year's Day. By the time I arrived a little after eight o'clock, Pat already had the woodstove fired up, muffins and coffee ready.

Due to other commitments in past years, this is the first one I've been able to attend so I have no benchmark for comparison, but this one was a dandy. There were about 20 people, plus Pat's family, wandering around and enjoying the ambiance of Pat's shop. I don't usually participate in the forging at meetings since taking pictures is easier, but when I got inside Pat's shop, I felt I just had to pound on something. This year's project was a medieval style sword. We started with a piece of 1 x 3/8 bar stock (mild steel) about 30 inches long. Pat had prefabricated a spring tool to help shape the bevels on the blade. For some of us less than experienced blacksmiths, that was very helpful but I still managed to use about 3 hours worth of coal to finish my blade. I could have spent more time on it, but thankfully Mary Jo rang the bell for lunch.

The gumbo Mary Jo made for lunch was an excellent first New Year's lunch. The hot pickles made a good fire starter – Jim McCarty (remem-

ber him?) ate one and then re-lit the forge after lunch by blowing on it.

After lunch, we started making the cross guards and pommels to go with the handle material Pat had already pre-cut and drilled using walnut, oak, and few other woods. There was no pattern for these parts as there was for the blade so everyone's creativity was allowed to blossom. They were made from material we could scrounge from Pat's extensive supply of "stuff". Hopefully nobody used anything Pat needed. By mid afternoon, when Ed Harper filled the shop with wood smoke from hot fitting his walnut handle on the tang, most of the swords were completed and ready to do battle with knights from the other kingdoms. None of the swords ended up stuck in a stone, but I think King Arthur would have been proud.

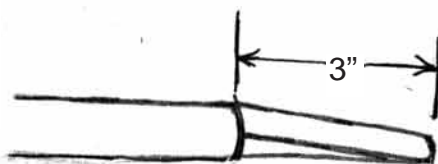
For all who attended, it was good to start the year off with a little coal smoke, blacksmithing sounds, and some friendly conversation. Although I didn't get to listen in, I understand there was also some live banjo pickin' on the hill outside the shop. Once again, many thanks to Pat, Mary Jo and the rest of their family for sharing this tradition with us.



Kent Harbit Giant Safety Pin Demo. by Bob Ehrenberger

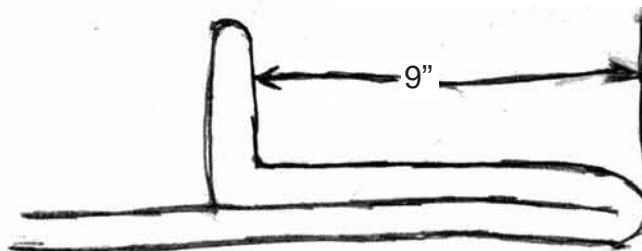
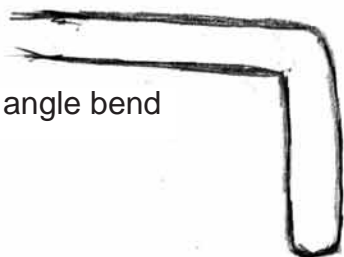
Start with 5' of 5/16rd

Flatten and taper about 3"

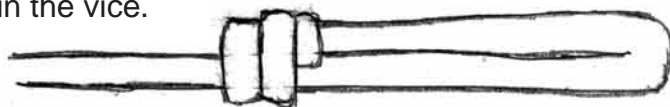


Fold about 9" back on itself.

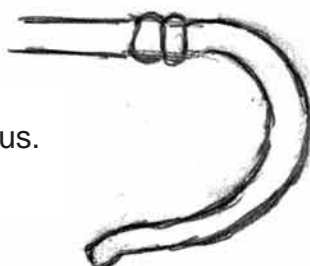
Make a right angle bend



Heat the flat and wrap around bar. It's easiest if you start the bend in the vice.



Bend over horn.
Make about a 3"-4" radius.
Flare tip back.



Kent with finished safety pin.



Orry Harbit's finished horse head



Make loop over a 2" hardy tool, or on horn at the tip.

Quench loop to make springy.

Trim end if needed, Taper to point. You're done

A Tribute to Bill Gichner

I recently attended the twenty-fourth annual Bill Gichner Hammer In, which is held in Maryland. One of Bill's dearest friends, Mack Beal, read "A Letter to Bill", which he shared with me and told me I could use it in any publications that were needed to spread the word about Bill. Everyone who knew Bill can appreciate his contributions to blacksmithing. Even if you didn't know him and you have any connection with blacksmithing, he in some way touched your life.

Tom Clark

A letter to Bill from Mack Beal

We met 30 years ago at either ABANA's early conference down in Greenville, South Carolina, or perhaps it was in 1976 at ABANA's gather at SIU, Carbondale, Illinois.

You and Georgia gave me a ride up to St. Louis Airport. En route, we stopped at a grain/feed store in Red-Bud, Missouri. Out back we found a couple of wonderful, big copper kettles for making apple butter. Although unable to trade for these, you spotted some nicely made mule harness bits, and a big Red-Bud outside store thermometer.

The trade involved my red L.L. Bean suspenders, which Mister Grain Man coveted. The trade was made. (I also wore a belt.)

Later, I got from you, for \$15, a worn copy of the Tool Catalog from the Shelburne, VT museum. Subsequently I found that I could get any number of copies, from the source, for \$9, post paid, thank you. When I spoke to you about that

you took the book back and gave me a \$15 credit. A little later, you had a \$25 hammer that I thought I needed, but priced at \$45. So, with my credit plus another \$15, I got the \$25 hammer. We both felt that we had made out OK on that deal, but I am still not sure.



From all of that developed our deep bonding and deep friendship. Team Peter, Bill and Mack have traveled some 80,000 miles in your big gray vans, all over the U.S. of A. - loaded with tools and, sometimes, even a 50# Little Giant hammer, or a couple of 25# ones! That is about three times around the world!

Peter driving, so safely and securely; you direct-

Bill Gichner Continued

ing; and I, coping with endless requests from the commissary for snacks, nuts, fruit, and at the same time attending to the navigation, maps, dividers, a flashlight (sometimes held in my mouth) and sometimes “snappy remarks” from Le Directeur.

So many warm welcomes at the forges and workshops of our blacksmith friends, wherever we went. Traveling-eating-laughing-trading-eating and learning more about ‘working metal’. In addition to your uncanny skill in sniffing out potential trades, the three of us have shared a curiosity about how things are made, how they work.

Accordingly, we have visited a great many metal fab shops and factories, more often by a back entrance than the front office. Your little mini-anvils have, sometimes, been the magic key and then it was realized that we had a sincere interest in learning.

We saw, learned and marveled at what could be done with metal: cold chisels/small tools in Baltimore; Oshkosh shovels: West Virginia’s ‘True-temper garden rakes; boat anchors in Seattle; horseshoes in Kentucky; go-karts and small submarines (!) in Dixie, and big time forging at night in Illinois (lower electric costs for BIG air hammers) and Texas - we could feel the ‘thump’ of the big arch hammer’s blow a half a mile away!! - metal bandsaws cutting two and a half foot billets, the saws big as a house. In Dallas we watched with awe the dialogue twixt the manipulator, handling a yellow hot piece as big as a frig and the Hammer man at an 800 ton Erie arch hammer. And we watched the skill of the operator at a 5000 ton hydraulic press, doing yellow hot railroad wheels with just a squeeze or two. All of that. Billy, with our helping out at “Repair Days” at the Metal Museum in Memphis, has

been The Most Wonderful Journey.

In spite of your bewildering pricing structure, we all have admired (and sometimes been beneficiary of) your deep generosity, in helping the tool acquisition from many small shops and beginning forges, “Just get the tool now” - “pay some-time later, when you can.”

You have instilled in Peter and myself (and surely others), the love of books (and, alas, trying to acquire them) on the how, why and whence of metal work, the tools, and the beautiful work of smiths, both past and present. Thank you for that legacy.

I shall miss getting your hot chocolate during our early morning travels, the negotiations for the best ‘deal’ at modest motels where Peter and you have always bet on the result - AAA, AARP, “Senior Discount Please” and sometimes even ‘three to a bed’! I’ll miss the regular fussing with and trying to make your hearing aids work o.k.; your visits to us in New Hampshire; our frequent overnights with you at “The Beach”; the ‘Mile High Chocolate Pie’ at Magnolia’s, and breakfast at “Chit-Chat”.

I miss those moments Billy, and your not being here for your 25th gathering of your friends. We are all thinking of you and what you have meant to each and all of us.

Thank you, too, for the legacy of your gentle lesson: “Is there anything I can do for you?” It is a mantra for each of us to follow. I miss you so, but hope that you are making some good trades

Bye for now
Lots of Love
Your friend
Mack

William W. Gichner died on the 8th of December at his home in Bethany Beach, Delaware. A long time member of ABANA, Bill owned and operated “Iron Age Antiques” in Ocean View, De., specializing in blacksmithing tools.

Treadle Hammer Tools Workshop *by Ned Digh*

The treadle hammer tools workshop was a big success as well as an enjoyable event. Bob Alexander was the BAM coordinator and deserves a lot of credit for the success of the workshop. BAM Life Member Clay Spencer came to St. Louis, bringing his treadle hammer tool designs and to supervise the workshop. For those of you that have participated in any of Clay's workshops, you are aware of the organization and efficiency he does so well. Bob Alexander held a weekend pre-workshop and had 8 members participate and several stayed on Monday beyond the weekend to get additional materials ready. All that participated are indebted to Lou Mueller, who as usual, graciously made his shop available for this workshop.

Clay's treadle hammer tools workshop normally goes for three days and 30 tools are made. Since Lou's shop was available for only two days, the projected number of tools was reduced to twenty. With a goal of 20 tools, that required 600 plus handles be made (twisted) prior to the start of the workshop. Actually several extra sets of tools were made, one for Clay as the workshop supervisor, one for Lou Mueller as the host, and one for BAM to auction or raffle at the conference. BAM will also compensate Bob Alexander for his duty as the coordinator. Bob put in a lot of hours in his own shop and brought his own power hammer to the workshop and was busy forging for almost the entire time.

Since this was a two day workshop, Clay Spencer and Bob Alexander had warned the participants that Sunday might be a long day and everyone should be prepared to stay late if necessary. Even Sunday morning, Clay was predicting a completion time of 5 PM. Actually the workshop was over at 12:15 and that was with Clay

giving a 30 minute critique and demonstration. As in previous workshops, Clay expressed his admiration and appreciation for the work habits of the BAM participants, as evidenced by the early completion of the workshop. Clay said several more tools could have been planned had he known how efficiently the group was going to work.

For those that missed the workshop, but would like a set of treadle hammer tools, contact Bob Alexander. Bob is planning to hold one or more mini-treadle hammer tools workshops. Prior to this Clay Spencer workshop, Bob was planning a mini-treadle hammer tools workshop. He has confirmed that is still on track and tools can be made, depending on the demand.

A future Clay Spencer workshop? Maybe. When asked what our next workshop would be, Clay remarked "Can you get enough members together for a power hammer workshop?". The answer was, of course "you bet". Clay, Paul Garrett (John C. Campell resident blacksmith, and Karen Rudolph (the former resident blacksmith) have made three (3) 75 lb. power hammers. Clay said he needed to update his drawings and make 2 or 3 prototypes before doing a workshop. When Clay is ready, hopefully BAM will have the opportunity host a workshop. Building 75 lb. power hammers, that is exciting, just thinking about it!



December MTS Class at Ham's Prairie *by Ned Digh*

Ken Jansen was the instructor for the classes held on Saturday and Sunday, the 18th and 19th of December, 2004. The weather prediction was for increasingly cold weather for the the weekend and Bob Bailey came over on Friday and helped wrap part of the porch sides with plastic. With the North wind somewhat blocked by the plastic, the shop porch was suitable for the Saturday class, but that changed on Sunday with much colder weather. The center section of the shop was still in good order from the cleaning by Lou Degginger and John Huff for the September BAM meeting so the Sunday class was moved inside.

This was the first MTS class taught by Ken Jansen and it was apparent that he enjoyed it as much as the students. Ken did an excellent job and says that he would like to continue to teach the MTS classes. Ken spent 6 years in the US Navy as an instructor and clearly displays talent for teaching.

A Mother/Daughter team were students in this class. Bunny Baxter, the Mom recently borrowed a shepherd hook and became interested in working metal. She brought her daughter, Emily, who is an Electrical Engineering student at the University of Missouri. Mike Maddox from Mexico, MO said he had watched Bob Ehrenberger demo at the past two "Walk Back in Time" festivals in Mexico and decided he wanted to

learn how to move metal. Mike said he had probably observed Bob Ehrenberger for about 15 or 20 hours. That must be a record for Bob's fans. Ira Patten from Fulton, a framing carpenter, was a member of the class for one day, but a back injury kept him at home on the second day. Ira says he is eager for the MTS event to come around again so he can take the second day of the class.

As per normal, some BAM members came by to assist. Jerry Dickerson and John Huesgen both were assistant instructors and also had time to hammer some.

Mid Missouri appears to be a fertile ground for BAM and blacksmithing. In 2004, 4 classes were conducted at the Mexico, MO Voc-Tec school and 4 classes at Ham's Prairie. In addition, a hammer in was held at Ham's Priarie with the MTS equipment on the three afternoons following Thanksgiving with good attendance. BAM members either brought their own metal or made a donation for metal from the MTS supply. Pat Nolan, the director of the evening classes at Mexico Voc-Tec is an avid supporter of the MTS program and would like to have a class there every semester. He likes the Saturday class time schedule and has personally stayed at the school all day for the MTS classes.



Bunny Baxter & Emly

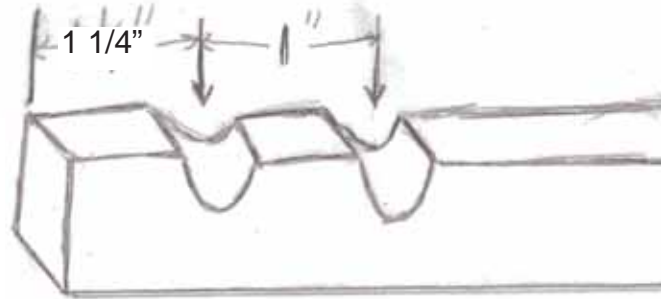


Bunny & Mike M.

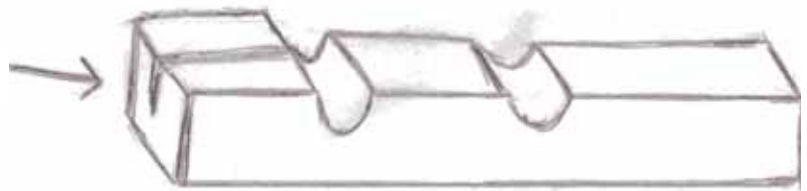
Charlie Comstock Split jaw tong demo By Bob Ehrenberger

Start with 3/8"x1"x8" of bar stock.
Mark cold at 1 1/4" and 2 1/4"

Get hot and fuller at marks 2/3's the depth of the bar



Hot cut to split the jaw to 1/4"



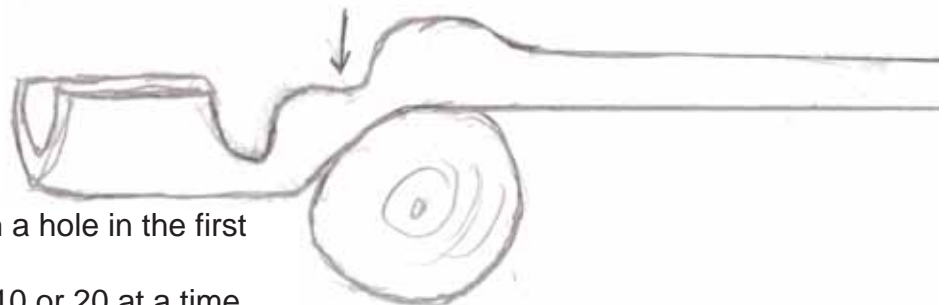
Open jaw on edge of anvil or with fuller



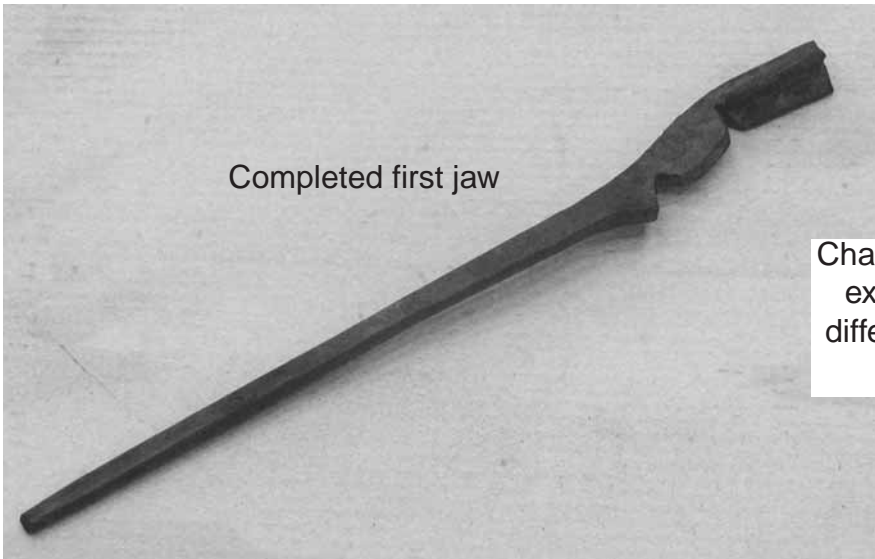
Taper reins leaving lump after second fuller.



Offset jaw over horn. Strike where the arrow is with the pien of your hammer.
Inertia should keep the jaw fairly well lined up.



Make two just alike. Drill or punch a hole in the first lump (boss). Rivet and adjust.
Charlie says it's easiest to make 10 or 20 at a time and then match them up before riveting. It saves a lot of adjustment at the end.

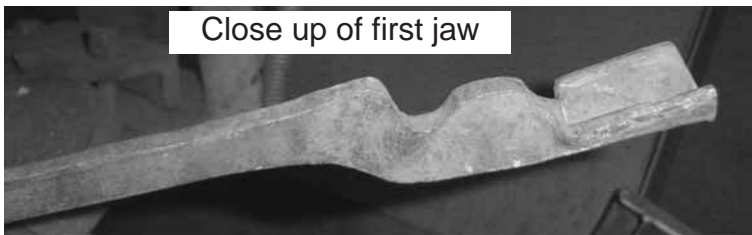


Completed first jaw



Charlie Comstock explaining the different types of tongs

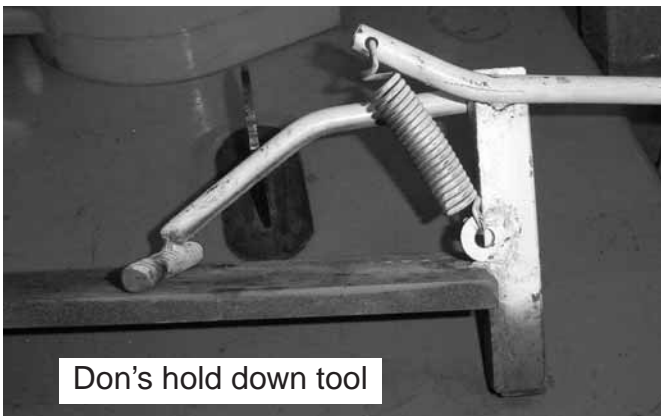
Striker in action



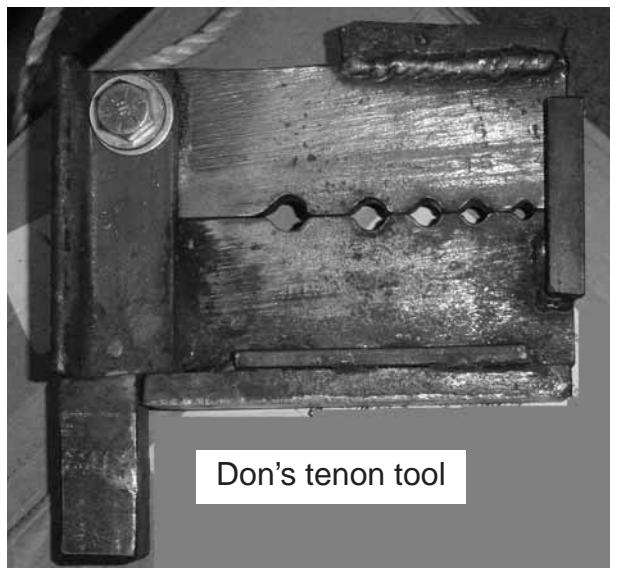
Close up of first jaw



Finished Tongs



Don's hold down tool

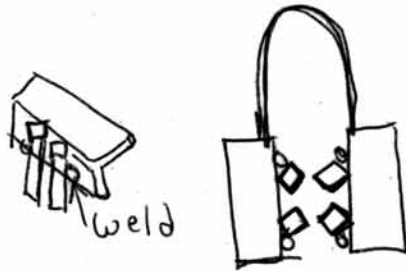


Don's tenon tool

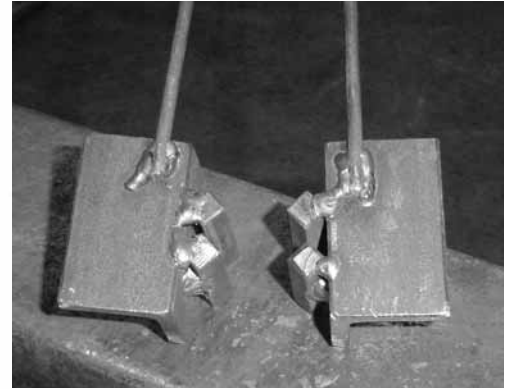
Shop Tip

By Don Nichols

Tool for Holding $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{5}{8}$ " Sq. or Rd.



Finished Tool



4 pcs. $\frac{3}{8}$ " Sq. 2' Long

2 pcs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ " Angle 3' Long

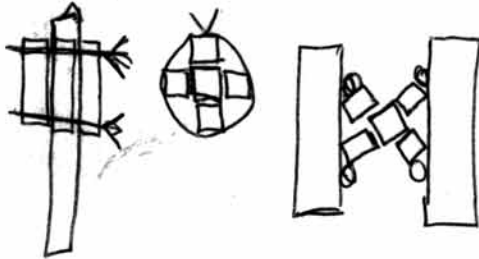
1 pc. $\frac{1}{4}$ " Rd 12" Long

Weld $\frac{3}{8}$ " Sq To Angle on Edge 2 on Each
piece of Angle

Weld $\frac{1}{4}$ " Rd on after Bending in a loop this is to
Hold them Together as you put it in VICE

to weld put 4 pcs around $\frac{3}{8}$ " sq with wire to hold

Then Lightly Clamp Angle + sq in vice tie wire close to Ends
And weld



This gives you surfaces on 4 sides as you Clamp
in the vice

Mystery Shop Tip If you had failed to figure out the shop tip in the last issue, you weren't alone. You couldn't figure it out because the most important part was clipped by the address block. I hope this makes more sense.

Reproduced from: Page 10, Indiana Blacksmithing Assoc, The Forge Fire Newsletter, Oct 2004 issue.

Project of the Month: A Vise Tool for getting uniform twists from the Shop of John Zile

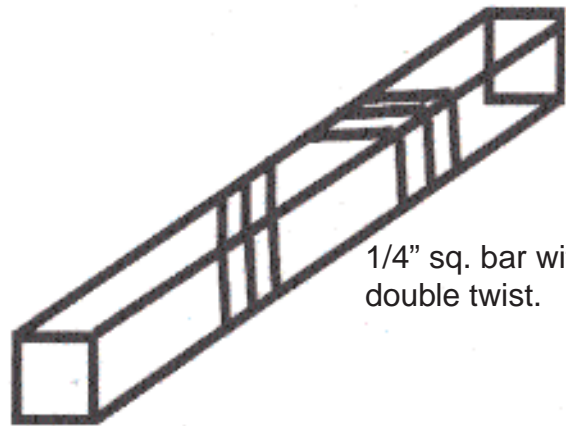
I was able to visit John's shop in August. He had so many tips to offer. John mounts most of his jigs so that he can use them in his bench vise. That way it can take a good bit of torque and it leaves your hardy hole free.

I use this vise tool to put a double twist on ladles, spoons, fork handles, and other things made from 1/4" square stock.

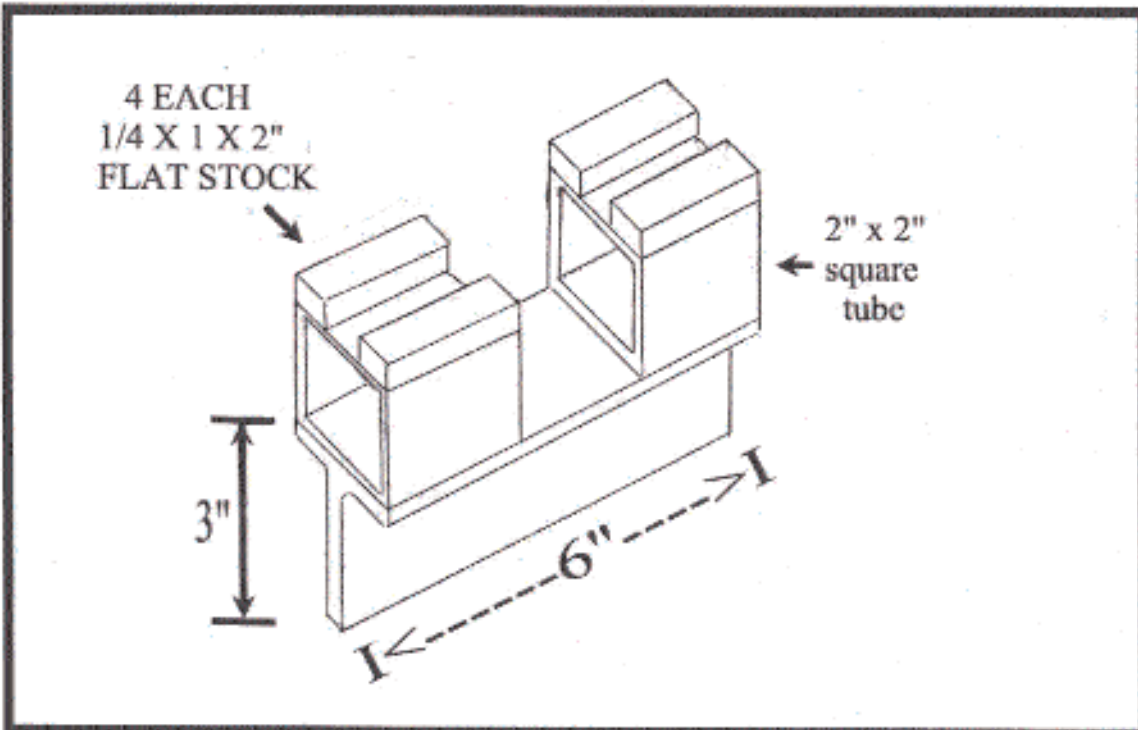
Simply clamp the tool in your bench vise. Heat about 3" of your handle material and lay it in the space between the 1/4 x 1" pieces.

Twist between the sections of square tube approx. a qrt turn using a 6" or 8" adjustable wrench.

John Zile



1/4" sq. bar with a double twist.



14th Annual Ozark Conference

April 29, 30-May 1, 2005

WARREN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

WARRENTON, MO

(40 miles west of St. Louis on I-70 at Exit 193)

The featured demonstrators are **Alice James** demonstrating "Finding the Right Technique to Forge Desired Forms", **Bill Epps** demonstrating the making of "Accent Pieces", and **Joe Szilaski** showing how to make knives and tomahawks.

A "Meet the demonstrator" session and a forging contest will take place Friday evening with the demonstrators working Saturday 8 – 4:30 and Sunday 8 – Noon. A beginners' blacksmithing and a beginners' bladesmithing class will be offered on Friday. Saturday evening there will be a banquet at extra cost and a fund raising auction with Tim Ryan. A weekend family scrimshaw class is available to both women and men. It is to be taught by **Ron Newton** and is scheduled for Saturday morning and afternoon and continuing on Sunday morning. A Gallery of forged items will be on display throughout the weekend. Tailgaters and vendors are welcome.

Additional Conference Activities:

- **Large tailgate site free to Registered Participants
- **Indoor and/or covered vendor sites
- **Free camping site with lots of modern toilets
- **Sales of various items of interest to blacksmiths
- **Food will be available on site Fri. p.m. & Saturday a.m. & noon

Pre-registration due by April 16th is \$35 (Individual days \$5-Friday, \$25-Saturday, and \$10-Sunday). Registration is \$45 after April 16 and at the door. Spouses, dates, & children under age 18 of registered attendees are free.

For more information visit www.bamsite.org

OR Contact the Conference Chairman: David Smith, Chairman: 573-237-2286, dlsmith@fidnet

For a Conference Booklet/Registration Form contact:

Bess J. Ellis, 12486 Sutton Road, Belgrade, MO 63622-9197

e-mail: mbellis@misn.com, phone: 573-766-5346

The next 5 pages have a lot of the detailed information about the conference. Start thinking about conference, make your auction items and we will see you there.

Workshops

FAMILY MEMBER WORKSHOP

***** Pre-register for this *****

Scrimshaw-Sat. Apr. 30, 8 a.m-12 noon & 1-4:30 p.m.& continued on Sun., May 1, 8 a.m - 12 noon

(This is an entire weekend class running all day Saturday and continuing Sunday morning.

Scrimshaw is the process of scratching or piercing a hard material like ivory, bone, or antler, using a sharp pointed needle to make scratches or impressions in the object surface, rubbing pigment into these marks or de-signs, and then wiping the excess away to form a picture.

Instructor, **Ron Newton**-Nineveh, IN bubas55@aol.com Ron has been practicing the art of scrimshaw for 20 years and is essentially self-taught. He has taught at the J.C. Campbell Folk School several times and is scheduled to teach scrimshaw again in June 2005. Ron enjoys passing this art form onto others and having fun at the same time. Aside from scrimshaw Ron also enjoys working in metals that include a little blacksmithing plus jewelry and copper work. Ron will be providing all materials, tools, and supplies for the class. He will also provide a starter kit for each student which will include tools and materials to complete the class and continue to practice the art form. Additional materials will be available for purchase from the instructor. However, if you desire you may bring a magnifier, India Ink (so you do not have to share), pictures you would like to scrimshaw, and any other things you think you may need.

Class is open to both women and men.

Cost of class- \$45.00 (for Sat. all day & Sun. morning)

(20 students max, so pre-register early)

BEGINNERS' WORKSHOPS

***** Pre-register for these *****

A **Beginners Blacksmithing Workshop** will be taught by Lou Mueller and Don Birdsall and offered to anyone interested in learning the basic skills of blacksmithing. Various skills the students will learn include making twists, punching and opening a hole, and slitting and cutting metal. The students will use these skills to make a leaf hook or leaf key ring, a heart hook, and a coal forge poker. The Workshop will be offered on Friday, April 29, 2005, at the Conference site from 9 a.m.-12 noon and continuing from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

The cost for the Workshop is \$20.00.
(20 students max., so pre-register early)

A **Beginners Bladesmithing** (knife making) Workshop will be taught by Ken Markley on Friday, April 29, 2005, at the Conference site from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The basic theory of forging blades from high carbon steel will be explained followed by a demonstration of forging a blade. Each student will then forge a blade of the same style that would be suitable for later grinding, heat treating, and finishing. If you are interested in basic blade forging, this is the workshop for you.

The cost for the Workshop is \$10.00.
(10 students max., so pre-register early)

Demonstrator Biographies

Alice James is a studio metalsmith making sculptural and functional ironwork. A 1990 graduate of the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Metals Department, she has exhibited nationally, and continues in the academic field by teaching classes, workshops and demonstrating. She has demonstrated for ABANA and at many regional blacksmith conferences. Artist Statement: "In the act of creating something . . . I find completion. I observe and acknowledge the influences that motivate me at a particular time and/or place. These influences are the restrictions required to make a pieces fit, to function well. They give form to the ideas..... In short, I focus on carefully crafted pieces in which personal intimacy is created for the viewer, as well as for myself." alice@flickerforge.com

Bill Epps has been doing full-time Blacksmithing since 1986. Before that he was a Farrier (where he started making his Novelty Horseshoes and Snakes back in the early 70's because he likes to show off, and his customers loved them.). He got tired of making just horseshoes, and developed his talents in the forge towards practical items (i.e. Dinner Bells, Tripods, Pot Racks) to be sold at Craft Shows, and in 1987 started doing commission work while working for Old City Park in Dallas as the Resident Blacksmith. He taught weekend short courses to give individuals the basics of blacksmithing. His many years experience as a machinist tool & die maker have contributed to his overall knowledge of types of steel and his ability to make any tool he needs to do a job. Some of his work for decorators and builders can be seen in some of the finest homes in Dallas, ie. Gates, Grilles, Doors, Railings, Window Seats, Custom Chandeliers and other Light Fixtures, not to mention Custom Tables, Lamps, Canopy Beds, etc. <http://www.besmithy.com/>

Joe Szilaski is an American Bladesmith Society (ABS) Mastersmith earning his stamp in 2000. He makes art knives, folders, fixed blades, fight-

ers, miniatures, and tomahawks. Most of his knives and tomahawks are one-of-a-kind designs, some with carvings in ivory, pearl and damascus steel. His experience in metal work began as a teenager in Hungary, where he was born. He worked as a blacksmith's apprentice forging parts to shape for the machine shop. He does his own sculptures and carvings in bronze and wood. He now make his home in upstate New York and for the last 15 years have been earning a living as a bladesmith. <http://www.szilaski.com/>

LODGING

Camping Free camping is available on site with lots of modern toilets. Showers should be available.

Motels

[AmeriHost Inn](#), Warrenton 636-456-6000 AmeriHost has offered BAM a special rate of \$58 plus tax per room which is \$12 off their regular price. If you choose to reserve a room at the Amerihost, tell them that you are with the Blacksmith Association of Missouri and ask for the special rate of \$58/night. It is quite new and has an indoor pool, sauna, and spa. Reserve by April 15 for special rate. [Super 8](#), Warrenton 636-456-5157 or 1-800-800-8000 This is a new motel but doesn't have a pool or spa for ~\$51-\$59 plus tax per room. Children 17 & under stay free.

[Budget Inn](#) (4 mi w of Warrenton—exit 188) 636-456-7272 [Days Inn](#), Warrenton 636-456-4301

DINING

Warrenton has a number of fast food and regular restaurants within a few miles of the conference site.

Coffee and donuts will be made available on site for Saturday and Sunday mornings.

In addition, food will be available on site for purchase from The Benevolent Society of Brothers & Sisters, St. Louis, MO—Christine Mueller, Director. BBQ pork dinner will be available for Friday dinner, casserole breakfast for Saturday morning, sandwiches, chips, soda, candy, desserts, etc. for Saturday noon.

Don't forget you must pre-register by April 16 for the Saturday evening buffet banquet which is \$11 per person (Children 3-5 years old \$5 each). This is a wonderful time to enjoy a good meal and meet and visit with others who attend the conference.

Three Conference Raffles will be held:

Tickets \$1 ea. or 6 for \$5

1. Anvil
2. Post Vise
3. Starter Blacksmith Tool Kit donated by Tom Clark and BAM. Included items: 6 sets of tongs, bending fork, nail header, chisel, cut off tool, Tom Clark hammer

FORGING CONTEST

2005 OZARK CONFERENCE

Friday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.

Our forging contests have usually focused on technical skills. There will be two contest groups this year:

1. Individual
2. Team "Master & Striker"

Winners will be chosen based on contest rules and determined by the contest judges. Each class will have 3 awards: \$50 for 1st, \$20 for 2nd, and \$10 for 3rd.

The details of this year's contest will be revealed at the conference registration table.

BAM will supply the forge, coal, anvil, water, stock, and a wire brush. BAM will have a selection of hammers to use in case you forget yours. Do enter, watch, enjoy and learn. This event will be like having ~20 additional demonstrators.

This year's forging contest was developed by Kate Dinneen Sign up at the registration table.

Don't forget, the **BAM BOUTIQUE** helps support BAM by the sale of small forged or craft items at the Conference. All proceeds go to the BAM treasury. Please consider donating items which

can be priced at less than \$25.00 each, blacksmith related or not. People really like to know who made such items, so please attach a label or tag with your name and the suggested price for the item. Again this year Mara Harper and Ruth Hull will be operating the BAM Boutique with help from many other ladies.

For the **CONFERENCE AUCTION**, your forgings, tools, books, and other blacksmith-related items valued at any amount over \$20 are needed for the BAM Auction. Remember, the Conference Auction is BAM's major fund-raiser. Therefore, please support the Conference Auction by donating items (large or small) and/or bidding on items at the Auction Saturday, April 30, 2005, at 6:30 p.m.

We felt that we had a pretty big success with our **CONFERENCE GALLERY** last year. What we need to make it better this year is more participation. Quit hiding that stuff and get it out where we can see it! It will work the same as last year. It's not a juried show. If you are a member of BAM you may exhibit your work in the gallery. If you think it's representative of your best work, it's good enough. It doesn't have to be Art with a capital "A." It can be any kind of blacksmith work, practical or ornamental. It doesn't have to be "pure" blacksmithing without any modern techniques, but it should be something not just any welder can do. Your work can be for sale or not, and it can be a contribution to the auction or not, it's up to you. Please bring a label with your name, the title or description of the work, the price, if it is for sale, and any other pertinent or interesting information. As we did last year, we will provide lighting and as much display hardware as we can manage, but anything you can bring (pedestals, hangers, display stands, etc.) will be more than welcome. Now go out to the shop and make something cool! Walt Hull will be in charge of the Conference Gallery.

BAM Conf 05

14th Ozark Conference

Schedule

Friday, April 29, 2005

9 a.m.-7 p.m. Beginners Workshops (details p.5)
9 a.m.-12 noon Beginners Blacksmithing-Lou Mueller, Don Birdsall
1 p.m-5 p.m. Beginners Blacksmithing, continued
5:30-7 p.m. Beginners Bladesmithing-Ken Markley, Inst.
5:00 p.m. BBQ pork steak dinner available on site
6:30-7:30 p.m. Meet the Demonstrators (Forging Contest Area)
7:30 p.m. Forging Contest (details on p. 3)

Saturday, May 1, 2005

7-8 a.m. Casserole Breakfast available on site

8 a.m.-12 noon Demonstrations
Alice James-title
Bill Epps-Accent Pieces
Joe Szilaski-Knives & Tomahawks

8-12 noon Family Workshop (details on p.4)
Scrimshaw-Ron Newton

12-1 p.m. Lunch break (Sandwiches, chips, soda, candy, desserts, etc. available on site)
1-4:30 p.m. Demonstrations
Alice James-title
Bill Epps-Accent Pieces
Joe Jzilaski-Knives & Tomahawks

1-4:30 p.m. Family Workshop, continued
Scrimshaw, continued -Ron Newton

5:00-6:30 pm Dinner Banquet on the grounds (Banquet tickets must be purchased during pre-registration)

6:30-? BAM Award Presentations and Auction with Colonel Tim Ryan

Sunday, May 2, 2005

8 a.m.-12 noon Demonstrations
Alice James-title
Bill Epps-Accent Pieces (continued)
Joe Szilaski-Knives and Tomahawks

12:00 noon - ???? Clean-Up
BAM Members-Tear Down and Clean-up Conference site

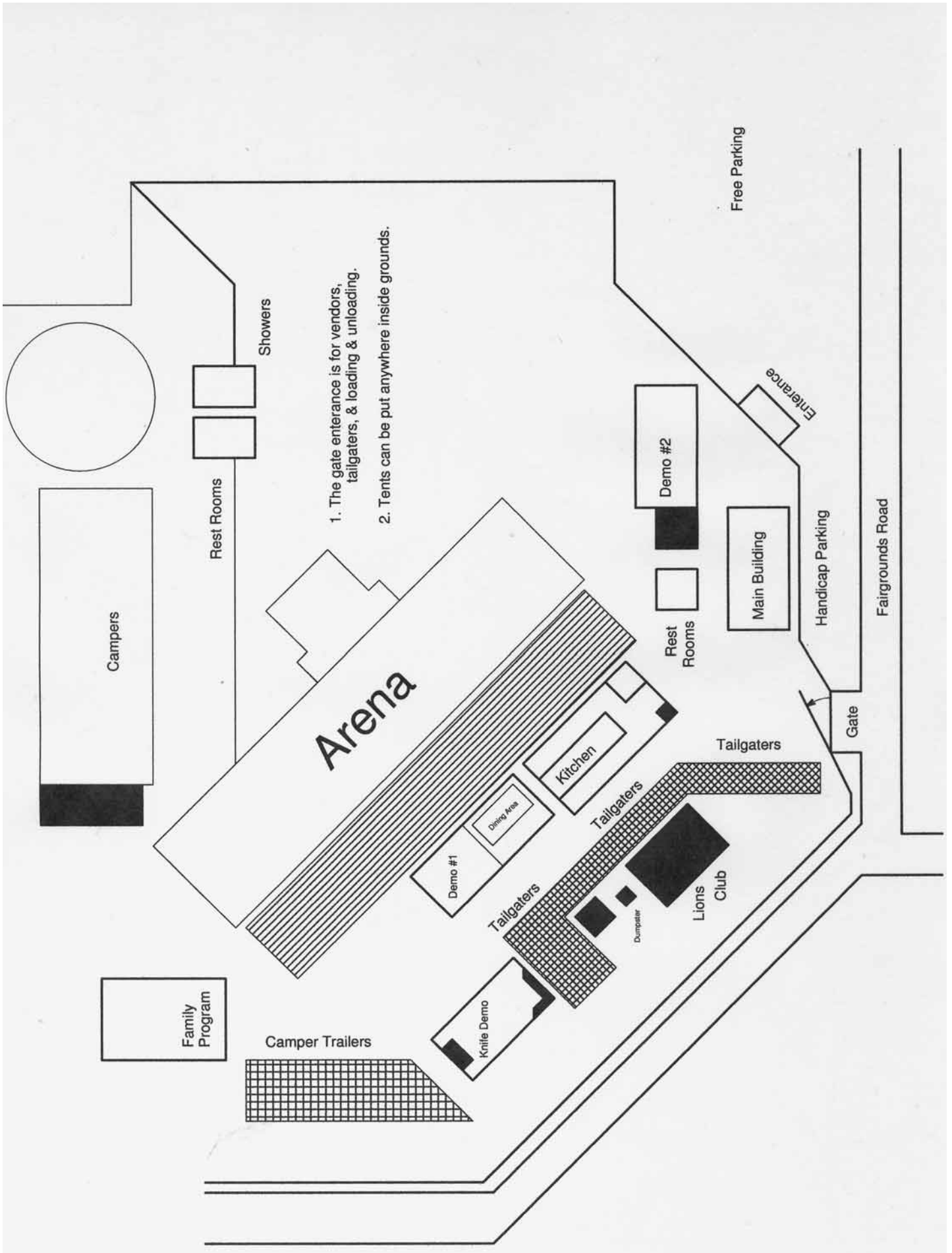
Additional Conference Activities:

**Large tailgate site free to Registered Participants in Assigned Areas.
NOTE: This year Vendors will be assigned to some of the previous-year tailgate areas, so contact Larry Hults to reserve your space (636-629-7411, whiskers@yhti.net.) The tailgaters will be allowed to use spaces not assigned to Vendors.

**Free camping site with lots of modern toilets
**Sales of various items of interest to blacksmiths
**Food will be available on site Fri. p.m. & Sat. a.m. & noon (plus banquet Sat. evening. See p.7)

Questions???

David Smith, Conference Chairman: 573-237-2286, 573-659-5601 cell
dlssmith@fidnet.
or Larry Hults, 636-629-7411, 314-322-8793 cell
whiskers@yhti.net



Buy, Sell, Trade

Individual Classified ads

LITTLE GIANTS: 50lb, overhauled, new spring, dies, etc. w/motor, \$3500. 25lb, good condition, 3ph motor, \$1800. ANVIL: 186lb INBA, new \$975. Farrier's portable coal forge w/elect blower \$100. [www.nibbelink.net/bs/for sale](http://www.nibbelink.net/bs/for_sale), 970-532-4387, smith@nibbelink.net, equipment is in Colorado.

Commercial / Resource ads

Services:

Custom spinning in copper, brass, pewter, and steel. Contact Ken & Kathy Markley, 7651 Cabin Creek Lane, Sparta, Ill. 62286. Phone: (618) 443-5284 Fax: (618) 443-5284

Ray Chaffin has a new computer operated **plasma cutting** system that can cut anything out of metal. Mail, call or e-mail your design for a price quote. Also hardwood blocks 2-2 1/2" x 12-14" are \$5 each in curly maple, straight maple, English walnut, birch laminated in brown and white and blue and white. Ray Chaffin, (660) 438-6720 or Ray's Welding, RR 3, Box 279, Warsaw, MO 65355.

Little Giant-- We can do repairs on any or all components of your Little Giant front assembly. Contact H."Sid" Suedemeier 420 4th corso, Nebraska City, Ne. 68410 (402) 873-6603

BAM members, I have a **CNC plasma cutting** system in my shop in Columbia and will offer my services to BAM members at a 10 percent discount. From art to parts I do it all. Now offering: 12" x 18" BAM logo signs plasma cut from 1/8" A36 steel plate, \$25 BAM members, \$35 non-members. Call (573) 474-8749 and ask for William Irvin.

Treadle Hammer - Complete or Plans, and Beverly Shear Sharpening

Inline (roller blade) treadle hammer for sale. \$1200, loaded at my shop in Murphy. Treadle hammer plans: \$9.00, includes postage. Beverly shear blades sharpened, \$35 plus shipping, bring the shear to the Folk School or ship the blades to me.

Clay Spencer, 934 Partridge Ln, Murphy, NC 28906 828-837-0708 email: clayms@2brmemc.net

Information / Education

New email/web site for Tom Clark and the Blacksmith School

Tom: tclark@ozarkschool.com
School: www.ozarkschool.com

Tong Making Class-Weekend Course

4 people per class - \$125 per person

Contact: Charles Comstock Rt.1 Box 20, Deerfield, Mo. 64741 (417) 927-3499

Subscribe to Jerry Hoffmann's **Blacksmith's Journal**, a monthly publication for blacksmiths. Call 1-800-944-6134 for more information.

George Dixon edits a blacksmithing publication called "**The Traditional Metalsmith**". For \$28 you will get four issues of how-to information. Contact him at 1229 Bee Tree Lake Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778.

Irony is a publication by BAM member Stephen McGehee. It's full of metalworking projects as well as his own brand of wit. Subscriptions are \$35 a year or \$65 for 2 years. Send checks to P.O. Box 925, Corydon, IN 47112.

Products

Heavy duty frying pan blanks: Steel, approximately 9 inch in diameter with 2 inch sides. 12 gauge (2.5 lb.) or 14 gauge (1.75 lb.) thickness. Available with or without two 3/16 inch holes for handles. Now tumbled clean. 1-4 \$9 each; 5-9 \$8 each; 10 or more \$7 each. Shipping \$4 plus \$.50 for each pan. Contact: Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722; bobforge@hotmail.com; (563) 332-4800.

FOR SALE: **Custom-built air hammers.**

6# table-top model \$1400;

25# table-top model \$2000;

40# floor model \$2800.

Some modifications to the basic hammers can be made to your specifications.

Contact Maurice L. Ellis, 12486 Sutton Road, Belgrade, MO 63622-9197. Phone: (573)

766-5346. E-mail: mbellis@misn.com

Tom Clark has expanded his line of hand forged Hofi style hammers to include a nice rounding hammer and punches, drifts, tongs etc. He's also importing a new line of air hammer, the Sayha from Turkey and just got a shipment of punches, shears, belt grinders and gas forges. For more info on the tools contact him at Phone (573) 438-4725. Fax (573) 438-8483.

L Brand Forge **coke** now packaged in 50 pound bags, 1,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets and 2,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets. Send your zip code for a quote on price including delivery. 1-800-441-0616 or LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com.

Bells Novelty Casting is a foundry in Anniston, Alabama manufacturing blacksmiths' tools. We are currently looking for dealers to market our products. We have anvils of all sizes, swage blocks, hardies and drift pins. Call 1-877-FARMBEL. Web site www.bellsandmoe.com.

Buy, Sell, Trade, Continued

Kayne and Son Custom Hardware, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 fax (828) 665-8303, email: kaynehdwe@ioa.com, web site: www.kayneandson.com. Offering Big Blue 100 ram air hammers, Peddinghaus 2 horn anvils, Offcenter tongs and swages, etc, hammers, tongs, the Blu Crusher rolling mill and Forgemaster gas forges. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard.

Coke for sale, \$10 per hundred pounds loose or \$9 per bag sacked. Bags hold 60-70 pounds. Call Japheth Howard for more info, (660) 777-3508.

SOFA fire pots are once again available. For information contact Bob Cruishank, 1495 W. Possom Rd., Springfield, OH. 45506 Phone: (937) 323-1300 or www.creativeironforge.com or www.sofablacksmiths.com

Wanted:

Articles for the BAM Newsletter. Email, or snail mail to Bob Ehrenberger.

Demonstrator List Forming

Fred Wisenborn has started a list of members available for demonstrations,

fairs, historic events, and festivals, etc.

Contact Fred to get on the list:

417-589-2497 email: jweisenb@llion.org

Help Wanted:

Artist-Blacksmith Position Available

Established artistic metalworking business specializing in high-end custom and production ironwork is seeking apprentice and journeyman blacksmiths.

Only serious, self-motivated, high-energy people need apply. Send resume and letter of interest to: Jeff Fetty Designs, Inc. 1041 Lion Fork, Spencer, WV 25276. Or email jfetty@depotltd.com No phone calls please. Visit us on the web at [_www.jefffettyironwork.com_](http://www.jefffettyironwork.com) (file://www.jefffettyironwork.com/).

Editor's Note:

I pulled some of these ads from past issues if you want to change their wording or the category they are listed under contact me.

Close up of Trace Price Horse Head



Trace at Fire



Need Coal ?

Plenty Available!

Coal Captain: Bob Alexander



1. Bob Alexander (636) 586-6938
14009 Hardin Rd
DeSoto, MO. 63020

2. Ken Jansen, (636) 366-4353
2257 Charter Rd.
Moscow Mill, Mo. 63362

3. Doug Clemons (660) 595-2257
RR1 Box 124
Malta Bend, Mo. 65339

4. Jerry Rehagen (573) 744-5454
Rt1 Box 97
Freeburg, Mo. 65035

5. James Rumbo (816) 625-8675
7223 Hardsaw
Oak Grove, Mo. 64075

6. Jeff Willard (417) 742-4569
P.O. Box 416
Willard, Mo. 65781

Price \$8.00 per bag Coal keepers earn \$1.00 a bag

Upcoming Events

- March 19th BAM Meeting at Belgrade, Mo (see back page for details)
- March 26th 13th Annual Forge Fest at Plantation Agriculture Museum in Scott, Arkansas
They need demonstrators. Contact: **Holly Houser**, Museum Interpreter
Work - 501-961-1409 Fax - 501-961-1579
holly.houser@arkansas.gov <mailto:holly.houser@mail.state.ar.us>
- April 22-24 Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths Conference at Bemidji, Minnesota.
- April 29-May 1 14th Annual Ozark Conference at Warrenton, Mo
Demonstrators--Bill Epps--Alice James--Joe Szilaski (Knifemaker)
- June 3rd, 4th BAM Meeting at Boonville, Mo. Host: Dale Gilman, Trade Item: Flowers
Dale is planning a big weekend, lots more information in next newsletter.
- July 15th-17th Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference at Pontiac, Illinois
Demonstrators--Brent Baily--Jack Brubaker--Jerry Darnell
Contact Tricia Springer, (309)-394-2256 (home) or (309)-208-0952 (cell)
- July 30th BAM Meeting at Ham's Prairie, Mo. Host: Ned & Esther Digh
- September 10th BAM Meeting at Shelbyville, Mo. Host: Bob & Jan Ehrenberger
- November ?? BAM Meeting at Bass Pro shop in Nixa, Mo. Host: Kirk Sullens

New Members

If you know or live near one of these new members. Give them a call and invite them over to your shop. Most beginners don't have the equipment or experience to get going. You have both, please share. Sometimes they just need to see how things are set up to get them started.

Elda Haynie P.O. Box 181, Craig, MO 64437 660-683-5752

Katherine Ann Mandel 6822 Wise Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139 kmsaintlouis@aol.com 314-646-0646

Adam Sherwood 3813 Olde Mill Drive, Byrnes Mill, MO 63051 636-677-3641

Dan Wedemeyer 2800 S. Hwy 185, Sullivan, MO 63080 dweem99@fidnet.com 573-468-6072

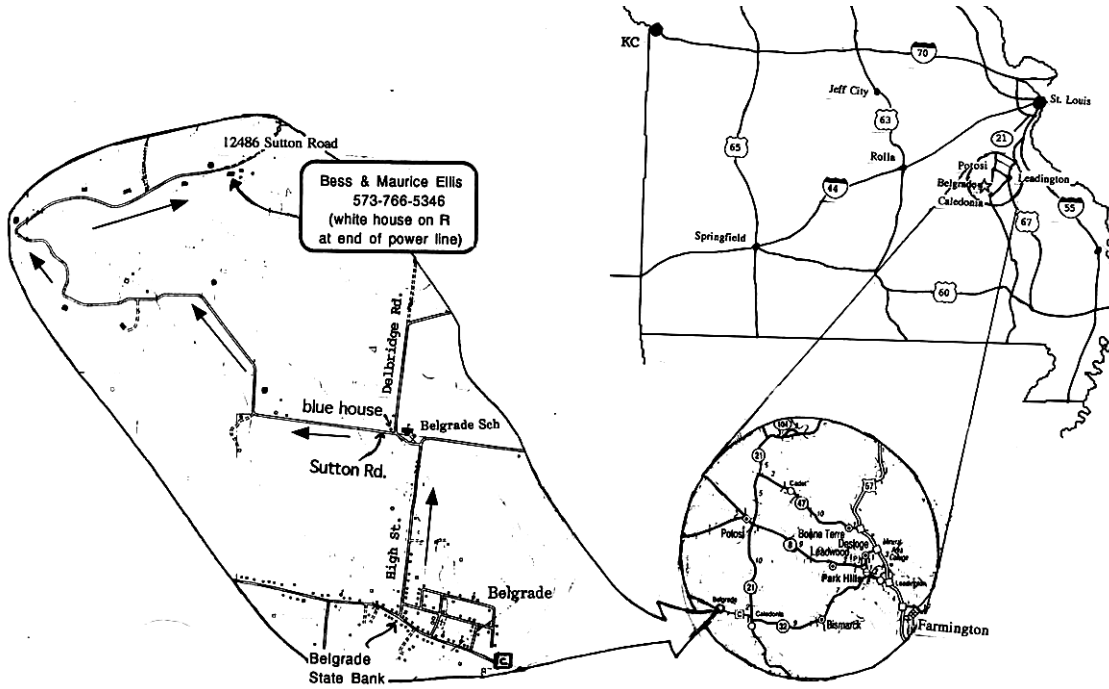
Michael Camden 1171 SW 901 Road, Chilhowee, MO 64733 660-678-3877

Johnnie Rothganger 17148 Pinhock, Hughsville, MO 65334 660-827-3105

Alan Rundell RR4, Box 194, Nevada, MO 64772 417-667-4873

Brian Lenihan 2284 State Route 76, Willow Springs, MO 65793 417-469-5329

Next Meeting: March 19th at Belgrade, Mo



Meeting at Shop of
Bess & Maurice Ellis
12486 Sutton Road
Belgrade, MO 63622
573-766-5346
mbellis@misn.com

In case someone needs to stay overnight on Friday, there is a Super 8 Motel (Hwys 8 & 21) in Potosi, MO, located about 17 miles from Belgrade, MO

Breakfast pastries & coffee beginning at 8 a.m.
Lunch will be provided
Trade item is any kitchen utensil

BAM
2212 Aileswick Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63129

Please send changes to Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129 or e-mail to bjherzog@msn.com