

# Rocky Forge News

Volume 8, issue 4 – April, 2009

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In this issue I have tried to make use of material from other blacksmithing organizations and even fit in some how to. I was hoping to bring you an article about a tool that I have been using and am planning to make what I see as an improved version, but I have just ran out of time. While I still on layoff and should have much time to get things done my to-do list does not seem to get any shorter. I am starting to see what the recent retirees mean about still too much to do. Next month you will get the article. This month you get some very little background on our demonstrator for the joint IBA-Rocky Forge meeting. Also included is a piece about making a heart hook from Michigan Artist blacksmith Association that I got via the New England Blacksmithing Association and some information from Rural Smiths of Mid-America about Harold Frost's current situation.

David Childress, your editor.

## Next Meeting

Please note: the normal second Saturday Rocky Forge meeting has been moved to the 3rd Saturday of April. For this one time event the date is April 18th so that our group will be hosting the Indiana Blacksmith Association. It should be a very good day with Nathan Allen of Conner Prairie as our demonstrator. Nathan will demonstrate blacksmithing techniques on the anvil and show how those same techniques would be done on a power hammer. Clifton Ralph will try to be here so we can also hear his perspective on each technique. This should be a very good educational and entertaining demonstration.

Be sure to bring items for iron in the hat and a covered dish for the meal. Carol will cook a whole ham, scalloped potatoes and drink.

We are looking forward to this meeting and hope that all of our Rocky Forge members can attend. We will start with coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 to 9:00 or so, and then Nathan will begin his demonstrations.

If we have good weather there will be several forges set up outside for you to work on after Nathan's demonstrations. See you all on the 18th.

Ted

## About our demonstrator: Nathan Allen

Growing up not too far from Branson, MO, Nathan's family often went to Silver Dollar City, a themed 1880's amusement park. Watching the blacksmith was one of his favorite things to do and ignited his interest in traditional trades. He started blacksmithing in 8th grade. He was definitely addicted quickly to blacksmithing, working at his "backyard forge" every chance he got. Nathan attended Southeast Missouri State University, majoring in Historic Preservation and after graduation began working as a blacksmith at Conner Prairie, a living history museum outside of Indianapolis. The work at Conner Prairie focuses on reproducing artifacts, restoration of vintage farm equipment, custom ironwork, overseeing the maintenance of the museum's historic buildings and teaching blacksmithing. In addition to working at Conner Prairie, he has a small shop at home and when he can pull himself away from fishing and hunting, he enjoys making reproduction 18th and 19th century knives and tomahawks.

Nathan's demonstrations centered around traditional hand techniques that were employed in an early 19th century blacksmith shop. Toolmaking was the focus and he showed how some items were manufactured in small shops.



## Smoke and Noise

### Articles from e-mail and the Internet

Compiled by David Childress

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#### From the SOFA website:



April Fools Day internet posting

#### New Osha Regulations To Have Long-Term Impact

New OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) today announced new regulations aimed directly at the home and hobby workshop.

WASHINGTON (AP)

Phyllis Sharp, Director of the newly-formed Home Safety Compliance Division, today announced new OSHA regulations in response to successful lobbying by watchdog groups and the American Home and Hobby Machinery Manufacturers Association. The regulations, aimed directly at home workshops, hobbyists and "shade-tree mechanics", are in response to an apparently exponential growth of safety issues surrounding the sale of commercial machinery to the private sector, resale of used machinery, and restoration of used and occasional vintage machinery by private individuals.

According to Sharp, "These things are dangerous, and we are finding out that commercial and industrial manufacturers and service facilities, not to mention our own government, are selling these machines to private persons without due regard for essential safety features that we require of all workplaces". Ms. Sharp was also quoted as saying that "there is no reason why a home workshop should not be subject to the same guaranteed level of safety compliance that our government provides to the public workplace." According to Sharp, fines and registration fees will be used to substantially

reduce the anticipated cost of the regional offices and inspection teams.

In a brief press conference to present these proposed regulations, Mr. Morris Pschatt, Esq, general counsel for the Central States division of OSHA, stated that OSHA will create offices in each state for the purpose of inspection, tagging and tracking machinery sales. Sellers of all commercial-grade machinery will be required to transport machinery for sale to an OSHA field office prior to sale, where the machine will be inspected for the appropriate safety guards, decals and instruction manuals. Any machine found not to meet the standards will be tagged for scrap and the machine seller will be compensated at a standard rate per pound, according to Pschatt. When asked by one reporter about private sales, Mr. Pschatt responded that the OSHA Residential Teams inspectors would be tracking eBay, craigslist and classified sales in order to provide "comprehensive safety coverage".

In addition, Pschatt remarked, OSHA Residential Teams field inspectors will be periodically making spot inspections to home and hobby workshops to ensure safety compliance, similar to existing commercial and industrial compliance regulations. All home-shop machinery will be required to be tagged and registered with OSHA, and any machine not having the proper guards in place, decals visible and legible, and instructions readily available will be tagged and confiscated. Furthermore, personal safety gear, including eyewear, hearing protection and head gear will be required of all home and hobby workers.

The AHHMMA is represented in Washington by domestic and overseas manufacturers and importers of woodworking, metalworking and automotive equipment.

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*I thought that this is a program that only safety officers (In our case, Dominick) could get wholeheartedly behind. The administration of this program would be beyond even the biggest big government fan. Most of what most of us do while blacksmithing would be outlawed. DEC editor.*

*The following is information as presented by Kim Soladine in response to a letter from Harold Frost's daughter. I did not receive this letter but Kim does enough to describe its content. For those of you who are unaware of the background for this letter I will summarize. Due to several changes in his life Harold decided to move back to Michigan to be closer to his children and grandchildren. He had just started a new job when he went to the doctor because he thought that he had pulled some muscles in his side while moving. As it turned out his pain was caused by bone cancer in one hip and ribs on the opposite side. He thought that he insurance through his new job and COBRA insurance from his old job. What insurance he had may not be enough. This is the story as I understand it. DEC editor.*

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From :Kim Soladine  
Date: Wed, Apr 8, 2009

RSMA member,

I am writing this message as I have received several inquiries about a letter that some of you may have received requesting help for past president Harold Frost treatments.

As most all of you know, Harold has a cancer, and a letter was sent in which there are some questions as to the who, what, where, when, why, and how much, and I have been ask if I can answer some questions. To be honest, I have no answers, as I received the same letter, and I have the same questions as do those of you.

Last week, I spoke with Harold for the first time in a few weeks. In that conversation, I ask if he could fill me in on a few questions that have been asked of me. Harold told me that the letter was sent by his step-daughter, Leah, but that he didn't really have any information as to what it said or how it was being handled.

I ask Harold to please have Leah call me so I could get some answers, and respond to some of your concerns. I have not yet received that call; therefore I have no additional news to share with you.

Harold did share that the last chemo treatment had really been a rough one. I hope you have all kept him in your thoughts and prayer.

Again, I will share whatever information that Harold and/or his family wish me to, until then, I have no additional information.

I hope this letter finds all of you well,

Kim A. Soladine

## Cancer fund for Harold Frost

From: Kim Soladine  
Date: Thu, Apr 9, 2009 at 3:19 PM

RSMA Members and friends,

I spoke with Nancy Frost last evening, and in our discussion, it has come to me that I am not the only person to have not read all the information in a letter sent seeking help for RSMA Past President, Harold Frost.

Apparently several of you have felt that I have information about the letter when I was nothing more then are you, just someone who received a letter.

Concerns ask of me were some of the following:

- Who is the person(s) sending this letter?
- What or who is this organization called "My Friends Care Cancer Fund"?
- How do we know this isn't a scam?
- Whose address is this that is listed on the letter?
- Why is the return address on the envelope different then that in the letter?
- Is my donation tax deductible?
- Can donations be sent directly to Harold?
- Can I just drop a donation in a can at a meeting and have it sent?

In re-reading the letter, most if not all these questions are addressed.

First, Harold and Nancy know of this letter and the request for help.

The woman available to answer questions and whose address is on the outside of the envelope is their daughter, Leah Watterson.

The "My Friends Care, Inc." address in the letter is P.O. Box set in place to receive donations for Harold.

My Friends Care, Inc. is a registered, nonprofit 501 (C) (3) that has helped transplant recipients in Michigan since 1989. Nancy told me it is not a National group, but helps only those persons in Michigan.

Donations can be sent to Harold, but those donations will be placed in this fund.

At future RSMA meetings, a can will be in place for those how wish to make donations.

If you have additional question, please contact:

Leah Watterson  
8011 108th St SE  
Middletown, MI 49333  
Phone 616-891-6915

or email her at: [Alh2oson@aol.com](mailto:Alh2oson@aol.com)

Those are all letter except the number 2.

Send donations to:

My Friends Care, Inc.  
P.O. Box 107  
Caledonia, MI 49316

I truly Hope this answers some of your questions,

Kim A. Soladine

317-409-1891

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## Announcements

The Rocky Forge News is available by E-mail and on our website (<http://www.rockyforge.org/>). If you wish to receive the newsletter via E-mail sent Dave Childress a note at [trollkeep@gmail.com](mailto:trollkeep@gmail.com), or e-mail directly to [rocky@rockyforge.org](mailto:rocky@rockyforge.org).

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## Classifieds

### Lost and Found

**Lost:** Warm Spring Weather. Last seen several weeks ago. Please Return!

**Found:** Sense of humor, slightly cracked and/or warped. Useful for creating bogus classified adds. If more desired, enquire at the Guild meeting.

**Missing:** Sanity. If found, please return to Jeff Rattray, Rocky Forge Webmaster and creator of the "Classified Adds" section. Muh-ha-ha-ha-ha! ☺

**This space available!**

**Your wit, wisdom or humor here!**

Amaze your *Friends* and Impress  
your *Relatives!*

To contribute to the Rocky Forge  
News, send articles to Dave  
Childress, Editor, at

[trollkeep@gmail.com](mailto:trollkeep@gmail.com)

or directly to the Guild at:

[rocky@rockyforge.org](mailto:rocky@rockyforge.org)

## DONATIONS WANTED!

If anyone has any unnecessary or unwanted items made of metal, ranging from used paper clips to second-hand railway locomotives, please consider giving them to:

**Ted Stout**

*"Because two buildings full of stuff isn't enough"*

... although it's a good start!

Anvils, hammers and tongs a specialty!

**Legal Notice:** These Classified Adds are for humorous and satirical purposes only, and are not, under any circumstances, to be taken seriously. Also, no one is to show the last one to Carol.

(reprinted with permission)

## Beginners Project - Heart Hook

Text and drawings by

**Larry Carrigan**

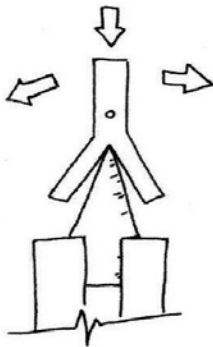
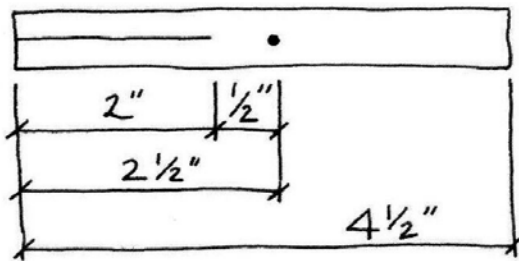
*Shady Maple Forge*

a M.A.B.A. member

### Set-Up

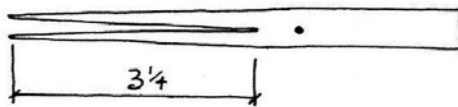
3/16" x 1/2" stock 4-1/2" long

Saw or hot-cut slot. Drill 3/16" dia hole.

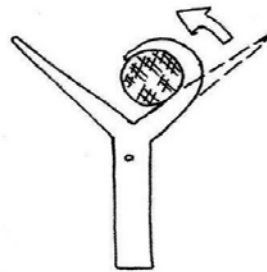
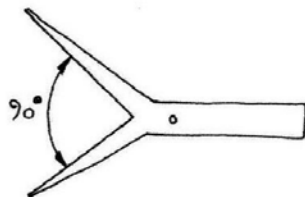


1) Open slot over cut-off hardy mounted in anvil.

Tap on the end and move from side to side.

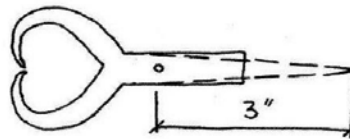


2) Draw out legs to approx. 3-1/4" (both the same)

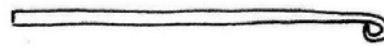


3) Open legs

4) Form over 3/4" dia mandrel or anvil horn.



5) Draw out other end from the hole. Be careful not to hit and collapse the hole.



6) Roll end with small rat tail scroll.



7) Form hook around 3/4" dia mandrel.



This is one possible way to save the project if the legs are different lengths when you finish drawing

them out.



Scroll the legs the other way for a Ram's Horn