



FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the "King of Crafts"

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths

www.vibblacksmiths.com



Kalvaitis (Kalvelis, Teliavelis)
Lithuanian god of blacksmithing

***Kalvaitis**, the heavenly smith, hammers at the end of the waters, or in the sky a ring or a crown for the Dawn, and a silver belt and golden stirrups for Dievas' sons. Every morning he hammers a new sun ("a ring," "a crown"). When he hammers in the clouds, silver pieces fall down upon the waters.*

In Baltic mythology, *Kalvaitis* or *Kalvelis* is a figure similar to *Hephaistos* in the Greek, *Volundr*, *Weland* in the Scandinavian, and *Ilmarinen* (also see page 8 this issue) in the Finnish mythologies. His hammer was gigantic. Jerome of Prague, a missionary in Lithuania, noted in 1431 that Lithuanians honoured not only the sun, but also the iron hammer of rare size, by whose aid the sun was said to have been freed from imprisonment. It is a Lithuanian tradition to decorate homes with a smith's piece of work, having had the warmth of a human hand in its production. Lithuanian smiths report it is an extraordinary feeling when firm meta (or iron) becomes soft and flowing in a person's hands. If you love iron it obeys you completely. In this way, a shapeless piece of iron can become a dream. There is hardly a thing impossible to forge.

COMING EVENTS

- October 26 2008.....meeting at Luxton
- November 30 2008.....meeting at Luxton

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2008 - Executive

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Submissions & Contributions

Submissions to "Forge" can be made at any monthly meeting or by snail mail to:

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President's Report

By: Charlie Dowdeswell



Presidents Report Charlie Dowdeswell October, 2008

With recognition of all members past and present, a very big thank you as VIBA celebrates its 21st anniversary year.

Hello everyone,

Well, another month has rolled around and the weather is definitely changing. The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting colder. This is the time of year when most of us start thinking about our winter project(s) and far beyond. After some reorganization and a lot of member dedication, our summer season is over and the rodeo and fall fairs were all very successful. Of course this brings us to the point where some of us are already planning for the next season.

My major task for the next season is to set up the previously approved, 'juried', traveling gallery. This gallery would mostly be set up in conjunction with each of the fairs and rodeos where we do our demonstrations. I think this is a step that V.I.B.A. can take that would advance the clubs mandate of promoting blacksmithing to the next level. The challenge of having items displayed and/or for sale in a juried

gallery is a big step and a challenge that I think many members of our club are ready for. Although it was brought up at the last meeting, and a special open meeting was held to discuss the concept at which it was approved, as there will be money involved, I will put it on the agenda for our monthly meeting on the 26th. For those that missed the special meeting it will be an opportunity to see where your club is breaking into new, but complementary, territory.

The shop is looking better by the week as Benoit works hard at organizing the 'straightening up' with advice and help from some of the 'regulars'.

I'm looking forward to seeing most of you at the next meeting that will be preceded by an executive meeting. Come out and meet our many new members.

Take care, Charlie

V.I.B.A. Executive

Pres.: Charlie Dowdeswell

Vice Pres.: Ray Orchard

Sec.: Charlie Low

Treas.: Norm Norby

Librarian: Skip Kennedy

Editor, 'The Forge' Dennis Gillette

Coordinators:

Mini Fairs/demos

Charlie Dowdeswell

Langford Family Summer Fair

Chair: Charlie Dowdeswell

Major Fairs and Rodeo

Coordinator: Neil Gustafson

Luxton Pro Rodeo

Chair: Dan Orton

Coombs Fall Fair

Chair: Dave Winestock

V.I.E.X. (Nanaimo)

Chair: Neil Gustafson

Saanich Fall Fair

Chair: Charlie Low

Luxton Fall Fair

Chair: Skip Kennedy

Flvin' Forge

Coordinator: Neil Gustafson

Stock: Dave W.

Prep: Neil G., Willy T.,

Charlie L., Charlie D.

Production Day

Coordinator: Willy Tobler

Assistants: Don S., Dennis G.,

Charlie D.

Shop Maintenance

Benoit Laurent : Coordinator

Assistants: Willy T., Keith K.,

Charlie L., Charlie D.

Mobile Gallery

Coordinator: Charlie Dowdeswell

Chair: Charlie Dowdeswell

Secretary's Report

By: Charlie Low



Viba meeting, Sept 27 '08

Show and tell: Ralph showed us several practice pieces he did working up to make a box to hold the rings for his son's wedding. They were dovetailed, and tack welded on the inside, and textured with a power hammer, using dies with texturing applied by spot welds.

Dave had the pieces made by Adrian and Henry at the Coombes fair. There were a long tailed leaf, a short tailed leaf, a seahorse, a heart, a snail and a bottle opener. We also got an honorable mention ribbon at Coombes

I brought a candle holder, and a pair of hooks I got at a garage sale, which retailed for \$12.99.

Charlie brought in a piece of railway spring which he had problems with. It had been burned, then quenched and broken.

New members: Dan Needham, Ed Fisher, Adam Kilback, John Power, Stu Leslie, Hazen Price, and Del Little

New business: Dave and Charlie D brought in the cash from sales and appearance fees from Coombes and Saanich. There were buckets-full.

There was discussion of requirements for granting life memberships. Among the matters discussed were length of service, with 15 years being suggested, degree of contributions, and that the benefit be brought up as a motion at a meeting and voted on.

Skip has copies of his book on the first 20 years of our club. He also has copies of 4 books donated by Doris Montgomery in memory of Jim. These are duplicates of books already in the library, and it was suggested that they be distributed among the membership, as a reward for service, or by raffle. He also has a couple of books for sale

It was suggested that there be regular executive meetings before the monthly meetings to clear up any problems that don't need the attention of the membership, and to set up the agenda for matters that do require your attention.

Skip and Frank pointed out that the Buy Sell and Trade lists blacksmithing equipment just now.

There was discussion of the membership list. Several of us found it awkward organizing staffing of the fairs, and new members suggested that if there were a copy of the list, preferably with photos and a brief resume of the people listed, it would make it a lot easier for them to figure out who

to turn to for help. It was pointed out that due to a recent problem, we are reluctant to make such a list fully public, but the suggestion was made to make hard copies and make them available in the shop. Dave volunteered to attend to this, with the original source of the basic list coming from Raynier and Norm. It was pointed out that there should be an option for any member to opt out of the public list.

Committee reports: Skip pointed out that to take books out of the library, one must be a member in good standing for 3 months, but that the new members were welcome to read the books at the shop.

The reports from the various fairs were brief, but the general picture was that we made very good money at almost all of them. Charlie D pointed out that having one person in charge of organizing each fair was very effective. The fairs were manned much better this year than in previous years. As well, there were, and will continue to be select individuals in charge of the flying forge, general stock, production days, and stock and equipment in the flying forge.

It was suggested that Benoit continue to be in charge of general maintenance, aided and abetted by the usual suspects.

It was also suggested that we should organize a traveling gallery of top end art to be shown at the fairs, in a separate tent, on plinths as necessary. The art would be juried by the West Shore Arts Council. Charlie D can put some time into it, and would like submissions from people who fancy their work. The pieces can be for sale, or not, at the discretion of the artist.

Treasurer's report: We are still nicely in the black, and when Norm gets all the cash from all the fairs deposited, we will be even better. Earl suggested that some money be spent on blacksmithing videos. The extension to the shop was not mentioned, but is still under contemplation.

Adjourned.

APRIL 23-26, 2009

Blacksmithing in Wine Country

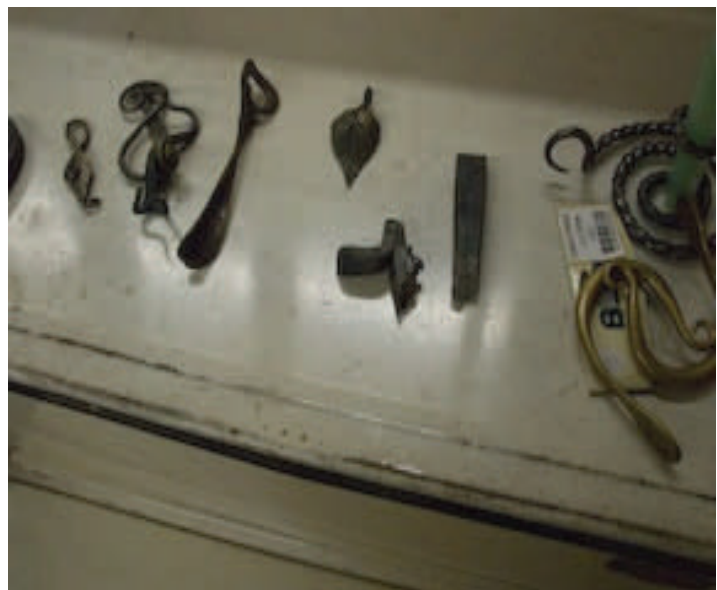
California Blacksmith Association 2009 Spring Conference, Petaluma, California (about 50 miles north of San Francisco), April 23-26, 2009. Demonstrators include Italian Blacksmiths, Claudio Bottero (Venice, Italy), Brothers Jadron & Martino Stenico (Rome, Italy), and American Smiths Tony Standteiner, Eric Clausen, Jill Turman and Andrew Kyte. Contact Lowell Chaput at lowell@sonic.net or visit our web site at www.calsmith.org for more information.

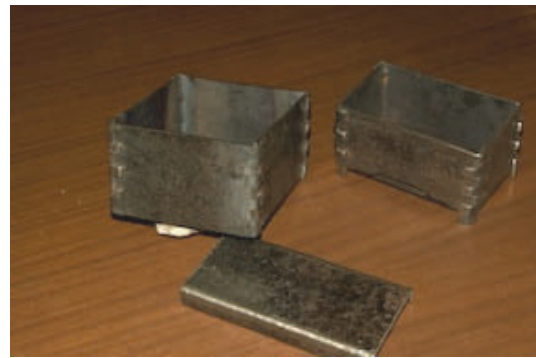
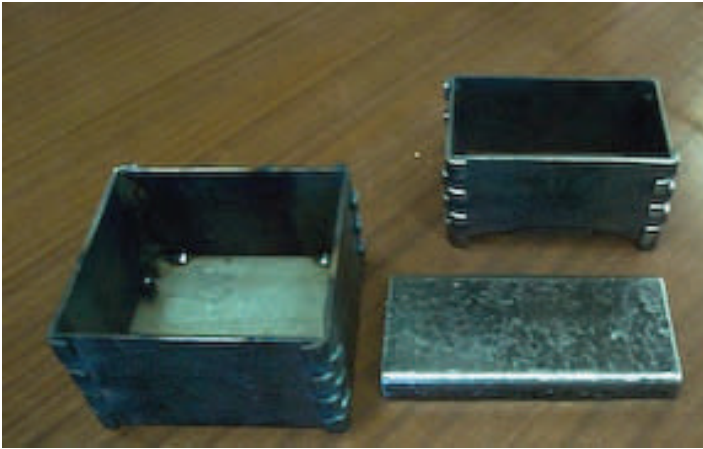
Show and Tell

Photos by C dowdeswell



Items made by Adrian and Henry at Coombs fair





Wedding ring box by Ralph G



Candlestick by Charlie Low

When Grinders go bad!!

Well, I had just placed a new sanding disk on on of my grinders, and I'm not sure exactly what happened, but the disk exploded while I was using it...

Here are the pictures of the disk, and what it did to my hand and stomach. All I can say is I'm glad I have enough Molson Muscle built up that I was not badly injured...

I'm fine, but I have to admit that I uttered a few words that I have not used for a while...

Raynier P



Napkin Rings and Tooling

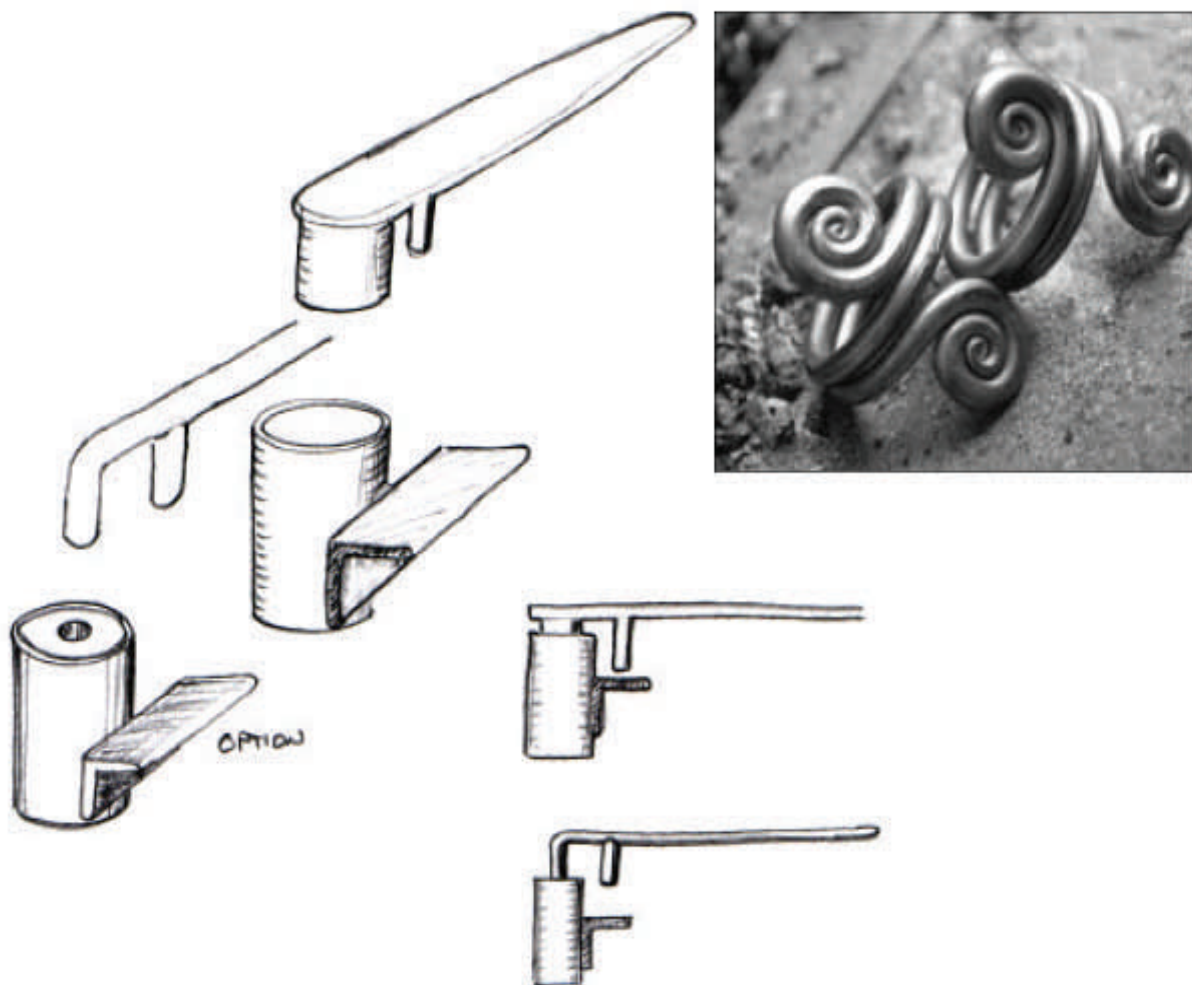
Here's an easy project that makes a great housewarming present. Once you have the tooling, they're quick to make as well.

I developed this design for napkin rings as a result of needing a low-cost yet good looking item to sell at art galleries, but these work well as a small gift for friends.

The most difficult part of these is determining the length of the scrolled rods before they're bent into rings. This dimension will change depending on the diameter of the bender, which is made from a section of 1-1/2" pipe.

Making the bender is a simple matter of welding a scrap of angle iron on to the side of a section of pipe that's about 3" long. You can further modify the bender by optionally welding a small pivot point in the center of the pipe. This will allow you to use a regular bending fork in the bender. I've used a big roller bearing for this job, but anything with about 1/2" ID would work. Otherwise you can use a pipe sleeve that just fits inside the bender but you won't be able to use the handle for much else.

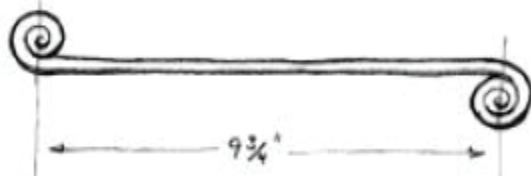
The handle part of the bender is pretty straightforward. I used the sleeved pipe method, but I wish I'd included the pivot. You may also wish to sleeve the bending pin with copper tubing or other soft metal to keep from scratching your napkin rings, but I haven't tried this.



Once you've built your bender, make a couple test rings. The sizes that you'll end up using may vary, but I'll give you the stock measurements that I use as a starting point.

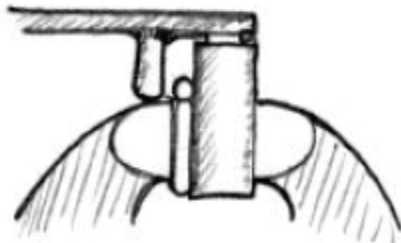
I cut a few 16" pieces of 1/4" round and taper each end. Scroll one end, then turn it around and scroll the other end. These scrolls are so small that I do them freehand, starting over the edge of the anvil and moving to the vise to tighten things up. I have tried making a tiny scroll form, but it didn't work too well... it wasn't strong enough. If you want to go that route, maybe using spring steel would work.

The length of the scrolled piece is important. If it's too long or short, the scrolls won't line up in the finished piece. My bender has an outside diameter of about 1-1/4", and for this particular bender the center of the scrolls need to be 9-3/4" apart, but again, yours may be different. As it happens, this is the distance from the leading edge of my anvil to the forward edge of my hardy hole, so I can use my anvil as a ruler.



Measuring the napkin rings

Once you have a piece scrolled, set up to bend one. The first one will really be to check your measurements, and will most likely come out too short or too long. Clamp the lower part of one of the scrolls against the bender in the vise as shown below.



The napkin ring and bender clamped in the vise



Now spin the handle around and bend up a ring. If you're lucky, you'll make two turns around the bender and end up with the two scrolls lining up on the same plane to form a S shape. It will most likely be a little off... this you can fix with a little hammering to compress or stretch the ring as necessary. If it's more than slightly off, though, you need to adjust your measurements. Figure out how much to add or subtract, and throw the test ring away... you'll spend twice as much time trying to fix one as you would making a new one from scratch. I know, I've tried it.

Once you have made one that lines up correctly, do yourself a favor and stamp the measurement directly onto the bender so you won't lose or forget it. I've done both.

You're not quite done yet. Wrapping the ring around the bender causes the steel to twist, and this twist makes the scrolls want to lean back into the ring too much. It's an easy fix, as shown below...



Clamp the napkin ring with the scrolls facing up, not too tight



And give it a whack with a hammer

Now wire brush all over, and give it a few coats of your favorite finish... I spray with clear Rustoleum®. Take these to your next housewarming party, and people will ask you about blacksmithing all night long. Tell them about ABANA!



Remember this fellow from the March 2008 issue of the Forge? He is the Finnish god of blacksmithing **Ilmarinen**. It seems our own **Neil Gustafson** and wife **Liane** travelled to Helsinki, Finland and St Petersburg, Russia this summer and provided the following photos of their trip.



The three blacksmith statue in Helsinki, Finland. It is supposed to represent hard work and unity...but Liane says the local folklore is that the anvil will ring when a virgin walks by. It was, of course, totally silent when Neil was standing there in the above photo.



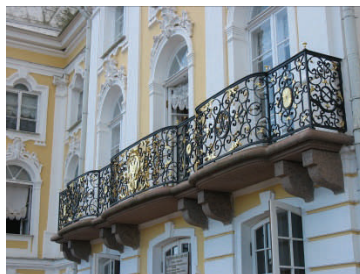
Neil and Matti Koverola, Finnish blacksmith selling his stuff in the public market in Helsinki. .



One of Matti's knives and holder that Neil bought. Handle from reindeer antler



Examples of the quality of work seen in the streets of Helsinki and St Petersburg



**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association
Membership Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov./State: _____

Post/Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____

Are you a: New Member Renewal

Regular Membership \$30.00 Annually

Contributory Member \$100.00 Annually

Members are required to sign a Liability Waiver
Make cheques or money orders payable to:

**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc. (VIBA)
1040 Marwood Avenue
Victoria, BC CANADA
V9C 3C4**

**Artist Blacksmiths Assoc. of North America
Membership Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____

Full Time Student.....\$35./year

Regular Membership.....\$45./year

Senior Citizen (age 65+).....\$40./year

Overseas Surface Mail.....\$60./year

Oversea Air Mail.....\$80./year

Contributory Membership.....\$100./year

Public Library Subscription.....\$35./year

Credit Card Payment

Card No. _____

Visa Mastercard

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

by Phone: 865 546-7733

Mail: ABANA, P.O. Box 3425

Knoxville, TN, USA, 37927-3425

New England School of Metalwork
Winter Session Workshops 2088-2009
November 9-12, 2008 , March 20-23, 2009
Basic Blade Forging
December 4-8, 2008, April 3-6, 2009
Beginners Blacksmithing
January 23-26, 2009> Forged Tools of the Blacksmith
February 6-9, 2009> Forged Botanical Forms
February 20-23, 2009> Pattern Welded Steel
March 6-9, 2009> Open Forge for Beginners
April 17-20, 2009> Creative Joinery

See the website for class details, call to register 1-888-753-7502 or online at
www.newenglandsofmetalwork.com ,
please direct inquiries to:
dglaser@newenglandsofmetalwork.com

There's an invitation from Luc Vandecasteele to all blacksmiths to come the Forge-in he's hosting to mark the 10th anniversary of the Belgian Smiths Guild; as he says, have a look at their website www.smedersgilde.be/ (they've put a dramatic photograph of Sergiy and Olga Polubotko's workshop after the flood started to go down right on the front of their website - and I hear that they're sending financial and practical aid to the Polubotko's.)

Click on the third button down on the left, [Agenda] and then scroll all the way to the bottom for the details of the event thanks, Luc!