# SVBG\*

#### Now and Then

### Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild October 2016

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**Editor's Notes:** Ray and I wish to again say "THANKS" for all of the loving outreach we have received and continue to receive since our barns burnt down and Ray got injured on July 4. We truly hope that your summer was not as eventful as ours, or if it was that your events were pleasant! The weather seems to have finally turned, so you can get your hammer out now and have fun without feeling like you are melting.

SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com

#### **Club Information**

#### **Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith's Guild Mission Statement:**

- \* Preserve traditional blacksmith and metalworking skills through educational offerings to its members and the community at large.
- \* Serve as a clearinghouse for information techniques tools and training programs for any individual interested in hot-worked metals.
- \* Facilitate educational opportunities and demonstrations for the general public, especially area children.
- \* Share practical skills experiences and techniques with beginner and experienced blacksmiths alike.
- \* Provide a forum for creative problem solving of metalworking issues as well as stimulate and inspire burgeoning smiths.
- \* Provide these services to all who share an interest in blacksmithing regardless of sex, race, age, religious beliefs, national origin, or level of blacksmithing knowledge or experience.
- \* Show and compare completed work or get suggestions on work in progress.

#### **SVBG Board of Directors**

President...Dewey Baker contact preference through email: chevy38truck@gmail.com or message him on Facebook by typing in Dewey Baker and messaging him; if you must contact him by phone only call between 8 am & 8 pm at (540) 421-5510; He is unable to be reached by phone on Monday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Boy Scout Meetings and the 1st and 2nd Tuesday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Ruritan Meetings

Shop Master...Everette Burkholder (540) 879-9260

Secretary/Treasurer...Karen Robertson (434) 989-2206 email: ksrobertson7@gmail.com

Librarian...Daniel Burkholder (540) 879-9260

Safety Officer...Matt Williams (910) 465-0463 email: stonecrestforge@gmail.com

Web Master...Darrell Gilman email: web.svbg.darrell@gmail.com

Photographer...Dirk Gold email: dirkgold@gmail.com Coal Manager...Ed Fleming email: flemishfoke@hotmail.com

Facebook Administrators... Drew Alexander email: magicdrew88@gmail.com

Dale Morse email: vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor...Susan Plank (540) 896-1232 email: SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com

Guild Master - Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing, Dale Morse (434) 960-9718

email: vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

#### **Club Information - Continued**

#### More information on the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild can be found at these locations:

and

On Facebook, like us at Shenandoah Valley Blacksmithing Guild

#### **2016 SVBG Calendar of Events**

#### Has occurred:

Now and Then

January	14th Monthly Meeting - James Spurgeon demonstrated "Venturi Style Propane Forge Burner"
February	11th Monthly Meeting - Lanny Campbell demonstrated "Brian Brazeal's Crane" 27th - Boone Pasture Party Hammer In held in Louisa, VA
March	10th Monthly Meeting - Dale Morse demonstrated "Leaf"
April	<ol> <li>14th Monthly Meeting - Beginner and Mentor Night</li> <li>Drew Alexander</li> <li>Matt Williams mentored "Hooks"</li> <li>Daniel Burkholder mentored "Tongs"</li> <li>if needed, Dewey Baker</li> <li>16th, 17th &amp; 18th-Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac Spring Fling 2016 in Berryville, VA; Demonstrators were - Jymm Hoffman and Colonial Williamsburg Gunsmith, Richard Sullivan</li> </ol>
May	12th Monthly Meeting - Jerry Veneziano demonstrated "Mermaid from Farrier's Rasp" 21st & 22nd - Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland Blacksmith Days in Westminster, MD; Demonstrators were Shel Browder, retired Colonial Williamsburg Blacksmith, and James Michael "Mike" Walker
June	9th Monthly Meeting - Bill Fox demonstrated a "Candle Holder"
July	23 SVBG Work Day - at Al McDorman's new smithy 14th Monthly Meeting - Ray Plank was going to demonstrate a "Rasp Snake," but Daniel Burkholder replaced Ray and demonstrated "Copper Sieve". Thanks Daniel!
August	11th Monthly Meeting - James Spurgeon demonstrated building "Burner Flare-Firebrick Forge" 15th through 20th - Rockingham County Fair
September	8th Monthly Meeting - Beginner and Mentor Night 1. Ray Plank mentored "One heat leaf" 2. Matt Williams mentored "Hooks"
October	13th Monthly Meeting - Jim Oates demonstrated a "Forged Mason Jar Handle"

#### Still to look forward to:

November	10th Monthly Meeting - Al McDorman demonstrates
December	8th Monthly Meeting - Rudy Dean demonstrates "Mokame"

#### Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild October 2016

#### **Meeting Notes**

#### SVBG May Monthly Meeting Jerry Veneziano demonstrated a "Mermaid from a Farrier's Rasp" pictures by Dirk Gold









Lori Wagner and Jerry Veneziano



Ray Plank and Jerry Veneziano



SVBG June Monthly Meeting Bill Fox demonstrated a "Candle Holder" pictures by Dirk Gold



















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#### **Meeting Notes - Continued**

#### SVBG September Monthly Meeting "Beginner - Mentor Night"

pictures by Dirk Gold and Susan Plank

The SVBG September monthly meeting was "Beginner - Mentor Night." It was nice to see our old faithfuls and quite a few visitors old and new at this meeting. The homemade refreshments were enjoyed by all. Ray Plank and Matt Williams mentored those who wanted to try their hand at hammering. Ray had them hammering a one heat leaf and Matt had them hammering a hook. This is one of two meetings during the year where talking and visiting does not interfere with the demonstration and we seemed to have taken good advantage of this.



Dewey Baker, 2016 SVBG President, and Karen Robertson, 2016 SVBG Secretary/Treasurer



Steven Cupan, Jason
Weaver, Jim Burcin, Ed
Fleming, Ray Plank,
Buster Lovegrove,
Lanny Campbell, Jason
Campbell, Paul
Bisgaard, Jim Oates,
Rudy Dean, Bob Welch,
Tom Harris, Brandy
Jenkins, Andrew
Jenkins, Dorman Wyant



Delicious homemade refreshments by Eva Burkholder



Lori Wagner mentored by Ray Plank



Matt Williams mentoring Dave Metzler



Bob Welch mentored by Ray Plank



Matt Williams mentoring Steven Cupan



Jadynn May mentored by Ray Plank

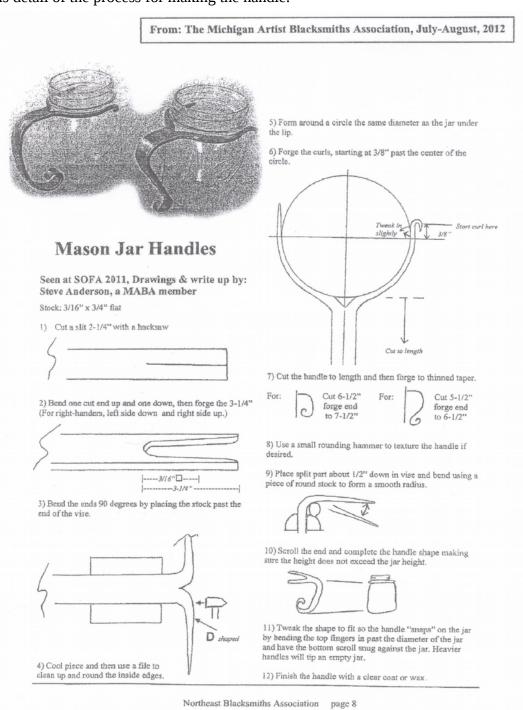
#### **Meeting Notes - Continued**

SVBG October Monthly Meeting

#### Jim Oates demonstrated "Mason Jar Handle"

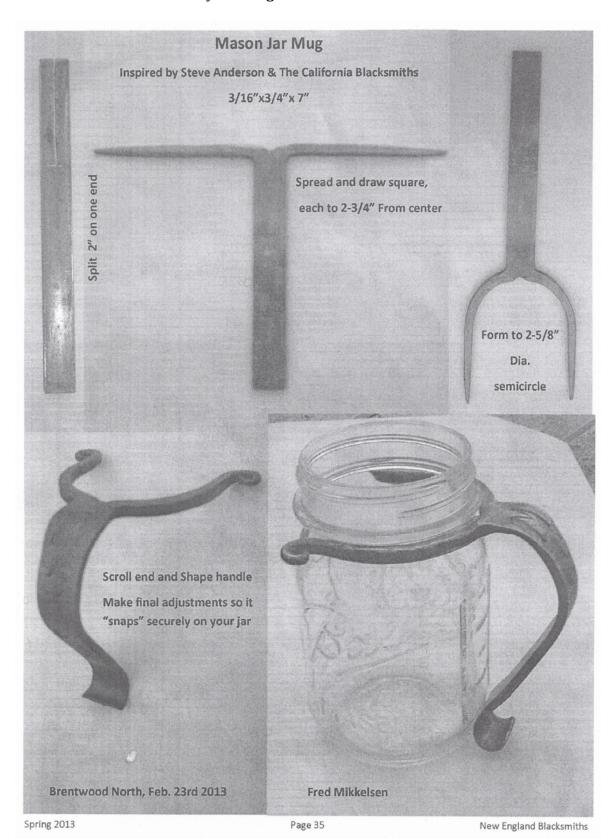
article from Jim Oates

Mason jar handles are a good way to use old jars for new things. Below is a set of instructions that are a good starting point, but after spending time with Dave and Lanny I learned to make the starting slot about 2 inches instead of 2½ inches if you taper them to a point since they tend to get a little too long. The overall length is not critical as long as the last bend is not below the bottom of the jar. It is also advantageous to draw a circle using the jar top as a template and locate the center and draw two 90 degree lines to align the handle and make sure the forks are round enough to stay under the lip. This can also be used to determine if there is enough past the centerline to hold the jar in place. Attachment is detail of the process for making the handle.



#### **Meeting Notes - Continued**

#### Jim Oates SVBG October Monthly Meeting Demonstration "Mason Jar Handle" - Continued



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#### **General Notes**

#### **SVBG Workday and Picnic**

article and pictures by Susan Plank

The SVBG Workday and Picnic was held this year on July 23, 2016 at Al McDorman's new smithy. It was a HOT, HOT, HOT time in the county side that day! Many thanks go out to the 30 SVBG members who braved the heat and made the day a success...Drew Alexander, Shelvin Arey, Dewey and Meta Baker, Jackson Fellows, Ed and Janet Fleming and Olin Burkholder, Bill and Patty Fox, Darrell and Nate Gilman,

Frank Habay, Linda and Dallas Leffel, Rich Little, Buster Lovegrove, Larry Martin, Al McDorman, Dave McKinnon, Alfred and Janet Meyer, Dale Morse, Jim Oates, Ray and Susan Plank, Dave Potter, Karen Robertson and Dale Stickler, and Bob Welch. Al showed the Quilt Rack plans and also had available some hook designs for the day's work on our donations for the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale. Work was divied up, everyone hung in there and tried to stay as cool as much as was humanly possible on such a miserable day! For as hot as it was, the pot luck lunch was well received and delicious. Donations to the Iron-in-the-Hat had quite a varied selection as usual and ticket sales went well. Ray and Susan Plank were speechless [and we all know how hard it is to make me speechless] and overwhelmed when the guild presented the \$331.00 from the Iron-in-the-Hat earnings and a donation to help replace our blacksmith tools and supplies that were lost in the barn fire on July 4. Al, Lanny and Dave on a couple of additional days, tweaked and assembled the quilt rack. Larry and Ray completed hooks for the walnut coat rack board that Everette and Daniel made. Ray assembled the coat rack. Thanks to all of you for making this day GREAT!



Al's new smithy Wind Field Farm and Studio



Al McDorman and Karen Robertson



Shelvin Arey, Linda Leffel, Jim Oates, Ray Plank and Bob Welch



Olin Burkholder, Janet Fleming, Dave McKinnon, Ed Fleming



Buster Lovegrove, Dallas Leffel and Drew Alexander



Bill Fox, Patty Fox, Ray Plank and Jim Oates peruse the Iron-in-the-Hat tables



Drew Alexander, Dave Potter, Janet Meyer, Frank Habay and Ray Plank during lunch



Bill Fox, Patty Fox and Dewey Baker in a shady spot

#### **General Notes - Continued**

#### SVBG Donations to Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale were well received pictures by Susan Plank

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the SVBG once again donated the SVBG Work Day items to the 50th annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale held on October 1, 2016. Lanny, Susan and Ray took care of the required Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale donation paperwork. Ray and Susan dropped off the items. The relief sale auction volunteers profusely thanked us and asked that we pass on to the SVBG their appreciation for this years items and for the many other items the SVBG has donated over the years. They said they would gratefully accept any other donations we wish to continue to contribute to their annual relief sale. Quite a few of our SVBG members attended this year's Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale. The quilt rack brought a high bid of \$475.00 and the coat rack brought a high bid of \$105.00. The annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale raises money for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for relief of suffering in the world. Thanks again to all who helped on the items!







#### **Items of Interest**

#### **BLACKSMITH ITEMS FOR SALE:**

Phil Travis, Dragon's Breath Forge, is only about an hour north of Harrisonburg, Virginia located at 376 Boom Road, Berryville, VA 22611 and has available the blacksmith items shown and listed below. He can be reached by email at Phil.Travis@verizon.net or by home phone (540) 955-3380 or by cell phone (256) 348-6489. You can set up a time to visit Phil and shop till you drop! [Note: Susan wrote this up, so if any prices are incorrect, please do not hold Phil accountable.]



Phil Travis Dragon's Breath Forge



Anvil - London Pattern 82 lbs cost \$280.00



Anvil - Block cost \$50.00



Anvil T-Stake cost \$80.00



Small Fire Pot 6"x9"x3" cost assembled \$175 or cost unassembled \$150



Swedge Block 7"x7"x3" on faces - spoons and ladles and on sides - hex, round, V & Taper round cost \$125.00



Swedge Block Skillet cost \$100.00



Swedge Block Thistle Pattern Shovel cost \$30.00



Swedge Block Straight Sided Shovel cost \$30



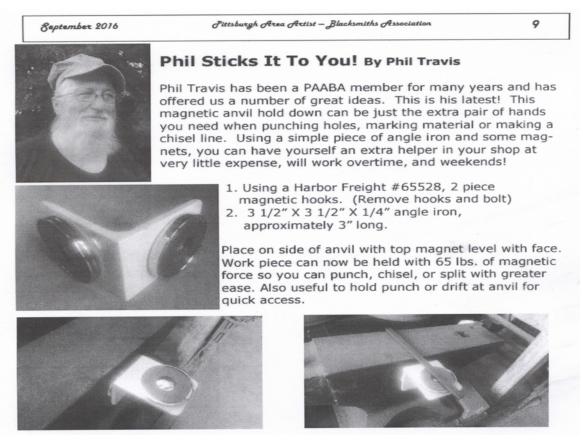
**Guiletine Tool** cost \$75.00

#### **Items of Interest - Continued**

#### Blacksmith Tip -

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association in their October 2016 newsletter on page 39 reprinted this article from page 9 of the Pittsburgh Area Artist - Blacksmith Association September 2016 newsletter. The idea looked cool, so I am passing it on to you.

The idea comes from one of our SVBG members, Phil Travis.



If you have a blacksmith tip you would like to have shared, please send it to me by email at SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com

#### **Blacksmith classes:**

1. Our SVBG Guild Master, **Dale Morse**, at Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing located at 200 West 12th Street in Waynesboro, Virginia 22980 has various classes. For any questions regarding his classes, call (434) 960-9718 or email him through info@vablacksmithing.org

October 29 - 30, 2016 Beginning Blacksmithing: Hook Rack and Candlestick November 12 - 13, 2016 Metalsmithing: Intro to Stone Setting - Faceted Stone November 19, 2016 Metalsmithing: Fold-Forming

November 19 -20, 2016 Beginning Blacksmithing: Tips and Tricks of the Anvil

December 3, 2016 Metalsmithing: Etched and Pierced Jewelry

December 17 - 18, 2016 Beginning Blacksmithing: Build a Hatchet

December 31, 2016 - January 1, 2017, 2016 Beginning Blacksmithing: Build a Spear

January 21 - 22, 2017 Beginning Blacksmithing: Build a Helmet

2. **Phil Travis**, Dragon's Breath Forge, has no fall blacksmith classes. Next year, probably beginning late March, you can look forward to taking blacksmith classes with him. I may not know how to correctly locate his class schedule, but will verify with Phil and put more info in the January 2017 SVBG Newsletter. Phil's blacksmith class information, I believe, will be located on Facebook under Opus Oaks Artisan Workshop at gale.bowman-harlow@opusoaks.org

# Now and Then Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild October 2016

#### **Items of Interest - Continued**

#### Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith members at large -

**Dewey & Meta Baker, Ray & Susan Plank, and Lance & Donna Arey** - demonstrated at the *Rockingham County Fair* during the week of August 15 through August 20, 2016. Shelvin was supposed to hammer, but got tackled during football practice during the week and was healing up. He is doing better now! Grant Pennybacker was unable to hammer this year due to showing his animals and participating in shooting contests. Even though they were not hammering, lots of SVBG members stopped by to give us encouragement - Shelvin Arey, Wes Auville, Becky & Chris and sons, Caden, Christopher, and Bo Cramer [Dewey & Meta's daughter and grandsons] Darrell Gilman, Angela & Katelynn Leffel, Jeremy & Annette Liskey, Larry Martin, Grant Pennybacker and his mom, Brooke, and stepdad, Josh. I apologize if I missed someone, let me know if you dropped by when I wasn't there or maybe I was there and just forgot..it was very hot and my brain was fried!



unknown boy, Chris Cramer, Bo Cramer, Becky Cramer, Dewey Baker, Christopher Cramer, Caden Cramer



Ray Plank demonstrating



Annette & Jeremy Liskey and Ray Plank



Lance Arey demonstrating and Ray Plank waiting to crank

**Drew Alexander** - War Branch Forge - demonstrated blacksmithing while selling his wares on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the *Broadway Farmers' Market*.



Drew Alexander War Branch Forge Blacksmithing



Drew's hammering drew onlookers



Ray Plank watching Drew's demonstration



Good grief...I only walked a way for a short time! Ray just couldn't stand not hammering!

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#### **Items of Interest - Continued**

#### Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith members at large - continued

**Larry Martin** demonstrated "Forging Peace - Guns to Garden Tools" for RAWTOOLS.org at the *Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale* on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Larry's donated Steiner Tractor that he made during the summer while recuperating from a broken arm brought a hefty \$275.00 bid.



Larry Martin
"Forging Peace Guns to Garden Tools"



Larry Martin with RAWTools.org



Marty Miller visiting with Larry Martin



Jeff, an employee of Kreider Four Seasons, (aka The Steiner Store) talks with Larry about his Steiner Tractor

**Jim Oates and Buster Lovegrove** demonstrated at *Churchville Days* on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Jim says once again they had a bit of trouble getting the fire started, but after getting the fire started, things went smoothly. Last year *Churchville Days* was rained out so Jim and Buster still had some of their "give aways" on hand; Jim had about 8 or 9 hearts and Buster had about 30 miniature horseshoes. They were grateful that some items were ready, because they were kept busy making and giving out about 40 "Ray" style horseshoe nail hearts and about the same amount of miniature horseshoes with onlookers initials. A couple kids decided to join to try their hand at hammering. From the pictures, everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Jim and Buster received the *Churchville Days* Award for "Best Exhibit." Well done guys! [pictures by Jim Oates]



Trouble getting fire started



Buster giving away a miniature horseshoe



One of the kids trying their hand at hammering



Enthusiastic onlookers



Buster discussing blacksmithing



The kid looking over his finished project

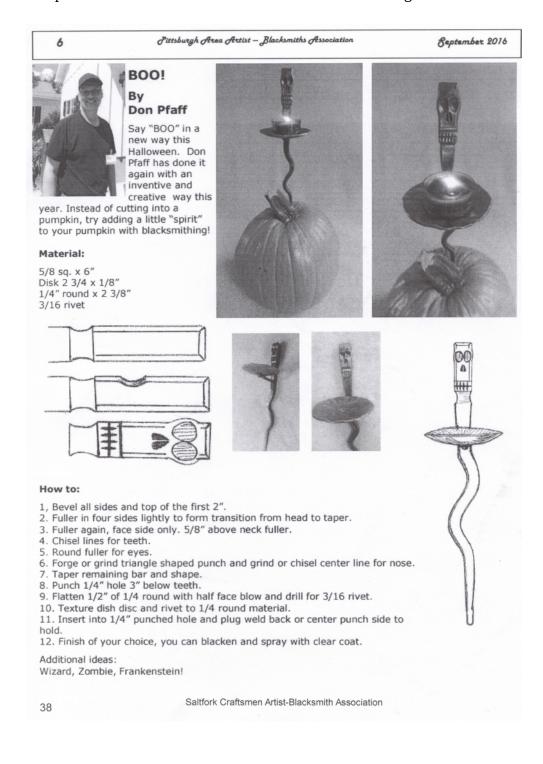
#### **Items of Interest - Continued**

#### Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith members at large - continued

**Al McDorman** - Wind Field Farm and Studio - for the second time, as a blacksmith and carver, was a juried exhibitor in *The Barn Art and Craft Show* on Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16, 2016. John D. Robson, a woodworker, has hosted for 31 years this annual event at his barn studio in Timberville, Virginia. This is the oldest craft show like it held in the Shenandoah Valley. Al while talking with John was told that an estimated 1,000 people were in attendance over the weekend. With that many people, Al showed off, told about and sold a lot of his wares.

#### Blacksmithing Idea for the coming holiday -

Here is a cool blacksmithing idea that Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association in their October 2016 newsletter on page 38 reprinted from page 6 of the Pittsburgh Area Artist - Blacksmith Association September 2016 newsletter. Thanks Don Pfaff for sharing!



#### Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild

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#### **Items of Interest - Continued**

## Ray and Susan's July 4th, 2016 Barn Fire Update and Ray's Tool Shopping List

article by Susan Plank

Ray and I again wish to say "THANK YOU" to all of our blacksmithing friends for your loving outreach and support after our barn fires and Ray's second degree burns happened on July 4. We have been overwhelmed with many gifts of tools - blacksmith and otherwise. With the monetary gifts from individuals and our Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild, we purchased two replacement anvils and various blacksmith tools and supplies. We converted the wood shed into a makeshift workshop. It has no electricity or doors so I don't think Ray will be spending a lot of time there this winter, but he has a space for some of his replacement stuff. We do have now a large and small generator so that he can run the tools he has. Our damaged utility trailer is storing the portable forge he saved, "new" post vise, "new" hand grinder and one of the two replacement anvils. We have received our insurance check and have almost completed cleanup. At this point we are unsure what the county will let us rebuild shop wise. Lots of people have asked what can they do and or what tools Ray will be replacing. Here is Ray's tool shopping list. Since we have some tools for Ray to work with now, nothing on this list is urgent. Again, for your sake, I hope you never have to deal with a fire loss. It is amazing how many of our friends have had a fire or have family or other friends who have been devastated by fire loss. Please check your insurance and make sure you are covered for the proper value amount for what you own now and have replacement cost coverage without proof of replacement. Take pictures of what you own and store them in more than one location, these will be invaluable as proof of what you owned. Taking a shop video will work well also. If you need to reach us, our phone number is (540) 896-1232. Please leave a message if we don't answer. We do not have a computer at home with email capacity, but I can get my neighbor to check my email address SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com and through December, Ray can be reached through email at work rsplank@sentara.com

Ray's Tool Shopping List [just a note - Ray does not like battery powered tools]:

Blacksmith tools - we purchased some blacksmith tools and think we are okay at the present on these (Ray will be trying to clean up some tools that he thinks are salvageable with lots of wire brushing and tweaking. The list may change as he sees what he still needs next year.)

Wood cutting band saw - we think we have a source to buy this

heat treating Ray's blacksmith hammer heads - we think we have a source for this

heat treating Post vise springs

No Weld Grinder Sander parts to make (Susan will be making him get this before Christmas)

Various 2" x 72" sanding belts

Craftsman Milling table for our Craftsman drill press

Vise for use in the Craftsman Milling table

1 Metal cutting band saws (prefers the style that swings) - we have a Porta Band 8" Dividers

Horseshoe nails regular - size 16, 12 and 10 - we think we have a source to buy these Shop rolls of sanding paper - grits 220, 320, 400 and 600

(had 1" and 1½" wide with and without adhesive backing, but will use whatever size)

Metal cutting Miter Saw (sometimes referred to as a chop saw)

Electric 12" Miter Saw (wood)

3 - Makita %" electric hand drill - we have now 1 Craftsman %" and 1 Black & Decker ¼"

Air powered impact wrench

Air powered palm sander (for stick-on pads)

#### **Items of Interest - Continued**

#### Ray's Tool Shopping List - continued [just a note - Ray does not like battery powered tools]:

Air powered cutting wheel (this is kind of like a Dremel tool)

Air powered nibbler

7 1/4" Metal cutting blades - carborundum blades

Assorted saw blades for a 10" Craftsman radial arm saw

Wood rasps - various

Wood files - various

Metal files - various

220V Lincoln Stick Welder

6013 and 7018 Welding rods (1/8" electrodes)

220V Mig Welder - flux core - no gas is okay

Big Wish List - Tig Welder that has tig and stick capabilities

Cables - 3/8" to 1/2" diameter from 20' to 30' (towing and pulling)

Heavy duty metal shelves

Heavy duty metal chest of drawers (for hand tools like ratchets, sockets, etc.)

Heavy duty metal cabinets

Two burner wood stove - we think we have a source for this

Propane cooker - we think we can get this in the Spring from Randy's Do It Best

Propane hose 6' to 8' long

Jigsaw blades

Tap and Die Set (not made in China) - old style is great

Dremel Brand Dremel tool and Dremel tool set

6' step ladder

Paint rollers, roller covers and paint pan

Paint brushes (multi use) - 3", 2½", 2" straight and angled, 1½" straight and angled

(old style) Plastic gas cans (without new safety features) 1, 2 and 5 gallon

VISE grips brand Vise grips 8" curved jaw and Vise grips 8" straight jaw

Hammer - lead - we think we have a source for this

(old style) Metal outlet strips

If you have duplicates or pieces you no longer use, we'll be happy to buy them from you.

Thanks,

Ray and Susan Plank

