

# SOFA SOUNDS

Volume II, Issue 8

February-March, 2003

Published six times yearly by Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil

*Larry Wood, Jeff Morrison Okay*

## SOFA

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Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil, a Chapter of the Artist  
Blacksmiths Association of North America

Larry Wood had open-heart surgery in late February and at last report, was giving the hospital a hard time wanting out. He is on the mend and at this writing, continues to recover at home.

Jeff Morrison had surgery to repair many years of damage to his back. The surgery was a success but complications with blood clots forced him back to the hospital for a week to treat them. He has recovered and is back to work and back to work on this publication.

As always, the SOFA Board of Directors has planned many activities for 2003. Gas forge, power hammer, Damascus, and basic blacksmithing workshops are all on tap this year.

After diligent search, a new newsletter editor has been found and as it turns out, I (Jeff Morrison) am being retained as Editor. My priorities have been rearranged due to my back surgery and as I cannot work at the forge or on any of my other stuff, I have plenty of time to continue to work on the newsletter. Steve Roth had lined up a new formatter/printer, so watch for some exciting changes in the look of the SOFA Sounds later this year.

## *Contributing Editor's Corner*

### *Jeff Morrison, Contributing Editor, SOFA Sounds*

It is my honor and privilege to continue to be Editor of SOFA Sounds. I approached the Board at the March meeting and asked if I could continue as Editor and they agreed. My plans for utilizing my extra time have been postponed due to a some surgery I had the week of January 14, 2003.

As many of you noticed at the January meeting, I was not getting around to well. By the end of the following week, I was in agonizing pain and had no feeling in my left leg. I was admitted to the hospital and had tests done for a week and back surgery to remove 2 discs, relieve stenosis and to rebuild several other areas in my lower back. I won't be doing any blacksmithing for awhile if ever again. So much for all that 10 foot tall and bullet-proof bullshit of my youth. I got just what I asked for.

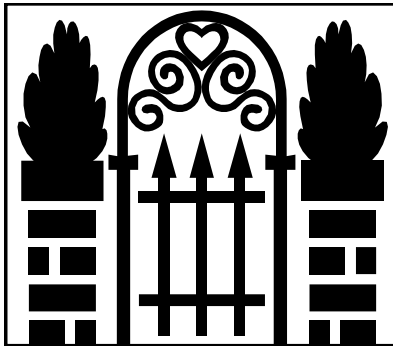
My thanks go out to my surgeon, Dr. Rebecca Brightman, for putting me back on my feet. My

legs are returning to normal and my back in spite of having a zipper 10" long, has never felt better.

Dr. Brightman asked me several questions about what I did for a living and what I did for fun. Her expression changed when I mentioned

blacksmithing and did not think it was something I may want to tackle for quite awhile. When she said that I was perhaps hours away from being permanently paralyzed, the light went off.

Take care of your back, because you sure can't do anything without it.



Now you will have to return to listening to me holler for articles and pictures to put in the newsletter. Make it easy on yourself and just send them to me and I will be quiet.

## *The Sofa Organization*

Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil (SOFA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, enhancing and protecting the art of Blacksmithing. We are a chapter of the Artists Blacksmiths Association of North America.

SOFA is governed by a seven member Board of Directors that meets once a month in conjunction with the monthly club meeting.

Unless otherwise noted, the monthly club meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month starting at 1:00 pm. The clubhouse is located near the North entrance of the Miami Co. Fairgrounds in Troy, Ohio.

Dues are \$10.00 per year and includes 6 issues of the SOFA Sounds newsletter and access to club forging facilities.

Members are encouraged to bring guests and anyone

with an interest in the forging of metal and the tooling to make items out of steel will find our meetings most interesting. It must be understood by all that blacksmithing and the tools and methodologies involved with its practice can be dangerous and basic safety rules apply at all SOFA functions. Eye and ear protection must be worn when viewing or participating in blacksmithing.

***Any articles relating to metalworking past and present will be welcomed by the editor for publication in SOFA Sounds. Old clippings and pictures will be handled with utmost care and personally returned to the owner. Contact Jeff Morrison, Editor, SOFA Sounds, 17483 St. Rt. 161 W, Plain City, Oh 43064, (614) 873-1888, Jjmorrison5@cs.com.***

# *Monthly Meeting Demonstrators*

## *Dec., 2002. Jan., Feb., Mar., 2003*

In the next issue of SOFA Sounds, I will go into detail on the excellent demonstrations these gentlemen gave at the December, 2002, January, 2003, February, 2003 and the March 2003 monthly meetings at the SOFA clubhouse.

The SOFA Board has really gone all out to provide some really great demonstrators for our monthly meetings. In December, 2002, we had Michael Bendele from Delphos, OH. Mike has been blacksmithing full-time since 1987 with Joe Bonifas. He was for a time the smith at Souder Village in Archbold, Oh. Mike made a small leaf on the end of a piece of 1/8" x 3/4" flat bar.

Mike's key to reducing scale and avoiding its effects on the finished product is proper fire management. He uses tung oil and spray-on lacquer for most of his finishes.



Mike Bendele



Joseph Bonifas

The January, 2003 demonstrator was Joe Bonifas from Spencerville, Oh. Joe is a former art teacher who has been sculpting fine art since 1978.

Joe likes to use the power hammer to perform many of the functions that do not effect the aesthetic value of the piece. For his demonstration, he made a set of Rob Gunter-type tongs using some unique tooling that was strapped to the bottom die of the power hammer.

Joe also used short, Hofi-styled punches to punch the hole for the rivet joint for the tongs. He prefers to use S-7 steel for all his cutting tools.

To avoid cold shuts in the areas around the jaws of the tongs, avoid sharp edges in the offsets. Deal with sharp edges before continuing to avoid weakening the joint.

# *Monthly Meeting Demonstrators*

## *Dec., 2002. Jan., Feb., 2003*



Butch Sheely

The demonstrator for our February, 2003 meeting was Butch Sheely from Grand Rapids, OH.

Butch is a part-time smith who likes to make colonial-style edge tools and furniture. His work has been featured in our exhibit hall at Quad State and has been a prize winner on several occasions.

For his demonstration, Butch made a small Meigs belt axe. Butch made the ax by forge welding 4 pieces together. Two pieces of mild steel for side straps and a piece of tool steel for the poll end and a piece of tool steel for the bit. After many hours of extensive labor, Butch produced a fine piece.

Butch and I sort of go way back. He lived in Grand Rapids and I lived in McClure, a neighboring town. Butch's uncle, Bernie Sheely lived in McClure and I knew him well.

Our March demonstrator came to us from Clinton, PA. Bob Rupert is a part-time blacksmith who specializes in hand-forged knives.

He explained how to balance a knife using proper handle materials to go with the size of the blade being made. He put two different handles on the same knife to demonstrate this point.

He forged a nice letter opener from a piece of 1/4" square stock. He also forged a leather skive from 1095.

Bob gave a nice demonstration and I hope we can get him to come again sometime!



Bob Rupert

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## **ABANA Affiliate Liaison Letter**

January 2003

**Are you getting a little stressed out thinking of new ideas for your blacksmith club?  
Then get a load of this!**

Go to the ABANA website **[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)** and click on "Affiliates," then look under "PDF Files." Then click on "Successful Affiliate Activities." Read what it says. Your Member Services Committee has been working hard to work out a system whereby it can be a clearing house for affiliates to share ideas. Do you have a good thing going for your club-*then share it with all of the other affiliates.*

Wouldn't you be tickled pink if you got all kinds of ideas on activities that other affiliates found to be successful? **Ideas that you could use.**

If So...

Talk with your affiliate officers-talk with your affiliate board members. Encourage them to participate in this program

Remember when you were a wee tot in Miss. Larson's first grade class, and how excited you were when she said, "Now boys and girls, it is time for Show and Tell?" And now, your Member Services Committee says, "Now guys and gals, it is time for Show and Tell."

**Have you been wondering how you might communicate a little bit more with ABANA?  
Then get a load of this!**

Go to the ABANA website and click on "Affiliates," then look under "PDF Files." Then click on "A Program To Enhance ABANA-Affiliate Communication." Read what it says. Your Member Services Committee has been working hard to set up a program to make it happen.

I'd be willing to bet the farm (well, if not the whole farm, maybe the back 10) that you would really like it if your ideas could go right to the ABANA Board members.

Talk to your officers and board members and ask them to participate by  
sending an e-mail to Bob Jacoby

Bob Fredell, Chairman  
Member Services Committee  
(763) 389-5119  
**[bobfredell@abana.org](mailto:bobfredell@abana.org)**

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***ANNUAL DUES ARE \$7.50 PER YEAR***

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SOFA AND SEND TO:

HANS G. PEOT  
6425 SCARFF ROAD  
NEW CARLISLE, OH 45344

THOSE INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP IN  
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MAY WRITE OR CALL:

LeAnn Mitchell, Executive Secretary  
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## *SOFA CLASSIFIED ADS*

For Sale:

Spoon molds, small cone mandrels,  
benders, old tools and other stuff.  
Contact Bob Cruikshank at (937) 323-  
1300 for details.

Gerald Hawkins is still handling the  
SOFA firepots. He has two sizes of  
oblong pots and a small round firepot  
perfect for a portable forge. For prices  
and availability, please call Gerald at  
(937) 849-6964. These are the good  
ones!

There is plenty of space in this news-  
letter for more articles and for sale  
items. Let me know what you have  
and I will get it in here.

Just get me a copy of what you have  
and a black and white picture if you  
have it and we will get it in here.