Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

December 2008



Just a few of the animal heads created by members during a recent class.

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Officers and Directors

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The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association, a non-profit organization of amateur and professional artist and craftsmen, publishes this newsletter monthly. Our purposes are the sharing of knowledge, education and to promote a more general appreciation of the fine craftsmanship everywhere. We are a chapter of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America.

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Visit our Saltfork Craftsmen Website: www.saltforkcraftsmen.org

Trading Post

For Sale:

34" round bar of 5160 (\$3.30 per foot plus shipping)
34" and 1" round bar of 52100 (\$6.00 and \$9.45 per foot plus shipping) Contact Ray Kirk, ray@rakerknives.com or 1-918-456-1519



Army surplus round nosed pliers that make good scroll pliers for small items. They are 6" long \$5.00 each plus shipping. I also tie brooms on your handle or mine. \$20.00 plus shipping. Diana Davis 580-549-6824 or lazyassforge@tds.net



Due to health problems, I have decided not to rebuild any more Little Giant hammers. I have for sale: One decent used 100# hammer (\$3,500), one completely rebuilt 50# hammer (\$4,500). One good condition used 50# hammer (3,500). One early style rebuildable 50# hammer (\$1750), and one transition style rebuildable 50# hammer (\$2,250). I have some miscellaneous parts, dies, babbit mandrels, and etc. for sale. Contact Mike George at 580-327-5235 (home), 580-829-1968 (cell) or Mike-marideth@sbcglobal.net

Wanted:

Advertising Coal Hammers, Contact Mike George at 1-580-327-5235or o Mike-Marideth@sbcglobal.net



Complete blacksmith line-shaft. Good Running Condition with post drill, pedestal grinder/wire wheel and 40 lb Perfect Power Hammer, Lots of extras, Call for info. 817-329-5297 Jim White

Club Coal

Saltfork Craftsmen has coal for sale. Coal is in 1-2" size pieces The coal is \$140.00/ton or .07 /pound to members .No sales to non-members.

NW Region coal location:

Bring your own containers. Contact Tom Nelson at 1-580-862-7691 to make arrangements to pick up a load. **DO NOT CALL AFTER 9 P.M.** If you make arrangement well in advance, Tom can load your truck or trailer with his skid steer loader. Otherwise you will need to bring a shovel. The coal can be weighed out at the Douglas Coop Elevator scales.

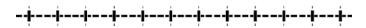
S/C Region coal location: Coal is in 1-2" size pieces. Bring your own container. The coal is at Max Scrudder's place in Mountain View. Contact Max for load out instructions.

Max Scrudder can be contacted at (405) 226-9951

NE Region coal location: Dan Cowart also has coal to sell. He can be contacted at dacowart@dishmail.net or CowartPat@gmail.com

We are currently sold out of SCABA swage blocks. Look for information about new shipments in future newsletters.

Mail your ads to the editor or email them to lazyassforge@tds.net



MEETING SCHEDULE December

NE Regional meeting (Dec 13) will be hosted by Charlie McGee.. North of Sand Springs on Hwy 97 to end of hwy, then west 2 miles on right side of road. If you get lost...918-245-7279 S/C regional meeting (Dec 20) will be hosted by Aniela and Kent Hadich at their home in OKC. The trade item is a Vessel. Lunch will be provided but bring a side dish. Directions: East on I-40 to Post road, North on Post Rd. to SE 29th, east on SE 29th to S. Westminster Rd., then South on S. Westminster to Newey. Address is 10818 Newey Ave.

SE Regional meeting Dec 6th

Time; 8:30

Place: Bois D'Arc Forge 33 NE 1st St. Paris Tx Directions; Go to the downtown plaza in Paris, go north on North main 1 block, turn right on E Houston, go one block, shop is on the corner.

Phone: 903-517-1667 (James)

Trade Item: any kind of leaf made from 1/2" round or square bar

Lunch: Nancy's Café (dutch treat)

Project: Barstools

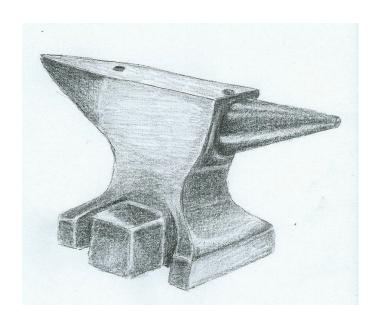
NW Regional meeting date (open)

Real wrought iron....

If anyone is wanting some wrought iron to work with...Andy Martin has some 1 1/2 square bar. You can contact Andy at 918-757-4141 or email at andyorsharon@cimtel.net

Sad news for the Blacksmithing community;

Tom Clark passed away on November 8, 2008 after a prolonged battle with cancer. The Blacksmithing community has lost a major player and a great supporter of the craft.



Wewoka Sorghum Festival

On October 25 2008, I did a demo at the Wewoka Sorghum Festival. This small town suddenly becomes triple in population for this annual event. Doug and Linda Bliss came by and visited along with their pup, which was nice. Saltfork members always have smiles on their faces. The hot item seemed to be steak turners, ice picks and crosses. Even some wall hangers that I had carried around, from what seemed like the beginning of time, sold. Sales were above normal, and their was a constant flow of onlookers. I expect that we may have picked up a few new members. I handed out some flyers to those who really seemed interested, and I hope to see them at our next meeting.

Jerry Cathy





NW Regional meeting

The NW region meeting on Nov 22, started out chilly, but ended up being a nice day. I think 14 people came out for the meeting in the Douglas metro-plex. Ron Lehenbauer brought his forge



and demonstrated a chili pepper. My forge in the shop was busy most of the day with several people doing some forging. Thanks to all for the help making adjustments to my 25# LG hammer. Phil and Janie Shelton from Borger, Texas, brought two Dutch ovens and shared their feast with many. As usually there was much visiting. It was good to see all

much visiting. It was good to see all who came...
Thanks for coming.

Tom Nels

'C' Notes December 2008 Saltfork Newsletter

Members of Saltfork, I have just enough time to get a few thoughts written down here to share with you.

The Saltfork Board meeting in early November was very productive. One of the main topics was a wrap up and review of our 2008 Annual Conference. We received quite a few positive comments on the event and some good suggestions for improvements for 2009. One of the improvements will be the addition of a second Big Screen TV monitor. The Board authorized the purchase of two projectors and screens similar to the one we have borrowed from OSU the past two years. Dan Cowart has volunteered to help with the 2009 Conference as Co-Chair with Gerald Franklin. Tracy Cowart will be taking over the video / electronic duties from me.

Note that our 2009 Conference will again be the same weekend as Home Coming at OSU. That means you should mark your calendars, enter the data in your PDA, PC calendar, etc. now so that about next July you are reminded to call for Perry motel room reservations before they are all taken. Had we selected the weekend of October 10, 2009, we would have had to deal with the Pig Sale again. The other weekends in October 2009 were already taken with other events that would use the buildings we need. So October 17 & 18, 2009 is our Annual Conference weekend.

As most of you know, Adam Hall has done the wood work on the Saltfork raffle tools boxes for the last 3 years. J. C. Banks has offered to make the 2009 tool box. I have seen some of J. C.'s wood work; the 2009 box will be every bit as nice as the past boxes. If you are interested in making or helping with the iron work for this box, let J. C. know. And all of you are invited to make something to put in this new tool box.

As happens every year, I have been ask by several members about making copies of our Annual Conference video tapes and selling these copies to help fund Saltfork. We cannot legally do this. We do not have an agreement with any of the demonstrators to copy and sell the presentations. Our tapes are made at the Conference and later produced from the masters for placement in the Saltfork Library. Our Library is solely for the education and enjoyment of the membership; copying and selling is not allowed. Gerald is working to update the Library List. When he gets this done, we will again publish the list (maybe only quarterly since its pretty long now). We also plan to get the list put on the Saltfork website.

And finally, I want to remind you about the Christmas Tongs Exchange as noted else where in this newsletter. As of this writing (11-19), we have an even dozen signed up. If you are not already signed up, hopefully you will have had some time over the Thanksgiving holiday or will have some time at Christmas to make a pair of tongs and join in on this fun event.

Jim Carothers, President (2008) Saltfork Craftsmen ABA

S/C regional meeting

The November meeting for the S/C region was held at the home of Bill and Diana Davis near the small town of Sterling, Okla. Members started arriving around 8:30 and the final count was about 50 with 45 staying to eat lunch with us. We had several members drive up from Texas to attend and we would like to thank them for making the long drive up to spend the day with us.

Teresa Gabrish brought some of her wire wrapping supplies and spent the morning making jewelry pieces.





There was a brisk breeze out that made it feel a bit cool if you weren't working on a forge or standing close enough to benefit from the heat.

Bill showed those interested how some of the heads were made during the animal head workshop that he attended along with several others in the club. I think that Gerald and Bill plan to have a workshop later in the spring.



Jim Carothes kept a forging going most of the morning.



We gained several new members during the meeting and wish to welcome them to our organization.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL MEETING DATES

NORTH WEST REGIONAL MEETING DATES

January 10, 2009 Host: Gary Gloden

February 14, 2009

Host:

March 14, 2009 Host: Dan Cowart

April 11, 2009

Host: Phone #:

May 16, 2009 Host: State meeting

Phone #:

June 13, 2009

Host: Phone #: Trade item:

July 11, 2009

Host: Phone #:

August 8, 2009

Host: Phone#

Sept. 12, 2009 Host: Dan Cowart

Phone #: Trade item

October 17-18, 2009 **SCABA** Conference

November 7, 2009

Host: Phone #: Trade item

December 13, 2008 Host: Charlie McGee Phone #: 918-245-7279 January 24, 2009

Host:

February 28, 2009 Host: Ron Lehenbauer

March 28, 2009

Host: Phone #:

April 25, 2009 Host: Phone #:

May 16, 2009

Host: State meeting –No regional meetings

Phone #:

June 27, 2009

Host: Phone #:

July 25, 2009

Host: Phone #:

August 22, 2009

Host: Phone #:

Sept. 26, 2009

Host: Phone #:

October 17-18, 2009 **SCABA** Conference

November 28, 2009

Host: Phone #:

December 26, 2009

Host: Phone #:

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING DATES

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL MEETING DATES

January 17, 2009 Host: JC Banks

Phone #

February 21, 2009 Host: Gerald Franklin

Phone #:

March 21, 2009 Host: Terry Jenkins

Phone #

April 18, 2009

Host: Phone #

May 16, 2009

Host: State picnic at Norman

No regional meetings

June 20, 2009

Host: Phone #:

July 18, 2009

Host: Max Scrudder

Phone #:

August 15, 2009

Host: Phone #:

Sept. 19, 2009

Host: Phone #:

October 17-18, 2009

Host: : SCABA Conference Perry, Okla.

November 21, 2009

Host: Bill and Diana Davis Phone #: 580-549-6824

December 20, 2008 Host: Aniela Hadick

Phone #:405-869-2043

Trade item: some kind of vessel

January 3, 2009

Host: Phone #:

February 7, 2009

Host: Phone #:

March 7, 2009

Host: Phone #:

April 4, 2009 Host:

Phone #:

May 16, 2009

Host: State meeting in Norman Ok

June 6, 2009 Host: Phone #:

July 4, 2009 Host: Phone #:

August 1, 2009

Host: Phone #:

Sept. 5, 2009

Host: Phone

October 3 2009

Host: Phone #:

November 7, 2009

Host: Phone #:

December 6, 2008

Host: Cindy and James Allcorn

Phone #903-785-2608

Minutes

Saltfork Craftsmen Board of Director's Meeting 2:30 PM Nov 9, 2008

- Call to order The meeting was called to order at 2:54 PM in Norman, OK. Board members present were J.C. Banks, Jim Carothers, Byron Doner, Richard Dyer, Gerald Franklin, Mike George, and Bill Kendall. Also present were Bill and Diana Davis, Terry Jenkins and Dan Cowart.
- Treasurer's Report Mike George presented an in-depth Treasurer's Report. The club continues to be solvent. We took in over \$6100 on the conference auction and \$1555 on the 2008 Toolbox Raffle. If we don't consider these two items, the conference itself posted about a \$500 loss.
- Web site report J.C. Banks reported that our bandwidth usage continues to increase monthly. This is an indicator of overall website visits and associated traffic. J.C. will add regional meeting dates and Demonstrator Guidelines to the website.
- Conference items (Conference Co-Chairs)
 - <u>Discussion of 2008 Conference</u> Overall, the conference was very successful. Most of the comments from attendees were favorable and included some very helpful suggestions for future conferences. The Board discussed blocking out hotel rooms for future conferences but decided that such action was not necessary.
 - <u>Plans for 2009 Conference</u> The Conference Co-Chairs for the 2009 Conference will be Dan Cowart and Gerald Franklin. Demonstrators will be Robb, Chad, and Brad Gunter. Tammy Cowart has agreed to be our Registrar. Jim Carothers has booked the Noble County Fairgrounds facilities for the weekend of 17-18 October 2009.
 - <u>Plans for 2010 Conference</u> The Board decided to contact Darryl Nelson and Gordon Williams to ask them about demonstrating at the 2010 conference. Action to Gerald Franklin to contact Darryl and Gordon.
- Cone Mandrel Project Jim Carothers is corresponding with foundries in the Birmingham, AL area in an effort to find a foundry that will submit a reasonable bid.
- 2009 Tool Box Project Bill Davis will provide enough Pecan lumber for the box. J.C. banks will build the box and Mike George will provide the hardware.
- Swage Block Status Bill Kendall reports that we are out of swage blocks. This needs to be reflected on the website. Gerald Franklin will take the pattern to Oil City Iron Works in Corsicana, TX to have more blocks (70 to 100) poured.
- Insurance Riders Mike George will arrange for insurance coverage for the teaching trailer and its contents. The Board discussed the provision of riders to our demo insurance policy for expanded coverage of individual demonstration events. Our current policy provides coverage for a Saltfork member in good standing who demonstrates under current guidelines (see the website). This coverage is applicable for any location regardless of compensation received by the demonstrator. The club will not arrange for any riders to the current policy that will allow any party other than the demonstrating Saltfork member to be named as an additional insured party.
- Storage Trailer Project Gerald Franklin will purchase the trailer before the end of November.
- Projection Equipment Mike George reported that we could buy suitable (3000 Lumen) "big screen" projectors for about \$1000 each. Motion was made by Franklin to authorize Mike George to purchase two sets of projection equipment to include projectors, screens, cables and ancillary equipment. Second by Doner. Motion carried.
- Southeast Region Meetings Jim Carothers suggested that we try to involve Saltfork in state park and museum functions in the SE region of the state in order to generate more membership in that region. G. Franklin will check calendars for state parks and museums to see if there are events that we can join in 2009.
- Next BOD meeting The next BOD meeting is scheduled for Mar 21, 2009 at the shop of Terry Jenkins in Blanchard, OK (S/C regional meeting).
- Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Trail Ride Demo

Gerald Franklin

On October 25, 2008 I demonstrated at the Duncan Lake Horse Club's Fall Trail Ride. The club has an extensive trail system laid out around Duncan Lake, which is about 9 miles east of Duncan, OK. Bill and Diana Davis showed up bright and early to help me set up and take a few pictures for our newsletter. I think she was getting tired of hearing the worn out story about me taking a camera but getting too busy to take pictures.

I was asked to come set up by some of the club officers as they thought that a working smith would add to the atmosphere of the camp-out/ trail ride. It turned out that they were right, as these folks were sort of "blacksmith starved". Of course, I had to start out telling folks that I'm not a farrier, so I can't re-set the front shoes on old "Champ" before the ride. I explained that I just didn't know enough to be a farrier but they might be interested in some of the other work on my sales table.

This was a little different type demo that I normally do since many of them had some idea about what smith work was all about, but just didn't think that there were any folks around who did this stuff except for "the guy on RFD-TV". Many were surprised to hear that their own Oklahoma state smithing club has over 240 members. We picked up a couple of new members there, too.

After the long ride was over they fed me supper and then had an auction. I donated a Shepherd's Crook that they auctioned for more than I would ever have the guts to ask for if I were selling it outright. The proceeds of the trail ride fees and the auction were donated to the local animal shelter.

It was a long day, about twelve hours, but I was only about fifteen minutes away from home, so I wasn't faced with a long drive home.



Cotton Pickin' Chili Cookoff

- Altus, OK

SCABA was represented by J. C. Banks and David Seigrist at the annual Cotton Pickin' Chili Cookoff at Altus. We got there about 8:30 am and were going by the 9:00 starting time. David did a good presentation job and the booth had several observers all day.

We were set up next to a 1959 John Deere cotton picker so that helped bring them within range. The kids especially liked it, I really got snookered by one of them. He said



we had either made or bought at a conference auction.

David told him the small cross was \$3 instead of \$5 so I sold it to him for \$3. Soon he had his brother come back, and between them they had enough money to buy another one for \$3.

They knew a good deal when they saw it!

David made key ring holders for the display, some key rings, some crosses, and a steak turner. David and I displayed some of our iron-in-the-hat items we had received at monthly meetings and various ironwork items

A lot of the people said they didn't know anyone did blacksmithing any more. David sold several of his horse shoe items, crosses, steak turners, and key rings. I sold some hummingbirds, trivets, and crosses. All in all, we had a good time, ate some good BBQ brisket and ribs, and several people were exposed to blacksmithing and SCABA.

J. C. Banks

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214-729-0857	forgingfate@yahoo.com	75433	×	Cumby	443 CR 1131	Jerry	Cauble
580-255-6625		73533	읒	Duncan	3221 Glenwood Ct.	Jerry	Cathy
580-726-2698	utilityguy1@yahoo.com	73651	읒	Hobart	Rt. 2 Box 51C	Jarod	Cassada
405-964-5754		74851	읒	McLoud	34509 Hazel Dell Rd.	Mark	Carter
580-336-9213	frontiershop@wildblue.net	73077	ᆽ	Perry	9501 Frontier	Jim	Carothers
817-457-3146	campbellanvil@tx.rr.com	76016	×	Arlington	6109 Calcutta Ct.	Glenn	Campbell
405-793-9626	tcable@sbcglobal.net	73160	Š	Moore	2812 Land Run Road	Tony	Cable
903-785-9545		75462	×	Paris	3310 Hwy 24	Gary	Butler
580-829-4521		73717	ջ	Alva	50965 McClain Rd	John	Burns
903-784-0027		75462	×	Paris	1784 County Rd 12500	Randy	Burks
918-687-1927		74403	ջ	Muskogee	205 N. Anthony	Gerald	Brostek
903-785-0864		75486	×	Sumner	3388 County Rd. 34430	Howard	Bost
405-997-5436	peachiebliss@yahoo.com	74801	읒	Shawnee	46606 Hardesty Rd.	Doug	Bliss
405-324-2017		73099	Š	Yukon	2920 Manor Rd.	Richard	Blasius
870-245-8785		71923	AR	Arkadelphia	P.O. Box 784	James	Black
		71463	₽	Oakdale	No.36428-17 P.O. Box 5000 7	No.36428-17 7	Bill Epps
580-789-0673		73601	읒	Clinton	509 S. 6th	Roy	Bell
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405-263-7582	garyfire1@pldi.net	73762	Š	Okarche	P.O. Box 43	Gary	Baustert
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907-306-5222		99687	A	Wasilla	P.O. box 870596	Dawnavan	Crawford
580-320-7064		74871	읒	Stonewall	25565 CR 1580	Justin	Cranford
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918-605-6241		74021	ջ	Collinsville	14252 E. 122nd N.	Clayton	Hall
405-485-2690		73010	ջ	Blanchard	2185 Country Rd. 1300	Calias	Hall
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580-234-8360	gungoll@enidlaw.com	73702	ջ	Enid	P.O. Box 1549	Brad	Gungoll
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660-277-3109	shoer2@hotmail.com	65259	Mo	Huntsville	1058 Cr.1123	Trace	Price
972-284-3113	ldpowers@powersspray.com	75149	×	Mesquite	2414 E. Hwy 80th #260	Lanny	Powers
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Urban	Larry	8823 San Leandra Dr.	Dallas	×	75218		214-328-3083
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Cliff-Bob

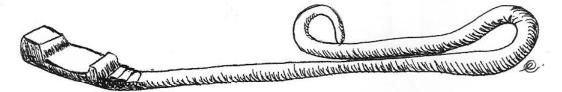
A Tool for Forging Tongs on the Power Hammer

Weaverville 11 demo & story by Mike Limb with Mike Hricziscse, Klamath Falls, Oregon photos by John Graham, Sacramento, California ~ drawings by Eden Sanders, San Andreas, California

I am always hearing people admire some object they see at a hammer-in and wish they had a power hammer to make something like it. CBA is a large and well distributed organization, and all I've met are very generous with both their knowledge and their time. I figure that most California smiths who do not have a power hammer probably live within an hour of someone who does have one. I am lucky to live about 15 minutes from Mike Hricziscse and his 80lb 1907 Perfect Hammer mechanical hammer. (see Power Hammer Safety on page 9)

Even one who is not an expert can make productive use of a power hammer, and if you suck at drop-tong welds as I do, drawing reins on the power hammer is a great timesaver. This method was inspired by Clifton Ralph's videos. *You can check them out of the CBA Library*. I was intrigued by his very simple power hammer tooling for making tongs. After trying it out and practicing a little bit, I am very happy with the result. I use $\frac{1}{2}$ " square stock for my tongs because I mostly forge on $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{5}{8}$ " stock.

Cliff-Bob, The Tool, inspired by Clifton Ralph

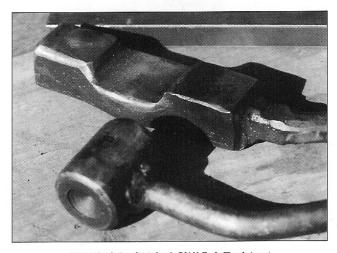


Materials

Power hammer 1 piece 1" square stock 8" to 10" long 1 piece $\frac{5}{16}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " stock

- Draw out all but 4" of the 1" square stock into a handle, with a gradual transition from the square to the base of the handle. (Note: Don't create a sharp transition because these types of tools take a real beating on the power hammer, and that is its weakest point. Be creative with the shape of the handle. Ours is tack welded to avoid getting my hand pinched in the fold.) The finished length of our folded handle is about 12".
- 2. Radius the corners of the $\frac{5}{16}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " flat bar.
- 3. Heat the 4" end of the 1" square bar to bloody red and use the power hammer to drive the flat bar perpendicularly into it until it bottoms out and the top die starts hitting the top of the square bar.
- 4. Use a file, sanding disc or whatever to radius all the edges. **Do not leave any sharp edges.**

- 5. We put a bend in our power hammer tools so they can be held with the left hand in a comfortable, safe position.
- You can case-harden the tool if you want. We didn't, and it seems to be holding up just fine.



Detail of the finished Cliff-Bob Tool (top) along with his rivet setting tool.

May/June 2008

Reprinted from the California Blacksmith Association newsletter, May/June 08 issue.

Making Tongs with the Cliff-Bob

The L-L-L Method of Making Tongs

Assuming everyone knows the *left-left-left* (L-L-L) technique for making tongs (R-R-R for left-handed smiths), I'll also assume everyone knows that you need to make half-faced blows to create them. It is difficult to make half-faced blows on a power hammer without some help. That is the function of the Cliff-Bob. The second function is to control the thickness of the stock resulting from the half-faced blows. The depth of the pocket in the tool determines the resulting thickness. About 5/16" is the desired thickness for 1/2" stock. Larger stock would require a deeper, wider pocket.

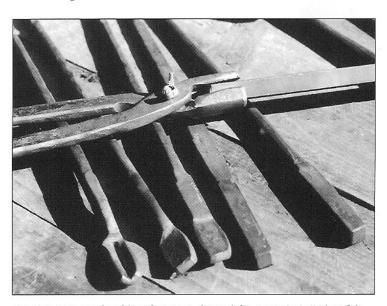
Materials Cliff-Bob tool Power hammer

2 pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ " square stock 10" long

 Mark the ½" square stock at 3" with a center punch (both pieces will be identical).

- Draw down a long round taper for the rein from the punch mark to the end, that is ½" diameter at the punch mark down to ½" diameter at the end of the rein.
- 3. Flatten the rein for the length of the taper to about $\frac{5}{16}$ " thick.
- 4. Using Cliff-Bob, flatten the jaw until the hammer bottoms out onto Cliff-Bob. Flatten the jaw perpendicular to the flat of the reins. I index the end of the bar just shy of the offside tool's edge to give room to grow.
- 5. Turn the rein 90° to the left and index the rear of the jaw transition to the offside edge of Cliff-Bob, turning the rein 45° to the tool.

- 6. Fuller-in behind the boss to create the boss/jaw transition so that the tongs will hang nicely on your tong rack. Don't get carried away, as the deeper you go, the weaker the reins.
- 7. For V-bit tongs, use a narrow hand fuller to mark the centerline of the jaw. If the offsets are correctly positioned, the inside surface of the boss should be aligned with the center of the jaw.
- 8. Use a 90° swage and a 90° top tool to form the V-bit.
- Rivet and adjust the reins into alignment. To align the reins, heat them to dark red, clamp in a vise and tweak using a wrench or tongs. ♣



Various stages of making the tongs, from right, steps 2, 1, 5, 6 and 8, with finished tongs, minus the rivet, on top.

Members of Saltfork:

I have an idea to share with you all. This idea is not new or original to me; read a little further into this note and you will understand more.

To spark a more interest and a lot of fellowship among the Saltfork membership, how about having **a Christmas Tongs Exchange** this year?

This would be like school kids (at least when I was in grade school in the 1950's) drawing names to exchange gifts at Christmas time. The folks on AnvilFire's Slack Tub Pub have done this a time or two in the past; I found it fun to participate. In the two years that I remember this happening, there were about 12 to 15 people involved each time. I have two unique pair of tongs from participation in the past exchanges. One of these was made by James Joyce out on the west coast, the other by Jim Gerlinski from Canada.

I was concerned that my hand made tongs would not be good enough for an exchange. There are a couple of mistakes in the learning pile under my work table, but all worked out OK. The experienced smith that got the tongs I made was quite pleased with them.

The Saltfork Board of Directors and I have chosen 3 Kings Day as the mailing day for the tongs; that would be January 6th, 2009. By choosing the 3 Kings date (the 12th day of Christmas), you would hopefully have some time over the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays to get your tongs made. And if you needed help, there would be time for that as well. There is a good how to make tongs article on the Shady Grove Blacksmith Shop web site. http://www.blksmth.com/tong_article.htm

I am offering to keep the list of those wanting to participate; do the drawing of names; and to notify each participating member whom to send his or her tongs to. And yes, I plan to make a pair also.

Here are the rules:

- 1) You must register with me your intent to participate in the Christmas Tongs Exchange on or before December 29th. 10 PM will be the cutoff time that day. Your registration can be done by e-mail, phone call, or US Mail. E-mail is really best for me, but any of the others are OK too. I will need your mailing address along with your registration.
- 2) Tongs can be any style you choose as long as they are blacksmith made. Use of electric welding and other modern techniques is OK. Tongs can be made from round bar, flat stock, etc.

They can be steel or other suitable (strong) material such as Titanium, Nomakesit, Unobtainum, or Flexstifftinite.

- 3) Be sure to steel stamp or engrave your tongs with your touch mark, name, or initials and the date they were made.
- 4) I will notify you by Sunday, January 4th as to whom to send your tongs to.
- 5) All tongs are to be sent out no later than 3 Kings Day January 6th. US Mail or your favorite service such as UPS, etc. can be used. Personal delivery is OK too. You are responsible for the cost of shipping your tongs.

That's about it. Let's have some fun with this.

Jim Carothers, President (2008) Saltfork Craftsmen ABA 9501 Frontier Perry, Ok 73077-9225

frontiershop@wildblue.net 580-336-9213 home – evenings 580-307-5152 cell – usually on

Pass it on....

One of the goals of the Saltfork Craftsmen ABA is to pass on the art of Blacksmithing. Two ways this is accomplished is by doing public demonstrations and to hold workshops.

Here are two workshops that have been requested. If you can help with either one of both of these please contact Jim Carothers.

- 1. Troop 850 Boy Scouts, Guthrie, Ok request a smithing 101 class for the scouts. 4 instructors will be needed—3 scouts per forge/instructor. Planned date is Saturday, December 13th. Location is West & South of Guthrie at the Buffalo Ranch. Class project will be a simple S-hook with a twist. If willing to help with this teaching and have a portable forge and tools, let me know...Jim Carothers, President 2008-9
- 2. Merit badge university-Metalworking. Weekend of January 24th Jim Carothers is the contact person for this event. If you wish to help, Jim needs to know ASAP because each instructor is required to be registered as a Merit Badge Counselor. Jim will have the required paperwork to fill out and send back in but it needs to be done now. This request came in from Jennifer Mooney, Senior District Executive, Pawnee Bill District, Cimarron Council, BSA

These are just two events where you can help educate the public and our youth about black-smithing. If you know of any others coming up this year (2009) get the details and I will get them posted in the newsletter and on the web site.

Editor

****Mark vou calendar. ****

13th Annual SCABA conference will be held in Perry Oklahoma on Oct 17-18. This is going to be OSU homecoming weekend again so go ahead and book a room at one of the local hotels...you can always cancel it later if something comes up keeping you from attending. 09 demonstrators are scheduled to be Rob, Chad and Brad Gunter.

Many members had trouble finding a hotel room for the conference. You can plan ahead and book your rooms now. That way you can get your choice of room type and hotel. Don't wait until it gets too late and there are no rooms left at the INN or you have to settle for less than ideal.... You have the date and the demonstrators, what more do you need to know. Book your rooms now for the Conference in October 17-18 2009. You can always cancel the rooms according to the hotels cancelation policy if it looks like you will not be able to attend. Better to cancel than have to sleep in a tent.

Hello ABANA Affiliate Members,

My name is Bruce Woodward. I am a new ABANA Board Member from Ohio and your new Affiliate Liaison member. I am the new kid on the block. Actually I am no kid. I am one of the gray beards but I still swing a mean hammer. One of the silver tops who, based on ABANA's survey, make up well over half of the blacksmiths in the US. My Board candidacy was based on attracting new people into blacksmithing. Evidently there are a lot of blacksmiths out there who feel the same as I do and took the time to vote for me. I thank you for that. Presently there are many very talented young smiths but not near enough. The veteran and established smiths are the core and stability of our affiliate groups. However attrition is taking far too many dedicated smiths lately. Local and international smiths who had once given so much of their time and efforts to the continuation and advancement of blacksmithing and asked for so very little in return. They asked us to just "pass it on". Well, as the man once said,"it is time to stand up and be counted". Our past and present ABANA Presidents Chris Winterstein and Rome Hutchings have said to find something you care about and work for it. I believe your rewards will be great.

With the economy of the world going into the pits, money is extremely tight for everyone. At the November ABANA Board Meeting of this year, the Board was very concerned with fiscal responsibility. We tried to cut costs where ever and whenever possible without drastically cutting services. Such as, you will notice a change in packaging and mailing of the Anvil's Ring. Even though we have slightly altered the AR, the ABANA Board is very protective of our publications. They are, along with the ABANA Conference, our flagships and our window to the world.

With the economy sour, it is very important, now more than ever before, for blacksmithing to be in the forefront of the general public's thoughts. Every blacksmith demonstration, every blacksmith exhibit, every blacksmith article is so important to remind the potential blacksmith customer that "Yes we can do your project and Yes we can do it well and Yes we will take only our share of what money is available".

We all know how much time and energy and expense goes into efforts to attract prospective blacksmiths from the general public, often with rather discouraging results. However there are a few groups, like the Boy Scouts through their Metalwork Merit Badge Program, who already have a beginning interest in blacksmithing. An interest that with encouragement and nurturing could grow into a lifelong passion. This program is an open door for blacksmithing to 3 million Scouts and 1 million adult advisors. Some of you are already certified Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselors or you have demonstrated at Scout events. I applaud you. However there is room for many more counselors. If this appeals to you, contact your local Boy Scout Council. Again, you may find it very rewarding. I would like to know just how many of our affiliate members are BSA Metalwork Merit Badge Counselors. If you are a counselor please send an email or letter to me stating also your affiliate and your local BSA council.

ABANA Board Member Kim Saliba has recently resigned from the Board for serious health reasons. Her energetic support at the past ABANA and CanIron Conferences will be greatly missed. We wish her Godspeed and safe journey.

ABANA has a number of new programs for its members this year such as health insurance. Check it out on our web site or contact ABANA's Central Office.

ABANA will also have a great Conference for all in June 2010 at Memphis, TN. The Conference is indeed ABANA's Window to the World. We mean to do it right. World renowned demonstrators, environmentally friendly tent camping, fiscally sound business workshops, universally acclaimed Affiliates Area, tantalizing tailgating, etc, etc. Details to follow in future installments.

For the past year, the ABANA Affiliate Letter has been written by Paul Boulay. He left some pretty big foot prints for me to follow in, however with Paul at my elbow for guidance and to keep me out of trouble and with your suggestions, we will do just fine.

Please stay in contact, Bruce Woodward

ABANA Affiliate Liaison Member Bruce Woodward 6374 Lake Road West ABANA Central Office 15754 Widewater Drive Dumfries, VA 22025-1212

Animal heads

Bill Davis and Gerald Franklin set up a animal heads class that took place the last week in October and the first few days in November. Bill had attended the BAM conference and watch Daryl Nelson as he demonstrated his techniques in making animal heads. Daryl teaches a class at the John C. Campbell Folk school and Bill was contemplating attending. The cost to attend JC Campbell, including travel would be over \$1000.00 Bill and Gerald decided they could bring Daryl here and make the class available to a few of the more advanced blacksmiths. The more that attended the less it would cost each attendee. Bill and/or Gerald could then teach workshops around the state and help others gain some of the skill that they had acquired. The class was held at Gerald Franklins shop because of the room that was needed to set up the forging stations. Because it meant spending a solid week away from work only 5 were in the class.





Attendees: upper level (L-R) Bill Davis, JC Banks and Gerald Franklin. Lower level (L-R) Byron Donor, Daryl Nelson (instructor) and David Seigrist.

Daryl started them off making 2-D heads. Horse, eagle and bear. They then advanced to the 3-D bear and worked their way to more difficult heads like the bob cat and buffalo.

Daryl uses some special punches. Daryl sent a set of the punches to Gerald and he along with JC Banks and Bill Davis made each student a complete set so they didn't have to spend class time making the tooling and could get right to the animal heads.



Daryl states that the most important thing in making the head is getting the initial shape and proportion of the head and nose right. After that it is just adding details.



NE Regional meeting

There were 15 people that showed up for the Nov meeting at Mike Sweany's shop. We signed up one new member. There was two forges going most of the day, one gas and one coal. I burnt up quit a bit of steel in the coal forge. Charlie McGee forges a bell while Charlie Groom and DeWayne Moss gave Charlie a LOT OF ADVICE, some of it even asked for. The bell did have a nice ring to it when Charlie got finished.



I forgot is name but he has two well mannered boys and a leather cowboy hat. He made a chisel and a miner's pic-axe.

The weather was just crisp enough to make the coffee taste really good. We had six trade items. Thanks guys for your participation, I really had a good time.

Sweany



Mike's super clinker....

Saltfork Craftsmen

Artist-Blacksmith Association Membership Application April 2008 thru March 2009

Please accept my application	on	Date:
First Name	Last	Name
Married? Yes No	Spouse	es Name
Address		
City	State _	ZIP
		rk Phone ()
E-Mail		ABANA Member? Yes No
Signed_ Return to: Saltfork Craftsmen, 12	27 Fourth St. Alva, Ok 7371	7
ABAN Name:		Email:
Address:		www url:
City:		Phone:
State:Zip:		Fax:
Country:	and determination of a minimal point of the contract of the co	
TYPE OF MEMBERSH		CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:
☐ NEW MEMBER	RENEWAL	VISA Mastercard Expiration Date:
Regular - \$55.00 Student- \$45.00	Contributing-\$100.00 Library-\$45.00	Card Number:Submit check, money order -U.S. Banks only, or by credit card:
Senior (65+) \$50.00	☐ Foreign-\$65.00	PO Box 3425 Knoxville, TN 37927-3425
ABANA Chapter Affliation:		Phone: 865.546.7733 Fax: 865.215.9964



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