

Saltfork Craftsmen

Artist-Blacksmith Association

February 2008



Happy 100th Birthday to Little Giant Power Hammer #1

Saltfork Craftsmen
Artist-Blacksmith Association
Membership Application
April 2008 thru March 2009

Please accept my application

Date: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Married? ___ Yes ___ No Spouses Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

E-Mail _____ ABANA Member? ___ Yes ___ No

I have enclosed \$20.00 for dues to March 30, 2008

Signed _____

Return to: Saltfork Craftsmen, 1227 Fourth St. Alva, Ok 73717



Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

www url: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

Country: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Regular - \$55.00 Contributing-\$100.00

Student- \$45.00 Library-\$45.00

Senior (65+) \$50.00 Foreign-\$65.00

ABANA Chapter Affiliation: _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

VISA Mastercard Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____
Submit check, money order -U.S. Banks only, or by credit card:

PO Box 3425
Knoxville, TN 37927-3425
Phone: 865.546.7733 Fax: 865.215.9964

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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:

¾" round bar of 5160 (\$3.30 per foot plus shipping)
¾" 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. 2008 SCABA calendars featuring SCABA members, \$10.00 Contact Diana Davis, lazyassforge@tds.net or 1-580-549-6824

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), two rebuildable 50# hammers (one at \$1750 and one at \$2,000), I have some miscellaneous parts, dies, babbitt 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 1-580-327-5235 or Mike-Marideth@sbcglobal.net

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

Club Coal

Saltfork Craftsmen has Arkansas coal for sale. The coal is \$95/ton to members and \$145/ton to non-members.

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. The coal is in large chunks; bring something to break up the coal into manageable size pieces.

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

Cost for this coal is .06/pound or \$120.00/ton. NO SALES to non-members.

Max Scudder 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

Saltfork Craftsmen Swage Blocks \$105.00 each plus shipping. SCABA members can purchase **one** block for a special members price of \$85.00

Contact Mike George at 1-580-327-5235 or mike-marideth@sbcglobal.net or Bill Kendall at 1-918-742-7836 or wwkendall@aol.com



Bill and Diana Davis have a few blocks available for those in the S/C region.

MEETING SCHEDULE

February

SE. Regional OPEN

NE Regional meeting (Feb 9th) The meeting will be hosted by Gary Gloden. Map in back of newsletter. Trade item will be a letter opener. Lunch will be provided.

South/Central meeting (Feb 16th) The meeting will be hosted by Gerald Franklin at his shop east of Duncan. Check out map in back of newsletter. Trade item is anything using traditional joinery. Gerald will also be having a continuation of the

Scroll workshop that was held at JC Banks' meeting. We will be working on different scroll ends. Lunch will be provided but bring a side dish. **NW Regional** meeting (Feb 23rd)(**ATTENTION-Change in host**) Hosted by Ron Lehenbauer . Trade item is a fork. Contact Ron for more information. There is a map to Ron's shop in the back of this newsletter.

Check out the calendar insert for future meeting information. It will be updated on the website and newsletter as dates are booked.

SE REGIONAL MEETING

By James Allcorn

The 5th was a warm day for January and as it turned out, a good day for blacksmithing as 10 smiths showed up at Cindy and James Allcorn's Bois D'Arc Forge Artisan Blacksmith Studio in Paris, Texas. It was also a nice surprise to have 3 out of town Saltfork members attend, including Frank Sheldon from Princeton, Tx, Lanny Powers from Mesquite, Tx and Ed McCormach from Okmulgee, Ok. They were joined by local Saltfork members Howard Bost, Cedric Cope, Tom Hensel, Mark Hamill, Melvin White, Brazos White and host, James Allcorn.

James Allcorn announced that effective immediately, he was going to only host 2 meetings per year instead of the monthly schedule that has been the norm up to now. When asked for volunteers to host the next meeting, no one stood up and yelled, but Melvin White offered a "maybe". I think everyone just needs to be comfortable with having folks in their shop even when the "shop" isn't exactly as they would want it to be. But heck – whose shop is exactly as they would like it to be?

Mark Hamill acted the part of Santa in January as he gave feed sacks full of Saltfork coal that he recently obtained from Max Scudder in Mt. View, Ok. as gifts. That was certainly an appreciated and welcome gift as far as I am concerned for two reasons. First, it gives me a chance to try another variety of coal and compare it with my current supplier, and second, I'm nearly out of coal! Thanks Mark!

The business of the day was again focused on making a pair of tongs. Several brought forges but only Howard Bost set his up to go along with my shop forge.

I'm not the best tong maker on the planet, but I demonstrated making a pair of lightweight utility tongs from 3/8 square bar. These were not pretty as the intent was to demonstrate the steps involved in making tongs. First, forming the jaws and rivet sections, drawing the reins on a power hammer, hot punching the rivet hole, setting the rivet and finally, making necessary adjustments.

Lanny Powers then used my forge to make a pair of tongs that turned out quite good. Howard Bost worked on several of his tongs and Mark Hamill used Howard's forge to make a horseshoe nutcracker based on a pair I had made early last year. I warned Mark that the nutcracker was better at pinching your hand than it was at cracking nuts, and I think he transferred that flaw in design to his pair too! They do make an interesting paperweight however.

As always is the case when a group of blacksmiths get together, we had a good time talking and sharing ideas.

Photo of staircase turnout.

Following is a photo of one of the turnouts (ends, whatever) of the staircase we made last year. The end of the stair is about 8 feet from the wine door that was featured on the front of last month's newsletter.

The top rail total section is 54' long, solid 2 1/4" x 5/8". The curve was hot bent around a piece of 8" pipe. The end was drawn and curved by hand.

THE NORTH EAST

REGIONAL meeting was held at Bill Kendall's shop in Tulsa. Fifteen members attended.

The theme for the meeting was making POZ tongs. You may recall that JC Banks has already done this and I thought the idea was so good that it needed to be done in our neck of the woods. Jim Carothers was kind enough to loan me his tool kit that he purchased at the Conference auction. His kit had two of each tool necessary to convert pre-cut blanks into usable tongs. He also supplied me with a CAD drawing that I could use to develop a file for my machine to cut blanks. Bill Davis had previously given me some tips on how to use the tools in the kit. I spent the week before the meeting developing a file to cut the blanks and then cutting enough for twenty pairs.

After some coffee and donuts, we gathered in the shop and fired up my gas forge. It didn't take long for several members to begin heat the blanks and making the V cut for the jaws. From there we proved that the tools worked very well and completed tongs sets began to appear.



Mike Sweeny brought his newest gas forge. He always seems to surprise us with his clever designs. This time it was a portable forge made from a mailbox. He wouldn't tell us if one of his neighbors needed a new one but he kept looking over his shoulder when the door opened. Doug and Linda Bliss brought their coal forge and set up just outside of the back door. They proved that you don't have to have a gas forge to make the tongs.

We broke for lunch about noon and had a soup/stew that my wife made. Thanks to those that brought the deserts.

Dan Cowart gave a small talk about how we need hosts for the N/E meetings. He has already made a difference but may be calling you to see if you can help.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and all of the tong blanks were spoken for.

Thank you goes to those that stayed late to help clean up the shop so I could go the Chili Bowl races that evening.

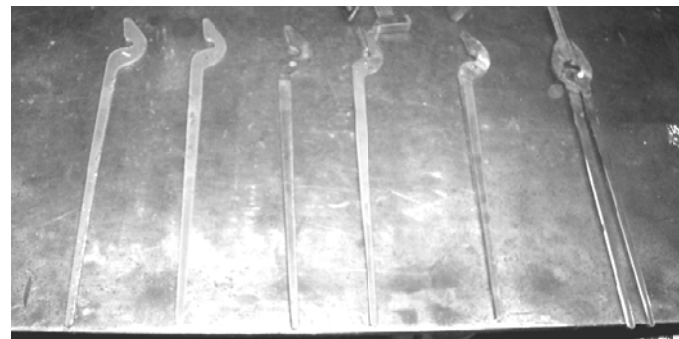
Bill Kendall



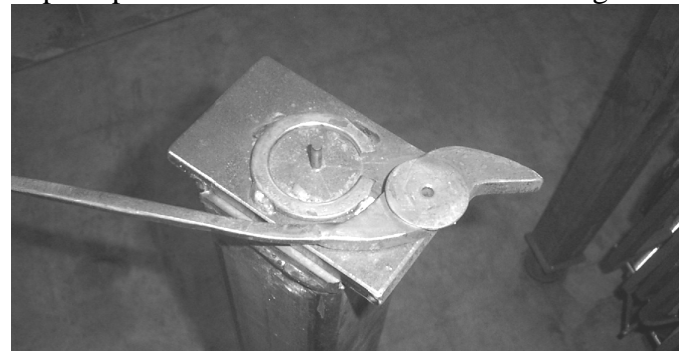
tong blank ready to shape the jaw.



tong blank ready to form the off-set.



steps in production from blank to finished tongs.



tong making tooling.

If you weren't able to attend this workshop, let one of the board members know and we may be able to set up a workshop in your area. Or if you attended one of the poz tong workshops and wish to get more blanks, Bill Davis, JC Banks and Bill Kendall all have some they would be willing to sell. (Editor)

WHY DO I GO TO MONTHLY MEETINGS?

I remember well my first SCABA meeting two years ago. It was at Larry Moorefield's in Medicine Park. Jerry and Gerald were tag teaming on Gerald's anvil when Jerry said "Hey do you want to make something?" I said, "I don't know." He replied "Oh sure you do, take off your coat you don't want to burn it and come on over here." That man has talked me into more stuff than you can shake a stick at. I turned the crank and out of the fire came bright orange metal. Wow, that's hot! Gerald taught me to draw it out and put a little rat-tail on the end. Back into the fire it went and out came that bright orange again. Now bend it over the horn and make a nice hook shape. Turn it around and do the same to the other end. Now make sure your hooks are facing opposite directions and try to make the second hook the same size as

the first. I couldn't draw it out or make a rat-tail as pretty as his but I was having a blast. Last was that extra little bit to snaz it up and really make it look sharp – the twist. The memory of making my first “S” hook is as clear today as if it happened yesterday. The lessons taught in fire management, coal, coke, clinkers, drawing out, bending a rat-tail, bending over the horn, and twisting are still with me today and have served me well many times over.

Uncle Gary helped me out with an anvil, post vice, small forge, and a little bit of coal. I decided for my first solo forging, a 5/8” piece of round mild steel would do the trick, but first I needed to get a fire going. Using Boy Scout outdoor skills it wasn't hard to make a little teepee fire and push the coal in from the sides. Black and yellow smoke rolled up and coal turned into coke. The middle was getting brighter and brighter, in went the bar..... and out came that bright orange metal. Awesome! Before getting it hot there wasn't much consideration given to exactly what I would do with it. Out of the fire it came and then a pause hmmm what should I do? Ahhhh I'll bend it. Putting it over the horn and hammering down it bent into a nice shepherds hook. Holding it up an awesome feeling came over me, I had the ability to manipulate metal! No longer was it a cold and unmovable material. Now what? I know, I'll get it hot and straighten it back out. By the way, if you don't pay attention to the difference between a clinker and coke you may find yourself saving clinkers and trying to start your next fire with them. At least that's what some new blacksmiths do.

During the next couple of months I burned several pieces of metal and made a few ugly tent stakes. The learning curve is much slower if you use railroad spikes for practice. I took my forge setup and went to the next blacksmith meeting. I was proud to be apart of this group. I lit the forge and abused a few pieces of metal. I asked Larry Mills why my fire wasn't working and he stopped what he was doing and helped me until I had a good fire. Some guy had just finished making a pair of tongs and there were quite a few people around watching him. I asked Larry who he was and he said “Oh, that's Bill Epps.” Do you remember the meeting at Gerald's in March of 2006? There was another guy with lots of jigs and tooling. I didn't talk with him and to be truthful he looked a little scary. I didn't recognize the name of Jr. Strasil until a few months later. Another missed

opportunity to talk with one of our great blacksmiths. Gerald introduced me to the SCABA library. Woohoooo!!!

My skills didn't increase that fast. I was having problems with my fire turning into a volcano and many others to boot. I decided, instead of bringing my setup to the next few meetings it would be better to attend and watch Bill and Diane, Gerald, Jerry, Jim C, Max or anyone else. Why burn and abuse metal at meetings, I could do that at home. Now my learning curve would improve.

With a positive attitude, a new notebook and two pens I went to the next meeting. It was informative and educational. The smiths didn't mind explaining anything they were doing and why. When you ask someone to demo a technique and they do, go ahead and try it yourself. Besides showing the smith his skill has been passed on it gives you a chance to try it with that smith watching and guiding. It shows the smith you were really interested in learning and not just looking for entertainment. Upon returning to the shop my skills did increase and the notes helped on the little things I forgot. Over the next couple of weeks I realized that while it was better to not take a forge and watch I still had some of the same problems slowing me down. Now I started writing down the specific items I needed help with. The list grew quickly, helping to organize my thoughts and provide questions for the next few meetings. Now meetings weren't just go and see what someone was doing. By asking questions I needed help with **they were tailored to help me learn the craft**. Skills once again took a giant leap forward.

When forging the new techniques demonstrated at the last meeting I noticed it seemed like my equipment wasn't keeping up with me. Maybe it's time to take the forge back to meetings. Wouldn't you know it, **bringing my equipment to the meetings and asking specific questions about it, I received specific answers** from the other knowledgeable smiths. Forging at home was more fun and less frustrating.

After awhile I had just about all my questions answered and didn't know what to work on at meetings. Then it hit me. **Take some metal and work on those things I'd like to give away as gifts or even those items I'd like to sell**. That way, someone can watch me make items I'd like to sell/give away and they can learn the techniques involved. Sometimes a person watching has been

making that item for years and gives me a tip on how to do it better or how to get a different look.

Why do I go to monthly meetings?

1. Talk with some great people.
2. Learn skills.
3. Get help with equipment.
4. Help others with what I've learned.
5. Look for tailgate items.
6. Talk with my friends.
7. Be a part of the craft.

David Seigrist

Members of Saltfork

As you may recall, longtime Saltfork member Charlie Groom's wife Debbie passed away in late September. Quite a few of us wanted to honor Debbie's memory. From individual contributions of \$50 of Saltfork money, a donation of about \$270 total was made to the Trails End Quilters Guild. I received a nice thank you card from the Quilters the week of December 10th; they have put this money into their library fund. Jim C.

PRAYER REQUEST.

Many of you many already know this, but in case you don't, Tom Clark needs all they prayers he can get. Tom was recently diagnosed with bladder cancer and has had several operations and procedures to treat this cancer.

I had a good talk with Tom Clark today. He will have his bladder out and have a new one constructed. He is in a good frame of mind and it sounds as though, if they get the cancer he can lead an active life and work after this. It will be tough for sure. But if anyone can do it, it will be Tom. He has done amazing things in his life. A Good friend, I was and am very concerned about him, but I think he will get through this. He meets with his surgeons on Tuesday (January 15) and will have the surgery ASAP after they see him. (He is tentatively scheduled for an operation to remove his bladder on Monday, January 21st, lets hope and Pray this operation can be cancelled.) In the meantime please keep Tom Clark in your thought and Prayers. Thanks for alerting everyone.

James Allcorn

**Memberships expire on March 31st
Renew now and avoid the rush.**

PUBLIC DEMO DATES;

Add the following dates to your calendar and come participate if you can.

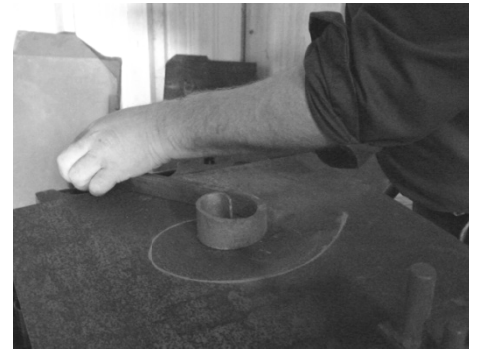
Wild West Show—June 14, 21, and 28.
Perry/Cherokee Strip Museum Rural Heritage
Festival is April 26th 2008

S/CENTRAL MEETING

JC Banks hosted the S/Central regional meeting at the OSU facility south of Altus on January 19th. He held a scroll workshop during the meeting. The morning was cold but sunny and it soon became tolerable outside, if you needed to venture out.

JC had all the equipment needed to build a scroll jig. After a brief talk about how to build a jig we each gathered up some metal and got started.

Our first task was to sketch out our scroll pattern on a piece of flat steel. This will then be used as we shape the hot iron into our scroll.



You needed to repeatedly heat and adjust the metal to

match the pattern drawn on the metal. When you had the jig the way you wanted, you would weld a piece of angle iron to the bottom or hammer a off-set that would allow the jig to be held in a vise and have clear passage around the jig for your metal you are using to make the scroll



You might need to use a pair of tongs to tighten the scroll as it is worked around the jig.



David is assisting Linda and Doug Bliss in creating a scroll using the jig they had just made.

Everyone there made at least one size of jig. Mike brought his collection of scroll jigs that he has made. They were of different sizes and styles.



At lunch we enjoyed a bowl of soup along with cornbread and or light bread followed by a desert o cake.

After lunch everyone got back to making scrolls or visiting with others. I think that everyone took home the knowledge to create scroll jigs.

Next month we will be meeting at Gerald Franklins to continue creating scrolls. Bring your jigs and Gerald will show us how to create different scroll ends. Some of the different ends may require a special jig be made. But we should have the basic knowledge required to figure out how to make one.

Diana Davis

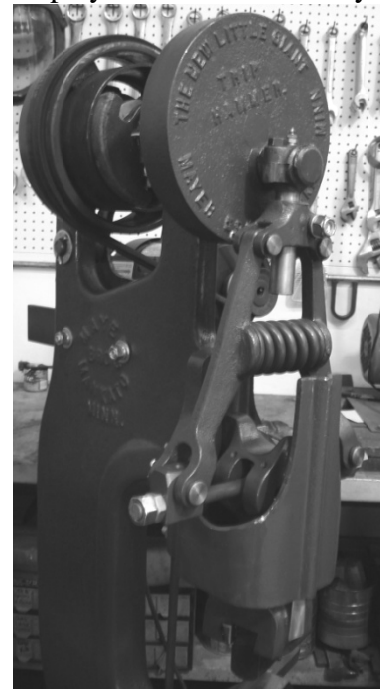
100 YEAR OLD LITTLE GIANT

Little Giant power hammers were first manufactured in 1895 and continued in production for 99 years with more than 18000 power hammers

being produced. Little Giant power hammers were shipped to every states in the US and more than 30 other countries.

The first 25# Little Giants was shipped on January 1, 1908 by the Mayer brothers to W.C. Mann of Ralston, Oklahoma. 98 Years later the 25# Little Giant with serial #1 was purchased back by Sid Suedmeier who is the current owner of what is left of the Little Giant Power Hammer Company

Sid was notified about the hammer being for sale by Jim Carothers, of Perry, Okla.. Jim had went to look at a hammer that was for sale and when he saw that it was serial #1 know that Sid needed to be notified. The hammer that has been named Alpha has joined Omega, the last 25# hammer cast but never assembled and sold by Mayor Brothers. Both hammers are in working conditions and were on display at the 100th birthday celebration.



Sid and his family invited the Blacksmithing community to come to Nebraska City, Ne. to help them celebrate the occasion. I think



they were overwhelmed to see how many of us came. There were around 82 people there for the weekend.



Sid and Keri made arrangements for demonstrations to be conducted during the weekend. Some of them used the Alpha hammer.

Bob Bergman used the hammer to show how to sharpen plowshares and Dean Slader used it during several of his demos.

Another demo was done showing how to forge an anvil using a power hammer.

Sid has a nice collection of hammers outside his shop.



He also had a lot of equipment for sale.



Along with blacksmithing demonstrations there was also a Tin Smith. I really enjoyed watching him work. Chris Hagemann has been tinsmithing since 1994.



He had a nice collection of his tinwork for sale. I talked to him a little about coming to Oklahoma for one of our conferences to do a demo and or class. If you are interested in seeing him let me know.

(Editor)

There was also a collection of old tools. Many of them had signs on them telling you what they were but there were a few that he wasn't sure about them.



I didn't catch the owner of the collections name but he is pictured with his tools. There was also a display of miniatures that was really nice to look at.



There was one other demo that was not one the schedule. Roger Degner bought some of his copper vases and some of us asked him to show us how they were created.



The Saltfork group was well represented at the party. We would like to thank Sid and his family for allowing us to participate in this celebration.

