

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

May 2014



Charles McDevitt, SCABA member from Comanche, Oklahoma presented the club with another great tool box for the 2014 conference. You have to see it to believe all the great wood burnings on it including the Saltfork name on the train engine. The handle has a train on a covered bridge. It has feet on the box that are the heads of RR Spikes.

Saltfork Craftsmen
Artist-Blacksmith Association
Officers and Directors

President/cones:

Byron Doner 405-650-7520
6520 Alameda, Norman Okla.
byrondoner@esok.us

Vice-President/events:

David Seigrist 580-381-0085
P.O. Box 163 Hollis, Ok 73550
dseigrist2004@yahoo.com

Sec-Treas. Dan Cowart

10380 N. 4010 Road 918-440-0653
Wann, Ok 74083
ddcowart@gmail.com

Director/Editor: Diana Davis

23966 NE Wolf Rd. 580-549-6824
Fletcher, Ok 73541
Diana.copperrose@gmail.com

Director/tool box tools:

Mandell Greteman 580-592-4460
Rt. 2 Box 130 Foss, Okla. 73647
mandell01@windstream.net

Director/swage blocks: Bill Kendall

1756 E. 59th St Tulsa Ok. 74105 918-742-7836
wwkendall@aol.com

Director: Mark Carter

34509 Hazel Dell Rd. 405-964-5754
McLoud Ok. 74851
mcarteriron@gmail.com

Assignments:

Webmaster:

Dodie O'Bryan
Pawnee, Ok
scout@skally.net

Workshop Coordinator:

Tracy Cowart 918-376-2382
9911 N. 117th E. Ave.
Owasso. Ok
draftsman@cox.net

Editors notes...

Starting with the June newsletter, Tony Cable will be taking care of the mailing out. This will not affect the production and editing. I will still be doing that and you still need to send your membership renewals and articles to me. Tony works for a printing service that also does bulk mailing. By having Tony handle the mailing, it will save the club the time and expense of me having to drive 120 miles round trip to pick up and process and mail the newsletter. We hope that it will make it quicker to get the newsletter in the mail. Please make sure that if you have any changes to your mailing address during the year that you let me know ASAP so I can get the changes made and you won't miss any of your SCABA newsletters. I will not replace any lost or miss directed (post office puts them in the trash) newsletter because of wrong address. Newsletters are not forwarded so don't expect them even if you fill out a change of address form with the post office.

There is a board of directors meeting on May 4th for the installation of new officers and other current business. If you have a complaint, gripe or better yet, good idea that you want to bring before the board, please get your self on the agenda. Contact Dan Cowart for that.

This is the month that I drop everyone that has not paid their dues. If someone ask you about the newsletter because they didn't get theirs, remind them to go and pay their dues. We end the year with 326 members but we have 152 that have not paid their dues and have been dropped with this newsletter leaving us to start the new year with 172 . They usually start remembering and soon we are back up again. We have to mail out 200 pieces according to our bulk mailing permit so don't worry if some of you get two copies. We are just filling out our quota. These extras will be sent to board members and members that do public demonstrations.

My two cents worth....Diana. Editor

The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association, a non-profit organization 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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www.saltforkcraftsmen.org

Mays presidential notes..

How can each month be more busy than the last? The month started with the Medieval Faire. Counting the set up day, the first weekend in April turned out to be a four-day weekend for myself and several others.

On the second Saturday I demonstrated at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds for the 89er day celebration along with the Pioneer library Systems Big Read True Grit Finale featuring the family fun fair and they even had the Pawnee Bill Wild West show there. (first time they had ever left their home place at Pawnee)



Then on the third Saturday we had the state wide picnic. We had a great turnout, but I did notice that we had only a couple from the northwest. I would like to thank all of you for coming and a big thanks to all that helped out!

My last demo was with Diana Davis and Ralph Upchurch at the elementary school on the north side of Blanchard. We were there on Thursday the 24th, and it was a nice windy day. We had a bit of trouble with Diana's pump handle forge at first but we are blacksmith and we force it back to work! It was a hectic day for me, as the kids came non stop for what seemed like a week! It was really only three hours or so, and the kids were well behaved and full of questions.

I took the day off on the fourth Saturday and found myself at Terry Jenkins place where they were working to get their stuff ready for the Muskogee faire that last all the month of May. Those guys are going to have a month like I just had!

I hope everyone gets to hammer as much as they want!

Babbling (and whining!) Byron.

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

May meeting schedule;

- ♦ *SE Regional meeting (May 3rd) will be hosted by Ronnie Smith. Lunch is provided, bring a side dish to help out. Trade item is a flower of any kind. Directions: From McAlester Ok. South on 69 to Savanna. In middle of Savanna go west on 99 N. Washington. Didn't say if he would have signs. Contact number is 918-916-3426*
- ♦ *NE Region (May 10th) Will be hosted by James Erb at his home near Tulsa, see map. The trade item is "Camping Gear". Lunch is provided, bring a side dish to help out. James wife has offered the use of her stained glass studio to anyone that wants to try their hand at making a stained glass project that day.*
- ♦ *SC region (May 17th) will be hosted by Ricky Vardell at his home in Temple Ok. 103 W. Main (old bank building) enter at the alley on west side of building. Trade item is a large spoon. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out.*
- ♦ *NW Region (May 24th) Will be hosted by Roy Bell at the Route 66 Museum blacksmith shop in Elk City. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out. Trade item is a knife.*

June meetings schedule.

- ◇ **SE Regional meeting will be hosted by Frank Sheldon at his shop at 204 hwy 69 North in White Wright Texas. His trade item is a bottle opener. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out. Look for directions in next months newsletter.**
- ◇ **NE Regional meeting (June 14) open**
- ◇ **SC Regional meeting (June 21) will be hosted by Larry Mills at his shop at 3510 Charleston Rd, Norman, Ok. He has chosen a "Summer Flower Arrangement" as his trade item. Lunch is being catered. Directions: 2 miles east of I-35, Take Tecumseh Rd Exit, to Charleston Rd.**
- ◇ **NW Regional meeting (June 28) will be hosted by Don Garner at his shop at Thomas, Okla. (directions: 1 mile west, 1 mile north of Thomas) Lunch is provided, Please bring a side dish to help out. Don has chosen a scrolling wrench as his trade item.**

July meeting schedule:

- ⇒ **SE Regional meeting (July 5th)**
- ⇒ **NE Regional meeting (July 12th)**
- ⇒ **SC Regional meeting (July 19th)**
- ⇒ **NW Regional meeting (July 26th) hosted by Monty Smith at his shop 7 miles north of Hammon to E-W road 88, 3 west, 1/2 south. East into. Lunch is provided. Bring a side dish. Trade item is something out of a horseshoe.**

2014 meeting dates....

SE Region (1st Sat)

Jan
Feb
March
April
May Ronnie Smith
June Frank Sheldon
July
Aug
Sept
Oct
Nov conference
Dec Bill Phillips

NE Region (2nd Sat)

Jan: Bill Kendall
Feb Gary Gloden
March: Doug Redden
April: Ed McCormack
May James Erb
June
July
Aug
Sept: James Mayberry
Oct
Nov
Dec

SC Region (3rd Sat)

Jan; Gerald Franklin
Feb: JJ McGill
March Larry Mills
April Picnic
May Ricky Vardell
June Larry Mills
July
Aug
Sept: J.J. McGill
Oct
Nov
Dec

NW Region (4th Sat)

Jan: Dorvan Ivey
Feb: Gary Seigrist
March: Mandell Greteman
April: Bob Kennemer
May: Roy Bell
June: Don Garner
July Monty Smith
Aug Terry Kauk
Sept: Ron Lehenbauer
Oct: Cheryl Overstreet
Nov: Mandell Greteman
Dec: Ted Culver

Saltfork Craftsman Regional Meeting Hosting Form

Region _____ SE _____ NE _____ S/C _____ NW

Date: Month _____ day _____ [correct Saturday for region selected above]

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/email _____

Trade item _____

Lunch provided _____ yes _____ no

Directions or provide a map to the meeting location along with this form.

****All meeting are scheduled on a first come basis. Completely filled out form MUST be received by editor no later than the 23rd of the month TWO months PRIOR to the meeting month.**

Completed forms can be mailed or emailed.

You will receive a conformation by email or postcard.

A form must be filled out for each meeting.

Saltfork Craftsmen annual picnic..

Our annual picnic was held at Byron Diners place in Norman again this year. We couldn't have asked for better weather. It was clear and the winds were light. Bill and I arrived about 9:00 and there were already a lot of members wandering around. Bruce had his Honda-que set up on the patio ready to cook lunch for us and Richard Simpson, who had promised us free samples of his Dutch oven treats was starting to mix up some tempting treats.

I was in charge of the nail making contest so wandered into the shop to see what needed to be done so we could get started at 10:00. I didn't know how many planned to compete but hoped some of our new members would give it a try. I had some of the guys move a gas forge around and place an anvil on each side to form two stations and we soon got started. The rules were simple, I thought. You had to produce one nail that fit specks. Those being. 2 inches long with a 1/2 inch head. I started things off by making a couple of nails, both of which turned out to be just a hair over the required length. Since I didn't plan to compete anyway, I placed my one nail on the table and started encouraging others to try. When we called time at noon, we had 8 nails to judge. We soon had our winner. Nolan Walker, from Nature Farms Ferrier supply. It was the first time he had ever tried to make a nail. He will have to come back next year as a returning champion.

Bruce did a great job of cooking up the burgers and Carol Doner and the other ladies brought it all together for a great meal. We need to thank everyone that RSVP'd and brought food to help out with the menu. And the free samples from Richard Simpson were great. Chocolate cake, cherry pie and Chile. Think I have him talked into a cooking class at the conference. We will keep working on it.

After lunch we had some demonstrations. Ron Lehenbauer had the idea of having members do demonstrations showing the type of items that they do for the public. We started with Gerald Franklin making a leaf and then making a key fob from it, Then Ron Lehenbauer started making the dogs. He made two from two sizes of stock. Jim Stubbs made a heart from a horseshoe and Larry Mills show several scroll types. By that time it was getting late. We decided to auction off the demo items and some of the lucky ones took home an example of some fine forging.



Nail makers busy trying to make that one nail that will win the trophy.



Honda-que fired up and ready to cook up some great burgers.



Richard Simpson getting ready to start his dutch ovens to cooking up some great samples. Couldn't beat the chocolate cake with a little cherry pie on top.



Some of the guys working up an appetite by setting up tables and chairs.



Three of our demonstrators. Gerald Franklin, Ron Lehenbauer and Jim Stubbs. No pictured of Larry Mills. Each did a great demo explaining how to make their piece and why they think the public likes to see the process.

Medieval Faire

On Thursday, April the third most all of the set up work was finished by the time I got there with the coal, fire blankets, fire extinguishers and a bit more stuff. All was well and most of the guys went home. That's when the cold front came along with a large amount of cold wind! It blew the tents around a bit but we did a little rearranging and got them more secure. Some of the other folks didn't have as good of luck. The popup just to our east blew down and pretty much ended up upside down. We took a tarp over and got all their stuff covered so they would still have it for the faire.

Friday started off quite cool and breezy. After I had dropped off three swage blocks to their new owners, I was on my way back home to feed Ed, my farther-in-law a biscuit from Brahms. That's when I got a call from Brahk Hadick explaining that Molly Evans with KGOU radio (NPR) was there wanting to do an interview with the Saltfork blacksmith. I was told that he did a wonderful interview. So now Saltfork has a nationally known radio celebrity. Then Steven Knisely informs me that we also have a nationally know television celebrity. Seems the today show did a spot with Alyssa Lusk, however when I tried to look up the video on Google I found Steven Knisely on the video instead.

Anyway, around noon Friday, it had warmed up a bit and forges were turning out all kinds of iron works. Saturday turned out to be the day with the best weather. I was walking around the faire looking at all the really strange people when I realized that these folks probably live right around me and I'm really with them all the time. that's when I looked over and caught someone studying me. Oh well, I think everyone had fun. Sunday turned out to be the day with the moisture. It never really rained hard though, just a drizzle. Enough to make you soggy, but not enough to make you run for cover. However it did build up on top of the tents and made for bigger drips inside than outside. We were all having fun, but no one got upset when they said that we were going to close down early at 5 o'clock due to possible bad weather. Because of the early shut down, we were all loaded up before dark.



JOHN MCLELLAN'S

Simple Tongs – Basic Skills

By: John McLellan, ABANA Education Chair,
ABANA Board Member

Good tongs are an extension of your hand, allowing you to securely hold pieces that would otherwise be too hot to handle. There is a larger variety of tongs than any other tool. Each pair is sized to hold primarily one size and shape of material.

Tongs must hold work securely or they are dangerous!

Flat jaw tongs are the most basic of the group. They are made to hold one thickness of material, but can handle any width. They hold relatively well and are very versatile.

These simple tongs are made from flat bar with a twisted jaw. Making tongs this way is quick, but you get what you pay for. These tongs are weakest at the twist area of the jaws. You will need to keep them cool as you work by quenching the tongs often.

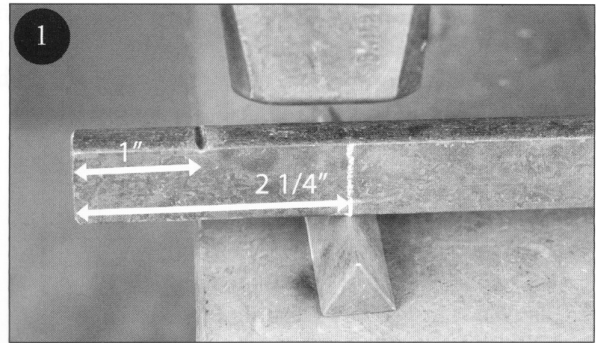
For smaller material, $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch x $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch works well. For larger tongs $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch x 1-inch is a good choice. The layout here is for $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch x $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch. The design of these tongs allows for their forging without the use of tongs, and as such is ideal for the novice smith with limited tooling.

Start with 18-inches of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch x $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch flat bar. Mark the center at 9-inches with a center punch.

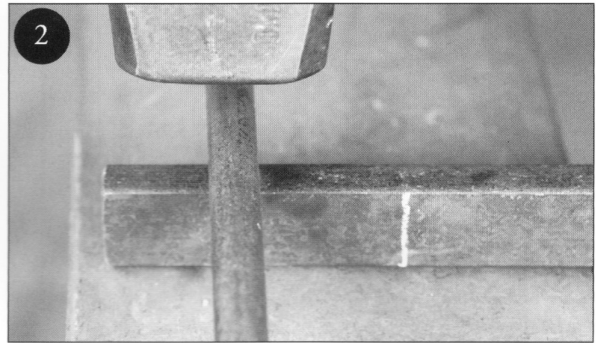
Lay out the jaws by putting center punch or chisel cut marks on the edges of the bar. Fig. 1. I'm using an Anvil Devil® which is available from farrier supply stores. These cuts allow for easy placement of the bar or fuller in the next step. Fig. 2

My measurements are 1-inch and 2¼-inches from the end of the bar. The measurements are recorded on opposite edges of the flat bar. Lay out the measurements on both ends of the bar at the same time.

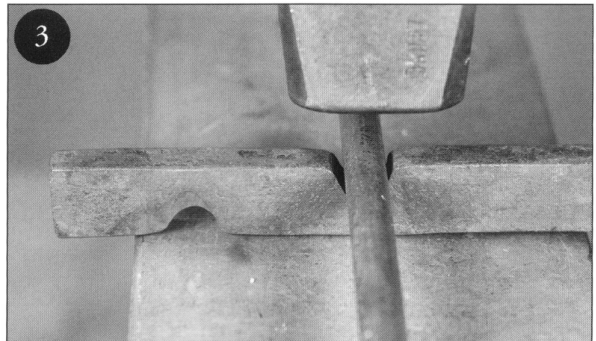
Take a yellow heat and using a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch round or a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch fuller, drive it in on the 1-inch mark until it is $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch deep. Do this in multiple steps...drive in 3-4 blows then turn and flatten the sides that spread out. Figs. 3 & 4



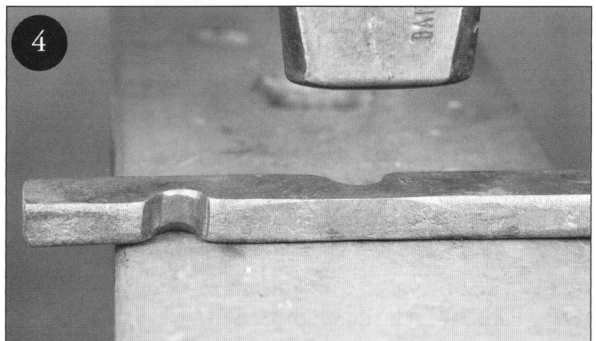
I use an Anvil Devil® to mark the location of the fullered grooves in the bar



A $\frac{3}{8}$ " round bar is being used as a fuller in this case



Don't fuller too deep with the indent for the tong reins



Dress the edges often as you fuller to prevent cold shuts

SIMPLE TONGS

Turn over and do the same on the $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mark, but drive the bar in only about $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch. Fig. 3

Knock in the corner that is at the start of what will be the tong reins. Fig. 5

Draw out behind the second fuller mark to start the reins. Draw the reins down to approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch square for 4-inch length or so. Fig. 6

Now turn the piece around and do the same on the other end. Try to get both ends to resemble each other as closely as possible. The two halves should be identical.

Twist the jaw. The direction is determined by which hand you hold them in when you are using them. If you intend to arrange the reins so that one rests on top of the other, as most commercial tongs are these days, then the direction of the twist doesn't really matter. Fig. 8

Historically, tongs were made for either the left or right hand. The slope of the reins matched the slope of the hand.

Take a look at Fig. 18 and 19. Both pairs of tongs look similar at first glance, but on closer inspection you can see that the uppermost reins of both tongs are on opposite sides of the boss to each other.

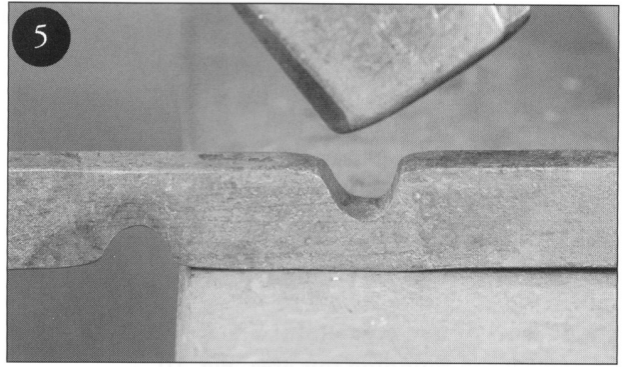
One pair, Fig. 18, are to be held in the left hand while the pair in Fig. 19 are to be held in the right.

I find the historical style of tong much more comfortable to use. Being left handed, my choices are usually limited to ambidextrous (Fig. 20) or left handed. The left handed tongs don't work as well when used in my right, non-hammer hand.

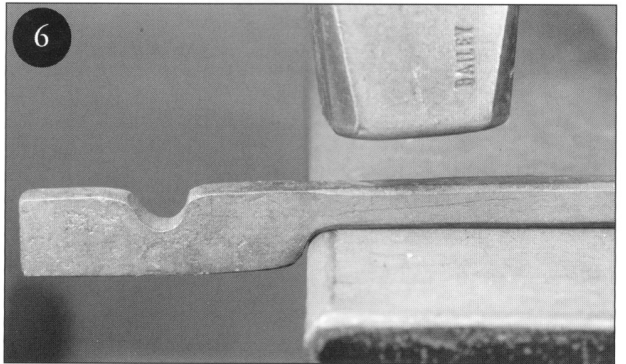
Which way to twist?:

As you look down onto the tongs from the top of the bar, turn the jaw to the right if you want tongs that are to be held in the left hand. Fig. 8

Another way of saying this is "twist the jaw towards your hammer hand as you hold the bar in the vise."



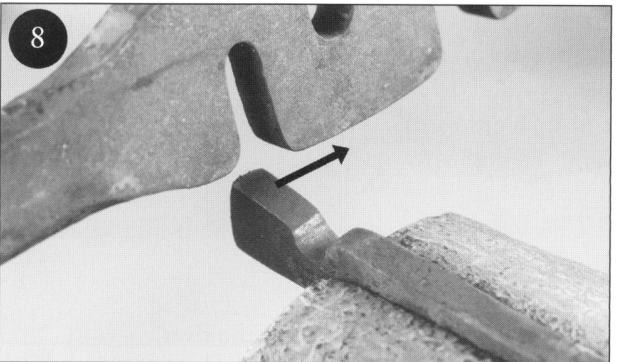
Remove the corner before drawing out to prevent a cold shut



Draw the reins out. The reins should taper away from the boss area



The center punch mark in the center of the bar helps to fix the degree of taper



Turn top of the bar to the right for tongs to be held in the left hand