

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

October 2017



Don Garner is finishing up this year's Conference Toolbox. Be sure to look for tickets at the conference if you want a chance to win! We could still use a few tools to round out the tool collection that goes with the box (although even now it will be full of mostly hand made nice tools and probably a bit heavy!) Contact Bruce Willenberg if you would like to donate a tool. Bruce has the master list of tools already donated.

**The 2017 Annual Saltfork Craftsmen Conference is
October 21st and 22nd**

See page 36 for Conference flyer and registration form.

Register as soon as possible!

***Find an extra bonus in your welcome packet if paid registration is
received on or before Monday, October 16th***

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Editors notes...

If you have an item that is forged or otherwise some form of metal work that would be interesting or inspiring, **please consider bringing it for display in the General Conference Gallery.**

This is not the gallery of members' work to be voted on for the Peoples Choice, just a general display of items to show a variety of metal work. The display items can be old trade items you have won, items purchased from other blacksmiths, or items you have made, etc. My personal favorite are antique items made by some long departed blacksmith that show a level of skill that was probably just his attempt to get the job done that day and move on to the next task at hand. But I love to see how they approached and solved problems.

This is an opportunity to educate and inspire others so all levels of skill and quality in the work piece make good items. Let's try to have a lot of items to look at this year! Thank you!

- Russell Bartling - 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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Visit our Saltfork Craftsmen Website:
www.saltforkcraftsmen.org



President's Notes:

Hope you all have had a great September! Mine has been quite a mess. I guess it actually started in August. On the last Tuesday the 29th I went in for a "Ciber Laser T.U.R.P." The best way I can explain it is they used a Ray gun to burn away some of my enlarged prostate or prostate. (still not sure how to say or spell it!) Anyway, all was fine until right at 2 weeks after the procedure when I rode my Harley trike across town and back. The Dr. had told me that if I done too much, I would know because I would see blood in my urine. I had found that he was right, as I had seen a little red a couple times already. But this time there was a lot more red. I really didn't think much of it until I got up to go at about 3:00 AM and couldn't! All I could do was make a few drops of blood. The urge to go was agonizing, so I got some cloths on and hurried out to my truck that was still hooked up to my trailer. (I had left it hooked up after demonstrating at the Cleveland county fair, thinking it would be ready to go to the Sulphur Tractor Show) I never thought I'd be at the hospital at 3:30 in the morning, begging them to put in a catheter! When I got to the first nurse that takes your vitals, he said; "yeah, it usually happens right at 2 weeks after the procedure, they will most likely put in a catheter." Well after almost 3 excruciating hours, and seeing 2 student Doctors, I finally got to see the real Dr. that was the "boss" and she told me they were gonna put in a catheter. I wanted to choke her, but since I was about to bust, I decided to bite my tongue. In a few minutes a guy came in that looked like Odd Job from the James Bond movie! I don't believe he knows what the word "gentle" means. After promptly filling the bag, I was finally able to relax a bit. Then they told me they were going to send me to Deaconess hospital in an ambulance, because that is where my urologist could take care of me. I talked them into letting me drive myself there, and got the heck out of there. On the way up there, I called my doctor's office, and they told me to just come there instead of the hospital. When I got there, a very nice, and gentle nurse took out the catheter, and after putting in a syringe of something like Novocain, she put in a bigger catheter. I asked her why Odd Job had not deadened me a bit before he jammed in the catheter, and she said that hospitals just don't, unless they have a doctors order. A day or two later I went through another night of hell when the catheter got stopped up! When morning came, back to doctor office I went. They irrigated it and also sent me home with stuff, and knowledge to irrigate it myself if needed. It turned out I didn't have to, and after a few days I got rid of the catheter. Life is good again!



I owe a big thanks to, Bruce Willenberg, Gerald Franklin, Ben Hangsleben, Dale Dixon, and Tim Jones for all the help at the Cleveland county fair! They really bailed me out once again! We had a good time there, and we also got a real surprise when Fred Hunholz came and visited us!

Another big thanks to Terry Jenkins! Not only did he take the teaching trailer up to the State Fairgrounds, and get all set up the day before the fair started, he also filled in for me on Sunday while I was dealing with my catheter mess!

I sure missed getting to go to the tractor show at Sulphur, and I hope everyone had a great time there!

Hopefully next month I will write about things that aren't so yucky.

Happy hammering to all!

-Byron

All Regional Meetings are Free to Attend and are Always Open to Any Member or Guest...

New to Saltfork or just want to check out Blacksmithing but don't know where to start? These meetings are a great place for new members or guests who just want to see what it is all about to come network with like minded people. If you want some pointers on how to get started, there is always someone happy to help get you started hammering. And guests are always welcomed.

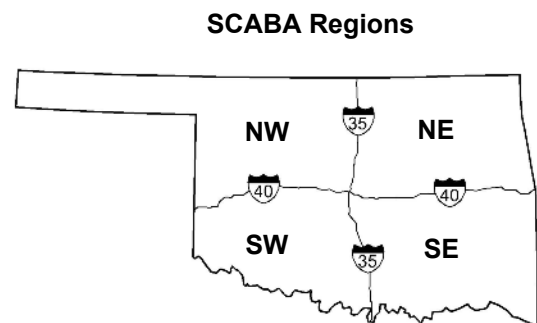
Want to host a meeting? The meeting hosting form can be found on the last page along with membership application form. If you want to host a meeting in any area please fill out one of the host forms on the website under the calendar section or in the newsletter and e-mail the information or mail the hard copy form in as soon as possible. If you mail a form, please call or e-mail to verify that it is received. E-mail is the most convenient for me but you can also phone in the information if you prefer. The sooner the meeting is scheduled, the more time there is to get the word out to potential attendees. -Russell Bartling 918-633-0234 or rbartling@ionet.net

What's My Region?

The four main regions are currently defined within the state by being separated by I35 and I40. (For example, the NW region is anything north of I40 and west of I35.)

All meetings are encouraged. These boundary definitions and regional meeting dates are a suggested framework to facilitate orderly meeting scheduling, planning and promotion with a minimum of overlaps and a maximum exposure to the greatest number of members. Not all meetings fit precisely within a rigid boundary definition and members in an area may want to hold meetings on a date that doesn't match their physical region or at a location other than their own region. This may be especially true in the center of state for areas that are close to the I35 and I40 boundary crossing. Special events such as shows, fairs, etc. may also dictate adjustments to the meeting dates within a region.

The regions are meant to be a simplification and clarification to the regional boundaries rather than a rigid restriction to any meeting scenario. ***Saltfork members all belong to one club.*** Regional boundaries are not intended to imply division within the club, but are intended to help spread distribution and promote monthly meetings.



Safety

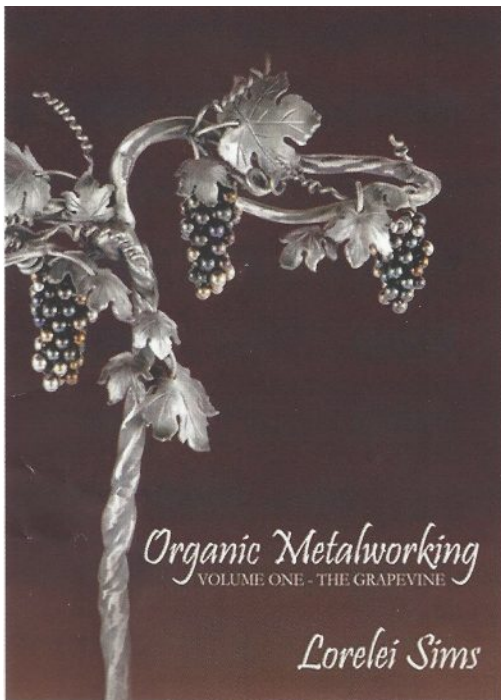
Blacksmithing can be an inherently dangerous exercise. There is no substitute for personal responsibility and common sense and no list of safety rules can adequately cover every situation. Every person who attends a meeting, demonstration or event sponsored by the Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Association (SCABA) or its members does so at their own risk and assumes all responsibility for their own safety needs. The SCABA organization, its officers, members, demonstrators, volunteers and guests disclaim any responsibility for any damages, injuries, or destruction of property resulting from the use of any information or methods published or distributed by SCABA or demonstrated at workshops, meetings, conferences or other events. SCABA recommends proper attire and safety gear and standard shop safety procedures appropriate for blacksmithing and shop work during any event where blacksmithing and other related methods are involved. Safety attire includes, but is not limited to, appropriate clothing, eyewear, hearing protection, gloves, and face shields when appropriate. It is every individual's responsibility to provide for their own safety, to determine what safety gear is appropriate for each situation and to provide, maintain and use that gear as appropriate for each individual situation.

Conference Set Up Work Day!

There is a Pre-Conference set up work day scheduled for October 14th at the Conference site in Sulphur (the Saturday before the Conference.)

If you are interested in helping set up for the Conference, please feel free to attend that day. Set up will include placing the bleachers, installing the audio visual infrastructure, moving various items around, etc. There will be a lot of camaraderie among those elite volunteers who choose to attend.

And, anyone who attends to help will receive five tickets for the Tool Box and five for the Anvil Quilt - A \$20 value! See you there!



Organic Metalworking Vol. 1

by Lorelei Sims

Limited Copies Available

Lorelei Sims has a great new book illustrating her methods for organic metalworking. (See details in the October newsletter, Page 35.)

Volume 1 is first in a series of planned books on different aspects of organic forging. This is a very good how-to book heavily illustrated and has something for beginning and advanced smiths alike.

Lorelei's methods are easy to understand and execute but the finished work is beautiful (at least hers is beautiful!) You will probably want a copy of this book in your library. I highly recommend it.

Due to continued demand, we have second shipment of this book and Doug already has many of them sold. The price of the book through SCABA is the same as the price directly from Lorelei and proceeds from sales benefit SCABA. Contact Doug Redden if you would like to purchase a copy. - Editor

2017 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

| NE Region (1 st Sat) | SE Region (2 nd Sat) | SW Region (3 rd Sat) | NW Region (4 th Sat) |
|--|---|--|--|
| Jan 7 th (Open) | Jan 14 th (Byron Doner) | Jan 21 st (Open) | Jan 28 th (Monte Smith) |
| Feb 4 th (Open) | Feb 11 th (Open) | Feb 18 th (Open) | Feb 25 th (Rory Kirk) |
| Mar 4 th (Open) | Mar 11 th (Bruce Willenberg) | Mar 18 th (Open) | Mar 25 th (Kelly Killhoffer) |
| Apr 1 st (Doug Redden) | Apr 8 th SCABA Picnic! | Apr 15 th (Open) | Apr 22 nd (Don Garner) |
| May 6 th (Jim Carothers) | May 13 th (Ronnie Smith) | May 20 th (JJ McGill) | May 27 th (Mandell Greteman) |
| Jun 3 rd (Gerald Brostek) | Jun 10 th (David Kroier) | Jun 17 th (Open) | Jun 24 th (Terry Kauk) |
| Jul 1 st (Marshall Hager) | Jul 8 th (Byron Doner) Tools for Conference Toolbox Work Day | Jul 15 th (Open) | Jul 22 nd (Roy Bell) |
| Aug 5 th (Billy Helton) | Aug 12 th (Ronnie Smith) | Aug 19 th (Open) | Aug 26 th (Dorvan Ivey) |
| Sep 2 nd (Tracy Cowart) | Sep 9 th (Ben Hangsleben) | Sep 16 th (Jim Dyer - JJ McGill - Sulphur Tractor Show) | Sep 23 rd (Don Garner - Fairview Tractor Show) |
| Oct 7th (Josh Perkins) | Oct 14 th (Open) | Oct 21st (Conference Weekend!) | Oct 28th (Corey Spieker) |
| Nov 4 th (Open) | Nov 11 th (Bill Phillips) | Nov 18 th (Anthony Griggs) | Nov 25 th (Bob Kenemer) |
| Dec 2 nd (Open) | Dec 9 th (Open) | Dec 16 th (Open) | Dec 23 rd (Mandell Greteman) |

Fifth Saturdays:

April 29th (Open)

July 29th (Hammer Making Workshop)

September 30th (Open)

December 30th (Open)

Workshop Schedule

No Workshops are currently scheduled other than the after Conference workshops with Bob Patrick and Lyle Wynn. See information in this newsletter.

Have an idea for a workshop or class? If you have an idea for a workshop that you would like to attend (or teach), please let the workshop coordinator know so that details for time and place can be worked out.

Mandell Greteman is the SCABA Workshop Coordinator.

Contact Mandell at 580-515-1292.

mandell01@windstream.net

October 2017

NE Regional Meeting October 7th : Will be hosted by Josh Perkins at 9620 N 427, Chelsea, OK. (See map on next page.)

The trade item is a candle holder. Lunch is provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out. Contact Josh Perkins at 918-269-3523 or perk3c251@gmail.com if you have questions.

SE Regional Meeting October 14th: Open.

Note: This date will also be the **Conference Work Day** in Sulphur. There will be a lot of Pre-Conference set up and camaraderie. All volunteers are welcome and will receive Conference Toolbox and Quilt tickets for helping. (See info elsewhere in this newsletter.)

SW Regional Meeting October 21st : **CONFERENCE WEEKEND!**

NW Regional Meeting October 28th : Will be hosted by Corey Spieker at the Route 66 Blacksmith Museum shop in Elk City.

The trade item is a set of hinges for a small box (jewelry box or similar). Lunch is provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out. Contact Corey Spieker at 580-799-1736 if you have questions.

November 2017

NE Regional Meeting November 4th: Open.

SE Regional Meeting November 11th : Will be hosted by Bill Phillips at his shop at 14360 State Hwy 113, Indianola, OK 74442.

The trade item is something made from 3/8" round rod. Lunch is provide but please bring a side item or dessert to help out.
Contact Bill Phillips at 918-200-4263 or bullissac@yahoo.com if you have questions.

SW Regional Meeting November 18th : Will be hosted by Anthony Griggs at his shop located at 345387 East Hwy 18B, Sparks, OK 74869. Rock house on the south side of the road on the hill. (See map).

The trade item will be a blacksmith's double caliper. Lunch will be provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out.

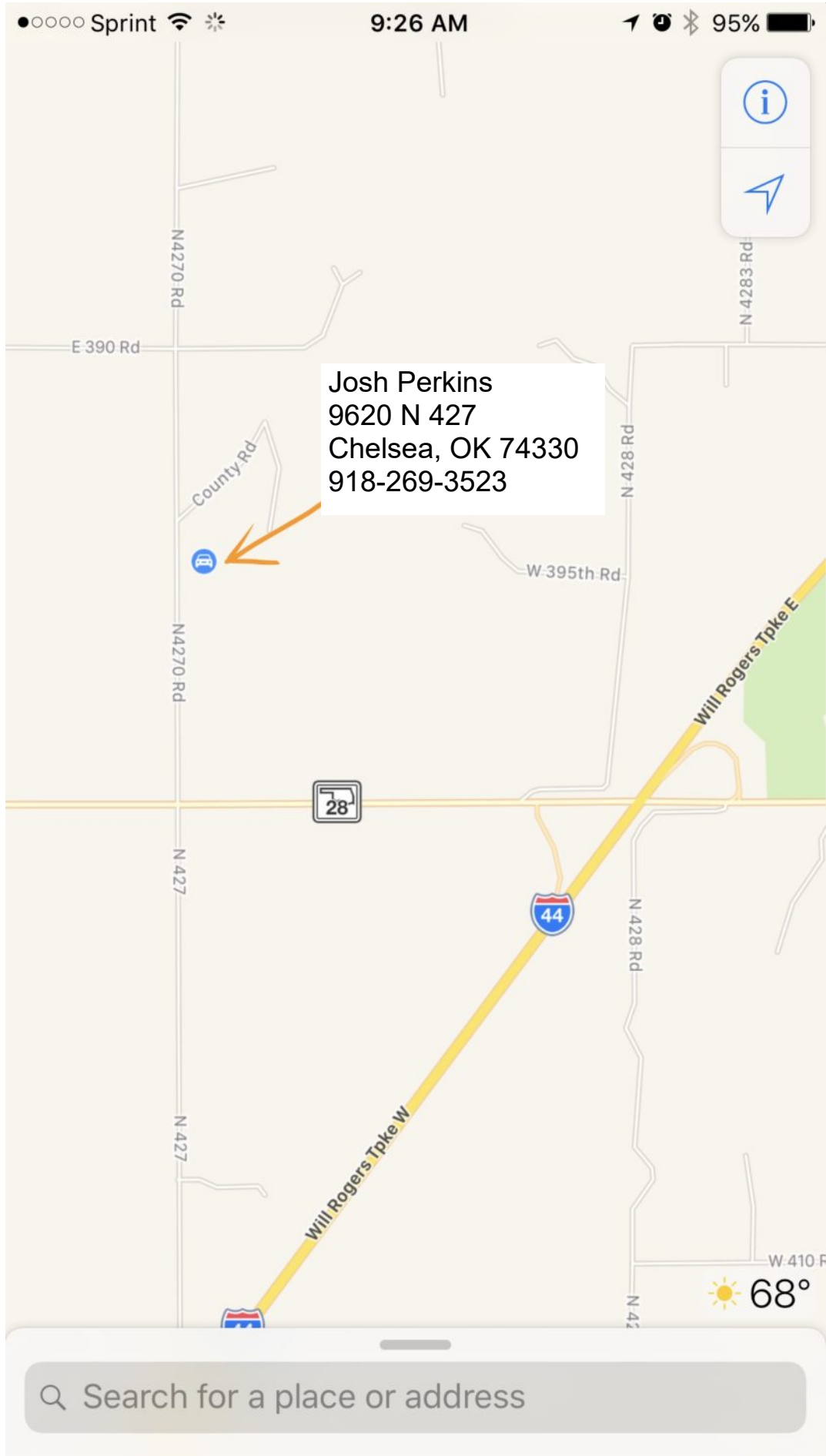
Please bring extra chairs if you want to sit and visit outside.

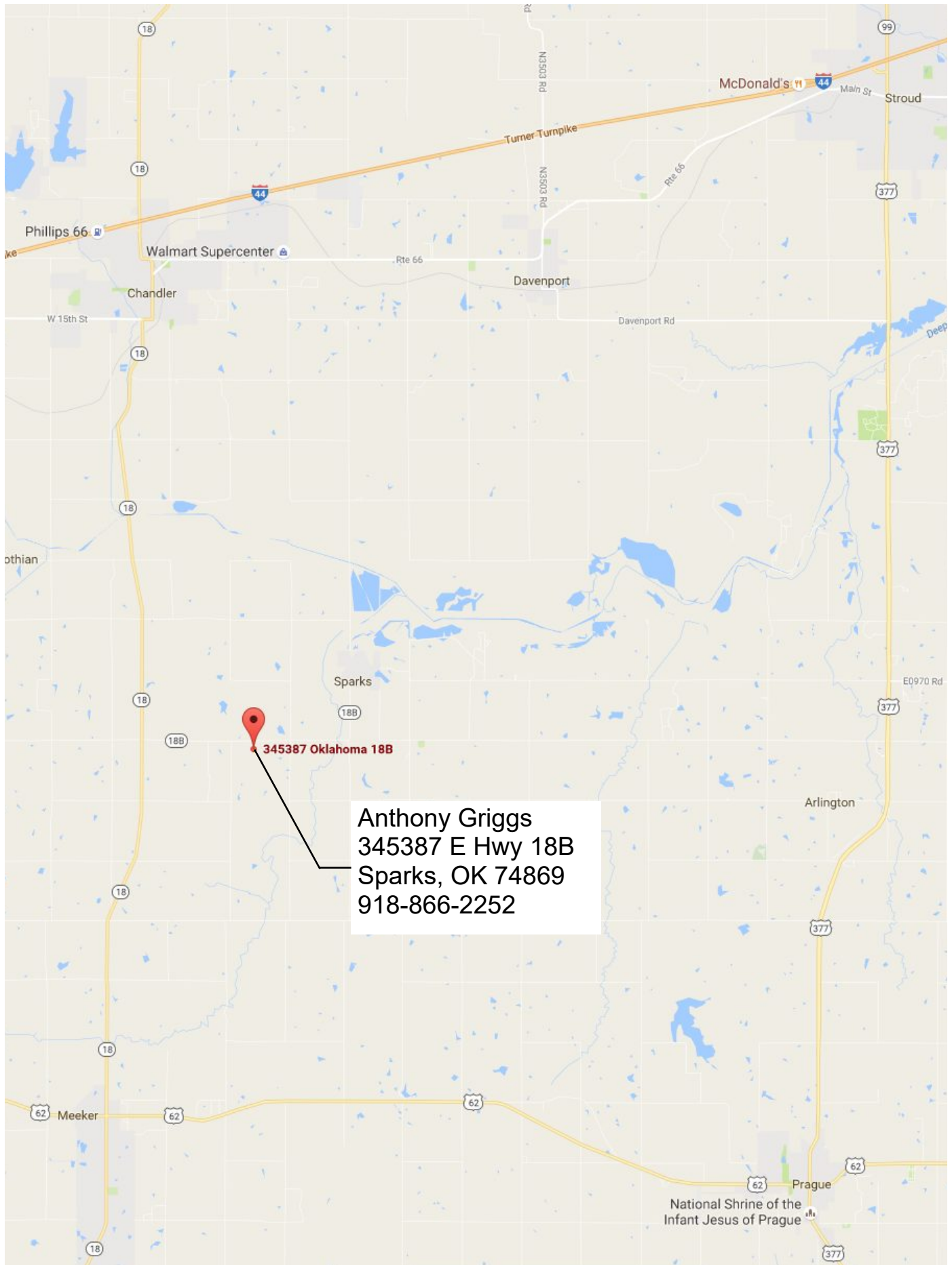
Contact: Anthony Griggs at 918-866-2252.

NW Regional Meeting November 25th : Will be hosted by Bob Kennemer at the Route 66 Blacksmith Museum shop in Elk City.

Trade item is any cooking tool to be used on the grille (steak turner, spatula, etc.)

Lunch will be provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out. Contact Bob Kennemer at 580-799-1878 or bob.kennemer@sbcglobal.net if you have questions.





Tulsa State Fair

The dates for the Tulsa State Fair are Sept. 28th. - Oct. 8th.

Thursday Sept.28 three people

Friday Sept. 29 one person

Saturday Sept. 30 two people

Sunday Oct. 1 two people

Monday Oct. 2 one person

Tuesday Oct.3 one person

Wednesday Oct. 4 one person

Thursday Oct. 5 one person

Friday Oct.6 one person

Saturday Oct. 7 one person

Sunday Oct. 8 one person

We need volunteers to step up and help out. Tulsa Fair Board is paying Saltfork \$2000.00 to demo there this year.

Selling items is allowed.

Please give me a call if you can help.

(918)230-2960

- Doug Redden

Around the State...

NW Region August Meeting: The Northwest Region August meeting was hosted by Dorvan Ivey at the Route 66 Blacksmith Museum in Elk City.



About 20 members attended and we even signed up a few new members. Guest travelers came through all day in route to California on the World's most famous highway, Route 66.







The trade item was a fish gig. Six or seven gigs were made with several different design approaches. Four forges were going most of the day. For lunch, Debra made brown beans and enchilada casserole. Everybody brought a lot of side dishes with two blackberry cobbles and banana pudding for dessert. Nobody should have left hungry.

After dinner everyone was back at the forges making a lot of different items for the rest of the day. We had a great meeting with great weather for August. We would like to thank everyone for coming. - Dorvan and Debra Ivey

(Photos by LaQuitta Greteman)

NE Region September Meeting: The September SCABA Northeast meeting was held by Tracy Cowart at Dan & Tracy Cowart's forge, the 'Rusty Dragon Forge' in Wann, OK.

The day was great and the meeting went very well.

Tracy cooked up a great brisket for lunch and we had a lot of extras. We had a good turn out and







made a lot of trammels at the meeting. We also had some other things made, hooks and a pair of tongs.

-Tracy and Dan Cowart (Photos by the Cowarts)

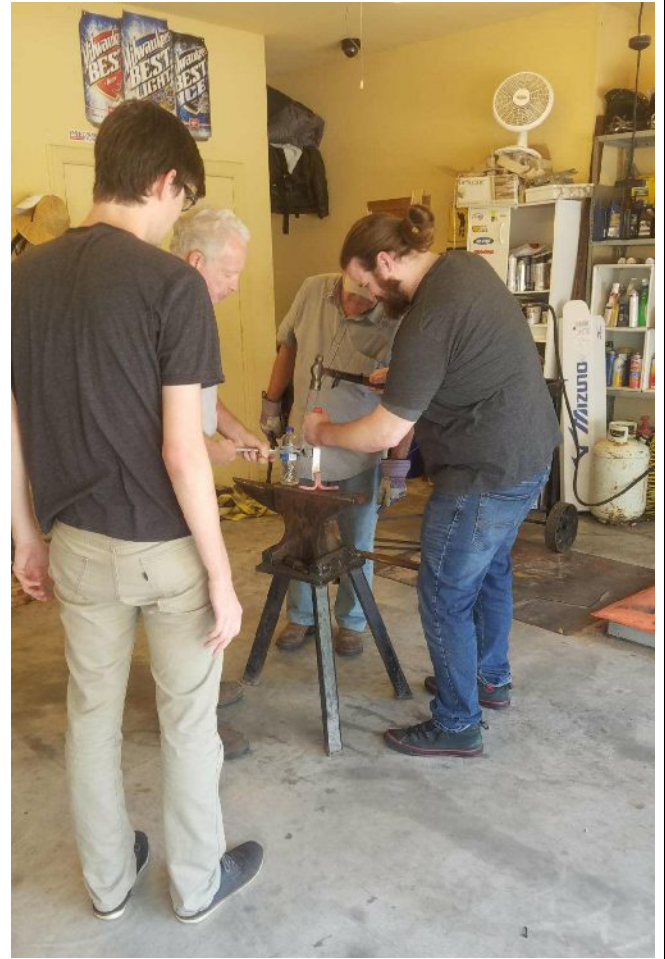
SE Region September Meeting: The SE Region September meeting was held by Ben Hangsleben at his shop in Choctaw, OK.

We had a decent turn out with around a dozen people showing up last Saturday. Most of the attendees had never forged before so they were a little stand offish at first, so I brought out a bunch of ¾" Fredericks cross blanks that I had made over at Byron's house earlier in the month.





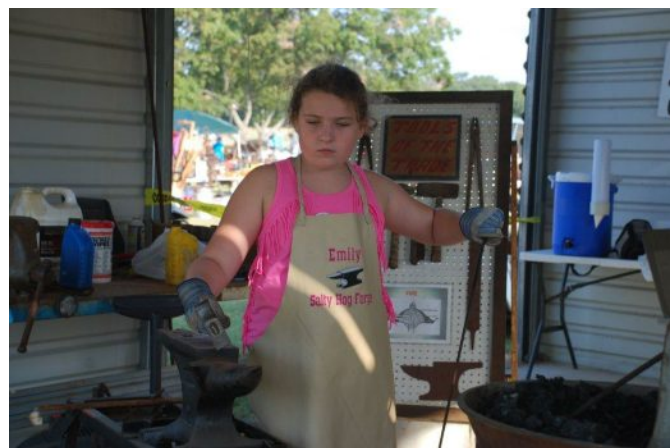
It was easy to see that they were apprehensive about getting started just like I was when I first started , but once the veteran smiths broke the ice away everyone went! It was a symphony of hammers on steel! It was great to see the veterans working alongside the inexperienced smiths passing down their knowledge and mentorship. It reminded me of why I enjoy this club so much.



We worked off of the coal and gas forges, and after a while everyone was showing off their new crosses. Although we didn't have the largest turnout we did a lot of hammering and you could really see that the veterans enjoyed teaching just as much as the beginners enjoyed learning.

The lunch was fantastic and it gave us all time to rest our arms and share stories with each other.

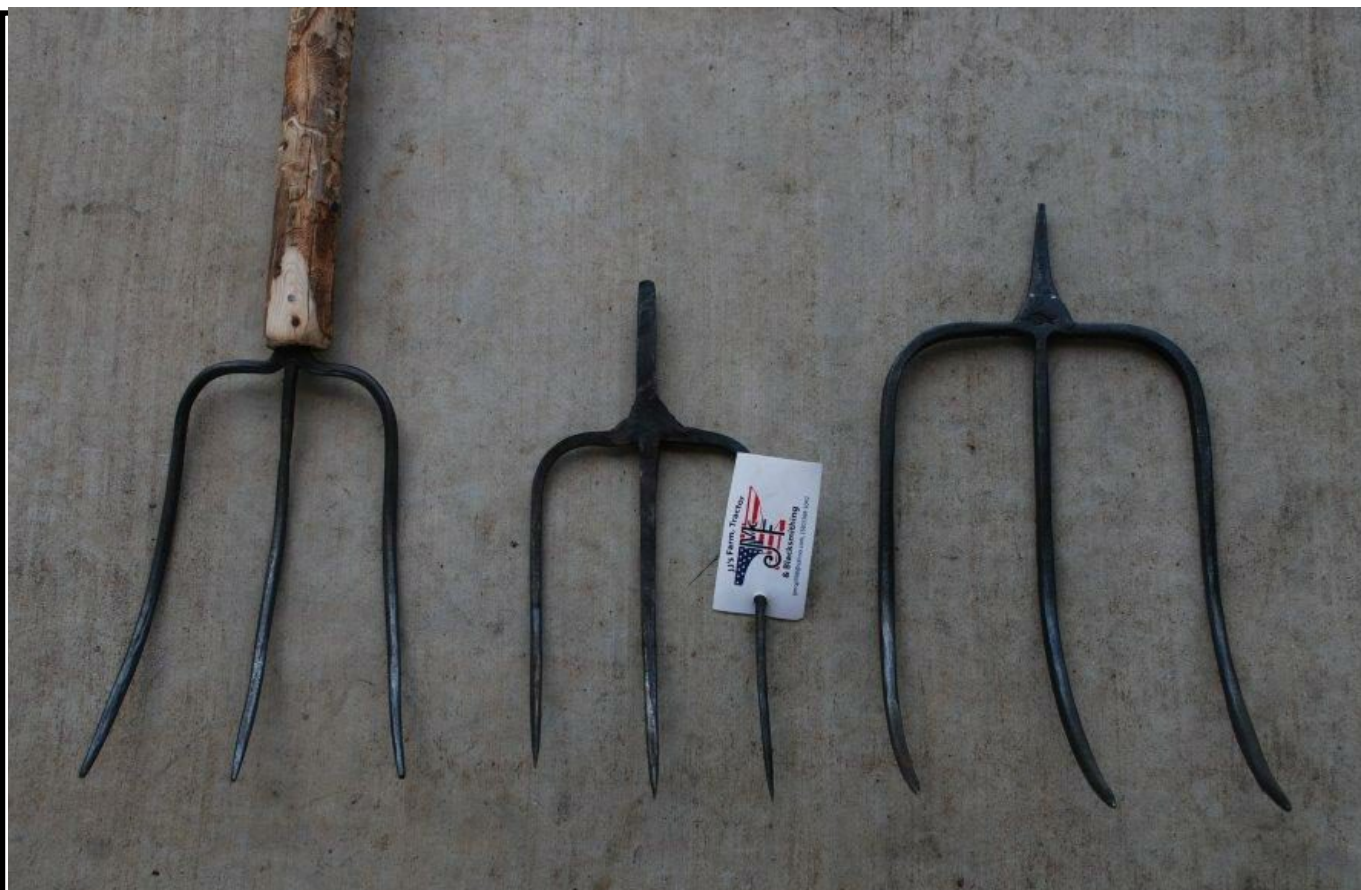
Bruce and I were the only ones with trade items. He made a sweet cedar handled hay gaff and I made a last ditch effort fire poker.



I really enjoyed having the meeting and would like to thank everyone who lent me a hand in getting everything together and also thank everyone for coming out. I look forward to the next one.

-Ben Hangsleben *(Photos submitted by Ben)*

SW Region September Meeting: The SW Region September meeting was held in conjunction with the 24th Annual Murray County Antique Tractor & Implement Association Show. The weather was great and we had lots of spectators come by the booth all day long. Several



members came and went throughout the day. I think each one of them found something at the flea market they had to have.

The trade item was a three tine pitch fork. There were three on the trade item table. It turned out to be a big project for a trade item. Ricky Vardell said he added lots of scrap to his pile before he got one completed. Bruce even found time to put a handle on his! Not required, but made for a very nice display fork!! Two thumbs up to those guys and an apology from me to whichever one of them got mine! I hope they are right handed if they put a handle on it to use it!

Jim and I want to say a big THANK YOU to the Vardell's, the Willenberg's, and John Cook and his daughter because they pulled double duty. They came out and hammered on Friday School Day for about 400 area schools that came to kid's day at the show!! We couldn't have done it without ya'll Folks!

I hope this fall weather doesn't lead us to a cold Conference this next month. Jim and I are looking

forward to ya'll coming for another great conference!!

Blacksmiths Demo at the Seiling Flower Mill 100 Year Anniversary:

Matt Sander & friends are going to fired up and ran the old flour mill in Seiling, OK on Sept. 1 & 2. From Jim Carothers: *You can find a video of the 50HP Fairbanks Morse engine running on U-tube at:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85sYL6cfTYk>

The engine starts on air and the old mill is run by line shafts and belts; it is quite a mechanical engineering marvel to me. Fred Sander built and opened the mill in 1918; it ran until 1952. During WW2 it was a very busy place.

More information at National Register Properties in Oklahoma at:

http://nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=83004167

Several NW Region Saltfork blacksmiths to attend and demonstrate at the historic event. The 1927 50

HP engine was how the town made electricity during the day and ground flour at night. There was a country store and home made ice cream madew





with a hit and miss John Deere Engine. Don Garner, Terry Kauk, Rory Kirk, Monty Smith and Mandell Greteman demonstrated at the event.

One gentleman attending the event produced some nice forged antique lifting hooks. He said his



mother told him they were used to lift hog carcasses up by one hind leg to be lowered into boiling water to scald the carcass for processing. He had found them in a shed on the family homestead before it was torn down.

(Event Photos and write up by LaQuitta Greteman, Web Link Info and Lifting Hook Photos by Jim Carothers)



*Blacksmiths Demonstrate at the Annual
Cheyenne Pioneer Day September 9th in
Cheyenne, OK: (Photos by the Gretemans)*





Rory Kirk Made this Freidrich's Cross to donate for a fundraiser auction at the Cheyenne Pioneer Day. The fundraiser is to support the museums at the City Park.

The cross is wrought iron from an old buggy axle. The base is petrified wood that came from the Greteman's farm.

Rory used 1/2" concrete bits to drill the petrified wood. He set the base in a pan of water to keep the bits cool. He used three bits and it took 2 hours to drill 1 inch deep. Rory says "it was tough stuff."

To set the cross in the base, he used JB cold weld.



Saltfork Member Demonstrates in Wichita Falls, TX: Saltfork member Larry Roderick demonstrated at the Farmers Market in Wichita Falls, TX earlier in May this year. The event was the After Hours Artwalk the first Thrusday of the month from May through October. The photo ran in the the Times Record News May 8th. We followed up in June with short kid anvils running 3 stations Called "The Mini Maker." The kids had a blast.

The second photo is of Ian Roderick Chomping at the bit to get hammering.



Oklahoma State Fair 2017

Thank you so much to those who helped in all areas of the Oklahoma State Fair this year. The weather got a little warmer than the weeks leading up to the fair but luckily not as hot as in some years past.

A special Thank You goes to Terry Jenkins who picked up the trailer on short notice and brought it to the city and helped with set up on Wednesday, September 13, 2017. We had some of the regulars and a few new guys this year. Thank you for taking the time to demonstrate and show your talents and love for Blacksmithing to those out at the State Fair.

Demonstrators this year were; Roy Bell (Clinton), Lloyd Turner (Chickasha), Marc Carson (MWC), Tony Cable (Blanchard), Terry Jenkins (Blanchard), Anthony Griggs (Sparks), James Ammons (Piedmont), Raymond Franklin (Duncan), Danny Duncan (Marlow), Mark Carter (Stillwater) and Richard Blasius (Yukon). We can't forget about the wives who manned the table, answered questions and sold handmade items. *THANK YOU* Carol Cable and Cheryl Griggs!!!

Thank you to Mark Carter, Terry Jenkins, Tony Cable and Richard Blasius for tearing down the area and repacking the trailer Sunday night. Byron Donor was supposed to pick up the trailer afterwards...let's hope he did so or the club may be short a trailer Thank you Byron!

Mark your calendars for next year September 13-23, 2018. Demonstrating at the State fair helps promote Saltfork Club





consider helping next year and start building your inventory of items to sell.
- Michele Blasius



Saltfork Member Brendan Crotty Continues to Receive Science Fair and STEM Awards:

Brendan Crotty, a 9th-grade home school student from Muskogee, traveled to Los Angeles, California May 14-19, 2017, to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. While there he viewed panel discussions with top scientists and entrepreneurs. He also had the opportunity to visit with top universities from around the world.

Earlier in the season, Brendan participated in the 51st Annual Muskogee Regional Science Fair, with his project "Building a Better Burner, Improving Forge Efficiency". He won Best of Fair, Top Senior Project, 1st in Engineering, Most Promising Engineering Project, ASM Materials Award, and was named an Intel ISEF Finalist winning the trip to Los Angeles and the right to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair as well as the opportunity to compete at the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair. At the state fair, he won Best of Fair Division II, 1st in Engineering Division II, and ASM Materials Award.



In January 2017, Brendan was honored with a Citation of Congratulations and was recognized from the house floor by State Representative Avery Carl Frix and State Representative George Faught for his achievements in Science Technology Engineering and Math.

Brendan and his project will be featured in an upcoming documentary about kids competing at the International level in science fair. He is one of 10 from around the world chosen for this film. The crew has traveled to Oklahoma twice and filmed extensively during the Intel ISEF competition documenting Brendan's project. Brendan's blacksmithing and historical interpretation volunteer work are to be featured in the film as an integral part of his science fair experience.

Boy Scout Teaching Opportunity:

From: TIM WHITAKER <WHITAKER-RANCH@msn.com>
Date: August 25, 2017 at 1:07:40 PM CDT
To: "president@saltforkcraftsmen.org" <president@saltforkcraftsmen.org>
Subject: blacksmithing weekend class

Would you be interested or know of someone who would be interested in doing a two day weekend blacksmithing beginners class to 5-8 boy scouts working on a merit badge and let them build a small project. We are willing to pay and we know free Sundays are scare as hens teeth. we live in Amarillo and would drive down on a Friday night after school and be there bright and early for maybe a 8-6 and then maybe 1-5 on Sunday and we would drive back after that, or maybe Saturday only, let me know your thoughts and what you would charge, these Scouts are also in FFA and some in 4-H, please get back to me if you can.

Vaya Con Dios, Tim Whitaker

Demonstrator Opportunity

From: Eric Dilbeck [mailto:eric@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 4:01 PM

Subject: Steam event at Oklahoma Railway Museum

I would like to introduce myself. I am Eric Dilbeck, President of the Oklahoma Railway Museum. I recently read your July newsletter. I work for Presort First Class, which mail these out. I found it very informative and interesting. As I was reading it, I thought your members might be interested in an event we are hosting at our museum. This fall, last weekend in October and first weekend in November, we are hosting a coal fired steam engine. We will be pulling trains and will have opportunities for people to run the engine for 30 mins.

I am always looking for partners for our events. I think it would be easy to see a connection with blacksmiths and the railroad. I did notice you make objects out of railroad spikes. Would it make sense to discuss having a Blacksmith demonstration during our event? I would suggest the first weekend in November as our October weekend is a Halloween train.

Feel free to call or email me.

Thanks,
Eric Dilbeck
President
Oklahoma Railway Museum
3400 NE Grand Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
405.823.7986
eric@oklahomarailwaymuseum.org



Halloween Train Rides
October 28th and 29th - Kids welcome in costume!

Fall Steam Train
November 4th and 5th

Ticket Pricing:
13 yrs & up \$12.00
13 yrs & up in costume \$10.00
12 yrs and under \$5.00

Try your hand "At the Throttle"
of Lehigh Valley coal 126"
You will be the engineer for thirty minutes!
**18 years or older, some restrictions apply*

Time slots available:
October 27th, 28th, and 29th
November 3rd, 4th, and 5th



3400 NE Grand Blvd.
Oklahoma City
(1/2 mi west on NE 36th St from I-35, Exit 131)
<http://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/>

Demonstrator Opportunity

From: Glenna McBride [mailto:glenna.mcbride@gmail.com]

Subject: Oct 7, 2017

Dear Blacksmith Association,

I saw the blacksmith demonstration in Pawhuska during a Leadership Arts session this year behind the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce building. It was a wonderful demonstration. It was also a great job sharing the knowledge of the fine artisanship of metalwork. This is how I found out about your organization.

I am the director for Eufaula Area Arts Council. We would like to invite any of your members to participate in our annual art festival, Oct 7 of this year. I have attached a flyer. Please pass this on to your members. We are trying to promote Eufaula as an artist friendly place to work and play at and any of your group will be welcome to join us.

Sincerely,

Glenna McBride, Executive Director of Eufaula Area Arts
Teaching Artists and Educational Consultant
ArtistGlenna.com

(918) 617-1689



http://arts.ok.gov/Oklahoma_Teaching_Artists/Glenna_McBride.html

Lake Eufaula Art Festival Oct 7

Masquerade the Arts



Art & Crafts for sale 9am-5pm in businesses and on the street



Cruise Night 5:30pm to 9:30pm



Mask Walk 5:30pm to 6pm

Bring your own or join us in a parade of Masks and Costumes - Meet in front of Main St Studio before 5:30

Expression Space 10:30am to 4:30pm in front of new Chamber Building

A multi-function open mic space where entertainers and visual artists express their talents

"Caesar" Jeff Foresee & Hunter Gotcher-mix of indie/Alt with a Pop twist

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Special Guests - 20 invited Art Specialists roaming around Eufaula

Sponsored by Eufaula Area Chamber of Commerce and Eufaula Area Art

With the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts

Demonstrator Opportunity

Planes, Trains, & Automobiles, 2017 event committee would like to cordially invite a blacksmith to set up a blacksmithing demonstration at the Santa Fe Depot (Pott. Co. Museum) on 614 E. Main St. on October 7th as a part of the time-period educational portion of this event.

We are asking demonstrators to plan to be set up by 11 am with the hopes you will be able to remain at the event until 6 pm - 7 pm. You are encouraged to sell items and promote your organization.

Last year, the attendance was incredible and we are expecting the same or more this year.

We have a web site that is currently under construction for you to check out. It will be updated as attendees are confirmed. www.ptanda.net

It is my sincere hope to have a blacksmith demonstrator to attend.

With much anticipation of a great event!!

Teresa Burnett, Pott. Co. Historical Society Event Coordinator
blessingsxfive@yahoo.com
405-414-9185

Detailed information about the event:

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles is an annual event held on the first Saturday in October. The day begins at the Shawnee Regional Airport on 2202 N. Airport Dr. and ends at the Santa Fe Depot Museum on 614 E. Main St.

The Shawnee Regional Airport will start the day at 8 AM, bustling with fun family activities such as helicopter rides, carnival games, and food trucks. A spectacular array of stunt planes and vintage aircraft will be on display throughout the day. Have you ever wanted to try skydiving? The thrill of experiencing the sport of skydiving can be a reality as well. All of this will set the stage for a breathtaking fly-in and air show at 12 PM.

Starting at 2 PM, the sights and sounds of the past will be a short drive away at the Santa Fe Depot, located at 614 East Main St. Come see the model trains make their way in and out of the streets of Shawnee on the room-size model representation of Shawnee during the 1941-42 era. A real train will be waiting on the tracks open for visitors. Live demonstrations will be ongoing such as quilting, blacksmith, a working chuck wagon, butter making, cornhusk doll craft, square dancers and more.

Antique car fans will enjoy a showcase of 50-plus hotrods, vintage, and classic cars. The gallery of cars will be parked on the east end of Main St. Antique tractors, bikes, motorcycles, local fire trucks, a police car, and other emergency vehicles will also be present with professionals available to visit and answer questions.



Anvil Quilt Drawing

The Saltfork ladies have made this awesome anvil quilt that will go to the winning ticket at the 2017 SCABA Annual Conference. This photo is an interim stage as the quilt is not yet finished. Tickets will be available for \$2 each at the Conference.

If you will not be attending this year's Conference, you can also obtain tickets from Carol Doner, LaQuitta Greteman, or the Secretary, Teresa Gabrish. (Or anyone else you see selling tickets at meetings, etc.)

The drawing will be held Saturday at the Conference.

Good Luck!

Changes to Scholarship Applications:

Saltfork Craftsmen has scholarships available to eligible members who attend educational classes and events with the intent of sharing the information with other members of the club.

At the recent July 8th Board of Directors meeting, the process for applying for these scholarships was revised to dissolve the interim step of the scholarship committee in an effort to streamline the process.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee members for their hard work in the past!

Applications will now just be forwarded directly to the Board for approval. The Scholarship Application forms and website have not yet been adjusted to reflect this change but you deliver the current application forms to any Board member until they are revised.

If you are interested in taking a class, it is worthwhile to review the requirements for obtaining a scholarship. This money is there to be used to help members gain exposure to educational events and application for a scholarship is easy. The scholarships can be used to offset the costs for class or workshop expenses including the After-Conference workshops.

Go to the Saltfork website, complete and submit the application form (available in both Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF format) to any Board of Directors member:

<http://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org/Scholarships.shtm>



2017 SCABA Annual Conference People's Choice Awards and General Gallery

Two Categories:

At this year's Annual SCABA Conference, there will be something new for the People's Choice Awards. This year, we will have **two categories**, one will be for work done using "**Traditional**" methods and the other will be "**Open**," meaning open to use any and all methods of the artist's choosing.

As soon as we start placing labels on art and craft work, it becomes difficult to avoid creating overly limiting definitions to clarify those labels. The intent here is to separate work that is done with methods generally considered traditional to blacksmithing, such as forge welding, joinery, punching, upsetting, drawing out, etc. from more modern methods such as arc/mig/gas welding, stock removal grinding, etc. These "modern" methods have become, in many cases, much faster and easier to use than the traditional methods due to modern machines and equipment. This separation is an attempt to allow a potential gallery submission to be judged against other work on a more equal footing than is practical with a single overall category. Though not always true, some of the traditional methods require more skill and time to accomplish a finished result than by using more modern methods.

Does this mean you can't use your Baldor grinder with a wire wheel to clean up your hand forged gothic grille? No it is not meant to restrict time saving methods that don't really impact the nature of the finished piece and are really a faster equivalent version of the traditional "by-hand" method. It does mean you can't arc weld that one piece that broke off from a stress crack at the last minute and try to hide it with judicious grinding and reheating to cover the tracks with fire scale if you want to enter the piece as "traditional." Can't people cheat? Possibly. We are betting most won't. Will there be judgment calls or "gray areas" in what to call traditional? Probably. If there are any issues that come up, the Board of Directors will make a judgment on how to place the piece in the Gallery. Mostly, any benefit of the doubt will go to the entrant.

I have volunteered to coordinate this year's Gallery set up. If you have any special needs to display your piece or any questions, please let me know.

General Gallery:

We would also like to see a general gallery of work from all levels on display. It does not have to be all new work or work submitted for the People's Choice voting. It can be for sale or just for display. But we would like to have anything you are proud of to be on display. Even work by beginners is often an inspiration so please don't hold back thinking your work is "not good enough." Keep in mind, there will be visitors that have never even forged an S-Hook or a leaf key chain. Any work probably has something to teach and inspire others. Please consider bringing your items to display! - *Editor*

The 21st Annual

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Association Conference

October 21st & 22nd 2017



**Featuring Live Blacksmithing
Demonstrations by:**

Robert Patrick

&

Lyle Wynn

Murray County Antique Tractor Assication Show Grounds:

7 miles north of Sulphur on Hwy
177, ¾ mile east on Tractor
Road. Sulphur, OK

Conference Schedule



Friday, October 20th

Conference setup starting at 8:00 am.

Saturday, October 21st

Registration opens at 7:00 a.m.
Demonstrations 8:00 am – Noon
Lunch break Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Demonstrations 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Drawing for toolbox 7:00 p.m.
Auction 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, October 22nd

Registration Opens at 7:00 a.m.
Demonstrations 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Lunch Break 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
Demonstrations 12:45 – 4:00 p.m.
Cleanup and teardown 4:00 p.m.



Conference Set Up Work Day!

There is a Pre-Conference set up work day
scheduled for October 14th at the Conference site
(the Saturday before the Conference.)

If you are interested in helping set up for the
Conference, please feel free to attend that day.
Set up will include placing the bleachers,
installing the audio visual infrastructure, moving
various items around, etc. There will be a lot of
camaraderie among those elite volunteers who
choose to attend.

And, anyone who attends to help will receive
five tickets for the Tool Box and five for the
Anvil Quilt - A \$20 value! See you there!

21st Annual Saltfork Craftsmen Blacksmithing Conference

Registration Form
October 21st & 22nd, 2017

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership required for attendance.

Charge for non-members is \$10 for membership until March 31, 2018

| | Number | Cost Each | Total |
|---|--------|-----------|-------|
| Conference Registration Fee (One Per Family) | | | |
| Saturday & Sunday (per family) | | \$55.00 | |
| Saturday Only (per family) | | \$35.00 | |
| Sunday Only (per family) | | \$35.00 | |
| Membership Until 03-31-18 for Non-Members | | \$10.00 | |
| Meals | | | |
| By donation at time of meal. Donation Jar will be set out when meal is served | | | |
| *Family Classes on Saturday | | | |
| Saturday Morning: Steampunk Resin Class | | \$35.00 | |
| Saturday Afternoon: String Art | | \$30.00 | |
| Beaded Bracelet or Earrings | | \$10.00 | |
| Copper Enameling | | \$45.00 | |
| *Family Classes on Sunday | | | |
| Sunday Morning: Wire Wrapped Pendant | | \$45.00 | |
| Saw Blade Paintings | | \$10.00 | |
| | | | |
| Total Payment Enclosed | | | |

Make checks payable to Saltfork Craftsmen ABA.

Only one family Registration Fee (family members only) required per household.
(All meals and all material costs for Family Classes must be paid).
Saltfork Craftsmen T-shirts will be available at the conference.

Murray County Antique Tractor Association Show Grounds:

7 miles north of Sulphur on Hwy 177, ¼ mile east on Tractor Road. Sulphur, OK

Mail this form with full payment to:

Teresa Gabrish
PO Box 18389
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

All adults attending the conference must sign this disclaimer. Parent or legal guardian must sign for minor children.

Disclaimer: I understand that blacksmithing can be a dangerous endeavor. I understand that my safety is my responsibility. I understand the need for eye and ear protection; I will provide and utilize the necessary safety equipment for all activities. The Saltfork Craftsmen ABA, its officers and members are not responsible for my well-being. Registration for the Conference indicates my agreement to these terms.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Family Classes:

Steampunk Resin Pendant



Cathy Sabine has agreed to come teach a fun class in resin jewelry. Students fill a pre made bezel with a variety of trinkets and other items to create their own individual piece of wearable

art. Class is \$35 per student with all materials provided.

String Art Wall Hanging



Another class from Cathy, this one is a barnboard string art class. She has a few pre drawn designs or you can use graph paper to make your own design. Each piece is a work of art. Class is \$30 per student with all materials included.

Beaded Bracelets/Earrings:



Mecca Waite will be teaching a basic beaded bracelet or earrings class on Saturday afternoon. Price

of this class is \$10.00 each with a limit of 10 students.

Wire Wrapped Pendant:



Teresa Gabrish is offering a wire wrapped pendant class. Class will include a choice of gemstones as well as copper and bronze wire to complete a pendant.

\$45.00

Copper Enameling:



Teresa is also offering a copper enameling class. The project will consist of copper shapes that students can use enamel powders to decorate then torch fire to create pendants and other pieces.

\$45

Saw Blade Painting:

Carol Donner has agreed to offer a class on painting pictures on round sawblades.

2017 SCABA Conference RV Reservations:

RV reservations are available if you plan on camping on site and need an RV hookup. Primitive camping is also available with access to clean toilets and showers if you prefer primitive camping.

RV hookups are available for \$20 per RV per night (to the Tractor Club) for electric only service. Spots are already being reserved so contact J. J. McGill as soon as possible if you would like to make a reservation.

Contact J. J. McGill at 580-369-1042 or jjmcgill88@yahoo.com



2017 SCABA Conference



October 21st and 22nd

Sulphur, Ok

Demonstrators: Bob Patrick and Lyle Wynn

Conference Workshops October 23, 24 and 25th:

******UPDATE: Due to personal reasons, one student has had to cancel for the Lyle Wynn workshop. This opening is now available if you are interested in attending the workshop with Lyle. There is only ONE seat available and it will go to the first person who wants it. Contact Mandell if you want this spot. ******

If you have any questions, contact Mandell Greteman 580-515-1292 or mandell01@windstream.net.

Vendors and Tailgate Sales:

Conference attendees should be sure to bring some extra spending cash to the conference. There will be some opportunities to buy blacksmith related items from various sources. As always, vendors and tailgate sales are welcome at the Conference. And there is no charge to set up a sales booth. If you are a vendor and have any special needs, just ask one of the Saltfork Directors. Some of the vendors planning to set up include:



BLUE MOON PRESS



TStar
Leather

Craftsmanship, Detail, Creativity, Excellence

Iron in the Hat Items

Gerald Franklin

We will need more items for the Iron in the Hat (IITH) tables at the conference in October. You can bring them to the conference or pass them on to me or a director between now and the conference. We'd like for everybody to come to the conference, but if you can't come, you can still donate to IITH. Below is a list of things you might consider:

Tools

- Measuring tape, ruler, yardstick, etc.
- Safety gear such as ear plugs, safety glasses, etc.
- Punches, chisels, hammers
- Saws, power or manual
- Grinders, angle or bench
- Drill Bits
- Pliers
- Anvil tools
- Files

Supplies

- Grinder wheels and other abrasives
- Welding Rods
- Hacksaw blades
- Soapstone, silver pencils, etc.
- Rivets

Metal (Mark it as to type if you know what it is)

- Mild steel drops
- Tool steel drops
- Pieces of copper, brass, bronze, stainless, etc.

Please don't restrict yourself to this list of items, we'll be glad to get about anything that will draw some raffle tickets. Also, you might consider bringing books and magazines that pertain to smithing, welding, mechanical work, etc.

If you are a new member and don't know about Iron in the Hat, please refer to the August 2017 newsletter (page 26) for a description of what Iron in the Hat is and how to participate. - Editor

2017 SCABA Conference Tool Box

At the July 8th meeting at Byron Doner's shop, the meeting attendees used the day to make tools for the Conference Tool Box.

Bruce Willenberg has volunteered to keep track of the tools until the Conference. This is a list of suggested tools that would go along way to making a well rounded tool box collection but the list is only a suggestion.

The items marked with a "yes" are already on hand for the collection at the time of the July 8th meeting. If you would like to make a tool for the toolbox, feel free to make something from this list or something else you think would be a good item to add to the collection.

Any donated tool is greatly appreciated as proceeds from this drawing benefit the Saltfork club as a whole but hand made tools are the most appreciated by those interested in winning the box. Either way, the winner of the tool box drawing will have a nice collection of usable tools that they will be proud to own.

If you would like to check on the most current status of tools in the collection, please contact Bruce Willenberg to see what, if any, tools have been added since this list was published. You can contact Bruce 405-227-4547 or by e-mail at: brskw1976@yahoo.com

Tickets for a chance to win the box will be available up until the drawing at the auction on Saturday night. If you will not be able to attend the conference and want a chance to win the tool box while supporting the club, tickets may be purchased from the Secretary (Teresa Gabrish.) Tickets are \$2.00 each.

| Suggested Items | Donated |
|---|---------|
| 1 lb. cross peen hammer | Yes |
| 1 1/2 lb. cross peen hammer | |
| 2 1/2 lb. cross peen hammer | |
| Rounding hammer | |
| Hot slit chisel | Yes |
| Handled hot cut chisel | Yes |
| File, flat bastard cut | |
| File, half-round bastard cut | |
| Farrier's rasp | |
| Hacksaw | |
| Rivet backing and setting tools | |
| Scribe | |
| Center Punch | |
| Center Finder | |
| Dividers | |
| Tongs | |
| 1/4 V-bit | Yes |
| 3/8 V-bit | Yes |
| 1/2 V-bit | Yes |
| Punch, Square | Yes |
| Punch, round | Yes |
| Punch/Chisel set with tongs | Yes |
| Scroll pliers | |
| Soapstone and holder | |
| Abrasive block, small piece of grinding wheel | Yes |
| Chisel, large | Yes |
| Chisel, small | Yes |
| Metal ruler | Yes |
| Ball tool (round blunt nose punch) | |
| Hand held spring swage for tenons | |
| Hand held swage for necking down | |
| Set of monkey tools (1/8", 3/16", 1/4") | |
| Bending forks | Yes |
| Flux and flux spoon | |
| Twisting wrench | |
| Hot cut hardy | |
| Bolster plate | Yes |
| Finish wax | |
| Shovel | |
| Rake | Yes |
| Poker | Yes |
| Sprinkler Can | Yes |
| Water can | Yes |
| Multi Square | |
| Nail Header | |
| Flatter | Yes |
| Wire Brush | Yes |
| Hold Fast | Yes |



Just Try Two! by Glenn Horr

1. This little jig idea that can make a difference in your work.

Right and left handed twisted square bar welded side by side to a block so I can use it on my hammer.

Makes a nice leaf form or whatever.

I have used round and square stock, square is nice to use on the diamond.



2. Thought this tip may be something folks would be interested in. Sometime back, someone told me about using nonstick cooking spray for weld-spatter, works OK, (but a mess to clean if you are painting). I was forging with spring dies, also those leaf dies, the cooking spray was on the bench...Hey, why not try it as a die release, so I did, works OK.! It was just the cheap stuff.

Lighten Up! By Grant Michener

This candleholder known as a "Window Sash" or "Night Stick", was made at Brad Weber's during our May, 2016 WRABA/PAABA, joint meeting. Grant Michener demonstrated making this item which is a perfect project for a gift, fund raiser item, or just for fun using material you already have in the shop!

Grant's interest is early colonial ironwork. He has a small shop at his home, but is also active at the Century Village, located in Burton, Ohio. He started out with a pie tin, a hair dryer and some mud as his first forge...that is what you call ingenuity and determination! Needless to say, he has refined his forging equipment and also has developed his skills.

He is greatly inspired by the work of Jerry Darnell from Mill Creek Forge in North Carolina. Jerry's work is greatly admired by many smiths that love colonial houseware ironwork. With Grant's keen interest, apprenticeship working with Ralph Neumiester, and an excellent reference point of Jerry Darnell, we will be seeing more of his work in the future!



Materials:

1/4" X 1 1/4" X 4 3/4"

5/16" round bar about 5" long

Candle cup material-16gauge (see pattern below)

3/16" rivet

For Bottom Plate:

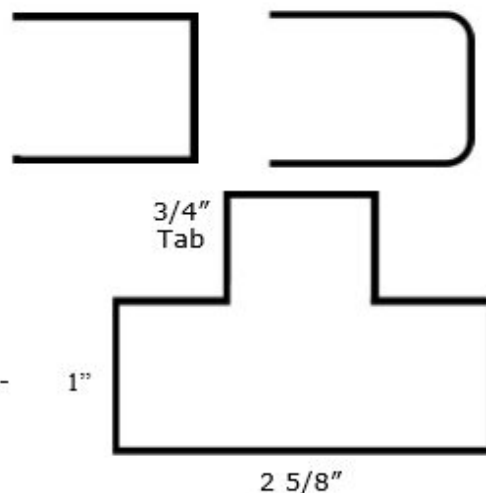
1. Round corners on flat bar. (Right)
2. Texture and chamfer edges.
3. Let air cool

For Handle:

1. Scroll one end of the round bar.
2. Flatten other end about 1/2" and make shoulder.
3. Let air cool.
4. Drill Hole, and counter sink in plate and flatten end of handle, ready to rivet.

For Candle Cup:

1. Use a swage block to round candle cup, do the ends first.
2. Tip: Place in fire to get rid of "shiny".
3. Cold rivet candle cup and adjust handle.



Angle Cuts on Horizontal/Vertical Bandsaws

Steve Bloom

While the usual Harbor Freight bandsaws have the ability to adjust the angle of the clamping mechanism to the blade, there are usually issues of stock slipping, precision of the adjustment, and (most importantly) convenience. A real simple way to make an angle cut is shown here -- grab a rectangle of scrap wood (say 4..5" x 6..8") and cut it diagonally to the required angle. Plop the wood pieces on the saw and capture the stock between them. Screw down the clamp system and start cutting. This trick allows repeated cuts and allows you to make normal as well as angled cuts one after another



Building a gas forge — One Man's Journey by Russ Jennings

My first forge was a metal turkey roasting pan that held some tubing into which I had drilled a few holes. It was hooked up to an air mattress inflator, and my on-off switch was the power strip button. As much as I enjoyed using that forge, I quickly realized that a gas forge might be a better fit. Since I couldn't afford one, I built my own. I've since built several gas forges and have learned a lot. When I'm out talking to other blacksmiths, I find a lot of them have questions.

The construction of a gas forge is the first difference. Instead of a tuyere and an open top, you have an enclosed chamber. Propane burns very hot, about 3600 F. This is much hotter than a blacksmith needs. You don't want to put your metal directly in the flame, though. That's not how we're heating our forge. We want to trap that heat and let it build up. This takes time and insulation.

Your forge construction will consist of an exterior shell, insulation, some sort of durable refractory, and ideally a refractory lining. The outer shell doesn't need to do much besides not catch fire, and hold its shape. I have had luck using fireproof concrete drywall, but since we're metal smiths, sheet metal is a great choice.

Next, something has to trap and hold that heat. Kaowool is the best material I've found. Fire Bricks aren't "insulation." It takes a long time for them to heat up, and they don't seem to hold heat efficiently. Kaowool traps the heat and can tolerate most of the temperatures we're dealing with.

Since it's fiberglass, we don't want to let it be exposed to the flame and the air. Your forge will need some sort of surface to protect the fiberglass. In addition, breathing the dust from the fiberglass isn't very good for you at all. Castable Refractory is a powder you mix into water to form what looks like concrete, which you then pour into a mold. When dry, it's fireproof concrete. The two big names are Mizzou and Kast-o-lite. I have only used Kast-o-lite.

First off, a little bit only goes a little ways. You mix the powder with 5% (by weight) water. That means a 50 lb bag takes less than 4 liters of water to mix entirely. In my experience, the "correct" amount of water always looks like too little. You want something close to dried old oatmeal or beach sand, as opposed to runny concrete.

Next, the chemists who made this stuff know what they're doing. I've experimented with making my own refractory, or trying to add ingredients. So far, no luck. I think a ceramic liner COULD work, but they crack so easily when you start using the forge.

Lastly, kast-o-lite won't stick to anything, it won't glue anything together, and it has very little structural strength. If you whack it with hot metal, it'll flex and eventually crack. Don't use it as a load bearing or impact resistant part of your forge.

There are drying instructions available online. Don't be too intimidated by the exact temperatures. I do my own drying by starting with a 100W light bulb, then doing low temp firings over the course of a weekend.

You could stop there, but you will see a big benefit by adding a liner material. ITC-100 or Satanite are good choices. They reflect heat, light, and IR back into the forge, making it burn hotter and more efficiently.

Gas Forge Construction Continued



Lower half of clamshell design with supports for kiln shelf floor

The next problem - where do you put your work? You don't want to rest your pieces on the refractory as it's heating. You need some sort of flooring. You can use fire brick, but I prefer high alumina kiln shelving. It's available at any pottery supply, it's cheap, and it comes in all shapes and sizes.

One final thought on construction - Flux tends to eat through all of this! If you're going to be forge welding, you should plan ahead for maintenance and repair. If your forge is a clamshell that comes open, it's much easier to replace things when they wear out or need repair. A forge floor that is comprised of removable fire bricks is great for forge welding.



Now we've got a forge. Well, we have a big fireproof container, but it's not a forge. The second half of this project is our heat source. I'm going to stick with propane burners for now, but there are other options. I've seen forges that use oil fired boiler burners.



Top and bottom halves of forge shell

Propane burners have two main styles; naturally aspirated and blown. Each style needs a nozzle to let gas out, and an air supply.

Naturally Aspirated (NA, from here on) burners are easier to use but harder to make. They depend on smoothly flowing gases, which means any rough surface can impede their ideal functionality. Most NA burners use a venturi setup, which lets air get sucked in along with the high pressure propane. A common style of home-made burner uses a welding tip. You can sand or grind down the edges so you end up with a smooth tapered point, and that makes an ideal nozzle.

Regardless of the exact design, NA burners have lots of things in common. In the "pro" column, they are relatively maintenance free. They need nothing other than propane, so you can set up your forge anywhere you have space.

The downside is they are harder to make. They can be finicky about little details. For example, how far into the opening you place your gas nozzle can make a huge difference in whether the forge works at all. If you're making your own, you need to put effort into polishing and smoothing all your surfaces. I bit the bullet and bought a T-rex burner. I'm glad I did, as my machining skills are nowhere near good enough to make one from scratch.

Blown burners use an electrical fan to mix the air and propane in a chamber before they hit the forge. Some of these can be very simple in construction. The chamber is often just the section of pipe between the forge and the mixing point.

Gas Forge Construction Continued

You don't need to rely on smooth flowing surfaces, since your fan is doing all that work for you. Blown burners also allow a little more flexibility in your design. I'm very fond of the ribbon burner style, and that will not (as far as I know) work with an NA burner.

Downsides to blown burners, is the blower is often a major expense. You can go cheap, but since you'll be using it a lot, it makes sense to invest in something reliable and not too noisy. You also need electricity wherever you're going to work.

For any gas forge, there are some safety considerations. The biggest concern is if the flame goes out while the gas is still flowing. Let's say you turn the forge on, then run out to your car because you forgot something. If left unattended, that forge can start filling with unburned propane and cause a big explosion. The risk of this goes down a lot once your forge gets hot enough that propane will auto-ignite. Nonetheless, we are playing with fire here, so be careful and don't let things go unattended.



*Cast refractory for top of forge
Note the cast in tube for the burner
insertion after the cast dries*



Ends and burner form removed

Now we've got a working forge. How do we use it? First, light it. A gas forge doesn't get cleaned out the same way a tuyere does. That means throwing burning paper inside will leave you with a forge full of ashes. I prefer a long fireplace match, or ideally, a plumber's torch. Once the forge is lit, I tend to wait at least 5 minutes (preferably more) before putting iron in. Yes, if you're in a hurry, you can put your piece directly in the burner flame, but you'll get better results letting the whole thing warm up.

Now we notice the two other quirks of using a gas forge. Scale, and zone of heat. Unlike coal, which only burns locally, your gas forge will eventually heat up the entire space. If you put a three foot long piece of stock into a coal forge, you'll end up with a heated section that's only a few inches long, and you can safely hold the other end. If you do the same thing in an 18" long gas forge, then you'll end up with an 18" glowing section, and probably another foot of length that's too hot to touch. Tongs and a quench bucket are important. However, if you want a very big, very even heat, it's hard to beat a gas forge. I make knives, and it's lovely being able to bring a long blade up to an even temperature.

Scale is our other problem. I've heard some smiths say they expect to lose 20% of their metal to scale! This is a solvable problem, though. Scale formation requires oxygen. Without that, we can prevent scale from occurring on our piece. This means we have to control the forge atmosphere.



Cast forge top

Gas Forge Construction Continued

Propane burns ideally at a ratio of 1 to 25, which means one molecule of propane will take 25 oxygen molecules with it. If you want less scale in your forge, you need to either increase the propane, or decrease the air. This is where your burner design comes in handy. My NA burner has a sliding choke, so I can lower or increase how much air I'm getting. Maybe the blower you got has an adjustable intake. I've also seen plenty of gas forges with no choke and no way to control how much air goes in. Those forges produce a ton of scale, so I see why people complain.

At first, I just adjusted the choke to work well with whatever pressure I was running my gas. I quickly realized there was more to it. When I'm trying to avoid scale formation, I will adjust my gas pressure and my air intake until I get "the tongue of the dragon," or unburned propane spilling out of the forge.

Remember that 1:25 ratio of propane to air? If there's too much propane, it will burn up ALL of the air. The rest of the propane can't burn until it touches oxygen, even if it's above the auto-ignition temperature. The "tongue of the dragon" is that unburned propane reaching air, and combusting. You don't even need to know these ratios! Assuming your forge setup will let you independently adjust gas pressure and air intake, you can tweak until you see those tongues of flame start to lick out the sides of your forge.

I start with my air wide open, and my gas at around 10 PSI. After an hour, the whole forge is warmed up, and I can drop down to as low as 6 PSI. The forge remains hot enough to reach bright yellow, but doesn't create scale. I'll be honest, this has given me some bad habits! I'm used to being able to leave a piece in as long as I want without it burning, melting, or scaling away. Then I go to a Meet and burn everything in the coal forges.



Koa wool in the lower section of the forge body



This article is re-printed courtesy of the New England Blacksmiths Newsletter, Summer 2017



UPDATE!!!:

At press time, there is only ONE seat remaining in this workshop. Contact Ron Stafford as soon as possible if you want to attend! This is a great opportunity to get one-on-one instruction from a world class blacksmith/instructor in a low-pressure setting!

Aspery, in Glen Rose, Texas Nov. 11-12-13, 2017

Information and reservations:

Ron Stafford 209-610-3448

hotshuz002@Gmail.com

This will be the third year we will have one of the most respected and capable blacksmith educators in North America, for a hands on clinic with you. Mark is the former editor of ABANA's **Hammer's Blow** magazine. He authored three volumes of **Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing**. Mark was 2014 recipient of the prestigious BEALER award.



“Old School” - training for the blacksmithsmith.

This clinic will cover many techniques associated with Marks popular Old School series. As always, Mark will start with calculations, techniques, and a demonstration. After which you will reproduce the tools or forged item.

Prepare to Learn

Mark Aspery will conduct a full participation, hands on clinic. Come prepared to work at the anvil and learn. You will bring your own set-up, anvil, fire, water bucket, basic hand tools, etc. Bring your shade "Easy Up", big hat, etc.

We may have some set ups available, however they must be reserved early to guarantee availability.



Accommodations:

This clinic is being conducted on a pecan covered property in Somervell County near Glen Rose, Texas. This is a tourist town and numerous motels are located just 5 miles away. Camping your thing? There is lots of room for you to park your camper or pitch your tent. Dry camping at no charge. We try to accommodate your needs where possible, so if you have any questions please ask.

Cost and Information:

The fee for the three day clinic will be \$450. (*Discounts for early entry apply. Pay by September 30th \$400, a savings of \$50.00.*) For those with limited time, the daily rate is \$150. For reservations and information please contact Ron Stafford:

209-610-3448

hotshuz002@Gmail.com

SCABA Shop and Swap

For Sale: I have numerous old tools and collectible items of various kinds including blacksmith related tools and equipment. Too many tools to list them all.

Contact: Craig Guy (SCABA Member), Piedmont, OK

Cell Phone: 405-630-7769 (Call or Text)



Post Vice,
Forge Blowers and
Lever-Type Forge
Call for Pricing...

SCABA Shop and Swap

Bill Davis Forge Welded Tomahawk DVD

This DVD is now available to members for a minimal cost (cost of DVD's is minimal to cover reproduction and shipping if applicable.) Contact the SCABA Librarian, Doug Redden, if you would like to get a copy of this DVD.

Doug Redden 918-230-2960 or
doug.redden2@att.net.



For Sale:

Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer

Send a check or money order for \$30 US to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013. Or send \$32 US to Paypal.Me/ClaySpencer. E-mail me at clay@otelco.net. PDFs will be e-mailed outside US. Phone 256-558-3658

Beverly shear blades sharpened

Remove your blades and send in USPS small flat rate box with check for \$41 US to 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7103.

SCABA Embroidery Available

Saltfork member Larry Roderick has setup a source for SCABA logo embroidery on shirts or embroidery compatible items. Larry presented an embroidered tan Wrangler western shirt at the recent Board of Directors meeting and the quality of the embroidery is excellent. The design is based on the new SCABA T-shirt design on the back with the classic SCABA logo above the front left pocket. Your name can also be put on the right side opposite from the logo if you would like.



If you would like an embroidered shirt or other item, find an item that fits you properly and mail it to Larry.

Compatible items must be flat. Pleats cannot be embroidered. The cost for the embroidery applied to your item is \$80 each including return shipping and handling. Heavy coats might add a few dollars more for shipping.

Mail to: Larry Roderick
500 S. FM 369
Burkburnett, TX 76354



If you have questions, contact Larry at 940-237-2814 or roderickwaterwells@gmail.com

(Photos by LaQuitta Greteman)

SCABA Shop and Swap

SCABA Library DVD's Available:

This is a partial list of the DVD titles available to members from the SCABA Library. Contact the Librarian (Doug Redden) if you would like to obtain a copy of any listed title or if you have questions on any other titles that may be available. Additional titles are listed on the website. DVD's are available for a very minimal cost to offset the blank disc and cases or sleeves. Shipping cost applies if you need these delivered by mail.

- Robb Gunter Basic Blacksmithing parts 1,2,3 and the controlled hand forging series
- Clay Spencer SCABA conf.2013 pts. 1,2 and 3
- Jerry Darnell 18th century lighting, door latches and hinges
- Brent Baily SCABA conf. 2011
- Mark Aspery SCABA conf. 2011
- Robb Gunter SCABA conf. 1998
- Robb, Brad and Chad Gunter 2009 joinery, forging, repousse, scrollwork, etc.
- Bill Bastas SCABA 2002 pts. 1 - 6
- Jim Keith SCABA conf.2007
- Power hammer forging with Clifton Ralph pts. 1 - 5
- Doug Merkel SCABA 2001
- Bob Alexander SCABA 2008
- A. Finn SCABA 2008
- Bob Patrick SCABA 2004
- Gordon Williams SCABA 2010
- Daryl Nelson SCABA 2010
- Jim and Kathleen Poor SCABA 2001
- Ed and Brian Brazeal SCABA 2006
- Ray Kirk Knives SCABA 2002
- Frank Turley SCABA 1997
- Frank Turley SCABA 2003
- Bill Epps SCABA 2003
- M. Hamburger SCABA 2007

For Sale:

6" round nosed pliers (great for putting scrolls on small items) \$5.00 each.

Contact Diana Davis at
Diana.copperrose@gmail.com

SCABA Swage Blocks

\$150.00 plus shipping.
(Same price to members and non-members.)
Contact Bill Kendall for more information.



New swage blocks have been ordered and should be in soon.

SCABA Floor Cones

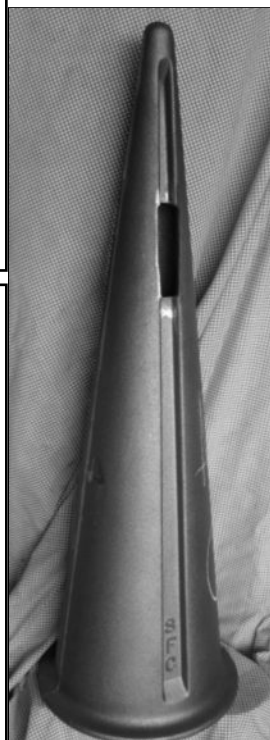
\$200.00 plus shipping.

(Same price to members and non-members.)

For more information, contact Bill Kendall, Byron Doner (Contact info inside front cover) or

Nolan Walker at Nature Farms Farrier Supply in Norman, OK.

405-307-8031 or 800-460-6759.



SCABA Shop and Swap

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 pile located in Douglas, OK.

If you make arrangements well in advance, Tom Nelson can load your truck or trailer with his skid steer loader for a fee of \$10 to be paid directly to Tom. Tom has moved his skid steer and must now haul the loader to the coal pile to load you out, hence the \$10 charge. You may opt to load your own coal without using Tom's loader. The coal can be weighed out at the Douglas Coop Elevator scales. Contact Tom Nelson (580-862-7691) to make arrangements to pick up a load. Do not call Tom after 9 PM!! Bring your own containers and shovels. Payment for the coal (\$.07 per pound) should be made directly to the Saltfork Treasurer.

NW Region Coal Pile in Thomas:

Don Garner now has a new pile of club coal available for sales to SCABA members. The shop is at 23713 E 860 Rd in Thomas, OK. (One mile west, then one mile north of Thomas.) Contact Don at 580-302-1845 (Cell Phone) to arrange details for purchases.

NE Region coal location: Charlie McGee

has coal to sell. He lives in the Skiatook, Oklahoma area. His contact information is: (Home) 918-245-7279 or (Cell) 918-639-8779

Please text his cell phone number if you would like to make arrangements to get coal.

S/C region coal location: Club coal is now available at Norman at Byron Donor's place. Call Byron to make arrangements to come by and get coal.

For Sale:

24"(wide) x 1"(thick) Ceramic fiber blanket (similar to Kao-wool) \$1.00 per inch of length. Twisted solid cable 1/2" diameter \$2.00 per ft.

Contact Larry Roderick at 940-237-2814

Show Your Pride in SCABA!

License plates - \$5.00 each.

Ball Caps - \$10.00 each.

We also have coffee cups.

We still have some of the old SCABA t-shirts available while the supplies last. They are a gray pocket "T" with the SCABA logo on the pocket. Contact Diana Davis for information.



Wanted:

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

Have an Item for Sale? Item Wanted?

If you have any items that are appropriate for Blacksmiths that you would like to list in the Swap and Swap section (or items you are looking for), please send me your description, contact info, and any photos that you have.

The SCABA Shirts

are now available with a bold new look...

The latest SCABA T-shirts are now available with a new custom design by a professional artist. We also have new long sleeve denim shirts now available with the same new design. Each shirt has the main design on the back with the SCABA logo on the front pocket. T-shirts are available in black and gray. Denim shirts are \$25 and T-shirts are \$15 (plus shipping if applicable.) If you would like to purchase shirts, contact Doug Redden (918) 230-2960:



SCABA Membership Application

January 1, 20 17 to March 31, 20 18

New Member _____

Membership Renewal _____

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 for the period ending March 31, 20 18

Signed: _____

Return to: Saltfork Craftsmen, P.O. Box 18389, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73154



Saltfork Craftsman Regional Meeting Hosting Form

Region _____ NE _____ SE _____ SW _____ NW

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/email _____

Trade item _____

Lunch provided ☐ yes ☐ no

Please provide directions or 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 Regional Meeting Coordinator no later than the 15th of the month TWO months PRIOR to the meeting month.**

Completed forms can be mailed or emailed.

You will receive a conformation by e-mail or postcard.

A form must be filled out for each meeting.

If you don't receive something from the Regional Meeting Coordinator within 10 days of your sending in your request, call to verify that it was received.

An online form is also available on the website in the top banner of the Calendar Tab:

www.saltforkcraftsmen.org/Calendar.shtm

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Assoc. Inc.
P.O. Box 18389
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73154

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