Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

January 2018



Art Panel and Picnic Table at the Oklahoma State University Veterinary College Healing Garden Built and Installed by Saltfork Member Mark Carter

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Editors notes...

Happy New Year!

I don't know for sure what happened but it seems like I blinked in October 2017 and ended up in January 2018. But I guess the calendar doesn't lie so here we are.

Along those lines, March will be here before we know it and that is the month to renew memberships if you haven't already. Many members renew at the Annual Conference so if you already have, you can ignore this public service announcement:

SCABA Memberships Expire in March, Please Remember to Renew if you Haven't Already.

By the way, our current member count is right at 550 members.

- Russell Bartling - Editor

The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association, a non-profit organization Our purposes are he 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:

Hopefully the new year brings happiness to you all!

After celebrating Christmas both Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day, then my Grandson's Birthday on the 26th, I was a worn out guy. Maybe now things will slow down a bit.

We keep getting more and more requests for basic Blacksmithing classes. This is a good thing. Right? Unfortunately the same few people get to



teach all these classes. We could sure use some help from other members on this. I know, you are all busy, but we are too, and most of us are having health issues.

Remember how exited you were when you first started Blacksmithing? I sure was! Then when others helped me to learn how to do it the right way, it was unbelievable how much it helped me. If those people wouldn't have helped me, I'd still be fumbling along wondering why I couldn't make the metal move the way I wanted it to, or else, I would have gotten frustrated and just gave it up.

Please consider getting more involved with the club and "Paying It Forward". And, I think you will find that teaching others is a very rewarding experience!

Happy hammering! -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 if 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.

Demonstrators Set for 2018 SCABA Conference!

JJ McGill has secured commitments for two demonstrators for the 2018 SCABA Annual Conference. This year, we will have Bob Bergeman and Pepe Gomez.

Bob Bergeman is well known for a variety of forging techniques with a focus on using power hammers.

Pepe Gomez is well known in the knife making circles for his amazing pattern welding (aka "damascus".)

As we have done for two years now, there will be workshops with these demonstrators following the conference. More information and details will be provided when available so stay tuned!

New Saltfork Librarian Needed

Due to personal reasons, the current Saltfork Librarian, Doug Redden, would like to hand off the library responsibility to another member who would be interested. The Librarian duties would including keeping the master copies of library DVD's and the multi-DVD copier as well as distributing copies of the library titles upon request by members.

Doug would also like to hand off the remaining inventory of Saltfork shirts to someone else. The Librarian and the "Keeper of the Shirts" do not have to be the same person.

If you are interested in helping out the club with either of these duties, please contact Doug Redden at 918-230-2960 or contact any Board member for help in making arrangements with Doug.



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*

2018 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE					
NE Region (1 st Sat)	SE Region (2 nd Sat)	SW Region (3 rd Sat)	NW Region (4th Sat)		
Jan 6 th (Open)	Jan 13 th (Open)	Jan 20 th (Open)	Jan 27 th (Monte Smith)		
Feb 3 rd (Open)	Feb 10 th (Open)	Feb 17 th (Open)	Feb 24 th (Rory Kirk)		
Mar 3 rd (Open)	Mar 10 th (Bruce Willenberg)	Mar 17 th (Open)	Mar 24 th (Mandell Greteman)		
Apr 7 th (Open)	Apr 14 th SCABA Picnic	Apr 21 st (Open)	Apr 28 th (Bob Kennemer)		
May 5 th (Open)	May 12 th (Open)	May 19 th (JJ McGill)	May 26 th (Open)		
Jun 2 nd (Open)	Jun 9 th (Ronnie Smith)	Jun 16 th (Open)	Jun 23 rd (Terry Kauk)		
Jul 7 th (Open)	Jul 14 th (Open)	Jul 21 st (Open)	Jul 28 th (Chris Zornes)		
Aug 4 th (Open)	Aug 11 th (Open)	Aug 18 th (Open)	Aug 25 th (Roy Bell)		
Sep 1 st (James Shaefer)	Sep 8 th (Open)	Sep 15 th (Ricky Vardell - JJ McGill - Sulphur Tractor Show)	Sep 22 nd (Don Garner)		
Oct 6 th (Conference Set up Work Day)	Oct 13 th (Conference Weekend!)	Oct 20 th (Open)	Oct 27 th (Corey Spieker)		
Nov 3 rd (Open)	Nov 10 th (Bill Phillips)	Nov 17 th (Open)	Nov 24 th (Open)		
Dec 1 st (Open)	Dec 8 th (Open)	Dec 15 th (Open)	Dec 22 nd (Open)		

2018 Fifth Saturdays:

March 31st (Beginner Blacksmithing Workshop - See Workshop Schedule) June 30th (Open) September 29th (Open) December 29th (Open)

2018 Workshop Schedule

Beginner Blacksmith Workshop - March 31st (Fifth Saturday in March): To be held at Byron Doner's shop. 6520 Alameda, Norman OK 73026. Contact Mandell Greteman to register.**UPDATE** This Class is CURRENTLY FULL. To get on a waiting list CALL Mandell (Phone Calls Preferred over e-mail)

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.

January 2018

NE Regional Meeting January 6th : Open.

SE Regional Meeting January 13th : Open.

SW Regional Meeting January 20th : Open.

NW Regional Meeting January 27th : Will be hosted by Monte Smith at his shop at 8848 N. 2010 Rd, Hammon, OK, 73650.

The trade item is a backscratcher.

Lunch will be provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out.

From Hammon, go 7 miles north on HWY 34 to E0880 Rd (There is a Moorewood Baptist Church sign) then turn west and go 3 miles. Turn South and go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the entrance on the east side of the road.

Contact Monte Smith at 580-497-6015 if you have questions.

February 2018

NE Regional Meeting February 3rd : Open.

SE Regional Meeting February 10th: Open

SW Regional Meeting February 17th: Open.

NW Regional Meeting February 24th : Will be hosted by Rory Kirk at Mandell Greteman's shop in Foss, Ok.

The trade item is a five link forged chain out of 3/8" material with a forged hook on one end. (By the way, Mark Aspery has a good video on Youtube on forging a nice looking hook. Search for Mark Aspery old school projects. He also has a good video on making chain... - Editor)

Lunch is provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out.

Contact Rory Kirk at 580-497-6426 if you have questions.

Around the State...

NW Region November Meeting: The NW Region October Meeting was hosted by Bob Kennemer at the Route 66 Blacksmith Shop in Elk City, OK November 25^{th:}







Even though it was a holiday weekend, there was a good turnout with about twenty men and women doing blacksmith work plus about another half dozen guests.

Several of the blacksmiths were new members, an indication that interest in the craft is growing.

The trade item was something for the grill, and there was good participation in the trading.

(Photos by LaQuitta Greteman)



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NE Region December Meeting: No meeting was held in December.

SE Region December Meeting: No regular meeting was held in December. But JJ McGill had a make up workshop for some persistent Boy Scouts since, due to health reasons, he was unable to hold their meeting scheduled earlier:

I did have a three day work shop this month. Once again the young men of the boy scout troop from Tulsa area ask if I would host them at my Smithy at the farm for another work shop. I told them I would. This had been planned for October during their fall break. But due to my surgery I had to cancel on them. I told them when I recovered I would reschedule with them.

I got a call Thanksgiving day to wish me a happy Thanksgiving and to see how I was doing. I told them I was great but not released to return to work yet. They ask if I was ready to have them. I responded I guess but I don't have a place at the farm that very warm or anything for this time of year. They replied they were all either Eagle Scouts or working on it and, well, there wasn't a problem. So we set the date for December 26.

By the time the 26th was here the group was growing. It became a come and go for a couple scouts. But there were four of them that are real troopers. They arrived about noon on the 26th and didn't want to waist day light settling in. They lit two forges and it was on! We smithed till they couldn't see the anvils in the dark. I hadn't told them I had a surprise for them. Mandell and LaQuitta Gretamen had let me keep their bunk trailer after the SCABA Annual Conference for the Scouts to stay in. They replied that it was like the Hilton for them! Thank you Mandell and LaQuitta!!

They were knocking on my door at 6:45 Wednesday morning ready to go again. We smithed all day with many different projects being made. I was also giving welding lessons on stick and MIG welding. Two of them got wire welders for Christmas that we assembled and used. They built one anvil stand and two vise stands for their Christmas gifts. They ran out of day light again and



went off to bed in the mobile Hilton as the Gretemens' trailer was named.

Thursday I had a few new things in-store for them. We smithed on projects unitl noon. Then headed to town for a full tour of Jantz Supply. I think of the



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five that went on the tour all of them left some of the Christmas Cash at Jantz's.



Its hard to see the pattern in this chainsaw damascus bracelet…



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After we were done there I took four of them up to Byron's for an evening of using power hammers

and letting them see that the 5 or 15 minute

Youtube videos were not telling them the truth

had made that resembled damascus! A special

about making damascus!! With the help of Byron

and Terry I think they all left with something they



Thanks to Byron for permitting me to bring them and putting up with us.

We arrived back at my place at midnight. I was hoping after three days at forging they would be pooped and let me sleep in! But boy was I wrong!! The 7 AM knock on my door came promptly as the two days before. We smithed till dark again! Wow was I tired but it was a great 4 days of forging. As





Fullers for the Alex Steele Epic Leaf...

the group picture shows, we were dog tired at the end! - JJ McGill

SW Region December Meeting: The SW Region December meeting was hosted by Travis Gabbard at his shop in Fletcher, OK:





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We had about 20 members and guests at the SW regional meeting at Great Horned Forge in Fletcher, Ok. We had two forges and two anvils set up and they stayed busy all day.

The trade item was a Christmas item and there were nine brought. The picture is of Bruce Willenberg's entry.

Historic Candlelight Tour 2017

Chickasaw National Recreational Area - Sulphur Oklahoma

In early December, JJ McGill participated in the living history demonstrations along the Historic Candlelight walking trail in Sulphur.

Tour groups led by Park Guides enjoyed an evening walking tour of the park along Flower Park trails lit by over a thousand candle luminairies. Alongside the trail paths, actors in period costumes presented skits in the time period surrounding the creation of Platt National Park in 1906 as well as the beginning of the 2017 holiday season.

JJ said he was glad he didn't have a speaking part and was just demonstrating blacksmithing. (I guess because he is shy?) I was slacking in my photography duties so only three pictures were taken. We had grilled burgers and hotdogs for lunch and I hope everyone had a great day. I know I did!

Sincerely, Travis Gabbard. (Photos by Travis Gabbard)





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Clay Spencer Tool Making Workshop

The guys who were involved in the recent Clay Spencer tire hammer workshop had a follow up tool making workshop at Byron Doner's shop in Norman the weekend of December 9th and 10th.

The workshop was forum for making a variety of tools useful under the tire hammers specifically under Clay Spencer's direction. Most of the tools could also be used on other power hammers. Some would need a modified mounting system as the tools intended to be clamped were designed for the tire hammer dies.



Although I was not in the Tire Hammer workshop, I found out about the tool workshop at the last minute but was allowed to attend (as long as I paid the fee.) It was a nice distraction and I think everyone who attended had a great time working together. Byron's outstanding and well equipped shop was a great place to work (although with that many people sharing tools and equipment I am sure he is still trying to find tools after everything got moved around!)











Clay was busy keeping up with everyone in the workshop and tried to lend one-on-one assistance during the most challenging operations.

At the end of the workshop, Clay gave a demo on using a lot of the tools. He made all of those operations look easy and gave some good pointers. A lot of attendees were needing to leave Sunday afternoon, but it was definitely worth sticking around for Clay's demo. I would like to thank Byron for letting me get in on the workshop at the last minute, especially since I was not part of the tire hammer workshop group in the first place.

- Editor

Member Gallery



Cross by Byron Doner



Cross by Mandell Greteman



Wizard Head Steak Turner by Rory Kirk

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Member Gallery (Continued...)



Holiday Christmas Decoration Welded Basket Pointy Thing on Stand by Rory Kirk

- Editor

<u>Learn how to make your Little Giant power hammer</u> <u>work harder than ever!</u>

You are invited to join us for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. It will be held Friday March 16 through Saturday March 17, 2018.

First taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana, we carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant from running but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working machine. Sid Suedmeier, former owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from Fred and 26 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, but we will also have a new style on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. Our city has a nice selection of cafes, outlets, antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!

No experience is required to attend this class. Our past classes have been attended by folks from every walk of life, from students to retirees ...anyone who wants to learn can benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the most performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on <u>Friday</u>, and typically ends by Saturday evening. We are available Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2018 REGISTRATION

Name:	Business name:
Address:	
Telephone:	Email address:

<u>PAYMENT</u>

Check enclosed

Cash in person

(Sorry, we no longer accept credit cards, although credit cards can be used to purchase parts through the Little Giant business owned by Roger Rice, also in Nebraska City)

<u>POWER HAMMER INFO</u>

Brand:	Siz	ze:	Serial Number:

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402/873-6605 or sidsshop@windstream.net



OSU Public Art

By Mark Carter



In the summer of 2015 Oklahoma State University (OSU) Veterinary College was in the process of finishing up an office building for its teachers (until now they did not have an office - they worked out of cubicles. The Dean of the Vet School raised the money to build one.)

There was to be a garden area known as the "Healing Garden" around the new office building. They approached me about making an art piece for the Garden. My wife teaches small animal surgery for the University.

We started out with a small arch that we were going to donate to the university. That changed to a five foot by twenty eight foot screen depicting all areas of veterinary science. We could not donate something that large, plus I had to hire two of my buddies from the Fire Dept. To help me install it. So, it changed to a partial donation.

I built the screen in three parts, two nine feet wide and one ten feet wide. Each screen depicted a part of the veterinary practice: small animal, equine, food animal, and exotic.

In September of 2015, we installed it. It was mounted on an existing four foot concrete wall, the backside was twenty feet off the ground. Because I wanted something hand forged, not just plasma cut and welded, I forged two rose bushes and put them





in front of the screen. We named the piece "Our Patients."

In 2016, they wanted a picnic table to be put in the garden. If the Vet School had to go off of State bid, then they would have to put in an ugly green table. But if it was donated, they could put in what



they wanted. I could not let them minimize the beauty of the Garden so I built them a picnic table worthy to be in the Garden. I forged a veterinary Aesculpius symbol painted O.S.U. Orange and mounted it on the table. - Mark Carter



(Photos by Mark Carter)



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Setting Rivets

ByJim Carothers 12-19-2017

I do most of my blacksmithing work by myself; some simple tools lend a third and often needed hand.

Holding pieces tightly together for riveting has been a challenge for me. In these photos you will see how an end cut off a wrench has become a tool for helping to set rivets. The open wrench end used with a hold fast keeps the joint tight while I set the rivet.







I learned how to make the hold fast by watching Peter Ross and Roy Underhill on the PBS TV program "The Woodwright's Shop".

That video is Season 37 and titled "Forging The Hold Fast".

http://www.pbs.org/video/f orging-the-hold-fastut7ymw/

(Photos by Jim Carothers)

REDUCING THE SIZE OF A HOLE

by: Tommy Ward

Here are a couple of tricks for reducing the size of a drilled or punched hole that is found to be slightly larger than desired.

One method is to find a ball bearing with a diameter larger than the hole and drive it against the opening with a hammer to push the metal around the lip into the hole. This technique can be done cold, but may require heating the piece to a forging temperature if more material is to be moved or if the work is particularly hard. Repeat the process on the reverse side.

Another approach is to heat the area around the hole to a bright red and then carefully quench the "bottom" side of the work (the hole should be perpendicular to the water) while leaving the "top" part outside of the water. The submerged area will cool rapidly and shrink somewhat, but the portion of the metal remaining outside of the water will be drawn in more as it slowly air-cools resulting in the "top" half of the hole being reduced in size. Reheat the piece and repeat the process on the opposite side. I have found it easier to hold the work precisely half-submerged by bending up some coat hanger supports that span my slack tub. Make a couple of dry runs to get things adjusted, and then quenching will be a simple matter of laying the heated material on the hangers that have been preadjusted for the correct depth. If you're really curious about how the shrinkage of the metal can be influenced, play around with the leaving the piece in the water until it cools to room temperature, or taking it out of the water and allowing it to air-cool after the initial quench.

Both of these techniques work better, of course, on thicker pieces of metal, and with a little practice can reduce the size of a hole by a surprising amount.

Transformer! By Don Pfaff



For those individuals that do demonstrations for the public, there is always a need for some quick and easy projects. Transforming a common horseshoe nail into a botanical element can be a way to get the attention of visitors. Use a 3 1/4" horseshoe nail, this one was made by Capewell and also made in USA. It is a RH 12. Heat the head, hammer into a fan shape, forge the length, carefully soften the point, and scroll. This decorative element can be adjusted to wear on a chain, fashion as a book mark, or use your own idea.



Leaves are similar in shape but not identical. This allows for variety when demonstrating!

Ginko biloba also known as the ginko tree or maidenhair tree, is the only living species in the division Gingophyta, all others have been extinct. It is the oldest existing species in the world. In Japan, they are known to live 600-1,000 years. It is found in fossils dating back 270 million years ago, the time of dinosaurs. For landscapes today, they are known to adapt well to urban environment, tolerate pollution, and confined soil spaces. Another benefit of this tree is that they tend to lose all their leaves in 24 hours after a hard frost. In the fall, it is a great advantage for raking up leaves. The leaves are fan shape and are not identical, some have a split in the "fan". Try it for your fans!!!

This half page article is re-printed courtesy of the Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmith Association Newsletter, Dec 2017



Acorns By Steve Manning, a MABA member

This acorn was inspired by an article in the Hammer's Blow-Spring 2010, page 15, by Steve McGrew

MATERIALS: 12 to 16 inches 1/2" Black Pipe (long enough to hold in gloved hand) *Nominal 1/2" Black Pipe ID 39/64, OD 53/64 with a wall thickness of 3/32. Do not use galvanized pipe because zinc vapors are toxic. See the Metal Fume Fever article in your Upsetter collection, 2015 MAY/JUNE issue, or find it in the on-line MABA newsletter archive.

TOOLS: Scissor or spring fuller with 3/8" wide jaws or rods (often used for candle cups)



Important for safety: -Plug the end of the pipe closest to your hand to prevent "chimney effect" at the forge and water spouting or steam spray during quenching.

1. Heat and fuller 1-1/2" from end down to half the diameter of the pipe.

2. Heat 3" of end of pipe then quench above and below fuller. Note, to localize the heat in a gas forge, I used 3 broken pieces of fire brick to form a small tunnel inside forge. Stand pipe on end on anvil and drive top straight down.



3. Rotate and hit, to keep straight, rotate and hit. Continue to rotate and hit, keep it straight! Reheat and quench, until you can drive top/ cap down over the quenched cold, nut portion below fuller.

4. Heat then leave 1/2" below newly formed cap area. While fullering, pull to make nut round, then push to make small point.

5. Heat and continue to fuller completely off leaving a small point. You might need to file to refine the point.

6. Heat again then fuller just above cap fuller 6. to form top of cap and stem. Keep the fuller close, pull to make top of cap flat. Once you fuller down to 1/4 inch, you can make the stem longer by angling the pipe as you fuller the pipe above the cap down to 1/8" round for the stem.

7.While still attached to pipe, seat the cap by cooling the nut then use the step on the anvil to back up the cap. Rotate and hit the cold nut with the pipe held down. Be careful not to hit point.



8. Cut off the stem at 1/2" long, hammer the stem to size it.

9. Texture cap and bend stem.



This article is re-printed courtesy of the Michigan Artist-Blacksmith Association, The Upsetter Newsletter, Nov-Dec 2017

Valentine By Steve Anderson, a MABA member

Stock: 1/4 x 3/4 x 18-1/2"

Heart: Starting at the center, use half-on half-off blows to forge stock down to 1/8". Then taper back to $4 \cdot 1/2$ " keeping the thickness at 1/4".

Repeat on the other end.



Forge one end to a long taper. About 12", keeping the thickness at 1/4".

Forge the other end down to 1/4" square on the end, with a total length of about 12-1/4".



Forge the last 3/4" to round, bend 90 degrees, then forge down to make a disc for attaching the flower.

Drill or slit and drift the disc to 3/16", then counter sink the back side.

Use the horn to form a heart shape.

FLOWER: Forge a 2-1/2" flower to be attached to the heart.

FINISH: Highlight with brass brush if desired, then coat with Penetrol and 2 coats of wax before assembly, then a final coat afterwards.

ASSEMBLY: Rivet the flower to the heart using a leather disc to protect the center of the flower.

NOTE: For an asymmetric heart add 1/4" of stock to the long tapered side.

This article is re-printed courtesy of the Michigan Artist-Blacksmith Association, The Upsetter Newsletter, Jan-Feb 2018 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

Spring-Loaded Bolster Plate

Peter Clark, Summerville, Oregon



Follow your interests. Adapt this idea to your own requirements.

The Basic Design. Two massive blocks sliding on a baseplate, rods with springs for alignment.



Peter's hand shows the scale.



With the tapered drift.



Don't forget the clearance hole. 秦

This article is re-printed courtesy of the California Blacksmith Association Newsletter, Jan-Feb 2018 Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

Secrets of the Dead – The Richtig Knife

Posted on May 6, 2013 by Glenn Čada

https://clarksonhistory.wordpress.com/2013/05/06/secrets-of-the-dead-the-richtig-knife/

(Reprinted with permission from the Author)

On a nice spring day in 1960, our country school teacher, Mrs. Edith Novotny Nepper, led the whole school on an all-day field trip - to Clarkson, Nebraska. All smirking aside, it turned out to be one of the most interesting and memorable field trips that I experienced in all my school days. We toured a variety of interesting businesses, and learned about the inner workings of places that we knew only as customers or store fronts. In the morning we toured Elmer Makousky's dairy on the east side of town and learned how milk was collected, processed, packaged, and distributed (milk was still delivered to the customers' doorsteps in glass bottles in those days). At the Clarkson Hatchery and Farm Supply, we were told about commercial feeds and the business of chicken and egg production. At the offices of the Colfax County Press, we were greeted with the sights, sounds, and smells of the newspaper publishing business; at that time, they were still setting type with individual lead type letters, and we left that tour stop with a lead stamp of our name in the Press' typefont. And sometime during that day, we drove up the hill on the west side of main street, walked over to a wooden garage/outbuilding, and were greeted by an old man who was arguably Clarkson's most famous personage - Frank J. Richtig.

Frank J. Richtig, a blacksmith turned car dealer turned knife maker, has the distinction of being the only person in Clarkson, and likely the only in



Colfax County, to have been featured in *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*

I remember very little of the tour of Richtig's workshop; it didn't look much different from the workshops in most farmer's machine sheds. It was dark inside, the walls and shelves were covered with hammers, knives, saws, and other tools, and on the floor were piles of scrap metal. He probably told us about the process of forging steel, showed us how to heat it red hot in order to pound it into the desired shape. But what really caught our attention was when he performed his well-known feat – he held up one of his knives and, with a hammer, pounded the blade through a threequarter-inch-thick strap of steel and cut it in two. He did this several times, then held up a piece of paper and sliced it like a razor with the knife that had just cut through steel. It seemed so impossible to us that we wondered whether it was some kind of trick. But it was no trick. Richtig was able to do this because many years earlier he had discovered a process for hardening steel that was truly revolutionary. A secret process that he took with him to his grave.



Frank J. Richtig was born on December 28, 1887. In 1906 he apprenticed to a blacksmith in Clarkson, Frank Koci. By 1908 he had gone into partnership with Joseph Walla (their first blacksmith shop was located on the site of the Dr. O'Neal's medical





Interior or Richtig Knife Factory, Left to Right: John Pospichal, Frank Richtig



Rychtig & Walla blacksmith & wagonmaker - 1915. Left to Right: Frank J. Richtig, Joseph F. Walla. (Now site north of present Post Office.)

Notice from the sign the original spelling of his name – Rychtig. This spelling was used around Clarkson into the 1920s.



office). Between 1910 and 1920, in addition to smithing, Richtig sold cars in partnership with V.L. Prazak; over the years they sold Dodge and Dort cars, and something called a Guaranty truck ("any make of car can be converted into a durable and guaranteed truck").

During this time, Richtig began experimenting with the process of tempering steel, with the goal of creating knives that were so hard that they would rarely need sharpening. By the mid-1920s or early 1930s (the exact date is uncertain), he perfected the tempering process that resulted in knife blades so strong that they could "cut horse shoes into small pieces, as well as three-fourths inch crowbars, automobile axles, and even industrial steel locks, and yet undulled and without sharpening, still have blade enough left to cut paper into bits." By 1935, production of the marvelous knives was in full swing. The October 17, 1935 issue of the Colfax County Press reported:
*Frank J. Richtig, one of our local blacksmiths and mechanics has a crew of four men engaged in the manufacture of kitchen knives for which he is finding ready sale.

Mr. Richtig has been experimenting in this line for a long time and he now can produce a quality knife that excels anything on the present market. He tells us that he sold several hundred pieces the past few weeks and his present crew can hardly keep up with the output. At the rate Frank is now going after the manufacture of these knives, it won't be long and Clarkson will become famous as a cutlery manufacturing point

He has an excellent and dependable article and many who have tried his knives have placed additional orders. He has knives for all household purposes. Mr. Richtig and Louis Faltys have been making frequent trips to outstate points in the interest of the sale of these knives and have found the demand much greater than was first anticipated. The object now is to keep the factory going full blast so that the demand can be supplied. Richtig made a variety of kitchen and butcher knives, often with poured aluminum handles. He made a circular display rack to show the different types of knives he had for sale, and with a twowheel trailer he took his products to county and state fairs, giving demonstrations of the unbelievable strength of his knife blades.





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The Colfax County Press of September 16, 1937 reported that "Frank J. Richtig, Clarkson blacksmith, was on the fairground today demonstrating his steel knives that cut through three quarter inch cold steel. After driving a knife through a crow bar, chisel, or steel bit, Richtig will shave a piece of paper with its fine edge. Clarkson is a Bohemian district, and although Richtig is American born, he speaks with a heavy accent. But making knives, not talking, is his business in life, and he lets his traveling companion Julius Wacha, retired Clarkson general store owner, do part of

the explaining. For 29 years he has made knives during odd moments when other blacksmithing was not pressing. Through long practice he developed his own technique for tempering the steel. Many offers have come from large steel concerns for him to join their companies and teach his secret to their men. But in Clarkson he has his home, his family, and there he prefers to stay. Through Colfax, Stanton, and Cuming counties Richtig is famous for sharpening plow shares, Wacha says, and in his time there he has worked on at least 60,000. Two years ago Richtig decided to extend the sales of his



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.\$1.25

\$1.25

\$1.50

\$1.50 \$1.73

\$1.50 \$1.75

\$2.00

\$1.73

\$1.50

\$1.25

knives, so he began making the fairs, giving demonstrations. Most of the actual sales are mail order. The knives are not hard, Wacha explained. But they are so tempered that they will hold a razor edge." (In addition to Julius Wacha, others who toured with Richtig to help with his demonstrations included W.J. Moore, Frank J. Svik, A.C. Fajman, George Bohacek, James Stransky, Marvin Teply, and Louis Faltys.)

After he used one of his knives to cut off the hardened lock on a jail cell in Cedar Bluffs, Richtig drew the attention of the editors of Ripley's Believe It or Not, who asked for information. A Clarkson artist, William Powolny, drew up a sketch and provided the text for the Ripley column, which appeared on November 18, 1936.

After the Ripley story, he became something of a celebrity, and the orders for his knives came pouring in. He received thank you letters for gift knives sent to such notables as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, Gen. George Patton, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur. During World War II, he received many requests for combat knives. Unlike the kitchen knives, which featured smooth aluminum handles, the handles of the combat knives were comprised of discs of leather and red and yellow plastic. Richtig often gave free combat knives to local men who left for the service. Good examples of these combat knives easily bring over \$4,000 among collectors.

Although Frank Richtig made large numbers of knives between 1935 and 1950 and continued to give demonstrations and make knives until his death, he always kept the tempering process that he had discovered a closely guarded secret. It is known that he did not forge his blades (like the legendary Japanese Samurai swords and the Arabs' Damascus steel swords); rather, the hardness was achieved by grinding the blades from stock and relying on the subsequent heat treatment to develop their unique properties. Frank J. Richtig died on January 1, 1977, having told no one how to recreate the process. "A man is entitled to some secrets," he once said, "and that's mine."



EXPLANATION OF TODAY'S CARTOON

THE TOUGHEST STEEL KNIFE—Frank Richtig, an enterprising and inventive village blacksmith of Clarkson, Neb., has perfected a knife of steel which is so hard that he can cut large buggy axies up to an inch and a quarter thick, automotive axies, wagon tires, cold tool steel, heavy horse shoes, farm machinery parts, heavy railroad spikes, track bolts, and most every kind of steel, cast iron, and wrought iron. And Believe It or Not, after hammering these knives through these heavy steel and iron pieces, the knife edge is still undamaged and can cut a piece of newspaper. The blade of the knife is exactly like that of an ordinary butcher knife.—about 1-16 of an inch thick and one inch wide.









But scientific curiosity is not to be denied. Twenty three years after Frank Richtig's death, Dale Novak, a relative of Frank's and an excellent knife maker himself, sent two of Richtig's knives to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Two metallurgists studied the samples and published the results of their analyses (Jeffrey Wadsworth and Donald Lesuer. 2000. The knives of Frank J. Richtig as featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not. Materials Characterization: An International Journal on Materials Structure and Behavior. Volume 45, pages 315-326). The scientists subjected the Richtig blades to a battery of tests: measurements of hardness, chemical composition, tensile stress, and high magnification analyses of the steel's microstructure. And for good measure, they used one of the Richtig knives



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AMERICAN IRONSMITH

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL BLACKSMITHS AND WELDERS ASSOCIATION

ROBERT FALCONER, EDITOR AND MANAGER M WEST RANDOLPH STREET, CHICAGO, ILL

July 1, 1938

fo Whom It May Concert

This will certify that Frank J. Richtig, Clarkson, Nebraska has been a blacksmith in that city for over thirty years. In addition he is a specialist in the hardening and tempering of steel.

When blacksmithing began to decline, he decided to put his knowledge of steel to a practical use, and now he makes knives that are flexible, yet tempered to cut-steel bars, horseshoes or axles, and still hold an edge keen enough to cut a newspaper into slices.

We witnessed a demonstration he gave at Carroll, Iowa on June 17 and 18 before audiences which aggregated more than 200 blacksmiths in the two days. This no doubt was the most critical audience he ever faced. He convinced all that his 20 or more beautiful variety of knives are not excelled in quality or usefulness anywhere.

In appreciation of his ability as a knife and tool maker, we pay this unsolicited tribute to him as a Master Ironsmith who has glorified his profession.

Balemer

Editor and National Assn. Secretary.





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to hammer through a 6-mm-diameter steel bar without damage to the blade (a test that caused a contemporary high-carbon steel kitchen knife to chip).

So, for those of you who have waited all your lives to learn the secret of the unbelievable hardness and enduring sharpness of Frank Richtig's knives, here are Wadsworth and Lesuer's conclusions: "*Our best estimate of the Richtig secret recipe is as follows:*

1. AISI 1090 or 1095 steel was used.

2. The steel was austenitized at a temperature just slightly above (e.g., 30 degrees C) the A1 temperature.

3. The steel was austempered at 300-400 degrees c."

Or, in layman's terms, Wadsworth and Lesuer deduced that the knives were made with ordinary carbon (1%) steel that was heated to nearly 1400 degrees F, rapidly cooled (in a second or less) to around 600 degrees F, and then held at that temperature for "tens of seconds." Outside of the laboratory, they noted that such rapid cooling could be accomplished by quenching the thin blades into an isothermal salt or molten lead bath held at the appropriate temperature.

The scientists observed that "the use of an austempering process by Richtig is quite remarkable, since the process is generally recognized to have been introduced by Bain and Davenport in the 1930s. Since the Richtig knives, made with the secret heat-treating recipe, were famous by the 1930s, it is possible that Richtig discovered the austempering process before the two well-known metallurgists were generally recognized for discovering the process."

Not a carnival trick, Frank Richtig's knives were the real deal. And it appears that our Village Smithy was the first to discover the austempering process that made them so hard – before the later development and promotion of the process by professional metallurgists. - Glenn Čada



Metal pipes and rebar have never been safe since...

This article was suggested for reprinting by Terry Kauk and is re-printed with permission from the author. The original Blog article can be seen at: https://clarksonhistory.wordpress.com/2013/05/06/secrets-of-the-dead-the-richtig-knife/



Registration for the 2018 Conference is now open make your reservations as space is limited Various Accommodations ie hotels and Camping check ABANA.org for information.

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...

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

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 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

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.

SCABA Swage Blocks

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



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.

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:



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SCABA Membership Application January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019		New Member
		Membership Renewal
Please accept my application		Date:
First Name	Last Name	
Married? Yes No	Spouses Name	
Address		
City		
Home Phone ()	Work Phor	ne ()
E-mail	/	ABANA Member? Yes No
I have enclosed \$20.00 for dues for th Signed:		
Return to: Saltfork Craftsmen, P.O.	. Box 18389, Oklahoma	City, Ok. 73154
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Please provide directions or a map to	the meeting location	along with this form
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**All meeting are scheduled on a first come Meeting Coordinator no later than the 15th		
Completed forms can be mailed or emailed. You will receive a conformation by e-mail of		
A form must be filled out for each meeting.	-	
If you don't receive something from the Reg request, call to verify that it was received.	gional Meeting Coordina	tor within 10 days of your sending in you
An online form is also available www.salt	e on the website in the to forkcraftsmen.org/Calen	-
Saltfork Crafts	men Artist-Blacksmith Asso	ociation 51

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