



APRIL 2006

2006 PUBLIC DEMO REQUEST

First weekend in April. Norman Medieval Faire. Contact Steven Knisely or Aubry Washington for more information or to help demonstrate. Period clothing necessary.

**April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** Living history event at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher. Ok. Friday is school kids day from 9am to 2pm. Sat. the hours are 9-5. Contact Renee Mitchell at 405-375-5176 for more info.

**April 20-22<sup>nd</sup>**, Choctaw Land run Festival. Contact Steven Knisely or Tony Cable for more information.

**April 21-22**, Drumright Historical Society Spring Arts & Crafts Festival. Fri. 4-7pm Sat, 8am-6pm Location is East end of Drumright, ¼ mile South of the intersection of Hwy 3/99/16 intersection. Look for Drumright Activity Center on the East side of the road.

**April 29<sup>th</sup>**, Mountain Man Rendezvous in Cushing. Call Elmer Ledgerwood for more info (918) 255-0229

**April 29<sup>th</sup>**, Rural Heritage Festival at Cherokee Strip Museum, Call Jim Carothers for info

**April 29<sup>th</sup>**. Great Plains Antique Tractor club will be holding their 11<sup>th</sup> annual tractor show in Hobart, Ok.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**, Marshall, Ok. Priarie City Days. 8:00 to 4:30p.m. Contact Jim Carothers for more info.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**, Pawnee Bill Ranch (Contact Erin Brown (918) 762-2513 for more info)

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>** annual Comanche Old West Fest. For more info. Contact Brant C. Bal l at 580-439-8832

**June 10,17,24** Pawnee Bill Ranch Wild West Show (Contact Erin Brown for info)

**August 31-Sept 2**. Fletcher Tractor Show. Contact Diana Davis for more info.

30<sup>th</sup> annual Norman Medieval Fair, which will be held in Reaves park (2501 S. Jenkins Ave.) on **March 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**. As usual, Aubrey Washington and Steven Knisely plan on being there

## **KANSAS NEWS**

( addition to this article) There is a \$60.00 charge for both days for this workshop)

Steve Rollert, owner of Dove Knives from Keenesburg, Co will be coming to the GPBA Haysville Blacksmith shop on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The demo will be from 8 to 5 Saturday and Sunday.

Steve has offered to have a short question and answer session on Friday evening, April 28<sup>th</sup> after he arrives. His demo will cover beginning forging, heat-treating and grinding. He will be forging with propane. Damascus will not be specifically covered but he will answer any questions that you might have about welding up Damascus blades.

If there is sufficient interest we will have Steve back in the Fall to do a Damascus demo or workshop.

After talking to Steve on the phone I believe that he will be a very informative demonstrator. Steve has taught a lot of bladesmithing through the years so I'm sure he will do a great job.

I'm looking forward to seeing this demo; I think you will find it to be very informative.

If you would like to see some of Steve's work he has a website at

[www.doveknives.com](http://www.doveknives.com)

[www.keenedgeknives.com](http://www.keenedgeknives.com)

Best Regards.

Matt Wills-President

## **SOUTH-CENTRAL MEETING AT FRANKLIN'S**

Gerald Franklin

The March South-Central Regional meeting was held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Gerald and Frankie Franklin's place east of Duncan, OK. What a meeting! The trade item was a trivet and participants really did themselves proud providing twelve excellent pieces for the trade item



Bill Epps demonstrating tong making for Cheryl Montgomery, Jerry Cathy and others. drawing. We saw Saltfork members who hadn't been to a meeting in quite some time, prospective new members, old friends, and

visitors/demonstrators from as far away as Nebraska. We were fortunate to have Junior Strasil from Falls City, NE and Bill Epps from Mesquite, TX. They both treated us with excellent demonstrations and instruction.

Junior, many of you may know him better by his internet handle of *Irnsrgrn*, demonstrated his unique Helve Hammer. A very efficient and compact power hammer that is about 4 feet tall and is powered quite adequately by a 1/3 HP motor. He also gave a very informative training session on drill bit sharpening. Junior is a master craftsman and we all benefited from watching him forge and listening to him teach.

Bill Epps needs no introduction to many Saltfork members as he was one of our demonstrators at the '03 Saltfork Conference in Guthrie. Bill forged a number of items including a pair of tongs and a "horse shoe" that we took care of at our fire department auction. There will be more on the auction later.

We were happy to see that Larry Mills was able to get out and around after hip surgery last month. Mike Sweeney came down from Sand Springs and did some nice forging to boot. We haven't been seeing much of Steven Knisley and Rickey Nusbaum lately, and both of them were there.

Many other out of state visitors came also. We were glad to visit with Junior's son-in-law, Aaron Tilton who came up from San Antonio. Saltfork member Tommy Dean came in from Longview, TX, and Chuck Bennett and Freddie Haire from Dalhart, TX. Freddie and Chuck are excellent bladesmiths and Tommy Dean makes some of the most beautiful copper roses this side of the rose garden. Aaron is a very accomplished smith in his own right and it was a pleasure to see him work. We had many other "local" Texas visitors from the NTBA come up also.



Of course, our own Saltfork folks made a good accounting of themselves at the anvil as well. At last count, we had nine forges going. Due to the burn ban, we had to put all the coal forges under cover, but it just made things a little more cozy. Smiths were forging blades, cowboys, courtin' candles, tools, you name it. At noon, we were treated to a good lunch of Frankie's stew and cornbread, topped off with more desserts than we could handle. Our thanks go out to all who brought dessert items to make sure that we all maintained our "fighting weight".

We did something at this meeting that we don't normally do. We had a donation box for items to be taken to the Loco Volunteer Fire Department so that they could auction them off at their fund raising dinner later Saturday night.



Jim Carothers suggested that since we didn't have a can for lunch money, that we put a can in the VFD box for cash donations. We did that. Then, Bill Epps made a pair of tongs and suggested that we auction them off. This led to forty dollars more from Max Scrudder for the money can. Thanks Max. Next, Bill Epps made one of his famous "Horse Shoes". We auctioned that off for another forty bucks. Thanks to Cheryl Montgomery for that buy. Then, *Irnsrgn* provided one of his hand forged, 1 1/2 pound quarter pein hammers for auction. Things got hot as bidding speeded up. When all was said and done, Bill Epps took the hammer with a \$100 bid. Thanks to Bill and thanks to Junior for donating a tool from his personal hammer rack. As Bill took the hammer from me he said, "I paid \$20 for the hammer and \$80 for the experience," referring to the vast



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experience that Junior puts into all the tools that he builds.

As things wound down, we were able to take \$215 cash and around twenty donated forged items to the Loco Fire Department. The donated items brought over \$900 at their auction so, considering the \$215 cash from our donation can, the Saltfork effort netted well over \$1100 for the cash strapped VFD. Thanks to all who participated. The Loco Fire Chief is very appreciative of blacksmiths in general and Saltfork blacksmiths in particular.

## NORTHWEST MEETING AT LEHENBAUER'S

Gerald Franklin

The March Northwest Regional meeting was held on March 25th at Ron Lehenbauer's shop in Waukomis, OK. The weather was a little chilly to start out with, but there was plenty of room inside Ron's shop for folks to get out of the wind. The trade item was anything made of copper or with copper incorporated into it. There were about a half dozen excellent pieces on the trade item table showing our membership's coppersmith skills.



Ron arranged to have a Master Farrier, Dusty Franklin of Calumet, OK, to demo for us. Dusty

gave a very informative talk about some of the ins and outs of horseshoeing as he demonstrated forging and welding a bar-shoe. The weld was



flawless and was virtually invisible when he finished. Dusty did admit, however, that if he was building the shoe to actually put on a horse, that he

would have not spent as much time cleaning up the weld. It was a very informative demo for those of us who aren't exposed to today's farrier techniques on a regular basis. Thanks to Dusty for taking time to be with us.

Master fisherman, Ron Lehenbauer, provided a fine mess of catfish for lunch. Master Fry-Daddy, Lynn Clowdus, manned the deep fryer to turn out big batches of fish and hush puppies for the crowd. Beans and Cole slaw and enough cakes for a small army made for a great meal and if anybody left hungry, it was their own fault. It was good to see such a large crowd, representing all three SCABA Regions, enjoying a day of smithing. Thanks, Ron for hosting another successful meeting

## NW REGIONAL MEETING (FEB)



Congratulation to Richard Guthrie on his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Pretty Spry for Ninety-five.

We met at Jake Brown's in Ingersol, Ok in February. It was a pretty raw, cold day outside but Jake's shop has a good stove. A real good crowd showed up including several non-members that came by to see what



blacksmithing was all about. Ron Lehenbauer organized a punch/chisel-making event. Almost everyone there participated.



Not only did it get everyone involved in doing some simple forging, many for the first time, but it was also a great seminar on basic heat-treating. After the forging and heat-treating were done, we all drew names just like for a regular trade item. I think it was just an outstanding idea and made for a great meeting. Besides all of that, it was kind of a Birthday Party too. Richard Guthrie was turning 95. Thanks to Jake and Ron for everything. And, the food was darned good too. It is hard to beat chili and stew on a raw day.

Mike George

## JUST A NOTE...

Would just like to tell everyone what a great time Chuck and I had attending the meeting at Gerald Franklins. It was nice to meet everyone.

Thanks again...Freddie Haire

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Received a donation from the Pawnee Bill Ranch Site Museum recently. This was a donation for the living history teaching work Bill Kendall recently did there. Thanks Bill, you made a great impression on the Museum staff.

Jim C.

## SCABA TOOLS



Here are a few of the tools for the SCABA tool box. Several tools were added at Gerald's meeting. Thomas Dean added the brush, hot cut hardy and file. A pair of tongs was added by Larry Mills and a pair of bending forks by JC Banks.