

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

March 2014



This is the newest creation from the work bench of Teresa Gabrish. This is a hollow form ring made from copper and brass, The cabochon is Turquoise. The little snake is Sterling silver. She plans to have a nice selection ready by the Medieval Fair.

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Editors notes...

I hope everyone sent in their vote for the upcoming election. We have a lot of work to get started on this year and our first order of business is the filling of vacant seats on the board and the election of officers.

Please remember to send in your dues. Also if you have a change of address coming up please let me know. Our newsletters are not forwarded along with your regular mail when you put in a change of address. The cover is copies with a new address, if available, then mailed back to me. The original newsletter is then destroyed. It cost the club every time not only the cost of printing and mailing but also the return charge. Its your money, just don't want to see it spent unnecessarily.

Cover story. Teresa is a Jewelry artist and talented member of Saltfork. When the price of Sterling went up to the point where she could not afford to work with it she tried copper. Copper works much the same as silver but at less cost. She has found that she can use all of her techniques she has used for silver work to recreate her pieces in copper and brass. She has found that a lot people like the softness of the patina that copper develops.

The ring on the cover has feathers soldered to each side. She is also doing some etching of others.

Check out her new designs when you visit the Blacksmith Booth at the Norman Medieval Fair the First of April.

I would like to encourage you to write up an original article or how-to-it for the newsletter. We all like to see how the other person solves a problem we may be having ourselves. I recently needed to make a spike/rivet for a candle holder. I thought I had discovered the perfect fix when using a duplex nail. Well, while thumbing through an old newsletter from another group, I found the same solution. So I wasn't the first to think of it. But maybe you will be. 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

March presidents notes

For all of you that missed the Zombie apocalypse survival camp, you missed a good time. I got up at four in the morning, so I could be there with the teaching trailer right at sunup. After JJ done a short power point presentation to get the boys a little more familiar with the equipment, we all went out in the roaring wind to get started. Ten coal forges were soon heating all kinds of iron like, horseshoes, railroad spikes, round, flat, and square stock. Even with two anvils at most forging stations, I found it hard to get on one when my iron was hot and ready. I know those twenty two boys had fun, but I believe I had more fun than they did. JJ asked me if ten forges going at once was a record for a saltfork meeting. I've never seen that many going at one time. I would like to thank the eight adults with the boy scouts, for their help. Also it was a joy to be with these well behaved boys. Another thank you is in order to the tractor folks for helping, as well as the use of their grounds and maybe most importantly, feeding us all! While I'm thanking folks, I don't want to forget the twenty saltfork members for helping me out on this. Again to everyone involved. THANK YOU!



Spring is almost upon us. That means more forging folks. The Norman medieval starts Friday the fourth and runs through Sunday the sixth of April. This is a fun time for sure! You get to dress up as in medieval times and hammer, while getting to see all the wild costumes, and lifestyle of that time period. If you want to see your president in a kilt, this is the place, and time! The following Saturday the twelfth, Carol has volunteered me to be at the Cleveland county fairgrounds in Norman to demo there. Get out and demo folks! If you haven't done it, you don't know what you're missing! Happy hammering! Byron

Thanks;

Byron Doner (Korny)

Additional forging days... "Play Days"

The NW region has set up some additional forging dates. They all fall on the 5th Saturdays of the Month.

- *March 29th , a "Play day" will be held at Elk City at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish.*
- *May 31st. Elk City Blacksmith Shop*
- *August 30th will be held at Mandell Greteman's shop in Foss, Okla.*
- *November 29th will be held at Don Garner's shop in Thomas.*

These "Play Days" are different from Workshops that are also held on those dates. Anyone that wants to host a workshop, including one in the NW region, should let the Education Coordinator know.

2014 Workshop weekends...

March 29th

May 31st

August 30th

November 29th

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

March Regional meetings...

- SE Regional meeting (March 1st) open
- NE Regional meeting (March 8th) will be hosted by Doug Redden at 2050 E. 410 Rd. Oologah. Lunch is provided. He did not designate a trade item.
- SC Regional meeting (March 15th) will be hosted by Larry Mills, he has chosen a decorative punch as the trade item. Lunch will be provided. Please bring a side dish to go with stew. Suggestion of cornbread, cheese & crackers and soft drinks. *Directions: 2 miles east of I-35, take Tecumseh Rd, to Charleston Rd.*
- NW Regional meeting (March 22nd) will be hosted by Mandell Greteman at his home in Foss, Okla. Lunch is provided and his trade item is a soup spoon.

Directions: exit 53 off I-40 go north on Hyw 44 across the rail road tracks one block turn left go 2 blocks end of the road big ray and while building or follow the signs.

April meeting schedule:

- ⇒ SE Regional meeting (April 5th) open
- ⇒ NE Regional meeting (April 12th) will be hosted by Ed McCormach. Lunch will be provided. Trade item is a animal head.
- ⇒ SC Regional meeting (April 19th) annual picnic
- ⇒ NW Regional meeting (April 26th) will be hosted by Bob Kennemer at the Rt 66 Museum in Elk City. Lunch is provided. Trade item is anything from a RR Spike.

May meeting schedule;

- ♦ SE Regional meeting (May 3rd) will be hosted by Ronnie Smith. Lunch is provided, bring a side dish to help out. Trade item is a flower of any kind. *Directions: From McAlester Ok. South on 69 to Savanna. In middle of Savanna go west on 99 N. Washington. Didn't say if he would have signs. Contact number is 918-916-3426*
- ♦ NE Region (May 10th) open
- ♦ SC region (May 17th) will be hosted by Ricky Vardell at his home in Temple Ok. 103 W. Main (old bank building) enter at the alley on west side of building. Trade item is a large spoon. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out.
- ♦ NW Region (May 24th) Will be hosted by Roy Bell at the Route 66 Museum blacksmith shop in Elk City. Lunch is provided but bring a side dish to help out. Trade item is a knife.

2014 meeting dates....

SE Region (1st Sat)

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

NE Region (2nd Sat)

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

SC Region (3rd Sat)

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

NW Region (4th Sat)

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

Saltfork Craftsman Regional Meeting Hosting Form

Region _____ SE _____ NE _____ S/C _____ NW

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/email _____

Trade item _____

Lunch provided _____ yes _____ no

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

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

Completed forms can be mailed or emailed.

You will receive a conformation by email or postcard.

A form must be filled out for each meeting.

SC meeting for February...

Zombie Survival Camp 2014

Campers arrived at the show grounds at 10:30 pm on Friday Feb. 14. They pitched camp and settled in about midnight. We had a general safety meeting at 9:00am and discussed the main tools they would be seeing during the day. Scouts were asked to get in groups of three and find a forge and that there would be a willing and able Craftsman there to show them how to use the equipment. What a day this worked up to be. We had 10 forges going at one time! That has to be some kind of record for a monthly meeting! The scouts made knives, spork's, boomerangs, and any other thing they could imagine that would help them in a zombie attack. We had a lunch of wild boar chops, rattle snake, beans, corn and bread. Lunch didn't slow the scouts they were running from the dining hall back to their forging areas. Blacksmithing continued till 6pm or when the craftsman gave out!

We had 23 members in attendance for this event. I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU TO EACH OF THEM!!!!

And I think we will be asked to do this again next year.

J J McGill



Blacksmith newsletter article

Upcoming quilt show

The Cleveland County OHCE will be having their very first Quilt Show on May 9th and 10th at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Quilt applications are due on March 8th. If you want a quilt application I can either email or mail you a copy. You DO NOT have to be a member of OHCE or live in Cleveland County to enter your quilt. If You have any questions, please contact me.

TRUE GRIT BIG READ

Every year the public libraries sponser the reading of a certain book. The celebration of this years book "True Grit" will be Saturday April 12th for Cleveland, Potowatamie and Canadian counties at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. It should start at about 11am directly following the 89ers parade. There will be hand quilters, a Wild West show, and hopefully blacksmiths! If you could come and demo that day, please let Byron or me know so that we can get you on the program and publicity. Items can be sold out of booths. We

would also like broom makers, soap makers, wood turners, etc. If you know someone, please contact me.

I have been in touch with the Norman Visitors Association. By the next newsletter, I will have reserved a block of hotels in Norman for members for the October Conference. The Cleveland County Fairgrounds have 35 RV hookups with 30 and 50 amp, water and sewage.

Thanks for all you do!

Carol Doner, [404-760-8388](tel:404-760-8388), caroldoner@hotmail.com

Quilt till you wilt,
Carol Doner

Members of Saltfork:

S.F. member Mike Schroeder from Perkins, OK ([405-372-8908](tel:405-372-8908)) has one of these forges that he wants to restore.

Mike's forge is missing some parts; he would like to find a S.F. member that also has this same forge so he can take pictures for a restoration guide.

Thanks,

Jim Carothers

frontiershop@wildblue.net

[580-307-5152](tel:580-307-5152) cell



NW Regional meeting...

On February 22th,2014 Gary Seigrist hosted the meeting for the Northwest region .We had a beautiful day for a meeting. This meeting was held at the Elk City Blacksmith Shop (Route 66 Museum). There was a nice turn out of member and always a lot of tourist passing in and out.

The trade item was a cooking utensil , all trade items were donation to a Silent Auction at Hammon , Okla. for the grandson of Debra and Dorvan Ivey for medical bills . This young man had to have open heart surgery two weeks ago he is doing well.

Gary Seigrist made homemade stew, there was a lot of side dishes brought also. A Big Thank you to everyone that came and donation of there time .

On Saturday 15th some blacksmith gathered at Mandell's home also making items for the silent auction.

Thanks



Making the Patrick Pelgrom Tongs

Michael Wollowski

I made the tongs in figure 1 based on an article in the German metalworking magazine Hephaistos (<http://www.metall-aktiv.de/>). The tongs were developed by Patrick Pelgrom, a Belgian blacksmith who travels a lot by airplane. In order to reduce the weight of his luggage, he developed a pair of tongs that would be able to securely hold square, round and flat stock. This way, he was able to reduce the number of tongs he carries with him. His tongs were inspired by how one would hold a piece of (cold) metal with three fingers. The V-angled bottom takes on the functionality of the index and middle fingers and the rounded top that of the thumb. Notice the notch in the rounded top which is designed to give good grip.

While they are in essence v-bit tongs, they excel at holding flat and irregularly shaped stock. They also work well in situations where you need to hold two pieces to forge weld.

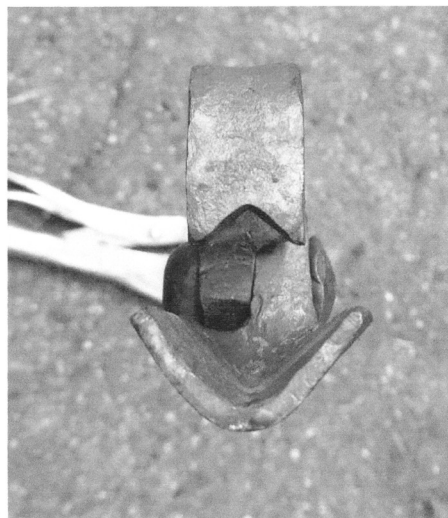
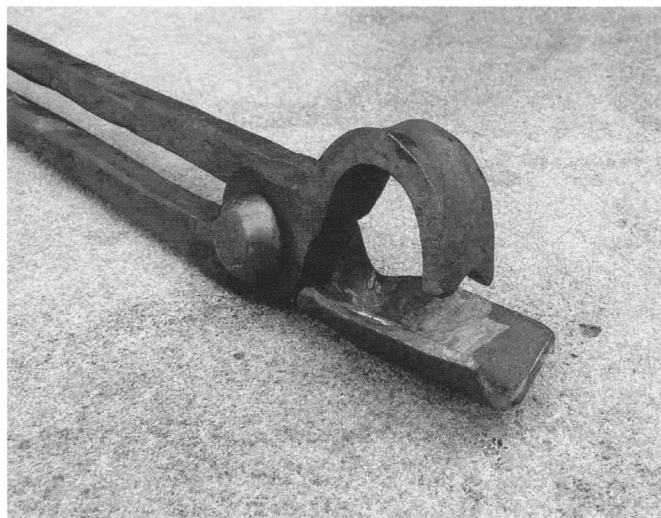


Figure 1: Three-quarter view and front view.

In this article, you will find construction notes on how to make these tongs. I find it easiest to rework old tongs as it saves time. While I like to use flat tongs as a donor, any tongs will do provided they have enough material to be reworked. I have made two pairs of tongs, the one described here started out as pick-up tongs in which the business end was approximately 1/2" square. They are going to be on the small side, to be used with 3/8" and 1/2" stock.

Start by cutting the rivet. Next, grind off any burrs and sharp edges. Now is also a good time to remove any excess materials so as to lighten the tongs. Figure 2 shows the result of this step.

In case your donor tongs are pick-up tongs, cut the business end so that you are left with about 2" of material. If you start out with flat tongs, you may skip this step. To make the V-bit bottom, draw the business end to about 1" wide, 1/8" thick and 2" long. If you start out with pick-up tongs, first spread them to about 1" wide and if they are still too thick, spread them out lengthwise. If you start out with fairly thick flat tongs, first draw the bit lengthwise so that it is equally thick. Then draw it out to a width of 1" and a thickness of about 1/8". Next cut the bit to length, about 2".

Now, it is time to form the V on a 45 degree V-groove of a swage block. It is important that the V-bit is slightly concave lengthwise, otherwise, the piece to be held by the tongs may wobble. Small imperfections can

be removed by grinding them away later on.



Figure 2: Tongs separated, sharp edges removed and trimmed for weight.

To make the rounded top, draw the business end to 1/2" wide, by 3/16" thick by about 2 1/4" long. Figure 3 shows the result of forging the top and bottom. Notice that the top is actually too long.



Figure 3: Forged business ends.

Next, clean-up the pieces with an angle grinder and cut the top to size and add a small V-notch. The length to which you cut the top determines the stock size you can hold comfortably. You may wish to experiment with that by dry fitting the tongs. The ones I made for this write-up open up to 5/8" from the inside of the top notch to the inside of the bottom V. This was measured with the ends of the reigns opened up to about 2 1/2". They hold 3/8" to 1/2" square and round stock as well as 1/2" flat stock.

The medium sized tongs that I made prior to writing this article open up to about 1 1/8", measured from inside of top notch to inside of bottom V, with the ends of the reigns opened up to 2 1/2". These tongs work well with 3/4" and 7/8" square and round stock. However, I primarily use them for knife making where I need to hold flat stock. They comfortably hold 3/4" to 1" flat stock. The medium sized tongs have the following dimensions. Bottom V: 2" long, 1 1/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Rounded top: 2 1/4" long, 5/8" wide, 1/4" thick. Notice that they have the same lengths as the smaller tongs. This is partly due to the different design of the donor tongs. Figure 4 shows the two pieces after clean-up.

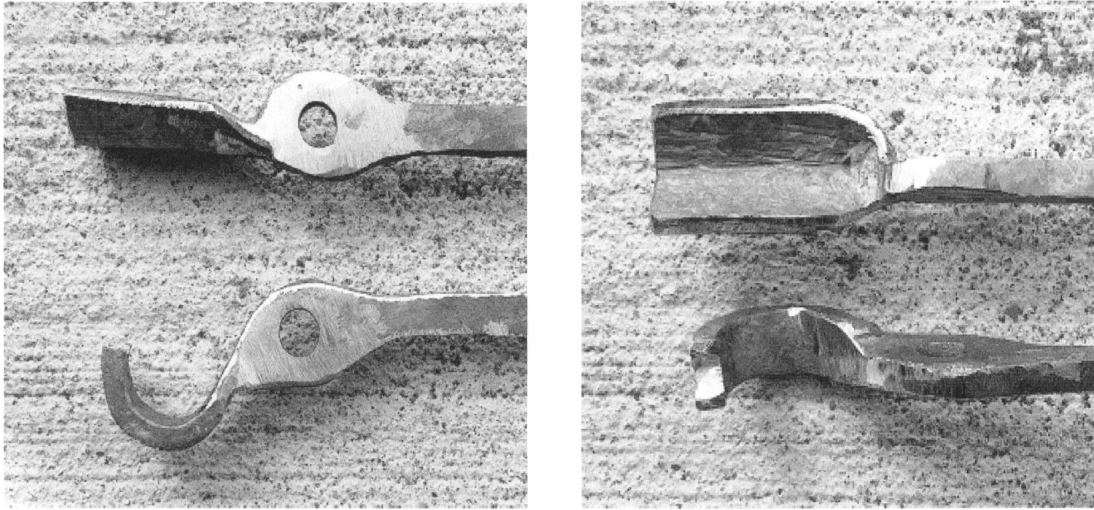


Figure 4: After clean-up.

When putting together the tongs, I like to insert a thin piece of cardboard between the pieces, such as from a cereal box. This prevents over tightening of the tongs when setting the rivet. I just burn off the cardboard piece when finished and tighten the tongs if necessary. Figure 5 shows the medium sized tongs holding the small sized ones.



Figure 5: Big brother holding little brother.