Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

December 2015



Congratulations to Terry Kaulk who won first place in the People's Choice competition at the 2015 SCABA Annual Conference with his wildlife sculpture of a roadrunner with lizard.

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The 2015 Annual Conference was a big success. There was a lot of detailed information provided by each demonstrator - too much to put into one newsletter. In this issue, I have only provided an overview of the demo projects. In upcoming issues I will provide more detailed how-to articles with more complete information and notes on how the demonstrators actually completed their projects.

This year, the camera work was excellent and the monitors were much better at showing close up work. Some of the work, especially that by Tom Latane', was very detailed and the cameras were critical for participants to see properly. Kudos to Bill Malsom and his audio visual team for doing great work in that area

On another note, you may have heard that the 2016 ABANA National Conference will now have several levels of forging competition open to attendees. The plan is to include tong making, chain making, and animal heads each with three different skill level tiers. Details on the competitions can be seen in the Fall 2015 Edition of the Hammer's Blow.

It sounds like the plan is to make this a fun addition to the conference even though the completion on some of the higher levels will probably be pretty intense. There is a new podcast on www.blacksmither.com where Victoria Patti interviews Mark Aspery on some tricks to gain a competitive edge. If you are interested in entering any of the competitions, you may want to take advantage of those tips and tricks.

- 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

In Remembrance...

We are sad to announce that Pat Cowart passed away November 5, 2015. The entire family was present with her. She was able to see and talk to the entire family. Her passing was quiet and gentle. She died the day before her and Dan's 51st wedding anniversary. Her memorial was Friday November 20 at 11:00 am the Davis Family Funeral Home in Dewey.

Pat was very active in Saltfork events and many members have fond memories of her. The thoughts and prayers of the entire Saltfork membership are with the Cowart family as they try to heal.

- Editor

Division of (Volunteer) Labor

Its been suggested that we need to clarify who does what in terms of the Saltfork Board members and other positions of responsibility. This list is an attempt to expand on the definitions of these roles to help in getting the right person when needed. Please keep in mind that everyone on this list gives their time on a volunteer basis and this list may change, expand and evolve over time:

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Duties
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Dodie O'Bryan	Webmaster	Pawnee, Ok scout@skally.net	_	Website Updates Web Calendar Up- dates

Workshop Schedule

Jan 30 – Beginning Blacksmithing Workshop: to be held at the Route 66 Blacksmith Shop in Elk City. More details will be provided in next month's newsletter. Class size is limited so it is encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. Contact Mandell to register.

Jan 30 – Beginning Blacksmithing Workshop: to be held at Bill Kendall's workshop in Tulsa. Instructors will be Doug Redden and Tracy Cowart. Lunch will be provided. Cost will be \$30. More details will be provided in next month's newsletter. Class size is limited so it is encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. Contact Doug Redden to register.

There has been some discussion of offering another hammer making workshop. The date and location has not yet been determined but somewhere in the NE region is a possibility. Final location will depend on interest level and availability of the necessary equipment. The next fifth Saturday would be April 30th so this is the most likely date. If you would be interested in attending a hammer workshop, please let Mandell Greteman or Doug Redden know as soon as possible.

Mandell Greteman is the SCABA Workshop Coordinator. Contact Mandell at 580-515-1292.

SCABA Library Titles:

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

Darvl 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

When I copy a set for someone I make three copies. Best time to contact me is in the A.M. by phone.

- Doug Redden, Librarian

NOTICE

Diana is handing over the job of keeping track of the monthly regional meetings to me. It seems to work best combined with the newsletter editor job.

If you plan to host a monthly meeting, please send your information to:

Russell Bartling 918-633-0234 rbartling@ionet.net 70 N 60th W Ave. Sand Springs, OK 74063

E-mail is the most convenient for me, followed by phone, then by regular mail. But whatever method works for you is fine.

Thanks!

2016 SCABA Annual Conference...

The work of coordinating and planning for next year's conference was started even before this year's conference was complete. Good demonstrators fill their calendars early and the Board of Directors had to finalize the dates and location before demonstrators could be booked.

The Directors conducted a meeting at this year's conference to finalize the 2016 dates as the third weekend in October (Oct 15th and 16th). The 2016 location has also been set to be at the Antique Tractor Club grounds in Sulphur. There were a number of reasons leading to the final dates and location but the Board believes this will be a benefit to the club in many ways.

I'm pleased to announce that we have just secured two good demonstrators for the 2016 conference - Peter Ross and Jymm Hoffman. These two highly sought after demonstrators are versatile and both have specialized in historic reproductions.

We have also arranged for both demonstrators to remain on site to conduct three day hands on workshops during Monday through Wednesday right after the conference. The specific details and pricing are still being worked out but this will be open to a limited number of students. This will be a hands on workshop with each demonstrator where students will actually be forging what the demonstrator shows and will have close access to their specific guidance as questions come up. Each student will need to bring their own forging stations including forge, anvil and basic tools that will be determined prior to the workshops.

Trying to make it fair for people applying for the workshops after the conference, I have been brainstorming, talking to other people and taking suggestions. Here is the way it will be done:

Starting at 9:00 A. M. on July 15th I will start taking phone calls and emails. The first twenty will get the spots. Nothing before 9:00 A. M. will be accepted.

I will let everyone know at that time if you are in or on standby. If you are in you will have 7 days to mail in your deposit (which is going to be half of the fee) and that will allow everyone time to apply for scholarship money to fund the other half if they want to do so.

There will be a standby list and those will have first shot at the following year's workshops.

There will be more details later as everything is worked out.

Thanks for everyone being patient. More to come...

- Doug Redden Vice President/Conference Coordinator

From the Secretary's Desk.....

Another conference has come and gone. I for one believe it was a HUGE successes.

The set up crew did a great job getting everything up and going and then broke back down in record time. Registration seemed to go smoothly this year with the majority of participants preregistering.

The denim shirts that Doug Redden came up with sold out quickly. We had only 3-3x left at the end of the conference. Doug Plans to get more on the way, so if you missed out on getting one, Contact Doug Redden. We also have lots of this years t-shirts available. We sent a selection to the NW group and the SC group and Doug has some available for the NE group. We hope everyone will show club pride by getting either a black or gray shirt and wear it to all your demonstration events.

The board of directors had their usual, post conference meeting to get things going for next years event. Mark your calendar, because we are making changes. We have decided to go back to the 3rd weekend in October for the 2016 conference. We are also going to try a different venue. We have been invited to come to Sulphur to the Antique Tractor Club facility. Any of you that have helped JJ McGill and Jim Dyer with the Tractor show in September will be familiar with the location.

We will be going down there during the summer to plan out how and where to set up the different conference classes and demonstrations. If you wish to help this next year, watch for announcements in the newsletter about dates and times to meet. Teresa and I have been discussing upcoming classes and workshops for the families that attend the conference. If you have anything you think will be fun to do or wish to teach a workshop. Get with Diana Davis to let her know so we can make it happen. Please don't wait until the last minute, we get better turnout if we get it in the newsletter/conference pamphlet. Even car pooling to antique stores or shopping malls can be a great outing for ladies that are not crafty minded.

Diana Davis Secretary SCABA

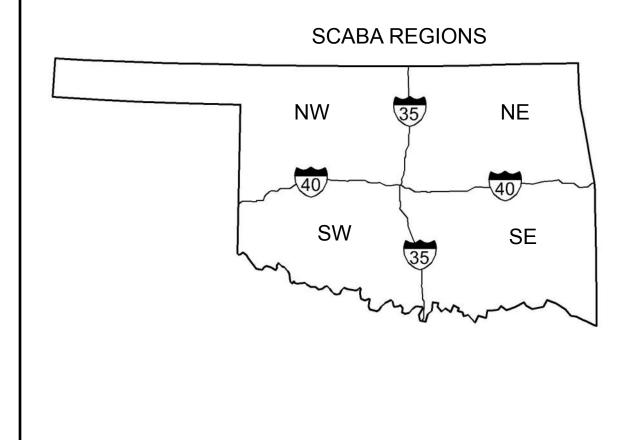
****NOTICE****

There are a couple of changes to the SCABA regional meetings for 2016.

The Board of Directors has revised the NE region to hold meetings on the first Saturday of the month while the SE region is moved to the second Saturday.

There has also been some confusion on the boundaries for each 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.)

The current South Central region "SC" will be called South West "SW" starting in 2016 to better align with the current region boundaries.



Regional Meeting Schedule

- SE regional meeting December 5th: Open.
- **NE Regional meeting December 12th:** Will be hosted by Charlie McGee at his shop about 12 miles north of Sand Springs. The trade item is open anything you want to bring. Lunch will be provided (beans and cornbread) but help out by bringing a side dish or desert of your choosing. The shop will be open around 8:30 or 9:00. Coming through Sand Springs, go north on HWY 97 until it tees at the entrance to Zink Ranch. Turn left (west) and go about 2 miles. We are located on the right (north) side of the road. The house sits back off the road and there is an electric gate that will be open. The shop is located behind the house. If needed, contact Charlie McGee at 918-245-7279 (home) or 918-639-8779 (cell).
- SC Regional meeting December 19th: Open
- **NW Regional meeting December 24th:** Merry Christmas.

2015 meeting dates....

2015 meeting dates			
SE Region (1t Sat)	NE Region (2nd Sat)	SC Region (3rd Sat)	NW Region (4th Sat)
Jan.3rd	Jan 10th	Jan. 17th (Byron Doner)	Jan 24th (Gary Seigrist)
Feb. 7th	Feb. 14	Feb. 21st (Tony Cable)	Feb. 28th (Bob Kennemer)
March 7th	March 14th (James Mabery)	March 21st	March 28th (Mandell Greteman
April 4th	April 11th (Doug Redden)	April 18th	April 25th (Dorvan Ivy)
May 2nd	May 9th (Ed McCormack)	May 16th (JJ McGill)	May 23rd (Terry Kauk)
June 6th	June 13th (Doug Redden)	June 20th (R. Vardell)	June 27th (Don Garner)
July 4th	July 11th (Brendan Crotty)	July 18th (Larry Mills)	July 25th (Gary Seigrist)
August 1st	August 8th (Open)	August 15th (US Cavalry Assoc.)	August 22nd (Monte Smith)
Sept. 5th (Open)	Sept. 12th (Open)	Sept. 19th (Jim Dyer)	Sept. 26th (Roy Bell)
Oct. 3rd. (Bill Phillips)	Oct. 10th	Oct. 17th (John Cook)	Oct. 24th (Cheryl Overstreet)
Nov 7-8 Conference	Nov. 14th (Ed McCormack)	Nov. 21st (Anthony Griggs)	Nov. 28th (Mandell Greteman)
Dec 5th (Open)	Dec. 12th (Charlie McGee)	Dec. 19th (Open)	Dec:26th (Merry Christmas)

2016 meeting dates....

NE Region (1t Sat)	SE Region (2nd Sat)	SW Region (3rd Sat)	NW Region (4th Sat)
Jan.2nd (Open)	Jan 9th (Open)	Jan. 16th (Open)	Jan 23rd (Monte Smith)
Feb. 6th (Open)	Feb. 13th (Open)	Feb. 20th (Open)	Feb. 27th (Bob Kennemer)
March 5th (Open)	March 12th (Open)	March 19th (Open)	March 26th (Mandell Greteman)
April 2nd (Open)	April 9th (Open)	April 16th (Open)	April 23rd (Dorvan Ivey)
May 7th (Open)	May 14th (Open)	May 21st (JJ McGill)	May 28th (Don Garner)
June 4th (Open)	June 11th (Open)	June 18th (Ricky Vardell)	June 25th (Terry Kaulk)
July 2nd (Open)	July 9th (Open)	July 16th (Open)	July 23rd (Kelly Killhoffer)
August 6th (Open)	August 13th (Open)	August 20th (Open)	August 27th (Don Garner)
Sept. 3rd (Open)	Sept. 10th (Open)	Sept. 17th (Jim Dyer)	Sept. 24th (Roy Bell)
Oct. 1st. (Open)	Oct. 8th (Open)	Oct. 15th (Conference)	Oct. 22nd (Cheryl Overstreet)
Nov 5th (Open)	Nov. 12th (Open))	Nov. 19th (Open)	Nov. 26th (Cory Spieker)
Dec 3rd (Open)	Dec. 10th (Open)	Dec. 17th (Open)	Dec:24th (Merry Christmas)

Fifth Saturday Fun Day - Dec:31st (Mandell Greteman)

Meeting hosting form can be found on the last page along with membership application form. Russell Bartling will now keep track of the monthly meetings. Regular monthly meetings are always open to anyone that wishes to attend. If you want to host a meeting in your 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.

-Russell Bartling 918-633-0234 or rbartling@ionet.net

NE Region Meeting Site Available to Saltfork Members...

The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch facility in Oolagah is now available to Saltfork members who may want to hold a meeting in the NE region but don't have a suitable meeting place.

The facility has a nice open area under large shade trees with lake view if weather cooperates but has a high roof vented barn if forges need to be moved indoors. Currently forges need to be brought to the site. Doug Redden is working with the directors of the facility to help upgrade the site's blacksmith shop to working order which may help in the future. There is a multipurpose meeting room attached to the barn for serving lunch indoors if desired. Doug also has two 10' x 20' canopies that can be set up for anyone who wants them available for a meeting.

The facility is available for meetings any first Saturday in 2016. On any day, occasional visitors may come by to see the ranch and there are some events planned that might coincide with the first Saturdays in some months (see schedule below.) The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch encourages Saltfork use of the facility for meetings and encourages demonstrators for other events as well, especially for Spring Break (March 14-18), Family Days (April - October), Frontier Days Kids Camp (June 20-22, July 18-20), Will Rogers and Wiley Post Fly In (August 13th), Will Rogers Days (November 3-6), and Will's Family Christmas (December 9-10).

Selling of any items is allowed and encouraged except for the Frontier Days Kids Camps as these events are benefit fundraisers for the kids. If you would like to schedule a meeting at the facility or have further questions, please contact **Doug Redden 918-230-2960**.

MARCH 14-18
Spring Break Events

Will Rogers Memorial Museum Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

MARCH 16

Mid-Afternoon Frolic Kids Talent Show

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

MARCH 27

Easter Egg Hunt

Optimist Club of Claremore Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Lecture Series

TBD

STARTING APRIL 1

Food Truck Fridays

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

TBD

Will Rogers 5K run

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

APRIL - OCTOBER

Family Day at the Birthplace Ranch

First Saturday of Month 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

Member Appreciation Picnic

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

JUNE 20-22

Frontier Days Kids Camp

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

JULY 18-20

Frontier Days Kids Camp

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

AUGUST 13

Will Rogers & Wiley Post Fly-In

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

OCTOBER 31

Halloween Night at the Museum

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

NOVEMBER 3-6

Will Rogers Days

Will Rogers Memorial Museum Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

NOVEMBER 6

Mid-Afternoon Frolic Kids Talent Show

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 17

Pictures with Santa

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Will Rogers Memorial Museum

DECEMBER 9-10

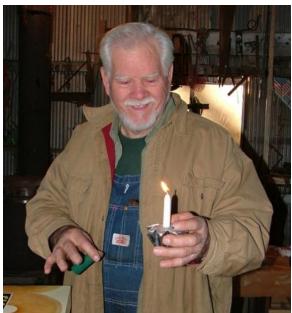
Will's Country Christmas

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

Around the State....

SE: South East Region November Meeting: No regional meeting was held for the SE region. The annual conference was held over this weekend.

NE: North East Region November Meeting: The NE region November meeting was hosted by Ed McCormack at his shop in Okmulgee. There were at least 45 people in attendance. The trade item was a flower and there were seven examples traded. Lunch was beans and cornbread along with a variety of deserts.



Since it turned out to also be Ed's birthday, there were a couple of anvil birthday cakes. Mandell Greteman presented him an aluminum cup cake in a steel wrapper that almost looked good enough to eat.

It looks like Ed has been busy making various improvements around the place. There were two new "wind chimes" that I would not want to stand under if the







wind is blowing hard enough to make them chime (one is mostly sledge hammer heads and the other is mostly anvils!)





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He also added a new foot operated gate gate latch and spring opener that helps when both hands are full (of groceries for example.)



There were four forges going most of the morning and early afternoon. Brendan Crotty stayed busy working on a couple of items including a spring steel sword with a rail-





road spike handle split and forge welded on. Gerald Brostek lended a hand to get the forge weld started. After welding, Brendon chiseled a line on each side and put a nice twist on the handle.

Ed has a lot of old tools and other items to look at. There were a lot of side discussions about what some particular item was used for "back in the day." Mandell Greteman and Terry Kaulk









made some adjustments on a new flat belt for Ed's column type drill press and had it running before the meeting ended.

Ed showed off a nice set of hand made shears or tin snips from his extensive collection. The handles show the signs of being hand forged but the cutting edges come together perfectly - as good as any factory made set of tin snips.

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting. - *Editor*





SC: South Central Region November Meeting: The SC region November meeting was hosted by Anthony Griggs at his home/shop near Sparks.



It was originally planned to be held outside to have plenty of room but the cold temperatures and high winds made everyone really happy to huddle inside the barn and stay close to the forge and wood barrel fires.

There were about twenty Saltfork members and a few guests present. There were six fire pokers presented for the trade items. Lunch was beans, rice and cornbread as well as several different pies/deserts (and lots of all of it was available.) I think most of us made at least two trips to fill our plates.

Anthony makes very nice pattern welded knives and he showed a few of them to the group during lunch. The group consensus was that they are pretty amazing work. Anthony is pretty humble about them but they really are nice to handle and very good looking knives.

Anthony has several pieces of equipment that he built himself and there was a lot of interest in the details of each one.

Most of the equipment in his smithy is











handmade including a 100 pound power hammer, an aspirating venturi propane forge, a vertical blower type propane forge, and an electric heat treat oven. The power hammer has a modified spring mechanism similar to the "X1" shown on Anvilfire.com. Anthony's hammer is one of the best tire style hammers I have ever seen





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from anywhere. It seemed to hit hard with a lot of control and remained in place without being bolted down.

All of Anthony's equipment is based on well thought out designs and very well executed construction. The power hammer and heat treat oven, for example, are nearly indistinguishable from factory made equipment if you didn't know any better. Anthony said he does a lot of research before building and I would say it shows. But he also does a good job taking time to get good fits which makes the tools and equipment a pleasure to use and to look at.

Anthony has been gracious enough to offer to share all the details, modifications, pros and cons, etc. for all of the equipment he has built in order to share in future newsletter articles so others can duplicate them as desired. (Actually, he offered this before the meeting and is waiting on my schedule to allow us enough time to get together for this.) So look for more detailed articles in future issues on each specific item of equipment.

- Editor

NW: North West Region October Meeting: The NW region October meeting was hosted by Cheryl Overstreet – October 24, 2015.

The morning broke cloudy and cool – a perfect day for forging at the Route 66 Blacksmith Shop at the Elk City Museum Complex.

More than 20 members attended and several visitors from the area came to watch various members working metal.

Saltfork member Cory Spieker arrived early with a large roll of ½" heavy wall copper tubing. This set the stage for a day of working copper into bracelets.

Cory and daughter Chelsea were first to cut and prepare their metal to make the air-chased copper cuffs. After the step-by-step demo, the pair helped more members create cuffs while visitors and other members looked on. The hammers used for the air-chasing were created a couple of years ago by

Don Garner and Mandell Greteman to help with my jewelry making. Thanks guys. The hammers are working great. Following a lunch of beans and cornbread, two very adept blacksmiths de-

Cheryl Overstreet tutors Saltfork members Cory Spieker and Chelsea Spieker during a step-by-step demonstration on air-chasing.

cided to try their hands and working the copper.

Both Roy Bell and Dorvan Ivey learned the air-chased method before deciding on a more hammered finish for their pieces.

We also discussed and used a few handmade Navajo stamps on one of the bracelets. The stamps were made by a woman on the Navajo reservation near Gallup, New Mexico. Most were created from old American-made files or re-bar.

Several copper trade items were created including leaves, a candlestick, a cross, a drawer pull and several cuff bracelets.

Thanks to everyone who attended and especially to the members who joined in to create items with my favorite metal.

- Cheryl Overstreet (Photos by Laquitta Greteman)



Trade items for the day's meeting



Pattern Welding Demo By Gerald Brostek

October 31, 2015

Story By Russell Bartling

Overview

In October, Gerald Brostek demonstrated his methods for pattern welding steel at the Route 66 Blacksmith Museum in Elk City for about 20 Saltfork members and guests.

Gerald started with a lecture outlining the basic concepts and materials used and differences between his artwork and knife making. Gerald started his experience with pattern welding in the mid 60's with his friend Bob Patrick. He made his first piece by welding O1 steel to wrought iron.



Fig. 1: Gerald's first attempt at pattern welding from 1968. Wrought Iron and O1 steel.

In those days he used strong nitric acid but now just uses warm vinegar to etch for the pattern. He said in the beginning, there was a lot of trial and error with a LOT of error. Now there is much more information available and many people constantly developing and sharing new innovative twists on the techniques. Gerald pointed out that "pattern welded" is the correct term for what he does rather than "Damascus." Damascus is often used to describe pattern welded steel but true Damascus is a very special from of steel created in a complicated crucible process (also called "Wootz" steel.) Pattern welding involves forge welding layers of different steels into a billet with the intent of obtaining contrasting patterns when the billet is etched later.

The metals he uses for pattern welding are more for art and are selected for dramatic colors and high contrast in the layers rather than for actual use as edged tools. As such, the combinations of metals for artwork would not necessarily be the best choices for fully functional edge tools. Gerald also likes to get big, bold stripes rather than using more layers which would be more typical in knife making.

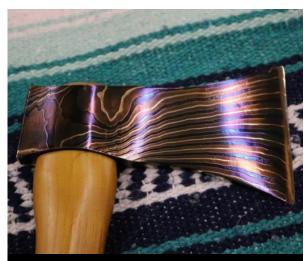


Fig. 2: A single bit axe by Gerald. Note the wide bands and dramatic contrast of layer colors.

Gerald uses a container method for forge welding where the stock is enclosed in a sacrificial "box" to control oxidation (more on this method later.)

The metals used must be forge weld compatible. Knife makers might use 1095 and 15N20 as they are compatible for welding, show a good pattern and have decent edge characteristics. (15N20 is 15% Nickel and 20% Magnesium.) Gerald usually adds pure Nickel to get even more contrast. Sometimes he uses 1084.

Pure Nickel has gotten pretty expensive. A 36" length of 1 1/2" x 1/8" pure Nickel bar can run about \$75. Gerald has started using Nickel 200 which is a much thinner sheet to control cost. Pure Nickel will not weld together well so it should never be together when layers are laid out.

Metals are also available in powder form and in varying degrees of fineness. (Some of the finer powders list the grain sizes in microns!) The powders are especially good for filling odd shaped voids when using the container method that Gerald uses. If metal powder is



Fig. 3: A sample of some metals available including powder form.

used, it is very important to tap the box while packing to ensure no voids are left in the layer material. Steel shot can also be used in combination with the powders to fill voids and create interesting patterns.

Gerald gets the dramatic colors by tempering the finished piece. Nickel always shows a silver where 1095 shows blues and purple colors. The Manganese in 1084 steel makes its colors darker where 1095 tends to be lighter.

To put the overall process into perspective, Gerald said that, generally, preparation takes and hour or two, welding takes only seconds, and finishing takes many hours.

The Demo

In his demo, Gerald used alternating strips of pure Nickel sandwiched between 1095 with 15N20 on either side of the 1095. The pattern repeated to fill a sacrificial box made from 1-1/2" thin walled square tubing. The box starts with one end welded with a square piece of mild steel. The other end will be welded on after packing. The layer strips were approximately 1-1/2" wide by 2" long and around 20 gage thick.

Since the layer material is contained in the box, no flux is used. The intent of the box is to serve the same main function of flux which is to keep oxygen away from the material to be welded. This minimizes any scale formation which would prevent the weld from taking



Fig. 4: Gerald packing strips into the box.

place.

For preparation, the strips must be very clean. Gerald scrubs them in the kitchen sink to remove as much of the oils and dirt as possible from the surfaces. It is good practice to hold the strips by the edges after they are clean to

avoid depositing more contaminants from the skin onto the mating surfaces.

When packing the box, it helps to place layers of paper on each outer surface to help prevent the box from forge welding to the layer material. Since initial welding is only done from the flat sides of the layer material, only they need the paper applied. "Smoking" up the inside of the box with black carbon from an Oxy-Acetylene torch also works to keep the box from welding to the layers.

After packing, the other end is welded onto the box to complete the enclosure. Gerald likes to have a very small hole drilled in one end of the box and place a small amount of lighter fluid in the box before closing it up. The concept here is that, once heated to welding temperature, the lighter fluid will burn off any remaining oxygen in the container.



Fig. 5: The completed box with the ends welded and ready to go to the forge.

The completed box is placed in the forge (in this case a propane forge) and slowly brought up to welding heat. Gerald brought the box up to a good yellow heat for his demo but he said if powders are used, the welding heat should be higher (a high yellow.)

Using tongs carefully placed to be out of the way, Gerald quickly moved the heated box from the forge to the 100 Lb Little Giant power hammer and in three quick hits, it was welded. With a 50 Lb hammer or better that is all that is needed. If welding is done with the hand hammer, it may take several hits and even may require more than one heat.



Fig. 6: Gerald forge welding the billet. Three quick hits with the 100 Lb Little Giant.

After the forge weld, Gerald said that the box should not be quenched but allowed to cool slowly.



Fig. 7: The forge welded box cooling slowly in a cold coal forge. Note the small hole in the box.

After cooling, the box can be chiseled off to reveal the billet.

With the newly exposed billet free of the box, the first operation needs to be grinding the edges to be flush with each other. It is common for the edges to be slightly offset from each other which causes a potential for splitting the welds or causing cold shuts and weak spots to form during further forging. Once these edges are smoothed, the billet can be forged to whatever shape is required for the desired project.



Fig. 8: Chiseling the box off to reveal the newly welded billet.



Fig. 10: A Tomahawk by Gerald. This one has 1084 welded in for the cutting edge.



Fig. 9: The newly welded billet. Note the uneven edges which must be ground before forging.

Finishing

If the billet is twisted before forging, the finished piece will usually show more layers. Gerald likes to make axes out of his pattern welded billets. It usually takes a 6" length of 1 1/4" square billet for his axes. After forging to shape, he anneals the axe head in ashes to get it as soft as possible. To create the eye, he drills two holes 1" apart with a new drill bit. A new drill bit is used to minimize the chance of drilling off center. Then he uses a slitting chisel to open the eye using the holes as a guide and follows that with the appropriate drifts.

Once the final shape is forged and drifted, it is ground as needed. For small pieces, Gerald uses a Harbor Freight Magnet to hold the steel better and avoid burning his hands. When the piece is ready for final finishing, it is hardened and then finely polished. The polishing must be done to completion now before getting the final colors by tempering. There will be no opportunity to further polish without destroying the colors. If etching is desired to emphasize the layers, Gerald recommends white vinegar or apple cider vinegar over nitric acid. It must be warm to hot but will work just as well and is much easier to use.

The dramatic colors are achieved by tempering in the kitchen oven between 360 to 550 degrees. For this operation, experience is hard to beat since the colors will continue to run even after the piece is removed due to residual heat. A little trial and error on test pieces may be necessary to get a feel for timing and the specifics for a particular oven or piece.

It is important to hang the piece from wire in the oven or the oven rack will introduce stripes on the colors. It may only take around ten minutes for the colors to get close to the desired finish so this is a process that needs full attention. Water quenching to arrest the heat and stop the colors running does not work and will only wipe out the colors.

For his axes, Gerald likes to use Bois d'Arc

handles (Osage Orange.) When he first started using them, he tried to find the elusive perfect pieces with no worm holes. Now he actually prefers the imperfections and uses them to accent the handles by filling with turquoise.

To do turquoise inlays, he puts the stones in a plastic bag and breaks them up with a hammer. The small pieces are then put into the worm



Fig. 11: Detail of turquoise inlay in a Bois d'Arc handle.

holes with clear superglue, mounded up and allowed to dry overnight. After belt grinding, the process is repeated with smaller pieces as needed until it is filled completely then it is given a final polish.



Fig. 12: A square billet made with scraps of old billet, metal powder, and steel shot.

Gerald said he never throws billet scraps and cut off pieces away as they can be re-used to make some really interesting patterns.



Fig. 13: Friedrich's cross examples by Gerald. The detail in these crosses is really amazing.

Gerald also had some striking examples of what he does with the pattern welded billets other than axes. He had two amazing Friedrich's split crosses mounted on bases that accented the colors and contrasts of the cross layers. The detail in the crosses doesn't come through very well in the photos and is really much better seen in person. The multi-colored base was made by tempering the different base pieces separately and then riveting together.



Fig. 14: This pattern welded billet anvil with tool steel face is about 1 1/2" tall.



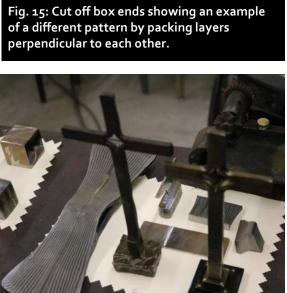


Fig. 16: Another view of the crosses with some billet pieces and a roughed out double bit axe.



Fig. 17: A raw axe-sized billet showing layers with no heating for color.



Gerald said that metals for pattern welding can be obtained from a variety of sources. He usually obtains his metals from any of he following:

Jantz Supply 309 W Main Davis, OK 73030 www.knifemaking.com 580-369-5503 1-800-351-8900

McMaster-Carr www.mcmaster.com

Online Metals www.onlinemetals.com

Kelly Cupples (Powdered Metals) PO Box 3153 Union Gap, WA 98903 octihunter@charter.net 509-949-5231

Our Librarian, Doug Redden, captured video of the entire lecture and demo. If you were not able to attend or would just like to get a copy of the video, contact Doug to request a copy.

Thanks to Gerald Brostek for putting on a great demo!

- Editor

2015 SCABA Annual Conference Review

November 7th and 8th, Norman, OK

The 2015 Annual SCABA Conference was held November 7th and 8th at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Norman, OK. This year's demonstrators were Gerald Boggs and Tom Latane'. Going down to the fairgrounds on Friday to help set up, I was surprised to find that most of the more time consuming work of setting up the audio visual equipment was already done. I had heard that set up of the audio visual equipment had actually started two days earlier on Wednesday. (There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes on many levels by dedicated people to put on a good conference.)

Later Friday evening, Tom Latane' put on an off the cuff lecture for those of us who happened to be there visiting after it seemed like everything was ready for the following day.



A variety of chest and door locks and keys Tom Latane' brought to the conference

He had brought several examples of chest and door locks and keys - some were made by him as reproductions and some were actual antiques. He explained a lot of details about how the locks were constructed and the intricate details required to make a good working lock. It was interesting to examine some of the samples that were most likely over 200 years old and see familiar tool marks on the hidden parts



The handle end of a gothic type key made by Tom Latane'. The dragons were made by drilling, filing and chasing with chisels.



Fine detail on a lock made by Tom Latane'

of the hardware.

Gerald Boggs started off Saturday morning with a slot punch and drift exercise with round

stock to create pass throughs. Gerald started by making his slot punch from tool steel and the drift from mild steel.

I had noticed a strong similarity in his methods with that of Mark Aspery, especially after just having spent time with Mark at the recent clinic in Nemo. During a break I asked Gerald if he and mark had learned from the same person or if they had just shared methods. He jokingly replied that he is a "Mark Aspery Wannabe."

After lunch, the stage shifted to Tom Latane' who started his demonstration by making an acanthus leaf decorated hammer head. He forged the head from tool steel with David Seigrist helping as striker to punch the eye.



Tom likes to use 1045 for this type of hammer as it anneals better and is easier to file.

After forging of the head was complete, Tom normalized it and let it cool slowly while working on a bottom swage tool for making a "dragon's foot" shape for candle holders, etc. He first tapered and upset a piece of mild steel



Gerald Boggs starting off the conference Saturday morning with punch and drift exercises to create pass throughs with round stock



Gerald punching round stock with a round bottom swage to protect the bar



An example of a swaged and chased dragon's foot on a gothic style candle holder

bar to fit the hardy hole of his anvil. Then the dragon foot shape was chased into the bottom swage with various chisels.

After finishing the dragon foot swage, Tom demonstrated several techniques for chiseling in "rope" detail to add accent to a project.

Saturday evening after the demo we had a catered steak dinner for all of the participants which was followed by an auction of donation items. Ed and Brian Brazeal attended the conference and both donated several items for the auction as well.



Tom Latane' talking with Ed and Brian Brazeal after the Saturday demo



Saturday evening - time for steak dinner before the auction



David Seigrist was the auctioneer with assistance from Doug Redden and Mandell Greteman



The auction was good for a lot of laughs to round out the day!

David Seigrist was the auctioneer with the assistance of Doug Redden and Mandell Greteman. There was a lot of spirited competitive bidding and a lot of laughs to wind up the end of the day.

Gerald Boggs started off Sunday morning's demo making a sample of a type of joinery table that he sells.

Expanding on his earlier slot punch and drift demo, he first upset the "foot" end of some square bar legs and then slot punched and drifted holes to allow for riveting near the top and bottom. He then chiseled grooves close to

and bottom. He then chiseled grooves close to

Punching and drifting upset square bar for the legs of a riveted table project



Bending the circles for the table project by hammering over the hardy hole with blows at short equal intervals

both edges of flat bar stock and rolled two of these into circles by hammering over the hardy hole at short equal intervals. The ends of each circle were riveted together with a short jumper piece using nails cut off for the rivets.

These round pieces were riveted to the top and bottom of the three punched bars to make a small table like project. Gerald said he sells these tables with either three or four legs made in the same way, only larger in diameter.



The finished riveted table project. Gerald said that the tables he sells are made in the same way but are larger in diameter and may use proportionally larger stock

Tom Latane' performed the Sunday afternoon demos by finishing the acanthus leaf decoration on the hammer he had forged on Saturday and adding a small section of rope detail. Once the design was complete, he heat treated the head to make it usable as a working tool.

After finishing the hammer head, Tom made another bottom swage for a fleur de lis type detail that can be used to accent wall hooks or the area where flat handles neck down to round bar for kitchen utensils, fire tools, etc. He made the swage from mild steel and chased in the design with chisels. The final step was hardening using Superquench and file testing

to ensure that the swage was hardened.



The acanthus leaf decorated hammer head with rope detail forged by Tom Latane'



All through the weekend, there were tailgate

sales items both inside and outside the building.



There were many tailgate items inside and outside the main building

This year, Nathan Robertson was noticeably absent with his usual collection of handmade hammers for sale. Kitty Latane' set up a table



Kitty Latane' had some of her tin work and some kitchen utensils made by Tom for sale in the tailgate area

with some of her hand made tin items and kitchen utensils made by Tom.

On both days, there was a lot of concurrent activity going on with the family classes including Dutch oven cooking, scrapbooking, flint knapping, and several jewelry classes.

The People's Choice gallery had fewer items than conferences in the last few years but there were still some amazing entries. Terry Kaulk was the first place winner with his wildlife sculpture of a roadrunner with a lizard and



Flint knapping family class



Jewelry making family class



More flint knapping...



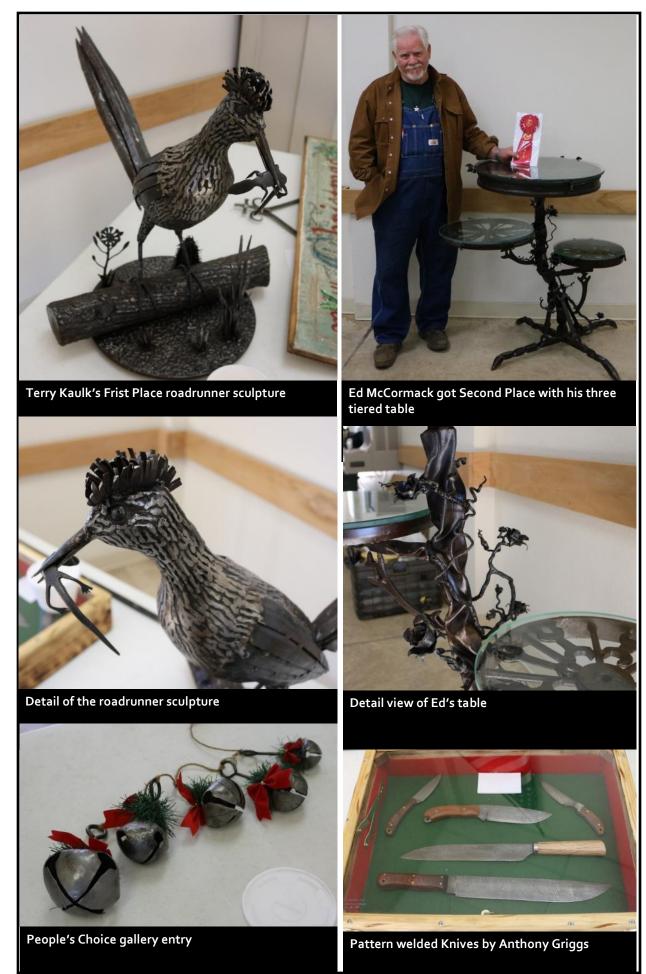
Jewelry making family class



Jewelry making family class



Scrapbooking family class





People's Choice Gallery Entry



People's Choice Gallery Entry



The toolbox raffle had several nice items. Thanks to everyone who donated items to fill the box



People's Choice Gallery Entry



Mandell Greteman was the winner of this year's toolbox

Ed McCormack got second place with his multi-level table. Mandell Greteman was the winner of the toolbox.

Thanks to everyone who donated items or time to make this a great conference. Bill Malsom and his team did a fantastic job this year with the camera work and video monitors. The DVD of the conference should be first class. Look for detailed how-to articles on each demonstrator's demo projects in upcoming issues.- *Editor*

Shop Tip - J.C. Allcorn

I came up w/ this idea to somewhat protect the propane line to my gas forge from cuts, etc...



The rubber hose is encased in "flexible metal conduit" available from electrical supply houses or hardware stores. There are several varieties available and I just used the plain type. The ends need some kind of bushing to protect the hose. I used a liner and hose clamps but fittings are also available. Here are three types that might work that are available in single pieces or small quantities



Flex Conduit, Straight Connector



Fast Lock Connector with Wide Insulated Throat



Conduit Fittings: Halex Electrical Supplies 3/4 in. Acc Snap-in Bushing (10-Pack)

"Man, I'm just so busy. Where does the time go? Here it is Friday and only yesterday it was Sunday! "Ever thought that?

So where does time go? How can I become more creative in my smithing if I don't spend more time doing it? How will I ever have time to figure out those scrolls, that Damascus pattern, that fire weld? Obviously we all have the same number of hours in a day, so perhaps it's the way we use our time.

I have found that creative and efficient folks have some things in common. They tend to spend more time with their thoughts. Thinking! They are better equipped to focus. When we do that we have less time for computer games, TV, the car radio, Facebook. Modern life is so convenient, so filling, so easy. It's natural to turn on technology when we get home and ZONE OUT. How about this, ZONE IN, perhaps it would be more beneficial to turn our brains on. Turn on to something more rewarding.

It's difficult to change a habit. Some experts say it takes 21 days of effort to reform and change a habit. Habits like listening to the car radio or checking your smart phone with every tone are robbing us of our education, our creativity, our future.

I have discovered I have the powers of a genius. (Grin.) I have discovered that if I don't turn on the radio, read the junk mail, I can spend time with me, thinking.

I'm able to solve problems simply by thinking about them and focusing, unassaulted by outside influences. Amazing! Google has become far less necessary. If I spend an hour sitting by a stream I am far more creative in my smithing than if I spend that same hour in front of the TV.

Know where your time goes, do a time analysis if necessary. Don't give the time bandits control of your life. There are more available productive moments than you would imagine. Take back your day and become a genius, like so many others. Thinking, pondering, cogitating about blacksmithing is more fun when you take the time to do It.

Article provided courtesy of Artist/Blacksmith Ron Stafford, Nemo, TX, hotshuz002@gmail.com - Editor

Making chain

By Ken Jansen

At the November 2015 meeting a Phil Cox's shop somehow right before lunch Bernie Tappel and I got into a conversation about making chain. I made the comment there were two ways to weld chain and Bernie replied there is only one, it turns out we were both right but more on that later. Making chain was a time and material intense job and there were many innovations in tooling and processes to make it as efficient as possible. I do not know exactly when electric welded chain started to be the norm, but would assume it to be in the first few decades of the 1900's. Modern chain is welded on the side of the link whereas old time chain was welded on the end. There are some old video's on the internet you can find that shows some of this. I had read over the years about two different methods of making chain one of which I understood and the other I didn't quite square, the part of my anvil I used has about 1/16" to comprehend. The way I have been making chain to date was basically like the split link chain coupler you can buy in the store. Basically a long scarf on either end of your piece of stock bent into a curve the same shape as the finished size of the chain to be and then it is bent in half where these two scarfs overlap and you take a welding heat and forge them together. So to count the heats if all is going smoothly then you have one heat for each end to scarf and bend the curve, another heat to bend the piece in half and hopefully line it up, then at least one welding heat (most likely two), so a minimum of 4 heats and likely 5 or more especially if your ends don't line up correctly the first time. I have timed it and it takes about an hour per foot of chain in 1/4" stock. Bernie explained the other method at Phil's meeting before lunch but being dense as a lead brick I was still unconvinced. It was decided that after lunch we would lite Phil's coal forge and make some chain. The following is my test run after we made the three link chain at Phil's. First you need to cut your stock to length, the length of the stock will determine the size of the links, you can make a pretty standard sized chain with 4.5 to 5 inches of 1/4 inch stock. I like making chains out of square stock because I think it looks neat even though most all chain is made of round stock. A chain made of round stock will move more freely than one made of square stock. Anyway What I will be discussing here is chain made out of a wards the center of the "U" piece of 1/4" square stock that is 6" long.



- 1) Cut the stock to length.
- 2) Take a medium orange heat and bend the stock in the shape of a "U" keeping the ends even.
- 3) Next you need to scarf the ends for welding. A scarf is where you thin and taper the ends to allow them to weld seamlessly without thinning the finished product too much. Take bright orange heat on the ends of the "U" and come to the edge of the anvil. You want a fairly sharp edge but not completely 3/32" radius. Holding the piece with the end at approximately 45 degrees to the edge



4)Strike a half faced blow or two to define the scarf area.



5) Using the peen of the hammer draw the scarf to-





6) Do the same to the other side of the "U" but from the opposite side of the bar so you have opposing scarfs.



7) Now you need to bend the ends of the "U" so that the scarfs overlap, I do this over the tip of the horn.



8) Now you can flux it and get ready to weld. The neat thing about this method is that with a little practice you can do steps 3 through 8 in one heat, this is only the second heat on the bar presuming you cut the bars cold.

9) Take a welding heat and bring your piece quickly to the anvil and give it a couple of light blows flat on the anvil to stick the weld.





In the same heat after only a couple blows on each side at most move to the horn and hook the piece and hit on the outside to weld the point you see in the previous picture.



10) I then take another slight heat and break the corners.

11) Once you have two of these made then you make a third one but don't weld it. Heat the end of the link opposite of the scarf and twist it open and thread the two links you already made on and twist it closed. Using a piece of baling wire hold the two links to the end of the connecting link opposite of the scarfs (make sure the baling wire is long enough for you to grab it on your tong hand when you take the chain from the fire) and put it back in the fire to take

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another welding heat. Weld it the same way as the other ones. Now you have a 3 link chain. Make another and join them and you have a 7 link chain etc.



I made about 2.5 feet of chain using this method in about 1.5 hours on Sunday and I expect it to get quicker as time goes on and I don't have to hunt for the right tools etc. I think if I were going to do a lot of this I would make some chain tongs to assist in holding the work. Bolt tongs work but not as well as a dedicated pair of tongs would. So to who was right Bernie or me, I have to say that the way Bernie showed me was definitely faster and I think a little cleaner, the weld area is smaller than the way I used to make chain so there is a better chance of getting it all stuck on the first go, I think on about half the links I welded Sunday I took a second welding heat to clean it up and I don't think I can expect to get much better than that. As to me being right I was, sort of, there is a right way to weld chain and a wrong way and I was doing it the wrong way all these years.

Ken Jansen

However, there will be a need for some poppies to remain in the US to be used to help raise funds to get our Master, Jeffrey Funk and perhaps some other over to the event in Sept. So if you'd like to try your hand at the stamen/stems have a go. Please ship the stamens and poppy petals unattached, it is much easi-



er to pack them not put together. They can be welded together once they reach their destination.

The Stamen/Stem is made starting with 5/8 rd (16mm) and the stem is hammered down to (7mm) The poppy seed heads I have made are 20mm long overall. Before the end (top hat) was forged I think that the overall measurement was 23mm.

Where to send poppy petals and stamens:

In the US
Kate Dinneen
1582 N 1500 Rd
Lawrence, KS 66046

In the UK
Terrence Clark
Wildfields Farm
Woodstreet Village
NR Guildford
Surrey GU3 3DT
England

Poppy Info for Ypres 2016

Downloadable poppy template: http://www.ypres2016.com/wip/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/poppie_rev002.pdf

How to make the poppy videos: http://www.ypres2016.com/design/making-the-poppies/
The original idea was that blacksmiths around the world would make just the petal part of the project and then send that on to Terry Clark in the UK where another team would make and attach the stamens.

If you send the poppy and stamen to Terry please, when filling out the customs form, put the value at \$0.00 and label them as metal samples. Otherwise Terry will be required to pay a rather large tax on them.

Article courtesy of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri, BAM newsletter Nov/Dec 2015- Editor

Shop Tip - Jim Carothers

I recently needed to mount a small vise to my anvil...



Photo 1 shows a bending fixture I use at the anvil; 1-1/2" square tube and 1.90" OD pipe (1-1/2" pipe).



Photo 2: This fixture is pinned to the anvil by a tapered pin driven through the U-shaped hardy strap.



Photos 2 & 3 show the small vise clamped to the square bar of the bending fixture

SCABA Shop and Swap

For Sale:

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

Brooms tied, \$20.00 on your handle Please contact me for help with handle length.

Contact Diana Davis at Diana.copperrose@gmail.com

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

Wanted:

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

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 is 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.

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.

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





SCABA Floor Cones are now available from Bill Kendall, Byron Donor and Gerald Franklin. The price is \$200 plus shipping and handling.







Show your pride in SCABA!

License plates for \$5.00 each.

We have a few caps for \$10.00.

We still have some of last year's SCABA t-shirts available while the supplies last. They are a grey pocket "T" with the SCABA logo on the pocket. Contact Diana Davis for information.



Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

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 grey. 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, 2016 to March 31, 20 17

E-mail

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 ()		

ABANA Member? Yes No

I have enclosed \$20.00 for dues for the period ending March 31, 20 17

Signed:

Return to: Saltfork Craftsmen, 23966 N.E, Wolf Road, Fletcher, OK 73541

Saltfork Craftsman Regional Meeting Hosting Form					
Region	_SE	_NE	_SW	_NW	

Date: Month____day____[correct Saturday for region selected above]

Name______Address______

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 <u>MUST</u> be received by Regional Meeting Coordinator no later than the 15th of the month <u>TWO</u> 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. 23966 NE Wolf Rd. Fletcher, OK 73541

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