Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association



Tong Making Class Held at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City February 29, 2020 (Page 18)

Basket Handle Fire Poker by Mark Aspery A Project to Practice Forge Welding - Part 2 - See Page 28 (This is an Excerpt from Mark's Upcoming <u>Fourth</u> Book!)

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association Officers and Directors

Officers and Directors			
President/Workshop Coordina Mandell Greteman 409 East Broadway Foss, Okla. 73647	tor: 580-515-1292 mandell01@windstream.net		Sal
Vice-President/Conference Cha JJ McGill 5399 Pete Nelson Rd. Davis, OK 73030	iir: 580-369-1042 jjmcgill88@yahoo.com		As pro
Director: Byron Doner 6520 Alameda Norman OK 73026	405-650-7520 byrondoner@esok.us		this ye Ricky were re-ele
Director: Ricky Vardell P.O. Box 461 Temple, OK 73568	580-512-8006 Rickyv.vardell@gmail.com		Since
Director: Don Garner 23713 E 860 Rd Thomas, OK 73669	580-302-1845 Call or Text		the ar to cor requir
Director: Eric Jergensen 625 NW 18th Oklahoma City, OK 73103	405-414-8848 gericjergensen@gmail.com		again tion. there
Director: Russell Bartling 70 N 160th W. Ave Sand Springs, Ok 74063	918-633-0234 rbartling@ionet.net		on the cumb respe
	iments:		in the
Secretary: Carol Doner PO Box 6057 Norman, OK 73070	405-760-8388 caroldoner7@gmail.com		Election of the any in
Treasurer: Teresa Gabrish P.O. Box 18389 Oklahoma City, Ok. 73154	405-824-9681 tgabrish@gmail.com		tor po -Russe
Editor/Regional Meeting Coord Russell Bartling 70 N 160th W. Ave Sand Springs, Ok 74063	dinator: 918-633-0234 rbartling@ionet.net	of kn appre	The Sa a non-pro owledge, eciation o ter of the
Webmaster: Dodie O'Bryan Pawnee, Ok Librarian:	scout@skally.net	ica. may	Mater be freely o on-profit

Editor's Notes: Saltfork Craftsmen 2020 Director Elections UPDATE:

As previously announced, the terms for four SCABA Directors were up this year. Eric Jergensen, J.J. McGill, Ricky Vardell and Russell Bartling were incumbent directors all up for re-election.

Since no nominations for new directors were received by the deadline and the annual picnic has been cancelled to comply with caronavirus safety requirements, the board has decided against continuing with a ballot election. (There is not much point since there are no new contenders to put on the ballot.) The unchallenged incumbent directors will remain in their respective positions as has been done in the past.

Elections are held every year for half of the board positions so if you have any interest in volunteering for a director position, please let the board know! *-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



Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

580-302-1845

Don Garner

23713 E 860 Rd Thomas, OK 73669

Call or Text. If you get voice mail, please leave a message.

President's Notes:

Well another month has already gone. I hope everyone is doing well.

If you haven't heard, the picnic for this year has been canceled. There also have been several meetings canceled. We just have to wait and see when we can start gathering again. This would be a good time to use our liberty to help hone your skills at your home forge.

We as a team will need to take photos of projects we are working on to send to the editor to help him with having a very good newsletter. I hope everyone is getting to make as many projects as they wish. I have been making more tools to make my work easier.

I hope this low cycle will blow over soon so we can get back on the road of seeing all our friends and other smiths. With a hobby like blacksmithing, it will help make our social isolation time pass a little faster and everything will work out in the wash.



I hope everyone stays healthy with the weather going from hot to cold. Personally, I didn't have enough fire wood for my blacksmith shop.

Lets hone our skills. - Mandell

Caronavirus Safety Concerns/Event Cancellations:

With recent developments concerning the caronavirus, a large number of blacksmithing related events have been canceled for safety reasons just as good weather spurs the spring ramp up in activity. Details are still changing daily and it will be more important than ever to stay posted with websites, social media, etc. and to double check before assuming events will be held. And lets help keep our members who don't use social media or computers to stay informed (You are probably thinking of someone right now - those are the ones. Give em a quick phone call!)

A partial list of <u>canceled</u> events (not including regional meetings) includes: ABANA 2020, SCA-BA Annual Picnic, BAM Conference, Baclones Forge Iron and Wood Festival, Pawnee Steam Engine Show, CBA Spring Conference, Northeast Blacksmiths Association Spring Conference, Alabama Forge Council Batson Blade Symposium.

Southwestern Iron Works Tailgate and Swap Meet in Guthrie is TENTATIVE for May 16th. Stay tuned for confirmation on that event in the May newsletter. *-Russell Bartling, Editor*

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.

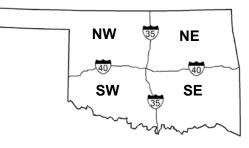
Want to host a meeting? The meeting hosting form can be found on the last page along with membership application form. If you want to host a meeting in any area, please fill out one of the host forms on the website under the calendar section or in the newsletter and e-mail the information or mail the 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 <u>rbartling@ionet.net</u>

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.

SCABA 2020 Annual Picnic!

(April 18th, 2020)

Where: James and Diann Schaefer's Shop 3201 North L. A. Cann Road, Newkirk, OK

When: April 18th

SCABA Family Picnic, April 18, 2020: James and Diver Schaefer will be hosting the annual SCABA picnic at their shop located at 3201 Non- A strain Road, Newkirk, OK. Lunch will be smoked sausages, hot dogs and close. Phase the a side dish and/or a dessert.

ome.

Please bring your lawn chairs if you h

Contest:

The contest this year will is the same hair barrette forged from 1/4" copper round bar. There will be two gas forget a since an side and a single coal forge available outside. Six anvils will be available for us to well. Please bring your favorite hammer and tongs. If you would like to the prove portable forge setup, feel free. There will be plenty of room. Copper bar to be added. Contest judging criteria will be posted or announced at the picnic.

The picture is a factory based even for all members and guests so please plan to attend!

Thank You, James Schaefer

2020 Workshop Schedule

Currently no workshops are scheduled.

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.

2020 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE				
NE Region	SE Region	SW Region	NW Region	
(1st Sat)	(2nd Sat)	(3rd Sat)	(4th Sat)	
Jan 4th	Jan 11th	Jan 18th	Jan 25th	
(Open)	(Byron Doner)	(Open)	(Rory Kirk)	
Feb 1st	Feb 8th	Feb 15th	Feb 22nd	
(Open)	(Byron Doner)	(Open)	(Monte Smith)	
Mar 7th (Open)	Mar 14th (Open)	Mar 21st (Bruce Willenberg) CANCELLED	Mar 28th (Mandell Greteman) CANCELLED	
Apr 4th (Open)	Apr 11th (Open)	Apr 18th (SCABA Picnic) CANCELED	Apr 25th (Don Garner) CANCELED	
May 2nd	May 9th	May 16th	May 23rd (Terry Kauk)	
(Open)	(Open)	(Ricky Vardell) CANCELED	May 23rd (SW-JJ McGill Boy Scouts)	
Jun 6th	Jun 13th	Jun 20th	Jun 27th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Jim Obenshain)	(Everett Timmons)	
Jul 4th	Jul 11th	Jul 18th	Jul 25th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	
Aug 1st	Aug 8th	Aug 15th	Aug 22nd	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	
Sep 5th (Open)	Sep 12th (Open)	Sep 19th (Ricky Vardell - JJ McGill - Sulphur Tractor Show)	Sep 26th (Ron Lehen- Bauer as Host - Don Gar- ner as Contact Person)	
Oct 3rd	Oct 10th (Conference	Oct 17th	Oct 24th	
(Open)	Setup Work Day)	(Conference Weekend)	(Rory Kirk)	
Nov 7th	Nov 14th	Nov 21st	Nov 28th	
(Open)	(Bill Phillips)	(Open)	(Bob Kennemer)	
Dec 5th	Dec 12th	Dec 19th	Dec 26th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	

2020 Fifth Saturdays:

February 29th (Tong Making Class in Elk City - See Workshop Schedule) May 30 (Open) August 29th (Open) October 31st (Open)

April 2020

NE Regional Meeting April 4th : Open.

SE Regional Meeting April 11th: Open.

SW Regional Meeting April 18th:

SCABA Annual Picnic is **CANCELED**

NW Regional Meeting April 25th : Hosted by Don Garner. This meeting is <u>CANCELED</u> but the trade item, a double caliper at least 18" long with a loop for hanging, will be <u>added</u> to the September 26th meeting's trade item!

May 2020

NE Regional Meeting May 2nd: Open.

SE Regional Meeting May 9th: Open.

SW Regional Meeting May 16th: Open.

NW Regional Meeting May 23rd : Will be hosted by Terry Kauk at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City.

Trade item is a Hardy Tool.

Lunch is provided but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out. Contact Terry Kauk at 580-821-0139 if you have questions.

SW Regional Meeting (Alternate Date) May 23rd : Will be hosted by JJ McGill a the Murray County antique tractor show grounds location. This meeting will host Boy Scouts from Tulsa plus Leaders and Parents. Any smiths that would like to help out educating and working with the young Scouts are greatly appreciated.

The trade item and Scout Challenge is to be announced (will be listed in the May newsletter.)

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

Directions: 7 miles north of Sulphur on Hwy 177 then east ³/₄ mile on Tractor Road. Contact JJ McGill at 580-369-1042 if you have questions.

Around the State...

NW Region February Meeting:

The NW region February meeting was held at Monte Smith's shop NW of Hammon. There were around 30 members and guests that attended.

There were 8 traded items, which was a froe, exchanged. The Blacksmiths used their froes to split shingles from a chunk of cedar.

We would like to thank everyone that came to Western Oklahoma for the meeting and brought sides dishes and deserts. Thanks to Jerry Brewster for bringing his grill and cooking.

Also, a big thanks to LaQuitta Greteman, Jana Kauk, our son Kevin and whoever else helped with the meal and clean up, because Donita got sick early that morning. - Monte Smith

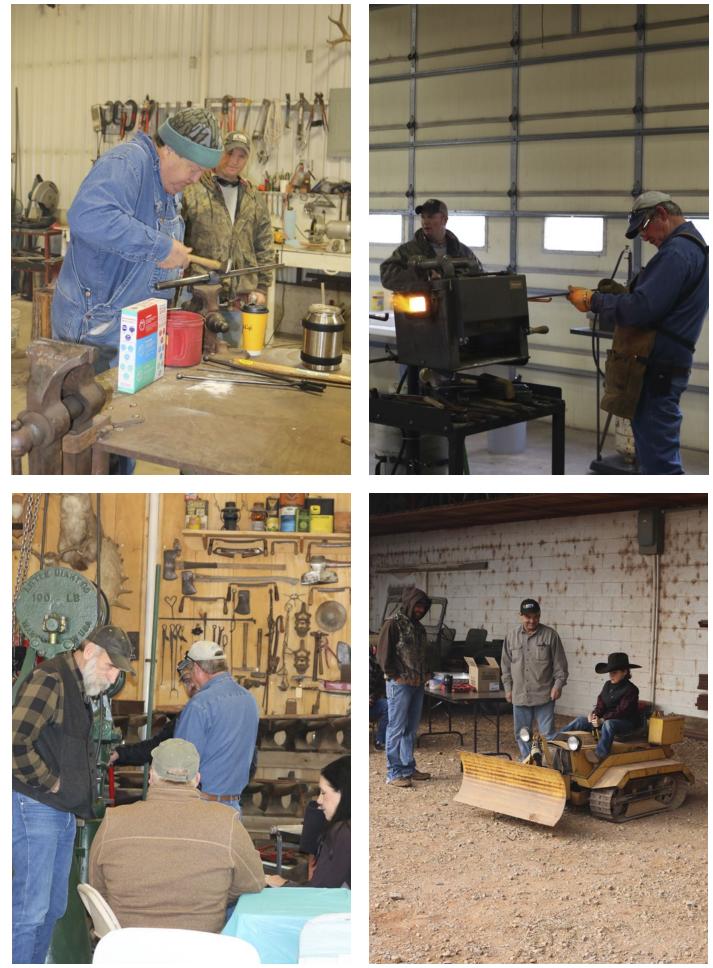
(Photos by LaQuitta Greteman)







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NW Region March Meeting: No Meeting was held.

SE Region March Meeting: No Meeting was held.

SW Region March Meeting: No Meeting was held.

Perry Blacksmith Museum Hammer-Ins:

The museum blacksmith shop in Perry has started up the Monday evening open forging hammer ins for 2020. The address is 2617 West Fir Avenue, Perry, OK 73077

Our first gathering was February 24th. These open forgings are normally the last Monday of the month from about 5 to 9PM. This evening we had 12 people in attendance. I think everyone had a really good time with demonstrator/teachers Tom Nelson, Mark Carter, and Jim Carothers, all Saltfork Craftsmen members. Those (3) who wanted to try their hand at the craft went home with a first-time item they made. These open forging evenings and teaching are open to anyone who wants to attend. It is a good idea to come prepared with long pants, long sleeve shirts and closed toe shoes; we have safety glasses, aprons, and gloves at the shop.

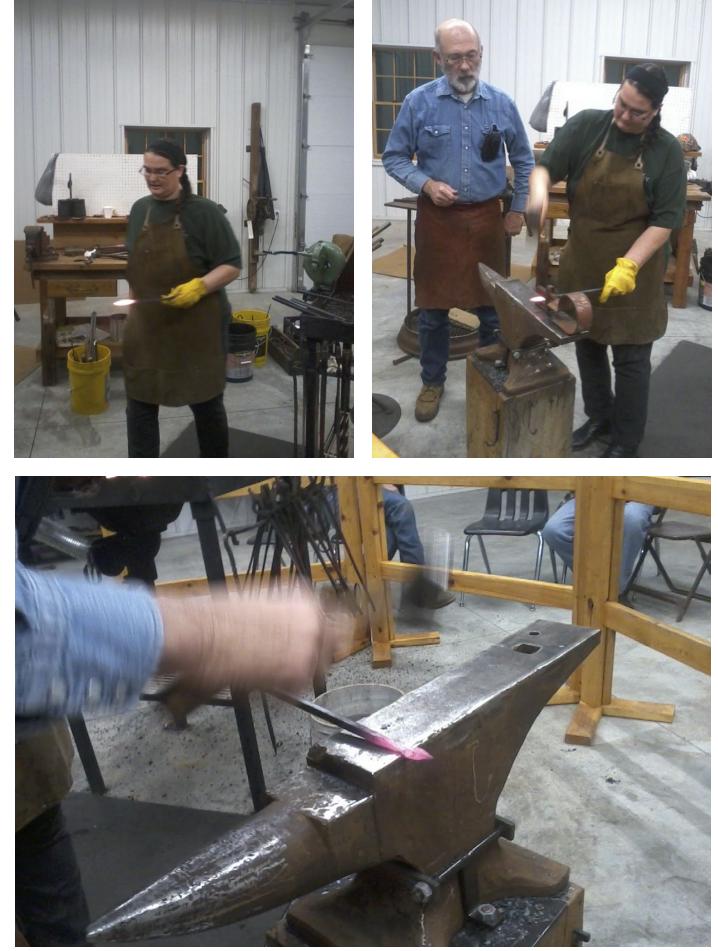
Diana Simon, Director of the Cherokee Strip Museum, here in Perry has always been a big part of our events and again furnished the lemonade and snacks we had throughout the evening. For more information on these Monday evening events contact Diana at the museum: 580-336-2405.



- Jim C.

(Photos by Jim Carothers)

At least for the next month or two (until the Corona Virus dissipates) it would be a good idea to call before going to these hammer-ins to be sure they will be held that month. - Editor



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Tong Making Class in Elk City:

We had eleven enthusiastic smiths show up Saturday morning, February 29,2020. I think all of them had a good time. Anyway, I hope they felt as though it was worth their time.

We had a good meal of sloppy Joe's and dessert. I would like to thank everyone who showed up and helped with the class. Also would like to thank the Elk City Blacksmith Museum for their support for the tong class.

Thanks, Mandell

(Photos by LaQuitta Greteman)







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Member Gallery

Dogwood Cross by Gerald Brostek

Hammered and textured mild steel including flowers and leaves. Heat colored in the oven at 390 to 400 degrees F.



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Member Gallery (Continued...)

Steel Rose by Dorvan Ivey:





Member Gallery (Continued...)

Dragon Head by Rory Kirk:

(Rory Made this Dragon Head for a disabled Veteran who liked Rory's work on Instragram!)





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Member Gallery (Continued...)

Flatter, Hot Cut and Spatula by Rory Kirk:



Don't Forget About the Saltfork Gate Project!

This is a new group project that is open to all Saltfork members. The project is a four foot high by sixteen foot long gate to be displayed outside at the Route 66 Blacksmith Shop Museum at Elk City.

Participating members will be given a steel ring that can be filled with any (family appropriate) forged work that will fit in the ring and be permanently attached to it. Each ring is 10 1/4" O.D. and made of 3/8" round. Most of the rings will be connected at the four cardinal direction points (N, S, E, W) by welding. A small spacer of 1" by 3/8" will be placed between the connection points of each ring.

Try to keep the projects inside the rings from projecting more than approximately 4" out from either face. Otherwise, the design and connection methods to the ring are strictly up to you.

There will be a central large ring with a Saltfork Craftsmen title.

Mandell Greteman is coordinating the project and will provide the standardized rings. All of the rings will be provided to ensure they are a standardized size. Once the projects are returned, Mandell will weld them into the gate to be displayed at the museum.

There is space for 56 ring projects in this gate. If there are more participants, additional gates will be made and installed inside the blacksmith shop.

Contact Mandell if you have any additional questions or to find out where to obtain one of the project rings: **Mandell Greteman 580-515-1292**.

Concept Sketch for the Gate Project:



Basket Handle Fire Poker - Part Two

by Mark Aspery A Project to Practice Forge Welding (This is an Excerpt from Mark's Upcoming <u>Fourth</u> Book!)



Mark Aspery has provided this sneak peak preview out of the long awaited fourth book in his "Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing" series. If you don't already have these excellent books, you may want to consider getting them. Each book is full of detailed instruction and clear photography that Mark has become known for producing.





You can obtain these books at your favorite book seller or directly from Mark's website. (If you buy directly from Mark, you can have the books autographed.): <u>http://www.markaspery.com/School of Blacksmithing/Purchase books.html</u>

The collar material:

I'm advocating using some of your ³/₈-inch square bar for the collar. But how long of a piece do you need?

We know that the diameter of the welded end is not sufficient to calculate the length of collar material. What we need is the diameter to the neutral axis of the bend in the collar material.

The welded end is ½-inch in diameter and represents the inside diameter (I.D.) of the collar. The collar material is ¾-inch in thickness. Add the two together to get the real diameter needed to calculate the circumference of the neutral axis of the bend – which is the length of collar material needed for the collar.

Circumference = Pi x Diameter.

C = $3/1 \ge 7/8 = 21/8$ or 25%-inches.

If a ring is turned from a bar with straight cut ends – that is, the ends are perpendicular to the centerline of the bar, then the resultant ring will have a 'V' shaped gap when the ends meet.

Why the V?

As the inside of the ring is compressed, the corners on the inside of the bar are pushed outwards.

As the outside of the bar is stretched (put under tension), the corners on that the outside of the bar are pulled inwards.

The middle of the bar, where the forces of tension and compression find balance or equilibrium does not move – this is the neutral axis of the bend in the material.

The ends of the collar should meet in a near parallel-sided gap of about ¹/₁₆-inch - ¹/₈-inch.

If the ends touch before you attempt to weld the collar to the handle, the collar ends will weld, but you will not be able to shrink the collar down to fit the handle, and that part of the weld will fail. The gap enables the collar material to weld to the handle material as, or just before, the ends of the collar meet.

If your gap is too large, then you will need to pull material from the collar to fill the gap, resulting in the possibility of a flat spot on your collar. Certainly, the collar will be thinner in that area, and the handle will not be centered in the collar.

To create a near parallel-sided gap, the ends of the collar need to be cut at an angle prior welding.



This is the fit of the collar material on the handle that you are looking for prior to welding

Use a hot-cut chisel to cut the ends of the collar material to the needed angle.

Using a chisel or a hardie hot-cut will leave a chamfer either side of the cut. The chamfered surfaces need to pass through the bar so that they touch the ends of the neutral axis resting along the centerline of the bar.

This means that the distance between chisel cuts is shorter than the length of the neutral axis.

To keep the math simple, let us suppose that the cuts leave a 45-degree chamfer. 45-° runs corner to corner diagonally across a square.

The bar is $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch thick, with the neutral axis at the halfway point at $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch.

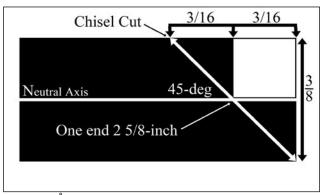
Drawing a square with the bottom right corner touching the end of the neutral axis, I can see that the top left of the square is 3/16-inch back from the neutral axis. This would be the starting point of my hypothetical cut.

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With two ends to cut, the distance between two, 45° chisel cuts would be twice the ³/₁₆-inch measurement of one end.

Alas, this is where it all goes pear shaped! My chisel cuts are more likely to be 60-° than 45-°.

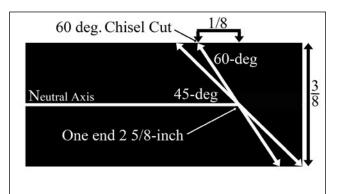
With the cut touching the end of the neutral axis, I'd need to start the cut further out towards the end of the bar by a little bit.



A 45 ° cut brings the start of the cut back 3/16-inch, from the end of the neutral axis

I'm going to call that little bit ¼16-inch. Instead of coming back ¾16-inch from the end of the neutral axis, I'm going to come back ⅛-inch from the end of the neutral axis.

This means, with my two cut ends, that the distance between the start of my chisel cuts is ¹/₄-inch shorter than the length of the neutral axis.



A 60° cut brings the start of the chisel cut back \%-inch from the end of the neutral axis

Prep the collar material:

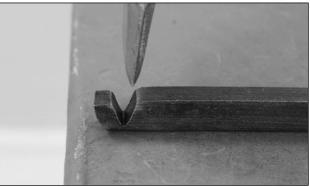
On a length of ³/₈-inch square bar, cut off one end to create a chamfer to the end of the bar.

For a ¹/₂-inch diameter cross section on the handle material, measure back 2 ³/₈-inch from the top of the chamfer and make a mark ONLY with your chisel. DO NOT cut the bar yet.

Turn the collar to a 'U' shape over the bick and the face of the anvil. DO NOT allow the free end to crowd the chisel mark. You will need room to get your chisel into place to make the cut.

With the 'U' shape turned, cut MOST of the way through the collar material at the chisel mark.

The cut should allow the collar to stay on the bar as you heat it, but yet allow the collar to be wrung off when it comes time to fit it to the handle material.



Come in a little way from the end of the bar and cut one end off to form a slope



Measure back 23/8-inch and make a mark for the second chisel cut - a mark, no more

The collar will be fitted to the heated handle material, and then a welding heat taken. As such, the weld area is internal to the collar material, not on an outside surface.

The trick here is to get the internal material up to a welding temperature without burning the outside material.

To aid in getting the heat to the middle of the bar, heat the handle material prior to fitting the collar material.



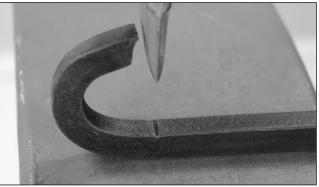
Turn the collar material at the bick and finish at the face



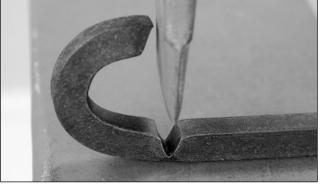
Drop your tong hand slightly as you work



Finish on the anvil face. Don't allow the free end of the collar to crowd the chisel mark



If your chisel is crowded by the free end of the collar, you will be forced to cut a slope that is too steep in angle

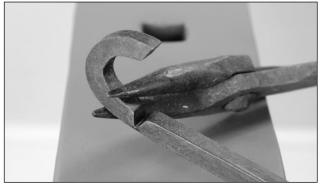


Cut most of the way through the bar. It doesn't matter if the gap closes as you push the bar into the fire later

With both pieces in the fire, heat to a high orange. Have your hammer on the anvil ready to go, and a pair of scrolling tongs in your hammer hand (or whichever hand is convenient depending on your forge orientation).

Bring out the collar material and wring off the collar. Bring out the handle material and now place the collar, gap upper-must in the step of your anvil or in the 1¼ bottom swage.

If you don't have a step, you'll have to create one using a bottom tool in the hardie hole or use the 1¼ half-round bottom swage.



With the handle material hot, bring out the collar material from the fire and wring off the collar



I use the step of the anvil, but a half round bottom swage of the right size will work

Fit the handle material into the collar with between ¹/16-inch up to ¹/8-inch of handle material protruding past the top edge of the collar material.

You'll need this extra material later when you are blending in the seam between the collar and the handle.

But, don't leave yourself too much protruding material to clean up or you'll be cursing. ¹/₈-inch protrusion at max. If you have too much protruding, you can hot rasp the excess off at a later stage.

Close the collar around the handle. Work all the way around the collar to close any gaps between the collar and the handle *but* take care not to close the gap between the collar ends.

Return the bar to the fire. Hold the bar at an angle of about 30-45 degrees to the fire, to concentrate the heat on the weld area and prevent the handle material from burning.



Put the hot handle material into the hot collar material. Note that the handle protrudes slightly past the collar



Close the collar around the handle. Work all the way around the collar to close any gaps to the handle material

Order of your hammer blows:

When you come out of the fire to weld, hold the gap in the collar material to either your left or right.

Strike a blow at the 12-o'clock position and then rotate the collar under your hammer to bring the gap in the collar up to 12-o'clock on the third blow.

Turn the gap to the other side (your left or right) and repeat the process, again finishing with the (now closed) gap at the 12-o'clock position relative to the anvil.

Brush, flux and re-heat before trying the weld.



After heating, face the gap to your left or right and deliver blows as you turn the gap to the sky



The gap in the collar has closed as I welded the handle. Turn the gap to the opposite side and repeat



Here are the same move supported in a half-round bottom swage



Turn the bar as you weld the collar

Problems:

The ends of the collar welded together, but the collar did not weld to the handle material:

- There was no gap between the two collar ends prior to attempting the weld and you couldn't shrink the collar to fit the handle material.
- You didn't get the handle material hot enough prior to attempting the weld.

There's a flat spot on the collar:

• You had too much of a gap to close between the two collar ends, and you had to pull in some filler material to close the gap.

There's a gap between the two collar ends:

• The initial gap between the two collar ends was too large and could not be closed. The collar welded to the handle material, but couldn't be stretched far enough to close the gap.

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Finishing the weld:

You will need your ³/₄-inch half round bottom swage for this stage of the forging.

The swage needs to have a straight wall, with no lip protruding on the side facing away from you. I remove any sharp edge at the half round with a file to prevent the swage from galling the handle material under the welded collar.

Typically, any bottom swage that I make will have a lip on the nearside side (blacksmith side) and have the lip removed on the offside. That way I can feed hot material into the swage from the nearside without risk of creating cold shuts in the bar.

You will be working to the hammer-hand side of the offside edge of the bottom swage. Make sure that you can get in there with your hammer, or change to a smaller faced hammer.

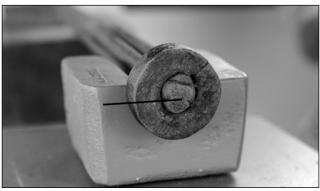
I like to use the ball face of my Farrier's rounding hammer for this weld, as I feel that it gives me an advantage when welding and also helps to produce the shape that I am looking for in the top of the welded collar.

Put the handle into the fire at the same 45° angle and take a heat. Bring the end up to a near welding heat and brush and flux. Return the bar to the fire and re-heat to a welding heat.

Place the handle in the bottom swage with the collar hard against the flat offside edge.

Deliver your hammer blows to the protruding handle material, holding your hammer at a slight angle to the stock and with the horizontal centerline of the hammer below the top edge of the bottom swage.

Turn the handle as you work around the edges of the protruding material. You will need to pull that extra material down and over the seam of the collar weld.



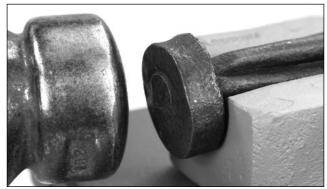
Keep the horizontal centerline of your hammer below the top edge of the swage block



Turn the bar as you work to flatten and weld in the handle material to the collar

Alternating the direction of rotation can help prevent twisting the rods of the handle material. At the same time, I like to thin the outside edge of the collar to create a dome shape.

Work all the way around the collar, taking fresh heats as needed. You may find that the handle material bends as you dress the collar.



Angle the hammer to thin the edge of the collar as you work to blend in the welded seam

Straighten as needed, do not keep working with the handle material bent or twisted – *nothing* good ever follows continuing to work with bent or twisted material.

Use light blows to straighten the handle material, or consider swapping hammers to a hide or wooden mallet.



The result thus far, take another heat and continue working



The finished weld, with the collar thinned to ¼-inch thickness at the edge

Twisting the handle material:

I like to keep a container of water handy when twisting. If I see any portion of the handle material twisting more than the rest, I can cool the overtwisting part (slightly).

My vessel of choice is an old (stainless steel) gravy boat, as it keeps my hand away from the hot work and the steam generated.

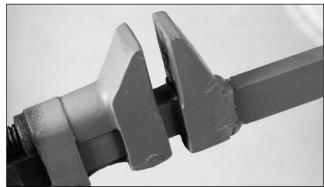
Take an even heat along the full length of the handle. I lightly clamp the collar in the vise and put a twisting wrench on the other end.

I don't do much twisting of stock, so my tooling tends to be a bit crude. I have an old adjustable wrench that I have welded a bar to that acts as another side of the handle.

The jaws of my twisting wrench have been relieved at the edges to prevent galling of the hot material as I twist.

Cover as much of the handle-to-shaft weld as you can with the twisting wrench to prevent any possible delaminating of the welded material.

Twist in the direction of choice. I generally get 1³/₄ to 2 complete twists of the bar. If you overtwist, the rods of the handle material tend to pop out of place.



Twisting wrench with edges of the jaws relieved



Lightly clamp the collar in the vise and covering the weld point with your twisting wrench, twist the bar

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Take another even heat of the handle and, while lightly pushing the shaft towards the handle, untwist the handle slightly. Don't get carried away here.

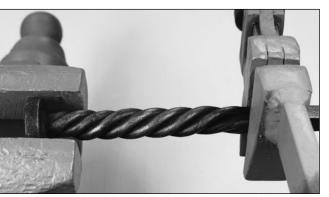
Most things that are handled in the kitchen are between ³/₄-inch and 1-inch in diameter. The more you untwist, the larger the diameter of the handle becomes, so keep your eye on the target here.

But, as a side, if you had welded only the ¹/₄-inch rods together, and were making a decorative ornament and wanted a very bulbous twist, then you might want to get a bit more aggressive with the twists.

You are not limited to twist and then untwist. You can then re-twist in the same direction as the initial twist, while still applying pressure to the shaft material, so that the twist continues to open out, but you don't lose the twisted effect.

Keep the water handy, and you might also want some form of blade to help even out the spacing of the handle material. I've shown my tooling in the tools section of this book, but a sharpened screwdriver with the edges relieved works well if you're in a hurry.

Pickle the handle in white vinegar to remove all the leftover flux, precipitate and scale from the weld areas. Soak for 24 hours, rinse with water, dry and immediately wax or oil blacken.



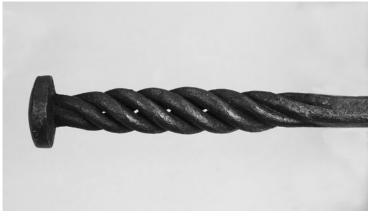
Don't get the twists too tight, or the rods will pop past one another. Twist (for example) clockwise



Twist counter clockwise and push on the shaft slightly to open the handle. Take care not to overdo it



Even out the spacing with something akin to a sharpened screwdriver with the edge relieved



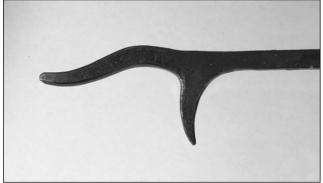
Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

The business end:

I use these basket twist handles in a number of ways. Typically, they are handles for fire pokers for use at the forge or at a wood burning stove.

Other than that, they become steak turners for gifts or handles for Dutch oven pot lifters.

The forge poker and steak turner are simple tapers. The wood stove poker has a spur on the end, and is a variation of the scrolling wrench shown on Pages 140-141 of the black book.



This is my version of a wood-fire poker end from ³/₄-inch wide by ¹/₄-inch thick flat stock

I use a length of ³/₄-inch wide by ¹/₄-inch thick for the end. I usually weld an already forged end onto the ³/₈-inch shaft, but that's not the only way to get it done.

You could set down the end of a longer length of ³/₄-inch wide by ¹/₄-inch thick to ³/₈-inch square and weld that onto the basket handle directly. After welding to the handle, you draw down the remaining stock and forge the poker end.

This may be the way to go if you are a little shaky with your drop tong welds. Better to make a mess of the initial drop tong weld than put a lot of effort into a piece that might not make it onto the sale table.

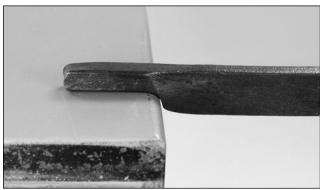
I'm going to show the basics of option #1; weld the poker end onto an already welded-on shaft. I refer you to the black book to fill in some of the details of the process involved. Using a piece of ³/₄-inch wide by ¹/₄-inch thick stock, lay off ⁷/₈-inch on the nearside, round edge, of the anvil.

Set the material down to about ⁵⁄16-inch square.

Move to the offside, round, edge of the anvil and lay off a strong 1-inch of material behind the initial shoulder and set the bar down to abour ⁵/16inch square, leaving you with a 1-inch long pillow of material between two shoulders.



Lay off about ⁷/8-inch from a round, nearside edge of the anvil



Set the shoulder and draw the material down to ⁵/16inch square



Move to the offside edge and lay off a strong 1-inch of material

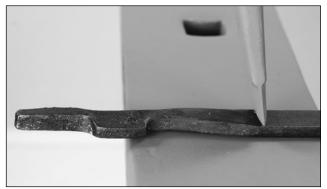


Taper back to parent stock over 2 to 3 inches

Taper back from the shoulder to the parent bar over $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inches or so.

Sever the bar about ¹/₂-inch into parent stock from the broad end of the taper. Cut on a ³/₄-inch wide surface to help create the slope to the required scarf.

Angle the chisel so that the parent bar is left with a vertical cut, with all the chamfer going to the poker end side.



Holding the chisel at an angle away from you, sever the forged end from the parent bar and draw to 3/8-inch sq

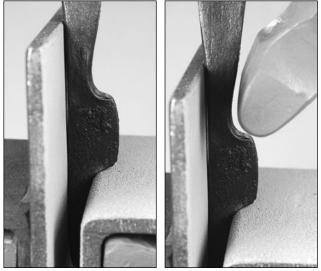
Give the cut on the poker side a wipe around with a hotrasp to get rid of any rag left from when making the cut.

Forge the taper down to a ³/₈-inch square cross section and scarf the end of the bar. The slope to the scarf should already be there from the chisel cut.

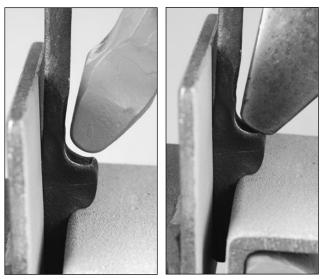
Using backing plates in the vise, coupled with an appropriately sized fuller, draw down the pillow of material to a taper. I use a combination of both a ½-inch fuller near the transition and the cross peen of my hand hammer towards the tip of the taper, when drawing down the material at the vise.

Dress any lipping and cupping that may appear of the surface of the forging at the anvil, before re-heating the bar.

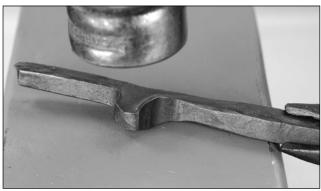
Aim for a taper that is about ³/₈-inch wide by ¹/₄-inch thick at the base tapering to about ¹/₈-inch square at the tip, over around 1-inch in length.



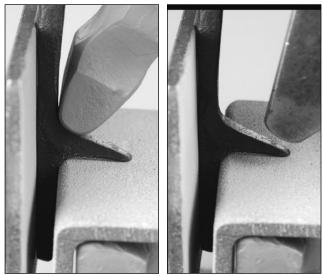
Using a backing plate and jaw insert, clamp the pillow of material up in the vise



Use a combination of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch fuller and your cross peen to draw down the pillow of material to a taper



Dress any lipping and cupping before they get vertical which could then cause cold shuts when dressed



Fuller at the transition area, and cross peen where a mis-hit won't cause indigestion

Don't taper/shape the end of the poker until after you've welded it to the shaft, otherwise it can be difficult to hold it securely in the tongs. For a 24-inch long poker - tip to collar - I leave about 10 to 11-inches of un-forged shaft material between the weld at the business end and the weld at the handle.

There is no need to upset the bar, as the weld will be drawn down below 3%-inch square later.

Scarf the end of the shaft material and then weld the poker end to the shaft.



Weld the poker end onto the shaft material and taper the complete shaft aiming for ¼-inch square at the spur

Taper the shaft along its length from the spur to the basket handle. Aim for full 3%-inch square at the handle, down to 1/4-inch or 3/16-inch square above the spur.

Chamfer all the corners as this aids in the transition from the square shaft material to the round bars of the handle.



Continue to dress the spur as you work



Taper from the poker end to the handle, chamfering the corners as you go.

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Once you have the shaft tapered to your liking, turn your attention back to the poker end.

Starting over a round edge of the anvil, and finishing on the bick, draw down the poker end to taper with the business end being ½-inch square, chamfer the corners and dress the sides.

The taper should measure 2-inches long or so. This poker end will be formed into an S-curve over the bick.



Don't overwork the transition area just in front of the poker spur end.

Quench the shaft just behind the spur on the handle side. And then, with the spur up and centered on the bick, knock the poker end down slightly.

Turn the bar over 180°, spur down, and

pull it back about 1-inch. Tap the end down slightly.

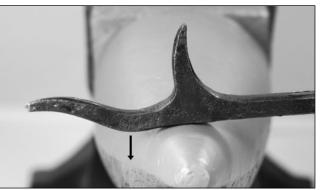
Turn the bar over 180° again (spur up) and pull the bar back $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch.

Tap the end down very slightly so that it is parallel to the shaft material. You should now be looking at an S-curve.

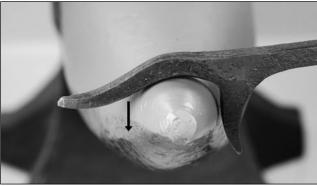
Put the material under the bick with the spur on the offside of the bick and pointing up, and curve the spur a little.

That's the business end!

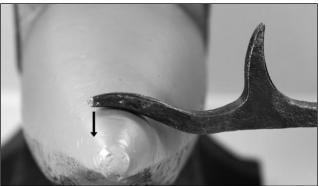
Heat, brush and wax the entire poker. You should have something that is around 24-inches in length, tip to collar; a nice size and weight for a moderately sized wood stove.



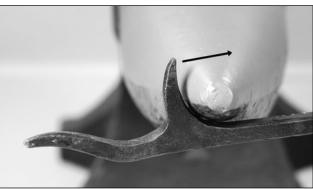
The poker is shown already shaped in the hopes that it aids in the understanding. Spur up, knock the end down



Spur down, knock the mid-point of the end down to start an S-curve to the end of the poker



Spur up, tap the end down so that it is parallel to the shaft of the poker



Knock the tip of the spur back a little to create a slight curve

Forge Welding in a Gas Forge - Mark Aspery

A riveting way to deal with forge welding in a gas forge.

I recently taught the basket handled poker at a gas-forgeonly school in the L.A. area.

I'm not very practiced in a gas forge, so I tried the class at home in a farriers gas forge.

I found that I could weld faggot welds, that is, stock sister'ed to another piece of stock, but that jump welds (drop tong welds) were quite a bit harder to deal with effectively with repeatable success.

For the basket, I chisel cut the slope to the scarf and thinned the toe slightly. For the ³/₈-inch square bar that makes the shaft, I upset and created the slope to the scarf only. I eliminated the step for a normal scarf in both pieces, and drilled a %4-inch hole just behind the scarf area.

The two pieces were then riveted together with a length of ½-inch round bar. The 'rivet' held the two bars together, but didn't stop sideways movement - just for the record.

I used a washer as a spacer when riveting the bar, giving me spare material to head the second side of the rivet.

The pieces were heated and then fluxed and returned to the fire. There wasn't a whole lot of brushing involved.

Angling the basket down slightly as I approached the anvil helped straighten the two pieces back into alignment.

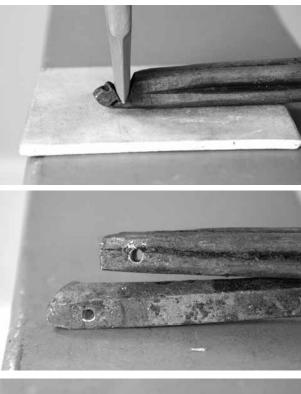
The weld, now a faggot weld, worked great. We had over 20 students in the class and everyone got their welds, both at the handle and at the poker end.

The idea of pinning two pieces together before welding is not new. It was used during the wrought iron era.

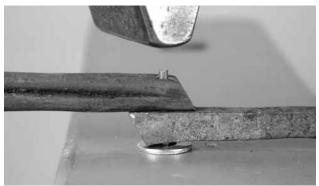
In the UK, you can find gates where leaves had been riveted on prior to forge welding - where the leaf has long since rusted away, leaving the hole for the rivet - which was not in a welding plane. - Mark Aspery.

Mark has a brand new Youtube video on this process: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNHSC0m7K0o Thanks Mark! - Editor











March 2020

Are You...Pulling a Babbitt out of a Hat?

By Bob Pickens

Babbitt is used as a bearing in a variety of old machines, it has been replaced with brass/bronze and roller bearings. Roller bearings have advanced in its own chemistry to be very specific and sophisticated in today's world.

If you are planning to purchase a mechanical hammer or work on machinery that used Babbitt as a bearing you need to know some fine points about the material and questions you may need to have answered. Replacing, rebuilding or maintaining a clutch main shaft bearing or working on a Little Giant it is important to know the Babbitt you have. You may not attempt to pour Babbitt yourself, in fact it is a dangerous process, but is the Babbitt in your Little Giant the correct Babbitt?

There are three general types of Babbitt. Some individuals believe Babbitt to be just lead and it is not. Lead is a very inexpensive material and incorrect to use because it does not contain antimony. Antimony is used in antifriction alloys such as Babbitt metal. As a side note, the Egyptians used antimony in the form of stibnite for black eye make up, more commonly known as kohl.

Three types of Babbitt:

- 1. Little Giant Babbitt– Low RPM-High Impact, 80% Lead, 15% Antimony, 5% Tin
 - Approximately \$8.40 per pound, purchase from Little Giant
- Tin Based Babbitt- High RPM-Low Impact, 89% Tin, 7% Antimony, 4% Copper -Used in Model T vehicles, NO good in Little Giant Hammers, Approximately \$49.00 per pound
- 3. Lead based Babbitt-Mid Range, (Will take impact but better for a little higher RPM) 75% lead, 14% Antimony, 10% Tin, ,5% Arsenic, .3% Copper. This is a general purpose Babbitt, for a machine that does not have a high impact load, and has a mid-range RPM. Such as steam locomotives. Approximately \$12.00 per pound.

If you question the Babbitt material in your mechanical hammer, have it replaced. There really is no economical way to have it tested. Testing is done with a spectrometer which is a very expensive tool used in labs. A spectrometer also varies according to its quality. Having it tested is not always reliable if the spectrometer is not high quality for reliability.

If Little Giant Babbitt is heated past its recommended temperature for use, it may get a "blue" cast. This makes the Babbitt faulty and needs to be redone.





Above- Ladle to pour molten metal, note the pour area. It pours from below so that the impurities (dross) is not included in the pour. Jody Best used a similar ladle at her November demonstration for us at Steve Kontaxes'. Left- Babbitt on left, poorly poured, it is thick and thin, goal is to have an even pour and margin. Babbitt on right is better, however it is loose in casting.









March 2020

Pittsburgh Area Artist - Blacksmiths Association





Which Fork Do I Use?

Atticus used the fork seen on the left for a number of steps during his demonstration. The benefit of the uneven "tines" is that you can bypass the one tine when wrapping, a great benefit. You can use this fork in an anvil. The fork design below is one we use at Steel Welding. It can be used in a vise. The advantages are it also has uneven "tines" and a loop which keeps metal in place. Good for keeping material from slipping. The third fork, is an adjustable fork. This can be used in a vise for different size material. No matter which fork you use will help you finish your project!











Forks on the left are on separate pieces of angle iron and can be moved closer or father away from each other to accommodate the project you are working. Make sure the welds are secure and the angle iron is the same. When working with different size material it requires different spacing between the upright posts. You can also place a piece of pipe over the upright to make a larger pin.

Miscellaneous-Assorted Tips from John Steel

- 1. Plan your work so that you can stamp your name or touchmark on your project before the area becomes inaccessible to get good hit.
- 2. If you have tight mill scale on hot roll bars, use your torch and turn it up high. The base metal must be cold and run the torch along the metal. The mill scale will "pop" off. Be sure to wear protective goggles etc.
- 3. Welders chipping hammers make great hand held tools.
- 4. If you want to simulate a wood grain on a metal sheet– Use a 6" razor wheel and run the razor wheel along the length of the metal. Run parallel lines and carefully leave a space between each run. Do not overlap or cross the "grains". It tales a bit of practice to get the look but can be a very effective technique.
- 5. No soap stone on you? Use a wet finger to make a mark—-on cold steel!
- 6. If you want to blacken aluminum, purchase Sculpt Nouveau Black Magic. It is a versatile and unique finish for iron, steel, stainless steel, brass, bronze, aluminum or copper. sculptnouveau.com they are located in Escondido, CA 760-432-8242

This one page article and the previous one page article are reprinted courtesy of the Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmith Association newsletter March 2020 - Editor



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FEATURING

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> YOUNG SMITHS FORGING COME TO LEARN AND JOIN IN!







2020 Saltfork Conference Demonstrators

The 2020 Saltfork Conference demonstrators have been selected. Based on demonstrator availability and an online member voting survey implemented by Saltfork Director, Eric Jergensen, this year's demonstrators by popular demand are:



Brent Bailey

Joey Van Der Steeg (Netherlands)



J.J. McGill and Eric Jergensen have arranged commitments from both demonstrators for the Conference. As with recent years, both demonstrators will remain after the Conference for workshops with a limited number of participants.

Details of the Conference demonstration and workshop topics will be posted once they are arranged. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters.

If you are not already familiar with these demonstrators, they both have a strong You-Tube presence. Just look them up by name. UPDATE: At the present time, the Saltfork Conference in October is on with no plans of canceling. Hopefully October is far enough out to be unaffected by the Caronavirus. If conditions change, updates will be posted as soon as possible. - Editor



Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

For Sale:

For Sale by James L. Kirkland, Jr. Contact by E-mail if interested.



Blacksmith's Treadle Hammer, no markings.

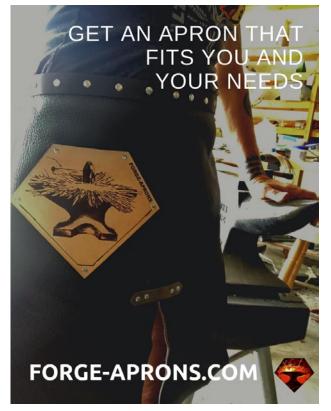
Also known as an Oliver Hammer, purchased by my father in 1983 from Bill Gichner for \$2200.00 Make an offer by e-mail to jlkclk@sbcglobal.net.

For Sale: 15 Lb Tire Hammers:

\$1,200 for everything from the base plate up. Two rounding dies included as standard. Has 1/2 HP 115V Motor. Contact: David Barfield - 580-595-1476



Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association



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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, Don Garner, if you would like to get a copy of this DVD. Don Garner: 580-302-1845 (Call or Text. If you get voice mail, Please leave a message.)



Thank you to our Conference Vendors who gra-

ciously donated items for the Conference Auctions!

Their contributions helped

to support SCABA. Please consider patronizing these vendors to

return the favor!

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.

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. Inventory is always changing. Contact: Craig Guy (SCABA Member), Piedmont, OK Cell Phone: 405-630-7769 (Call or Text)

SCABA Library DVD's Available:

This is a partial list of the DVD titles available to members from the SCABA Library. Contact the Librarian (Don Garner) 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
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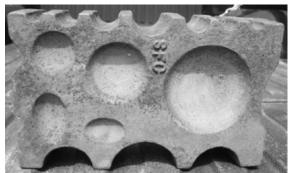
Have an Item for Sale? Item Wanted?

If you have any items that are appropriate for Blacksmiths that you would like to list in the Shop 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

\$200.00 plus shipping. (Same price to members and non-members.)





SCABA Floor Cones

\$200.00 plus shipping.

(Same price to members and non-members.)

To order swage blocks or cones, contact our distributor:

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

405-307-8031

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 Doug-

las, 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.

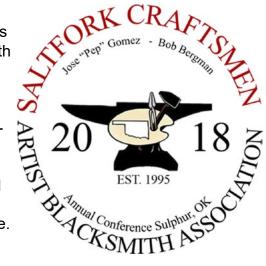
NE Region coal location: ****NOTICE:****

Charlie McGee is no longer hosting the coal pile in the NE region. If you would be interested in hosting a location in NE, let one of the SCABA Board members know.

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

SCABA T-Shirts!

2018 Saltfork Collector T-shirts are available with the 2018 Conference Logo. \$20.00 (plus shipping if applicable.) Contact Josh Perkins to check sizes and quantities that are still available.



Legacy SCABA T-shirts and long sleeve denim shirts are also available on clearance while supplies last. T-Shirts are \$5.00 and Denim Shirts are \$10.00. (Plus shipping if applicable.) Contact Josh Perkins to check sizes and quantities that are still available.

If you would like to purchase shirts, contact Josh Perkins (918) 269-3523.



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 Shop and Swap section (or items you are looking for), please send me your description, contact info, and any photos that you have.

SCABA Membership Application For Annual Membership			Ne	New Member	
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First Name _			Last Name		
Married? _	Yes	No	Spouse's Nam	e	
Address					
City				State	Zip
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Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Assoc. Inc. 6520 Alameda Norman, OK. 73026 Non Profit Organization U S Postage Paid Oklahoma City, Ok Permit #2177

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