Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

November/December 2021



Brent Bailey and Palmer Robbins

Demonstrating at the 2022 Saltfork Conference
(See Conference Summary on Page 31)

If you are interested in hosting a regional meeting in 2022, it is time to plan and secure your date as soon as possible. The 2022 Regional Meeting Calendar is enclosed on page 8.

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

Quick News:

Recent Board of Directors Meeting: The board met on November 21st to discuss a number of items. This is a summary to bring you up to date:

- New Treasurer: Teresa Gabrish has resigned as SCABA treasurer. The directors appointed Carol Doner to fill the important position (...she agreed to fill the role. It wasn't a hostage scenario like it sounds!) Carol will still remain the secretary combining both roles and calling on assistance from other board members when/if it is required.
- SCABA Annual Picnic to be April 30th:
 The date of the Annual Picnic is set for April 30th (the fifth Saturday of that month.) J.J. McGill has agreed to be the host. The location is tentatively set to be the Murray County Antique Tractor Association show grounds facility north of Sulphur.
- 2022 SCABA Conference: The date is confirmed for the 2022 Conference to be October 15 and 16th. Conference demonstrators currently on the line up are Pep Gomez and Joey Van Der Steeg. Both demonstrators have committed to attend at this time. Of course, history has proven that a lot can change as the conference time approaches so stay tuned. Updates and more detail will be provided as soon as it is available.

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



President's Notes:

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing great!

Well we made it happen. We had our conference and I think it went fairly well. I think everyone had a good time. We had some gremlins with different things. But when you skip year, things are bound to happen that you didn't expect.

We had some very good demonstrators with a lot of talent. I think the ones who took the workshops after the conference made some very nice projects that they can use for a lifetime. Maybe they can pass some of their skills on to other people in the club.

The weather was very good this year which was a big help. We had a light attendance compared to other years but it was good with everything that is currently going on in the world.



I would like to thank everyone who helped make it all happen. We had some very good helpers who got stuff done even with the gremlins we had. I would also like to thank the tailgaters for coming and I hope they sold enough stuff to make it worth their time and travels.

We had very good meals again this year as usual and I would like to thank the tractor club for letting us use their facility.

The ABANA conference is in Texas in 2022 and it will be a good time for members in our area to attend. It probably won't be this close again for a long time I think. If anyone would like to help out or lend some of your tools, you can contact Dan Richman at 1-972-978-9063. He says leave him a message and he will contact you. I know there will be plenty of work and I hope it all goes well.

Be happy!

Thanks, - Mandell

All Regional Meetings are Free to Attend and are Always Open to Any Member or Guest...

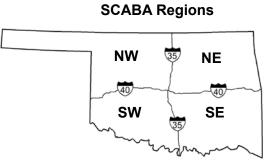
New to Saltfork or just want to check out Blacksmithing but don't know where to start? These meetings are a great place for new members or guests who just want to see what it is all about to come network with like-minded people. If you want some pointers on how to get started, there is always someone happy to help get you started hammering. And guests are always welcomed.

Want to host a meeting? The meeting hosting form can be found on the last page along with membership application form. If you want to host a meeting in any area, please fill out one of the host forms on the website under the calendar section or in the newsletter and e-mail the information or mail the hard copy form in as soon as possible. If you mail a form, please call or e-mail to verify that it is received. E-mail is the most convenient for me, but you can also phone in the information if you prefer. The sooner the meeting is scheduled, the more time there is to get the word out to potential attendees. -Russell Bartling 918-633-0234 or rbartling@ionet.net

What's My Region?

The four main regions are currently defined within the state by being separated by I35 and I40. (For example, the NW region is anything north if I40 and west of I35.)

All meetings are encouraged. These boundary definitions and regional meeting dates are a suggested framework to facilitate orderly meeting scheduling, planning and promotion with a minimum of overlaps and a maximum exposure to the greatest number of members. Not all meetings fit precisely within a rigid boundary definition and members in an area may want to hold meetings on a date that doesn't match their physical region or at a location other than their own region. This may be especially true in the center of state for areas that are close to the I35 and I40 boundary crossing. Special events such as shows, fairs, etc. may also dictate adjustments to the meeting dates within a region.



The regions are meant to be a simplification and clarification to the regional boundaries rather than a rigid restriction to any meeting scenario. *Saltfork members all belong to one club.* Regional boundaries are not intended to imply division within the club, but are intended to help spread distribution and promote monthly meetings.

Safety

Blacksmithing can be an inherently dangerous exercise. There is no substitute for personal responsibility and common sense and no list of safety rules can adequately cover every situation. Every person who attends a meeting, demonstration or event sponsored by the Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Association (SCABA) or its members does so at their own risk and assumes all responsibility for their own safety needs. The SCABA organization, its officers, members, demonstrators, volunteers and guests disclaim any responsibility for any damages, injuries, or destruction of property resulting from the use of any information or methods published or distributed by SCABA or demonstrated at workshops, meetings, conferences or other events. SCABA recommends proper attire and safety gear and standard shop safety procedures appropriate for blacksmithing and shop work during any event where blacksmithing and other related methods are involved. Safety attire includes, but is not limited to, appropriate clothing, eyewear, hearing protection, gloves, and face shields when appropriate. It is every individual's responsibility to provide for their own safety, to determine what safety gear is appropriate for each situation and to provide, maintain and use that gear as appropriate for each individual situation.

2022 Workshop Schedule

The Board of Directors and the Workshop Coordinator are always looking for feedback from members on what workshops you would like to see from fundamentals to advanced. Please let them know! If there is group interest in a specific workshop topic, they will work hard to try to make it happen.

BLACKSMITH BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP

WHEN: Saturday, March 5th

WHERE: Route 66 Museum Blackmith Shop, Elk City, OK

Saltfork Craftsmen will be conducting a beginners Blacksmithing workshop on Saturday, March 5th, beginning at 8 A.M. and running until complete. All tools and materials will be provided.

Slots are limited so please reserve yours early.

To make reservations, or for questions, please contact:

Rory Kirk @ 580-497-6426

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.

We have two workshop coordinators:

<u>Western Areas:</u> Mandell Greteman is the SCABA Workshop Coordinator. Contact Mandell at 580-515-1292.

Eastern Areas: Brad Nance is the SCABA Workshop Coordinator. Contact Brad at 918-774-4291.

Coronavirus Safety Concerns/Event Cancellations:

With recent developments concerning COVID19, a large number of blacksmithing related events have been canceled for safety reasons. 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.

-Russell Bartling, Editor

2021 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE				
NE Region	SE Region	SW Region	NW Region	
(1st Sat)	(2nd Sat)	(3rd Sat)	(4th Sat)	
Jan 2nd	Jan 9th	Jan 16th	Jan 23rd	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	
Feb 6th	Feb 13th	Feb 20th	Feb 27th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Doug Hyde)	
Mar 6th	Mar 13th	Mar 20th	Mar 27th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Mandell Greteman)	
Apr 3rd	Apr 10th	Apr 17th	Apr 24th	
(Don Garner)	(Diana Simon)	(Open)	(SCABA Picnic!)	
May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Rory Kirk)	
Jun 5th	Jun 12th	Jun 19th	Jun 26th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Everett Timmons)	
Jul 3rd (Matthew (Ragnar) Crowson)	Jul 10th (Open)	Jul 17th (Open)	Jul 24th (Open)	
Aug 7th	Aug 14th	Aug 21st	Aug 28th	
(Diana Simon)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	
Sep 4th (Tracy Cowart)	Sep 11th (Open)	Sep 18th (JJ McGill)	Sep 25th (Ron LehenBauer as Host - Don Garner as Contact Person)	
Oct 2nd	Oct 9th	Oct 16th	Oct 23rd	
(Open)	(Conference Setup)	(Conference Weekend)	(Rory Kirk)	
Nov 6th	Nov 13th	Nov 20th	Nov 27th	
(Diana Simon)	(Open)	(Work Day at Elk City)	(Open)	
Dec 4th	Dec 11th	Dec 18th	Dec 25th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Everett Timmons)	(Christmas Day)	

2021 Fifth Saturdays:

January 30th (Open)

May 29 (Boy Scout Meeting at Murray County Antique Tractor Show Grounds.)

July 31st (Beginner Blacksmith Workshop - Elk City)

October 30th (Open)

November 2021

NE Regional Meeting Nov 6th: Will be hosted by Diana Simon and the Cherokee Strip Historical Society at the new Blacksmith Museum and Shop. 2617 W. Fir Ave, Perry, OK 73077. The shop is located approximately 1/4 mile east of Exit 186 from I-35 on north side of the road (Hwy 64 or Fir St.)

The trade item is whatever you want to bring or make.

The meeting is planned to start at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Diana Simon at 580-572-8290 or dsimon@gmail.com if you have questions.

SE Regional Meeting Nov 13th: Open.

SW Regional Meeting Nov 20th: Work Day at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City.

NW Regional Meeting Nov 27th: Open.

December 2021

NE Regional Meeting December 4th: (Open.)

SE Regional Meeting December 11th: (Open.)

SW Regional Meeting December 18th: Will be hosted by Everett Timmons at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City. The alternate date is to allow the meeting to be held since the regular date is on Christmas day.

Trade item is a "period" reenactment type fork/spoon/knife combo set. This is a general guideline and you get to pick the specifics. Basically, think along the lines of hand forged camp eating utensils like Civil War era, etc.

Lunch will be provided (soup/stew) but please bring a side dish or dessert that goes along with the main meal to help out.

Contact Everett Timmons at 806-930-0052 if you have questions.

NW Regional Meeting December 25th: (Christmas Day)

2022 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE				
NE Region	SE Region	SW Region	NW Region	
(1st Sat)	(2nd Sat)	(3rd Sat)	(4th Sat)	
Jan 1st	Jan 8th	Jan 15th	Jan 22nd	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Doug Hyde)	
Feb 5th	Feb 12th	Feb 19th	Feb 26th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Rory Kirk)	
Mar 5th (Beginning Blacksmith Workshop)	Mar 12th (Open)	Mar 19th (Open)	Mar 26th (Dorvan Ivey)	
Apr 2nd	Apr 9th	Apr 16th	Apr 23rd	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Everett Timmons)	
May 7th	May 14th	May 21th	May 28th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Mandell Greteman)	
Jun 4th	Jun 11th	Jun 18th	Jun 25th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Don Garner)	
Jul 2nd	Jul 9th	Jul 16th	Jul 23rd	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Terry Kauk)	
Aug 6th	Aug 13th	Aug 20th	Aug 27th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	
Sep 3rd (Open)	Sep 10th (Open)	Sep 17th (Open)	Sep 24th (Ron LehenBauer as Host - Don Garner as Contact Person)	
Oct 1st	Oct 8th	Oct 15th	Oct 22nd	
(Open)	(Conference Setup)	(Conference Weekend)	(Monte Smith)	
Nov 5th	Nov 12th	Nov 19th	Nov 26th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	
Dec 3rd	Dec 10th	Dec 17th	Dec 24th	
(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	(Open)	

2022 Fifth Saturdays:

January 29th (Open)

April 30th (SCABA Annual Picnic!)

July 30th (Open)

October 29th (Open)

December 31st (Open)

January 2022

NE Regional Meeting January 1st: (Open.)

SE Regional Meeting January 8th: (Open.)

SW Regional Meeting January 15th: Open.

NW Regional Meeting January 22nd: Will be hosted by Doug Hyde at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City.

The trade item is a forged Trillium Flower. (There is an article in the May 2018 Saltfork Craftsmen newsletter on forging Trilliums if you want a place to start - Editor)

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

Contact Doug Hyde at 806-679-7297 if you have any questions.

February 2022

NE Regional Meeting February 5th: (Open.)

SE Regional Meeting February 12th: (Open.)

SW Regional Meeting February 19th: Open.

NW Regional Meeting February 26th: Will be hosted by Rory Kirk at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City.

Trade item is a railroad spike steak turner.

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

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

Where is My Newsletter????

You may have noticed the mailed copy of newsletters getting delivered later the last year or so than normal. Ever since the appearance of covid, production, printing and mailing has just taken longer. Most issues of the newsletter are usually available on the website at the first of the month. This copy is a definite exception.

This newsletter represents the first time in seven years that I have grossly missed the first of the month deadline. For several months I have been completely overwhelmed with work and other issues. At the November board meeting, we decided to combine the Nov/Dec newsletter into one and later to also combine JAN/FEB into one copy. This is mostly to give me more time to work out production on my end.

I have been finding it increasingly difficult lately to find time to spend on the newsletter. And, the bottom line is that *I think it is time for a new editor*. Although the last seven years as editor have been hectic at times, I have enjoyed the process. But I think it may be time for someone else to bring new life to the newsletter. This is not necessarily a change than can happen instantly without losing the newsletter. I have not set a definite exit date, yet, but an exit date will arrive.

The Saltfork membership is an exceedingly creative group. If you have any interest in becoming the new editor or if you know someone who would be good at it, please let me know. Producing the newsletter is not technically difficult but does require reasonable computer literacy. I have no journalism training or skills and it probably shows. I have never done as good a job as would have liked if I'm honest about it. But if you have an interest in "blacksmithing," you know what you would like to see in the newsletter. Odds are, most of the subscribers are looking for that too. I believe our readers are looking for useful content and information over publishing perfection. I will help get you started. We can take as long as we need to with the transition.

Historically, announcements in the newsletter like this one don't elicit much response from readers. But if nobody responds, the future of the newsletter is uncertain.

If you have any interest at all in becoming the new editor, or know of a good candidate, I would urge you to pursue it and get in touch with me as soon as you can.

- Editor

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

ABANA Conference 2022

May 11-14 Denton Fairgrounds, Texas

Folks,

If you haven't heard ABANA is coming to Texas, land of cattle ranches and oil rigs, lush tropical beaches on one side and cactus covered desert on the other. The North Texas Blacksmith Association would like to welcome y'all and hope you can make it to Denton, Texas which is on the Northwest corner of what is commonly referred to as DFW (Dallas Ft Worth). I think we have an amazing place with lots to offer. Texas, like any Western area has a strong affinity with blacksmiths. No town could live or even start without one and the blacksmithing traditions live on through our strong Farrier, Blade smithing, and current Blacksmithing groups.



We're going to make sure that ABANA's first visit

to Texas is memorable and we need everyone to come and be part of that. We've pulled in local blacksmiths from all around to help us get this done including Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, and of course all over Texas.

We're working hard to bring in the best metal artists that are available, create an environment that best showcases and demonstrates their talents. Giving you an opportunity to rub shoulders and learn from the very best.

Where else, or rather when else are you going to be able to go to one spot at one time and see the talent we are concentrating here in Texas.

We're working on showcasing the world's top metal working talents with names like:

- Mark Aspery (and teaching crew) California
- Anton Yakushev Russia
- Zeevik Gottlieb Israel
- Ellen Durkan Delaware
- Lyle Wynn Mississippi
- Suraiya Howerter Texas
- Douglas Pryor California
- And many others

There'll be demonstrations, lectures, competitions, other crafts, vendors of all sorts, an Auction at the end and a great meal to wind things up on Saturday. We'll have a gallery, show casing pieces by our amazing artists. There'll be a teaching tent. An area devoted to our veterans. Tours to Interesting Places

Saltfork members who would like to volunteer for 4 hours will get the rest of the day free.

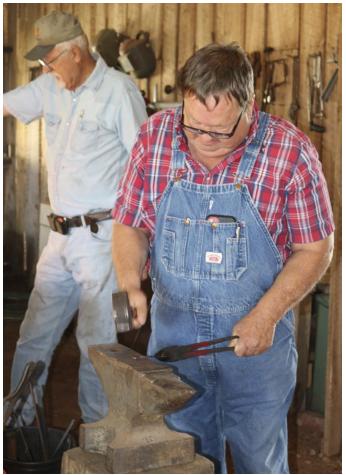
More details to come, SEE Y'ALL THERE!! - Fred Cole, North Texas Blacksmith Association

Around the State...

NW Region September Meeting: The NW meeting at Fairview was a two day event at the annual Tractor Show and Theshing Bee held on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th. Friday is school day and we had 150 to 200 students, some were home school and private school. Everett Timmons, Rory Kirk and myself were there on Friday doing demos for students and adults that were out. There were a lot of people on Friday and museum people thought it was the largest crowd in years. Rory made swords out of double headed concrete nails.

Saturday was the actual NW meeting and there were 14 smiths and 3 spouses present. Again we had large number of people through all day with 3 forges and 4 anvils being worked most all day. The trade item was 2 sets of cabinet pulls (4 total) with 5 sets made. One set was by a student from the last beginner class at Elk City last month and she did an outstanding job for only her second time at organized event. The meal was prepared by Everett Timmons and was outstanding as always. It was a great day for forging and I believe all had a good time. - Don Garner







Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association









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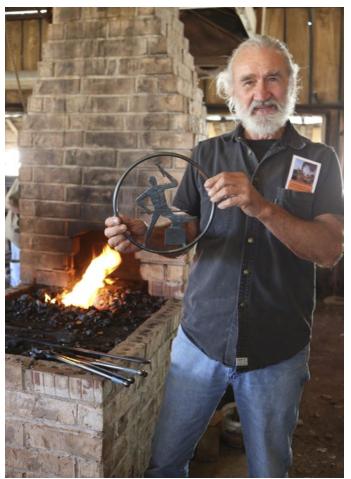






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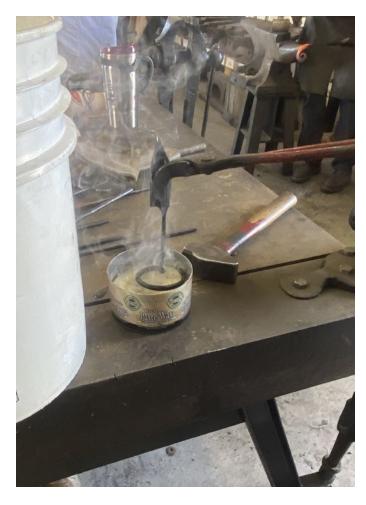


NE Region October Meeting: No meeting was held.

SE Region October Meeting: No meeting was held. This date was used for the pre-conference set up. **SW Region October Meeting:** No meeting was held. This date was used for the annual conference.

NW Region October Meeting: Rory Kirk had a meeting at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop on October 23rd.

We had a great time forging and a lot of camaraderie. We had three trade items - a forged candle holder. Thanks to all who participated. And thanks to Everett Timmons for cooking the meat for our lunch. It was delicious! - Rory Kirk







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Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association



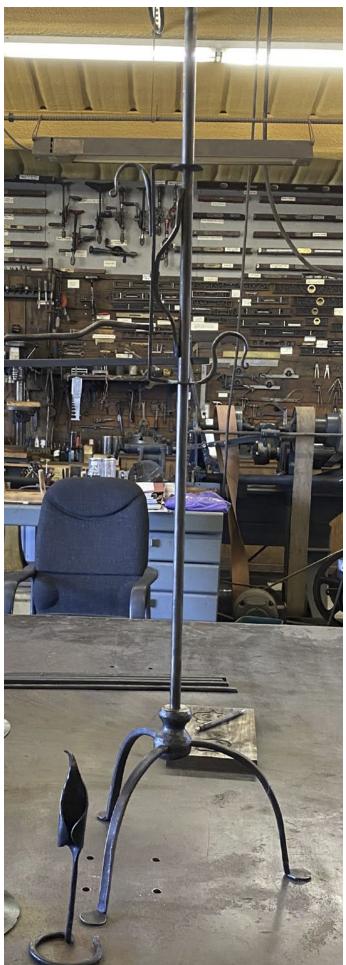




Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association







Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

NE Region November Meeting: On Nov. 6th we held the NE Region monthly meeting at the Cherokee Strip Museum. We had a small crowd but everyone enjoyed themselves.

Some of you may not know I am not a blacksmith, I am the manager of the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry, OK. I have told Tom Nelson that I would do some pounding someday and this happened to be the right time. Tom helped me make my first blacksmith item!

Tom and the guys tried to put rims on a hub that he brought but it just didn't fit but they did try their best! I hope you enjoy the pictures!

Until next time, Sincerely, Diana Simon





Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association







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Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

Beginner Blacksmith Workshop: We

had a beautifully bright and clear day for forging, and we made the most of it. After a snack of coffee and donuts, the day began in earnest. Instruction was provided by Tracy Cowart, while Brad Nance demonstrated each project. Despite a chilly breeze, we made good progress, "Forging ahead," so to speak. Lol. Everyone worked their way through the S-hook and leaf keyring, with a few ends being lost to the fire, leaving a few students (and a demonstrator) sadder but wiser. We broke for a delicious hot lunch of Cowboy Stew, sweet cornbread, and beans with all the fixin's, provided my Michele Osburn.

After lunch, we did a quick rearrange of forges and anvils to chase the shade and moved on to the hot cut chisel. We discussed the differences between mild and carbon steels, and then demonstrated a proper heat treatment and tempering process. Everyone left the forge with a successful project or two, and the skills to move forward in their pursuit of the craft.

Attendees included: Jerimiah Bullock, Mike Sheldon, Sarah and David Jones, John and Joe Landry, Lucas Guffee, and Lee (sorry, I didn't get your last name Lee.) - Brad Nance





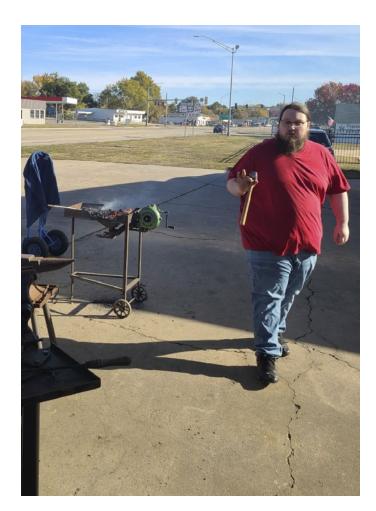








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Special Work Day at Elk City:

On November 20th, the NW region had a special work day with a small group at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop in Elk City.

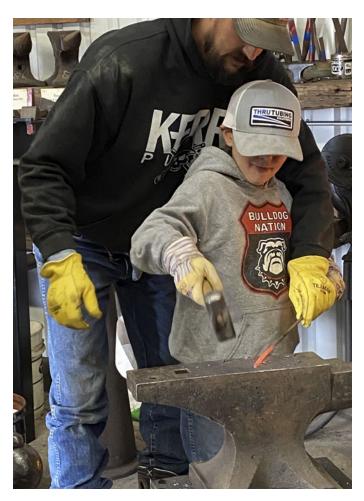
The purpose was mainly to make a few working tools for the museum but there was also plenty of miscellaneous forging, some good food and probably a lot of visiting at the same time.







Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association









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2021 SCABA Annual Conference Review

October 16th and 17th, Sulphur, OK

The 2021 Annual SCABA Conference was held October 16th and 17th at the Murray County Antique Tractor Association grounds just north of Sulphur, OK. I was not able to attend the conference this year so details outlined here will be limited to what I found out from others.

This year's scheduled demonstrators were Brent Bailey and Lyle Wynn but we had a last minute change. Lyle took a new job in Texas just before conference time and, for related reasons, was no longer able to travel up to the conference. Lyle made arrangements for us to contact Palmer Robbins who has been conducting the Tools to Make Tools workshops both with Lyle and during Lyle's work absences. Palmer agreed to come demonstrate and also stay for the after conference workshops.

At the Saturday evening auction, the toolbox made by Brad Nance was won by Bradley Battershell from Stillwatter, OK. David and Chuleeporn Seigrist from Altus won the anvil quilt made by Bill and Angie Phillips.

Rory Kirk won the Peoples' Choice for traditional work with a dragon head door knocker/ring latch.

There are many people who go above and beyond in various ways to make the conference happen. We can't thank them enough!

A special thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who helped to set up, take down, and take care of various tasks that needed to be done during the conference. Thanks also to all of the members, demonstrators, and vendors who donated items for the auction, toolbox and quilt drawings, or Iron in the Hat. These functions are a big part of what keeps the club going and to keep membership dues as low as possible. And Byron Doner brought his 100 Lb Little Giant, his Clay Spencer Tire Hammer, and his hydraulic press among other items used for the demonstrations and the workshops. All of those items are heavy and a lot of work to move around! Thanks Byron!

If you have been to one of these conferences in recent years, you know how hard the ladies work to take such great care of us. They cook for us all weekend during the conference and then for three more days during the workshops! They were up before everyone else every day, had amazing home cooked meals prepared for breakfast, lunch and supper and then cleaned up everything afterward. And, they were always the last ones in line to get any remaining food to eat themselves. Thanks to LaQuitta Greteman for taking photos in between cooking! Most of the photos here were taken by her.

Thanks to "Uncle Benny" and to the Tractor Club also for a great venue that really works for our conference and workshops.

Following this are some miscellaneous photos from the conference and the workshops. - Editor













David and Chuleeporn Seigrist Won the Anvil Quilt Made By Bill And Angie Phillips





David Seigrist and JJ McGill Running the Auction



Carol Doner at the Registration Desk



Holiday Family Class Projects





Mandell Cutting Tool Steel for Demo/Workshops

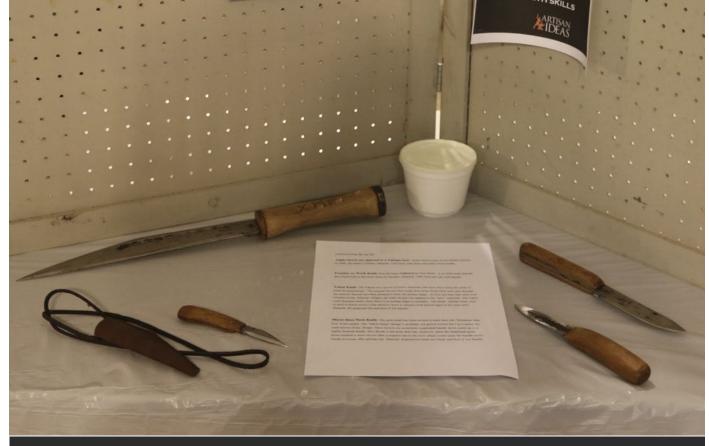




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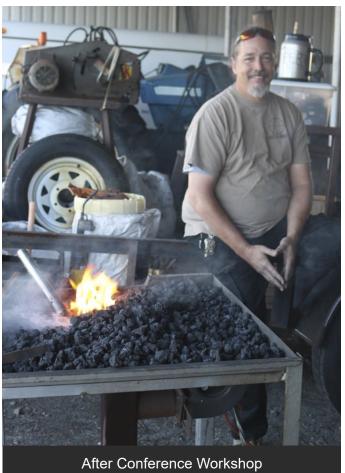




Knives by Gerald Franklin with a Reference to the Book "Forged" from Artisanideas.com











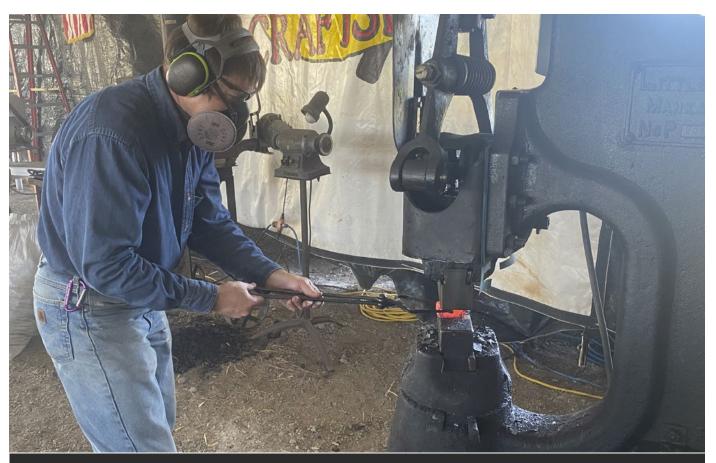








After Conference Workshop - Palmer Robbins Striking for a Student



After Conference Workshop - On the 100 Lb Little Giant



After Conference Workshop with Demonstrators Palmer Robbins and Brent Bailey



Michele Nance, LaQuitta Greteman, and Angie Phillips. These ladies could not have worked harder to take care of everyone. They were the first up in the mornings, always cooking or cleaning up the meeting hall, and last in line when any food was served!



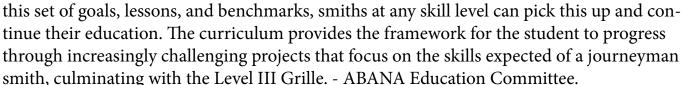
ABANA'S Education Committee Announces the National Curriculum

From ABANA: We have some exciting news from the Education Committee; ABANA has fully adopted the National Curriculum (NC), based on the curriculum of the CBA (California Blacksmith Association).

As our core mission is to perpetuate the noble art of blacksmithing, we recognize it's incumbent as a national blacksmithing organization, to share a successful and practical working curriculum with members, affiliates, and the blacksmithing world at large.

What is the National Curriculum? The NC is a departure point for those that seek a structured program of study that can be used at schools, conferences, meetings, and individual shops through one on one, small groups and self-guided study.

We present the curriculum as one way to learn blacksmithing, but certainly not the only way. From



smith, culminating with the Level III Grille. - ABANA Education Committee.

If you are interested in finding out more about the curriculum, information on all three levels is available on ABANA's website:



https://abana.org/abana-curriculum/

Mark Aspery has shared a series of articles from the CBA related to the Level III Grille Project and its associated tooling. I will include this series in upcoming newsletters for those who are interested. This is essentially the same information that ABANA is adopting and additional information and resources can be found on their website. - Editor

THE CALIFORNIA BLACKSMITH **ASSOCIATION** LEVEL III GRILLE

(PART 5)



BOTTOM TOOLS

Forging a bottom-tool blank CBA level III Grille

This article is reprinted with permission from the California Blacksmith Association - Submitted by Mark Aspery.

The CBA Level III grille has one central collar. The cross section of the collar is shaped to look like a rectangle with a half-round rib around the perimeter.

The purpose of this article is two-fold:

- 1. To look at the steps needed to make a blank top or bottom tool.
- 2. To let-in to that blank bottom swage the shape necessary to forge the collaring stock for the CBA Level III Grille.

I have used a number of different heading type tools to assist in the forging of bottom tools, from a swage block with an appropriately sized square hole in the side of it to a home built heading block as shown by Mark Aspery in the first volume of his books.

In this case I am going to use a prototype, purpose-built heading block, made by Ball and Chain Forge of Maine. Fig. 1

This purpose-built header is cast with two square holes running through it – one, 1-inch square for bottom tools and the other 1 3/8-inch square for top tools.

The block has been made for use at the anvil and requires no additional stand, a handy feature in my world. It does require that your anvil is reasonably well secured to the floor and stand.

For most bottom tools I start with a 4.5-inch length of 1 ¹/₄-inch square, hot rolled, steel. My anvils all have a one-inch hardy holes (+/-) and this stock works well for this application.

I start by drawing a taper to one end of the bar. I determine the length of taper by a couple of yard-sticks.

If I am using a Wally Yater designed type of swage block, where the square holes in the side of his first block taper from one-inch down to half-inch, then I use about one-

44



The swage block bolted down, with tensioning chains passing under the throat and heel of the anvil

third of the steel for the taper.

The tapered hole will prevent much more material being driven down into it.

If I am using a parallel sided block (as in this case) then I make my taper shorter, knowing that more material will be forced down the hole as I upset the material to form the blank for the bottom swage. Fig. 8

Another consideration is one of the end result of the bottom swage. If there is a lot of work to be done on the bottom swage to get the pattern or result that you want, then I leave the block tall—knowing that it will be shorted during my 'letting-in' of the pattern or shape. If the block is a simple 'half-round' bottom swage—then I upset it to just short of my desired block height.

In this case, there is quite a bit of work to be done to the bottom swage blank in order for it to work as a tool for making the collar material.

I will stop upsetting when the block is $1\frac{1}{4}$ " tall and about $1\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2" square. I don't mind if it is taller than that—but it can be no shorter without becoming a pain to use. Fig. 21

An average volume calculation will determine the amount of material that I need to make that sized block.

 $1.25'' \times 1.75'' \times 1.75'' = 3.825$ cubic-inches of material.

Contrast this volume to the known information of the parent bar. That is, divide the volume by what is known of the parent bar.

I know that it is 1¼" square. What I don't know is how long a piece I need to create the block size that I desire.

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 $3.825'' \div (1.25'' \times 1.25'') = 2.45''$ of length.

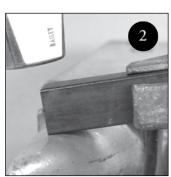
I'm going to use about one-third of the length of the bar (1½" of length) to form the taper, leaving me a little extra for the block. The taper runs from parent bar dimensions down to about 5%-inch square at the end.

Mark the end of the taper with a center-punch mark at the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " mark for consistency.

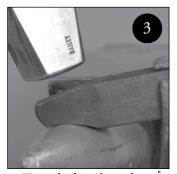
With such a heavy bar, I need to work at a high heat (yellow) and use the anvil to my advantage, by forging either over the bick (horn) or over the round, offside edge of the anvil, to create a fullering action as I taper the bar end. Figs. 2 - 5

Certainly, this type of work goes a little easier if you invite a couple of friends over, but you can do it by yourself. Working alone gives you the opportunity of developing a good hammer blow.

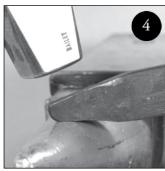
Take the time to center the taper along the parent bar. Centering the taper will keep the stock perpendicular to the heading block as you work.



I use the bick whenever I draw down stock



Turn the bar through 90° after each hit to keep the taper square



I draw the bar down to about ½" or 5%" square at the end



Chamfering the edges now will protect the taper from the fire as you take a high heat

Upsetting the bar

Forging requires heat and effort. The more heat, the less effort required.

I know from previous experience that the effect of the blow from my sledge will be diminished as it travels its way down to the bottom of the material being upset or headed over.

The bottom of the heated material is being both chilled and captured by the heading block.

This capturing and chilling of the material will stiffen it and prevent the lower section of the material from upsetting easily.

If I do not take steps to address these two issues, the bar will be upset more at its top (maximum heat and hammer energy) and less at the bottom (minimum heat and hammer energy), making an inverted cone shape. This is not an outcome that I want. I want the bottom-swage to have somewhat parallel sides post upsetting.

As the sledge will have most of its energy at the point of impact and less lower down (as the energy is used), I'm going to heat the bar, so that it is cooler at the top and hotter at the bottom.

I am hoping to achieve a balance of:

- The most energy from the hammer coming at the point of least heat and
- The diminished energy from the hammer at the point of greatest heat in the bar.

This method of working will hopefully yield a more even sided upset. Fig. 7

With a solid fuel forge, this differential heating is reasonably easy to attain. In a gas forge, not quite so easy.

I generally use a gas forge to make these types of tools, as I make them in batches of four. Once tapered, I place the stock into the gas forge with the top surface closest to the door and the taper closest to the back wall.

Once the stock is removed from the forge, I place it in the heading block so that the stock is perpendicular to the block. Fig. 6

N G

BOTTOM TOOLS

At this point, I rain upon the stock heavy blows from my sledge hammer.

The peg will be driven down the square hole of the swage block a little. This action creates a parallel sided square shank to the bottom swage. Fig. 8

As the blow from my sledge travels in an arc and not straight up and down, I can end up pulling the upset material towards me. To counter this effect, if I am working alone, after I have delivered half-a-dozen blows or so, I walk around to the opposite side of the block to work. Working from both sides will help even up the effect that the arc of the sledge has upon the work.

I use the bottom of the upset material as a gauge when looking for the time to go back to the forge. If the bottom looks overly chilled by the heading block or the top is starting to flare out, it's time to re-heat the bar. Fig. 10

I may take the time (heat in the bar dependent) to square the sides of the bar before putting it back into the forge – but only if the top of the bar is quite hot. Dressing a cool bar can result in fish-lips being formed on the top surface of the stock. Figs. 11 & 12

Keep the peg held horizontally as you dress the block.

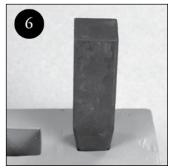
Deformation of the stock requires heat and hammer energy. If I don't have enough heat in a piece, then I will only get a change in stock shape local to the hammer's blow—thus forming fish-lips.

Once the sides have been dressed so that they are square with the world, continue to upset the material until you reach your desired dimensions. Fig. 13

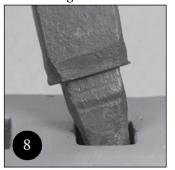
In this instance, for the collar material swage, we want a block that is at least $1\frac{1}{4}$ " tall by about 2" square on the top surface. Figs. 20 & 21.

For other applications, such as the welded collar tools, you will need more height to the blank as there is a lot more work to do getting the tool ready to use, with each blow making the tool shorter in height.

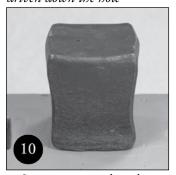
Heading block shown available from: www.ballandchain-forge.com



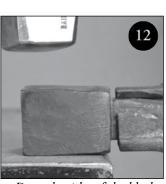
The taper only fits part way into the swage block hole



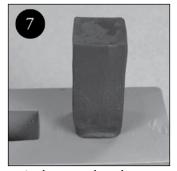
Note how the peg has been driven down the hole



Stop upsetting when the top starts to flare out



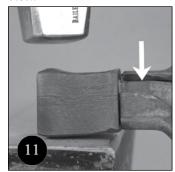
Dress the sides of the block at a high heat to prevent fishlips from forming



At this stage the sides are reasonably parallel



Continue upsetting the block

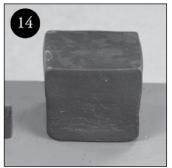


Keep the peg horizontal as you dress the sides of the block

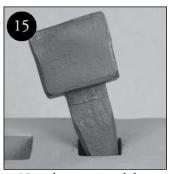


Continue upsetting the block, turning the stock to keep it centered

U



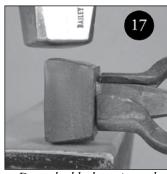
The result thus far



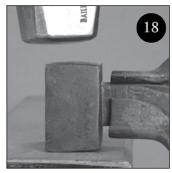
Note that more stock has been driven down the hole

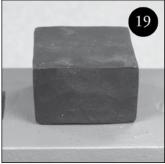


I'm getting close to my final measurements

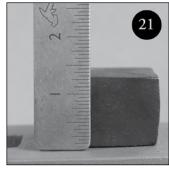


Dress the block again and measure the result





The sides of the block are dressed and then the block is re-



The forged block is within our targeted dimensions and ready to be let-in with the detail required for the grille collar stock

CALIFORNIA BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

The Forge Welding Scarf **Mark Aspery**

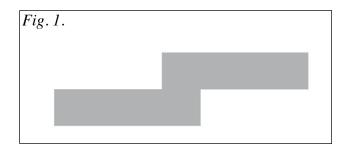
turned to the swage block and the top surface dressed

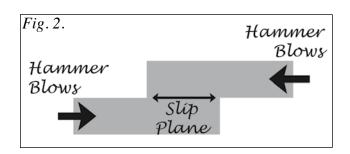
The CBA Level III blacksmithing curriculum calls for forge welding both in the curriculum and in the final grille piece.

This article is intended to give the novice smith some of the rationale as to why the end of a bar is prepped before welding. The article shows one illustration of a scarf, although many variations exist. This scarf provides the new forge welder with enough mass in the scarf area to carry the heat from the forge to the anvil. The scarf does not favor a particular fuel source.

Perhaps the best way to learn to forge weld is at the side of an experienced smith, however geography can work against us in that aspect as there can be quite large tracts of land between smiths in the USA.

In figure 1, I am trying to weld two bars together. My question is, "From which direction should the hammer blows come?" If the blows come from the end of the bar as shown in figure 2, then the bars will slip past one another. The bars are in a slip or shear plane.

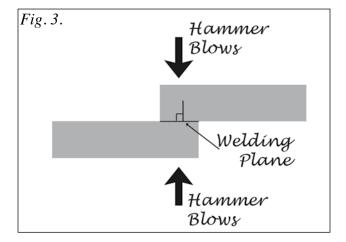


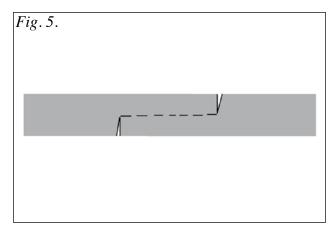


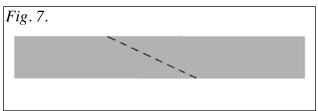
If the hammer blows are directed from above and below the two bars, as shown in figure 3, then the two touching surfaces are in a welding plane.

The issue now is that the ends of the bar are still in a slip plane as shown in figure 4.

If you continue to weld these bars together without preparing the ends of the bars for welding, the weld will have cracks at each end of the finished weld. Fig. 5.

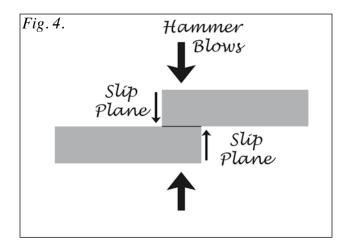


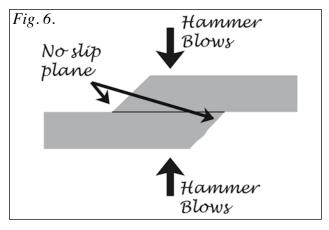




Tapering the ends of both bars into a short slope or taper will put the ends of the bars into a welding plane. Fig 6. The bars will weld with a diagonal weld with no cracks at the end of the weld. Fig 7.

There is another factor that will alter the scarf, that of anyil effect.







Let's suppose that you have a heavy bar suspended from the ceiling by a chain. All of the bar is hot—as hot as you like, I don't care. Fig. 8.

If you delivered a hammer blow to one end of the bar that end will be deformed due to the inertia of the bar, its tendency to stay still. Fig. 9.

The other end of the bar will not be deformed. A bar can act as its own anvil—even though it is all hot. Fig 10.

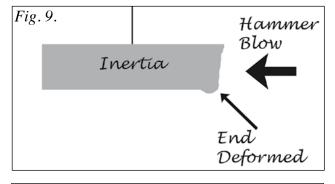
We know that to unite these two bars on what is an atomic level, we use light blows to start—or run the risk of blowing the weld apart.

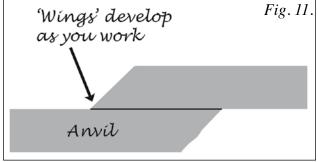
Light blows do not fully penetrate the work. In the case of our two bars, the lower bar will act as an anvil for the upper bar. Fig. 11.

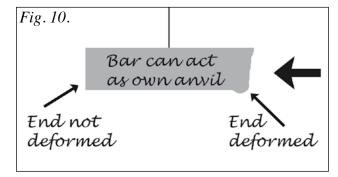
You will turn the two bars over as you weld, but the bottom bar will always support the top bar.

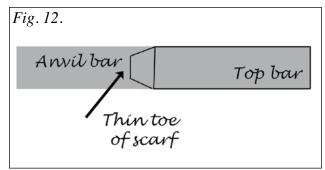
Unless we further prepare the end of the bar for welding, you can develop little wings at the tip of your scarf as it spreads out on the supporting bar beneath it.

To counter this effect, the end of the scarf (toe of the scarf) needs to be narrower than the bar that you intend to weld to. Fig. 12.









When joining two bars together as we are showing here, it is sometimes nice to put a step in the scarf so that only the material that you need is overlapped.

Keep in mind that the step is in a slip plane. Don't make it too deep as you start welding. Fig. 13.

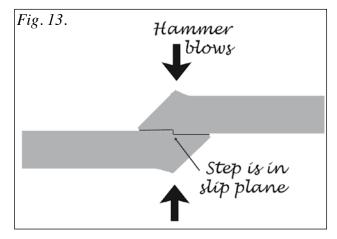
At a later stage you may play with this step a little in terms of angle and depth.

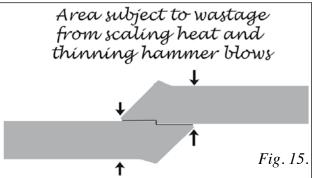
You will notice that we have plenty of material in the main body of the weld, we're not wanting for material there. Fig. 14.

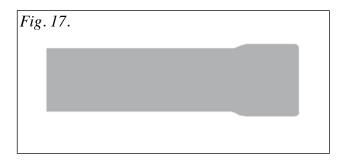
The material at each side of the weld will be subject to the welding heat and will lose mass due to scaling. Fig. 15

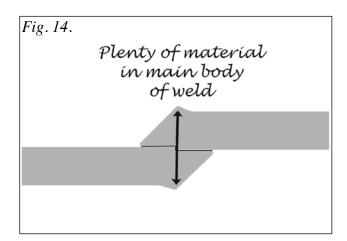
This same area is also the subject of some hammer blows as you blend in the toe of the scarf above it. Therefore this area needs to be upset or made thicker in preparation for the weld. Fig. 16.

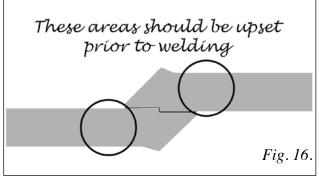
A typical upset will leave the end of the bar with an increase in mass. When we draw out the scarf, this increase may result in a long scarf. Fig 17 & 18.













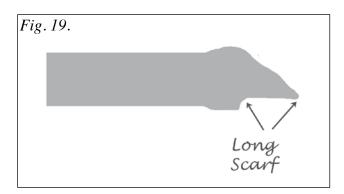
A long scarf is not a desirable scarf as it offers a greater opportunity to trap dirt and scale between the welding surfaces. Fig. 19.

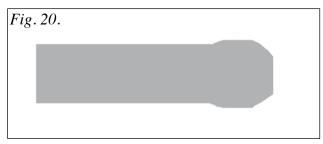
If you upset into the step of the anvil (at a 45° angle) or into a 'V' block, then the end of the bar is pushed back, creating the upset behind the scarf and starts the taper to the toe of the scarf. Fig. 20.

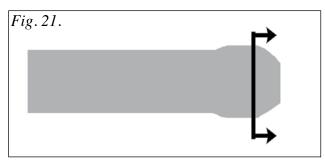
You will see many smiths do this at the edge of the anvil with their hand hammer and it may look like they are drawing a taper on the end of the bar.

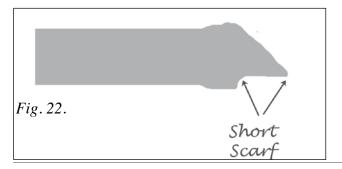
Look at their hammer angle—it will be quite steep as they pull back the end of the bar to start their scarf.

The lack of mass at the very tip of the bar allows the smith to pull a shorter scarf. Fig. 21 & $22.\square$









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ABANA Affiliate Newsletter - October 2021

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America 47 Walnut Street, Suite 200 Johnstown, PA 15901-1521

Hello Affiliates.

What a busy month October has been... Iron to Art Festival has wrapped up with a resounding success, despite almost being rained out, the demonstrator's and crowds alike had a soggy good time. Thank you to all Affiliates that attended, demonstrated and chatted with us in Johnstown, PA. A huge thank you to the set up and tear down crew and to everyone else involved in making this a memory that will be chatted about for years to come.

We at ABANA have recently finished our AGM and have a few new faces on the Board of Directors and have re aligned our committees both of which will be posted on our web site shortly. Speaking of website, please take the time to head over to our site abana.org and navigate our new look and structure, trying to make the navigation easier and more user friendly for people to view.

With Halloween approaching there will me many little ghosts and goblins heading out for a fun time and we should take our time commuting when this spooky day comes. As like when you're working in the shop, take your time and not rush. When rushing starts, so do mistakes and accidents. A wise foreman once told me "plan the work, and work the plan" and truer words have not been spoken.

We have a logo for a sticker in the works and hopefully some ABANA Affiliate branded clothing possibly to be available in the next while on the ABANA.org website, under SHOP. We would like to hear from you, do we like the Affiliate logo? Do we brand it onto shirts? Do we make stickers? Let us know, email ABANA Affiliate at ironcloverforge@gmail.com and let us know what you think.



REMINDER

Please update your affiliate's contact information. Often officers change and we want to be sure we are sending information to the correct person.

ABANA Affiliate Newsletter (Continued...)

Take a minute to email us your officers, election timeline, and contact information- especially for newsletter editors.

Email: exedir@abana.org

Turley Forging Workstation

Frank Turley's personal workstation has been acquired by ABANA. This asset will be part of the permanent collection in the ABANA museum in Johnstown and will introduce the public to its significance.

The Turley Forge Blacksmithing School was the oldest- and longest-running blacksmith school in the nation. There are many blacksmiths who studied under or worked with Frank.

ABANA members and former students are encouraged to support the acquisition, transport, and installation of this significant piece of blacksmithing history in ABANA's museum by contributing to the Turley Forging Workstation campaign.

Frank Turley has a long history with ABANA as well, as he was the first Bealer Award Winner and the last Heritage Award winner, two of ABANA's premiere awards.

The Turley Forging Workstation will be a rotating exhibit in ABANA's museum, and we look forward to your support in preserving this significant workstation.

If you or you or your group is interested in donating to the Turley Forging Workstation, please visit the website abana.org and the link is on the top right hand side or <u>CLICK HERE</u>.

ABANA Affiliate Spotlight...

This month we would like to shine our light on Les Forges de Montreal, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Mathieu Collette and the crew make amazing hand forged items and help restore the iconic old world metal that surrounds Montreal today and for many years to come. Please check out their website and learn about Les Forges de Montreal and how they are working to preserve, broadcast, communicate and update the worlds oldest known craft.

www.lesforgesdemontreal.org or follow on instagram @lesforgesdemontreal





ABANA Affiliate Newsletter (Continued...)

Do you want to be an in the Affiliate Spotlight? Send pictures and your Affiliate name to <u>ironcloverforge@gmail.com</u> and we will get you posted in our ABANA Affiliate Newsletter.

Thank you to all of you that make this craft so fun and rewarding.... Frustrating at times, but always fun.

ABANA EDUCATION

This past year, ABANA has offered the National Curriculum to blacksmiths from all over the county and has certified both students and instructors in all three National Curriculum levels.



ABANA realizes that there are many skilled smiths among you, who have the work portfolio and experience to earn a National Curriculum certificate and - ABANA has a certificate waiting for you! If you are interested and believe you qualify, email the committee at: education.abana.org ABANA looks forward to hearing from you soon.

ABANA is creating a touchmark registry:

ABANA is creating a comprehensive registry of touchmarks. To submit your touchmark, please check the ABANA webpage and follow the instructions. https://abana.org/touchmark-registry/

Affiliate/ Member Funding

Affiliates and members have funding opportunities available to them through ABANA. Please see the website for all details, requirements, and deadlines. ABANA, the premier blacksmith and metal Art association, looks to perpetuate the craft and build your skills. Consider these opportunities

- INDIVIDUAL MATCHING AFFILIATE GRANT
- AFFILIATE EVENT &
- AFFILIATE MINI GRANT

https://abana.org/education/scholarship-grants-and-scholarship-reports/ click here for more info to see which grant or funding is available to you or your group.

Kind regards,

Affiliate Committee

Chris Rowan-Chairman Scott Kretschmer John Williams Jerry Boyd

ADDRESS

ABANA Home Office PO Box 462, Johnstown PA 15907

GET IN TOUCH

Phone: (814) 254-4817 Email: exedir@abana.org

For Sale: Coal Forge - \$300 OBO

Very nice heavy duty forge with removable hood. No blower. 33" Tall, 32" Wide, 33" Deep

Contact: Mark Carter (<u>Before 10:00 PM</u>) at 405-613-5215



For Sale:

50 Lb Little Giant Power Hammer - Asking \$4,800

In good shape. Owned by me since 1961 or 1962. Has been on loan for several years with limited use and kept well oiled. Currently has a 3 phase motor installed. Located in Wagoner, OK. **Contact William Burling at 918-485-1508**.



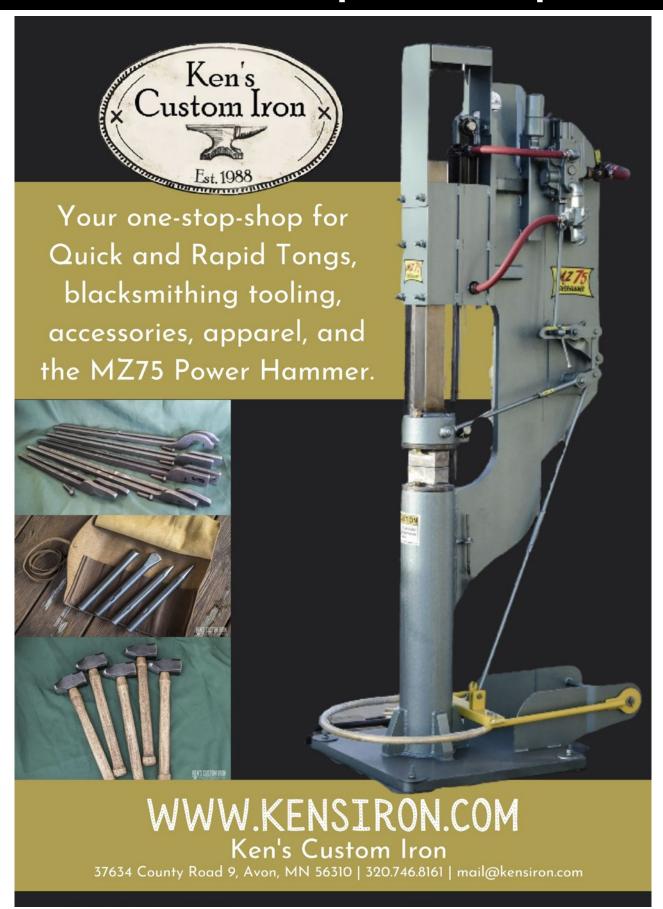


For Sale:

Water Jet Services - Saltfork Discount

Taswallson Manufacturing is offering waterjet services at discounted rates for Saltfork members. I am currently operating nights and weekends.

Contact: Ragnar at rtaswallson@yahoo.com or 918-855-8250.

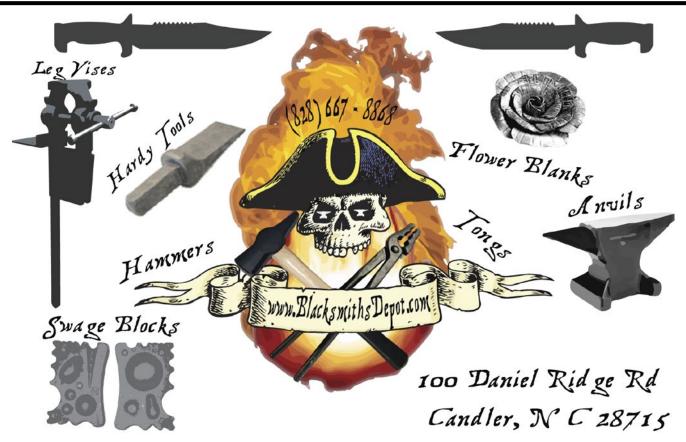




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Blacksmith Supply

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John Elliott

jelliott@blacksmithsupply.com 804-530-0290

P.O. Box Chester , VA 23831



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Call to Order Toll Free 24/7 - 866-627-6922

Thank you to our Conference Vendors who graciously donated items for the Conference Auctions!

Their contributions helped to support SCABA.
Please consider patronizing these vendors to return the favor!



Reeder Products Inc.

3201 Skylane Drive, Suite 114 Carrollton, Texas 75006 United States (469) 257-1000

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.)



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
- 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

Librarian: Don Garner 580-302-1845 (Cell)

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

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

(NOTICE: Price Change)

\$250.00 plus shipping. (Same price to members and non-members.)





SCABA Floor Cones



\$275.00 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:

(NOTICE: Price Change)

Saltfork Craftsmen has coal for sale. Coal is in 1-2" size pieces. The coal is \$300.00/ ton or .15 /pound to members.

No sales to non-members.

NW Region coal pile located in Douglas, OK. If you make arrangements well in advance, Tom Nelson can load your truck or trailer with his skid steer loader for a fee of \$10 to be paid directly to Tom. Tom has moved his skid steer and must now haul the loader to the coal pile to load you out, hence the \$10 charge. You may opt to load your own coal without using Tom's loader. The coal can be weighed out at the Douglas Coop Elevator scales. Contact Tom Nelson (580-862-7691) to make arrangements to pick up a load. Do not call Tom after 9 PM!! Bring your own containers and shovels. Payment for the coal (\$.15 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:

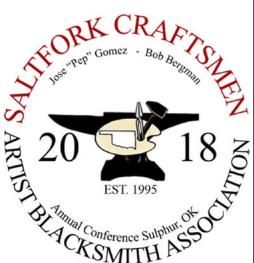
****NOTICE:****

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. \$5.00
(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.

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