

Saltfork Craftsmen

Artist-Blacksmith Association



December 2023

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President's Corner

We lost JJ McGill on November 9th to a tragic car accident. This is truly a devastating loss to his family, his friends,



and to Saltfork Craftsmen. Such an untimely death is a real blow. Please keep all those close to JJ in your prayers.

It's hard to imagine planning a conference without JJ, but we're getting the ball rolling. I keep

remembering JJ fondly as I think of his contributions to conferences over the past years. JJ, I miss you.

JJ's obituary can be found at

<https://www.halesfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Jimmy-Jo-JJ-McGill?obId=29883841>.

Additionally, David Seigrist spoke eloquently at JJ's funeral which was held at the Tractor Museum grounds in Sulfur. We're including David's words in this issue.

– Eric Jergensen

Editor's Notes

Special thanks go to Jason O'Dell who is stepping up to cover more newsletter editing responsibilities. I'm hoping he'll take over the main editor hat in the next month or two. We've been looking for collaborative tools where multiple contributors can work on a newsletter together. Hopefully, contributors who are computer savvy can just add their content rather than duplicate labor by writing content in some other platform and then forwarding it to the editor for re-formatting.

2024 Conference Videos

The 2024 conference videos have been edited and uploaded to

<https://saltforkcraftsmen.org/Videos.shtm>.

You will need to have a current membership to view them.

Calendar

Sat 2/24: NW Region - Hosted by Skyler Parker at the Elk City Rt 66 Museum. Trade item is a creature.

Sat 3/16: Beginning Blacksmith Class with Brad Nance - Beginning Blacksmith Class with Brad Nance

Sun 3/17 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: SCABA Board
- To join the video meeting, click this link:
<https://meet.google.com/afv-cvhc-qfc>

Sat 3/23: NW Region - Hosted by Mandell Greteman at the Elk City Rt 66 Museum. Trade item is a hand held garden tool.

Fri 4/5 - Mon 4/8: Norman Medieval Fair

Sat 4/6 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Northeast Meeting (Blacksmith) - Lunch will be provided, probably a stew. Water will be available, maybe some tea.

Sat 4/13 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: SCABA Annual Picnic

Sun 4/21 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: SCABA Board
- To join the video meeting, click this link:
<https://meet.google.com/afv-cvhc-qfc>

Sat 4/27: NW Region - Hosted by Terry Kauk at the Elk City Rt 66 Museum.

Sat 4/27 9:30 AM - Sun 4/28 6:00 PM: Muskogee Renn Faire - First Weekend

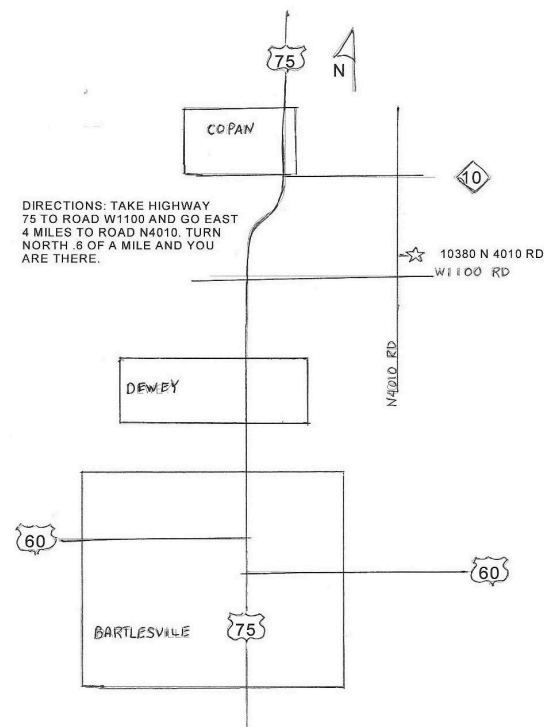
Sat 5/4 - Mon 5/6: SCABA Mark Aspery Demo - World renowned blacksmith, author, and educator Mark Aspery is donating 2 days of forging demonstration as a fundraiser for the Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Association (SCABA)! Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Norman, Oklahoma.

Sat 5/4 9:30 AM - Sun 5/5 6:00 PM: Muskogee Renn Faire - Second Weekend

Sat 5/11 - Mon 5/13: Muskogee Renn Faire - Third Weekend

Sat 5/18: SCABA Meeting Larry Mills and Terry Jenkins - Chestnut Forge at 3510 Charleston Rd Norman. Please bring your portable forges as we only have 2. We will be making tools for the tool box at the conference.

NE SCABA meeting April 6th 2024 Lunch will be provided, probably a stew. Water will be available, maybe some tea. Trade item to be something used at/or around a campfire. Stake turner, flint/Steel, knife, spatula, trammel hook, poker... Whatever suits your fancy.



You can now subscribe to our online calendar at [online calendar](#) (click link if reading the PDF) or

Lunch provided please bring a side dish. No trade items

Sat 5/18 9:30 AM - Sun 5/19 6:00 PM:

Muskogee Renn Faire - Fourth Weekend

Sat 5/25: Tulsa Boy Scouts w/ Ricky Vardell

Sat 5/25 9:30 AM - Mon 5/27 6:00 PM:

Muskogee Renn Faire - Fifth Weekend including Memorial Day

Sat 6/1: NW SCABA Meeting - NW Regional SCABA meeting is hosted by Everett Timmons

at the Mobeetie Jail Museum in Mobeetie,

Texas. The trade item is a small frying pan or

bowl. Lunch will be provided please bring a side

dish or desert. There is also 30 amp and 50 amp

camper sites available if anyone is interested.

Sat 6/1 9:30 AM - Sun 6/2 6:00 PM:

Muskogee Renn Faire - Last Weekend

Sat 6/29: NW SCABA meeting - Hosted by

Don Garner

Sat 8/24: NW SCABA meeting - Hosted by

Doug Hyde

Thu 9/26 - Mon 10/7: Tulsa State Fair

Fri 9/27 - Sun 9/29: NW SCABA meeting -

Hosted by Don Garner

Sat 9/28 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Cowboy

Days - at Hope Retreat Ranch in Choctaw.

Demonstrator(s) needed. Contact: Joana

Williams 405-390-3754.

just this QR code:



Eulogy for Jimmy Jo (JJ) McGill

JJ was the kind of guy who always “knew a guy” that could fix or do anything you were looking for.

How do you get to the point where you “know a guy”?

It takes a lifetime of being friendly, being a part of the community, and helping others whenever you get the chance. You can’t be a hermit, and you have to associate with people who make things happen. Those who either figure it out or make do with what you have or seek help from someone who does. Someone who sees a need and steps up to help out. Then other folks will start doing the same for you and after a while you will “know a guy”. Put in the effort, the hard work, and the heart work.

It was his idea to host the blacksmith conference here in Sulphur. We were having issues with locations, hotel availability, venues, etc and as it turned out I “knew a guy” who knew a place.

During one auction at our yearly conference I was losing the rhythm of keeping it lively and people entertained. Being the auctioneer and handing out items won was getting a bit hectic. JJ stepped right up and helped out without being asked. He saw the need and stepped right up, you see "he knew a guy" who could help.... It was him.

When it came to hosting blacksmith classes after the conference he was always concerned about "Did you get enough to eat?" Letting you know what was next on the menu so you had something to look forward to.

This earth suit that we wear (said while flexing my hand), was designed and made for us while we are here on earth. If we want to go into space we need a space suit. If we want to go underwater we need a scuba suit. Our bodies were not made to go into those environments alone. Where JJ has gone you cannot take your earth suit. It was not designed for where we are going. Where JJ has gone, he will need a new suit so he had to leave his earth suit behind.

This is not the end by any means. All of JJ's life up to this point has been the "forward" to JJ's book. You know that part up front that tells you about the author? Everything we know about JJ is written in his autobiography in the "forward" section. Turning the page now his book says "Chapter 1" and the adventure continues.

– David Seigrist

2nd Annual OKC Renaissance and Scottish Festival November 4 th -5 th, 2023.

The weekend was a perfect fall weekend for a festival with light winds, brilliant sunshine and coal smoke in the air. The sound of hammering rang out for two days as the Saltfork Craftsmen provided educational public demonstrations of blacksmithing for people of all ages. The crowds were good considering it was bedlam weekend and there were several other opportunities of things to do this particular weekend. We met and visited with lots of people and represented the club to the public. There were more than 10 members of the club in attendance. Not Pictured are Caleb & Shayla Hader and several other smiths.



(Allysa Lusk & Kaleigh – Jeff Cohen & Cooper) (Carol Cable, Tony Cable behind the camera)



(Mara Clements)



(Brahk Haddick)



(John Brown)



(Ben & Tara Ostrander)

NW SCABA meeting Jan 27, 2024



Hosted by Rory Kirk. We had a very good meeting at the Elk City Route 66 museum blacksmith shop. We had around 14 people at the meeting and we had a great time forging and talking with each other. We had a very good lunch and more forging in the afternoon. Trade item was a bookmark.

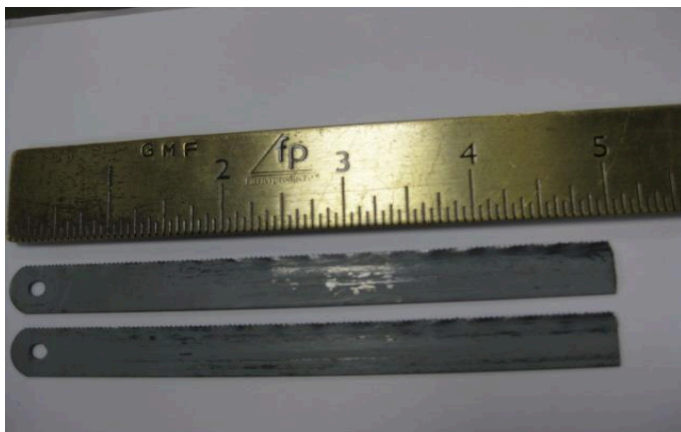






Quickie Divider by Gerald Franklin

Broken hacksaw blade? Don't be too quick to throw it away. Follow the progression to make yourself a quickie divider to help with project layout. Not fancy but it is functional.



Start with equal lengths of the broken blade. Make sure you save the factory holes.



Rivet or bolt the pieces together



Grind each leg to a point and you're ready to put it to work.

SCABA Shop and Swap



Sculpture by Gary
Stone & Wood
Carvings

Gary L. Bennett
Artist & Sculptor

Tulsa, OK

(918)691-3589

gary.bennett1539@gmail.com

Facebook Page: Gary Bennett

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Types of Carvings:

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Contact Gary by phone, text or email; picture
or sketch is helpful. Gary can provide a price
quote.

Classes for adults and youth

Limited Edition SCABA Anvils

Limited Availability!

Small Anvils - \$500 (+shipping) – Large Anvils - \$700 (+shipping)

Contact Byron Doner

405-650-7520

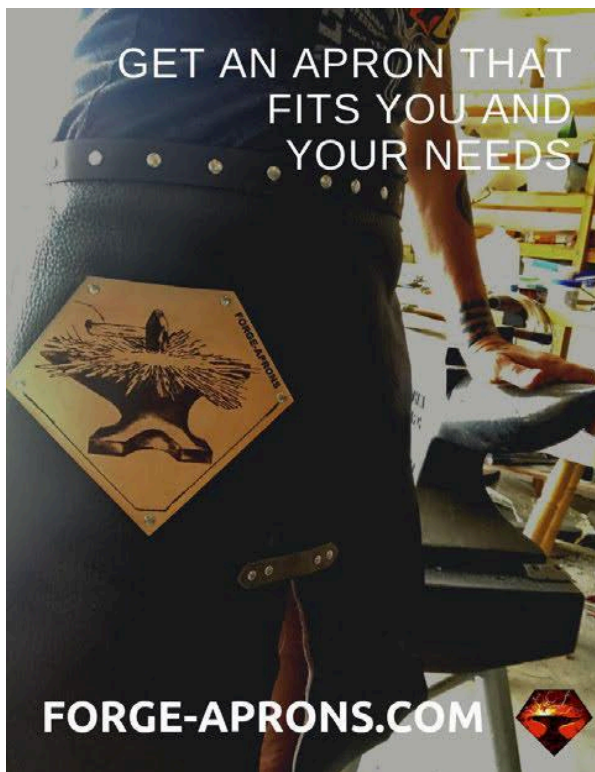
Water Jet Services - Saltfork Discount

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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- Mandell Greteman (580)515-1292
- Brad Nance (918)774-4291
- Byron Doner (405)650-7520

Bill Davis Forge Welded Tomahawk DVD

This DVD is now available to members for a minimal cost (cost of DVDs is 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.)



Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer

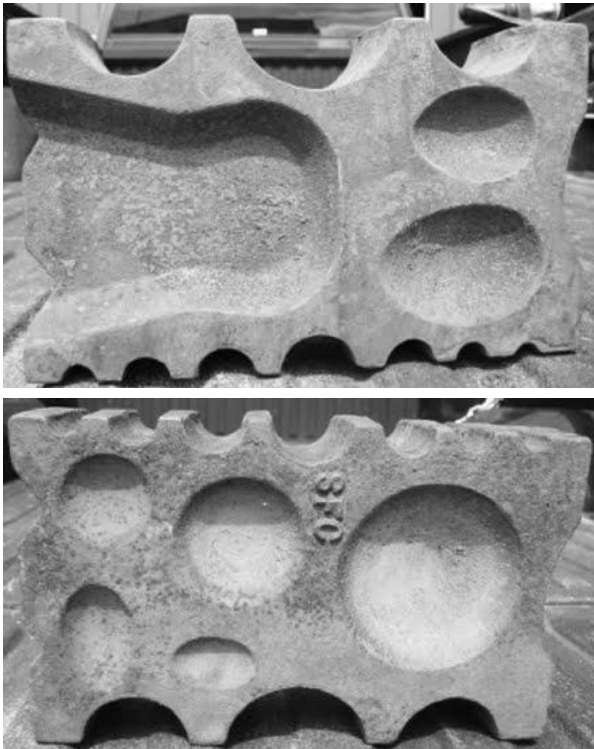
Send a check or money order for \$30 US to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013. Or send \$32 US to Paypal.Me/ClaySpencer. E-mail me at clay@otelco.net. PDFs will be e-mailed outside the US. Phone 256-558-3658

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, 35670-7013.

SCABA Swage Blocks

\$250 plus shipping.



SCABA Floor Cones

\$375 plus shipping.



To order swage blocks or cones, contact our distributor:

Nolan Walker

Nature Farms Farrier Supply
Norman, OK.

405-307-8031

SCABA Library DVDs 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. DVDs 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

Scaba Membership Application

For one year of membership New Member: Yes / No Date: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Married: Yes / No Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ email _____ ABANA Member: Yes / No

Newsletter: Print Copy: Yes / Online only Email alerts for new edition: Yes / No

Please enclose \$40.00 for one year of membership and return to:
Saltfork Craftsmen, 6520 Alameda, Norman, OK 73026

Note: online registration is available at <https://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org/>.
You do NOT need a Paypal account to use your credit card and registration/renewal is immediate.

Officers and Directors

President/Newsletter Team

Eric Jergensen 405-414-8848
625 NW 18th St
Oklahoma City, OK 73103 president@saltforkcraftsmen.org

Director

Jeffrey Cohen 405-650-7331
2808 Coventry Manor Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73128 cohen.jeffrey@gmail.com

Director/Swage Blocks & Cones

Byron Doner 405-760-8388
6520 Alameda
Norman, OK 73026 byrondone@esok.us

Director/East Workshop Coordinator

Brad Nance 918-774-4291
106570 S. 4690 Rd
Sallisaw, OK 74955 bradley.nance@cnent.com

Director

Tracy Cowart 918-630-7025
14500 S. 4240 Road
Claremore, OK 74017 gtcowart@gmail.com

Director/Meeting Coordinator

Jason O'Dell 405-488-5370
20091 Timberidge Rd
Harrah, OK 73045 meetings@saltforkcraftsmen.org

Secretary and Treasurer

Carol Doner 405-760-8388
6520 Alameda
Norman, OK 73026 caroldoner@hotmail.com

West Workshop Coordinator

Mandell Greteman 580-515-1292
409 East Broadway
Foss, OK 73647 mandello1@windstream.net

Newsletter Team

Katie Mitchell
Oklahoma City, OK editor@saltforkcraftsmen.org

Webmaster

Dodie O'Bryan
Pawnee, OK webmaster@saltforkcraftsmen.org

Librarian

Don Garner 580-302-1845
23713 E 860 Rd
Thomas, OK 73669

Board of Directors Meeting

The board will meet online at 2pm on Sunday, March 17th. Contact [Eric Jergensen](#) for a link. If you have an item to add to the agenda, please contact [Carol Doner](#).

Scheduling Meetings

Please contact Jason O'Dell to schedule a regional meeting. Jason will also collect the pictures and the report from the event. Text or [email](#) him. Anyone who attends can send pictures, but please make sure that someone sends a description of the event.

About Us

The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association is 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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<https://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org/>

