

Saltfork Craftsmen

Artist-Blacksmith Association



November 2023

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Editor's Notes

Correction for the October issue: the toolbox was not made by Terry Kauk but rather Terry Jenkins (and Dawnavan). Thanks to Terry Kauk for pointing that out.

Meeting Coordinator

Jason O'Dell has volunteered to be meeting coordinator. He will also collect meeting pictures and reports for the newsletter. See [Slate of Officers](#)) for contact information.

President's Corner

As always, the conference required an incredible amount of volunteer effort. I'm going to take a moment to list them. First and foremost, thanks to JJ McGill, our conference chair and chief cook. Bill Phillips, Anthony Griggs, Terry Jenkins, JJ McGill, and I worked on the setup Saturday



before the conference. Byron Doner loaned his tire hammer and one of his anvils. LaQuitta and Mandell Greteman came early and helped with the final camera setup and last minute emergencies. Rory Kirk's wife, Ellen, brought me their T-Mobile home internet so that we could run credit cards and use our conference and membership databases without tying up my phone. Angie Phillips ran Iron in the Hat with help from Gerald Franklin. Gerald Franklin also rescued me with some last minute metal supply for Clay. JJ's mom and her friend kept the kitchen running so we could all

eat. John Tolbert brought Jennifer from the DFW airport. Dan Richman took her back on Thursday. Carol Doner and Shem Hamil ran the registration desk and auction. David Seigrist was our highly entertaining auctioneer. Thanks also go to those who donated items for Iron in the Hat, the auction, and the Toolbox. Terry Jenkins and Dawnavan Crawford made the Toolbox and the quilt was made by Angie Phillips, Donita Smith, and LaQuitta Greteman.

We will have the conference video up on our website for members to stream by December.

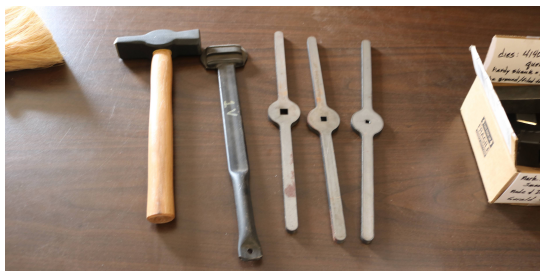
Forge on and make beautiful things!

– Eric Jergensen

Conference Sponsors

Please support the vendors that donated to our auction.

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Regional Meeting Schedule

NE Region (1st Sat)	SE Region (2nd Sat)	SW Region (3rd Sat)	NW Region (4th Sat)
Nov 4th Diana Simon Cherokee Strip Museum	Nov 11th Skylar Parker Route 66 Blacksmith Shop	Nov 18th (Open)	Nov 25th (Open)
Dec 2nd (Open)	Dec 9th (Open)	Dec 16th (Open)	Dec 23rd (Open)
Jan 6th (Open)	Jan 13th (Open)	Jan 20th (Open)	Jan 27th (Open)
Feb 3rd (Open)	Feb 10th (Open)	Feb 17th (Open)	Feb 24th (Open)
Mar 2nd (Open)	Mar 9th (Open)	Mar 16th Beginners' Workshop Muldrow City Park	Mar 23rd Mandell Route 66 Blacksmith Shop

Fifth Saturdays:

December 30th, 2023 (Open)

March 30th, 2024 (Open)

June 29th, 2024 (Open)

November 2023 Meeting Details

NE Regional Meeting November 4th: 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, but please bring a side dish or dessert to help out.

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

NW Regional Meeting November 11th: Hosted by Skylar Parker at the **Route 66 Blacksmith Shop in Elk City**. The unconventional date is to avoid a conflict with Thanksgiving weekend.

The trade item is a bottle opener or cork screw.

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

Contact: Skylar Parker at 580-393-1215 if you have questions.

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Beginner's Workshop March 16th

8am **Muldrow City Park**, Muldrow OK

Class will finish about 3pm. All tools and materials will be provided. Projects will include, an S hook, a forged leaf keychain, and a hot cut chisel. We will be covering the basic blacksmithing skills of tapering, drawing, scroll work, and heat treating. A hot lunch will be provided. Slots are limited so please reserve yours early. Cost for the course is \$50 per person. Minors under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. To make reservations, or for questions, please contact Bradley Nance @ 918-774-4291, or email at Bradley.nance@cnet.com

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Boy Scout Classes

Ardmore Scouts

February 18, 2023, John Cook hosted a workshop for Ardmore, OK Boy Scouts from Troop #5 at his home and blacksmith shop located on top of the Arbuckle Mountains. Three troop leaders and 12 boys arrived around 8:30 am. Little cool weather getting started that morning, John had 2 coal forges and 3 anvils set up. Ricky Vardell brought a forge and anvil with him. The boys had requested to make items for campfire cooking. We started with each boy making a spatula and moved on to steak turners and two tripods.

Lawton Scouts

Ricky Vardell hosted a workshop at his home in Temple for Lawton, OK area Boy Scouts from Troop #4100. Three Adults and 7 boys arrived around 9:30. JJ McGill and John Cook helped with the event. JJ started out with a safety lesson for the boy scouts. Ricky had 2 forges going inside and 3 outside. Ricky demonstrated how to make squirrel cookers. John demonstrated how to make steak turners. Each Boy Scout made squirrel cookers that morning and after lunch made the steak turners. JJ demonstrated how to make a split cross out of a railroad spike. (no crosses were made, maybe another time) The boys did get to play around heating iron and making clinkers. Great afternoon and no one got burnt. Ricky wanted to say a big thank you to JJ and John for coming over and helping out.



9th Annual Jim Dyer Boy Scout Blacksmithing Camp Out Weekend

In memory of Mr Jim Dyer.

We hosted at the Murray County Tractor Show grounds. The started off the day with S hooks and the on to camping silver ware then ending the day with personal ideas. We had Frito chili pies with JJ's home made chilli and Miss Nikki Vardells No bake cookies for dessert. A Special Thank You out to Ricky & Nikki Vardells, Ben Hide, Chase George and Gary Nicole for all your help with the Scouts.



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Highland Gathering Scottish Games



The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Association was busy October 21st & 22nd. Not only was there an annual conference, but several members attended the Highland Gathering Scottish Games in Choctaw. The weather was quite warm but dry. In all the years I have worked at Scottish Games events I have never seen them. We were in a perfect location to witness the contest and it was most interesting. The club had as many as 7 smiths working at one time. Some of those in attendance were Tony & Carol Cable, Brahk Hadick, Jeff Cohen, Alyssa Lusk, John Brown, Paul & Shelley Lowe and their family and others. Several months of the year are excellent times to go to an event and participate in representing the club. I encourage you to get out and do something and grow as a person and smith.

– Tony Cable





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Conference



We had a great conference with Clay Spencer and Jennifer Horn. Clay came with his right-hand-man Allen Kress. Clay gave us a walk-through of pretty much his entire collection of power hammer tooling and Allen demonstrated using anything that Clay wanted shown or the audience asked for. Jennifer showed the techniques for the pan, handle, quatrefoil, and more all the while sharing really great insight on her techniques and why she did things that way.



People's choice was 1st: Gerald Brostek, 2nd: Bill Phillips (knives)



Rory won both the quilt and the toolbox!





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Jennifer's Class

Jennifer lead a very informative and fun class.



David Seigrist, Dan Richman, Jennifer Horn, John Tolbert, Eric Jergensen



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September-October 2023

Bituminous Bits

Blacksmith Jeweler: Viking Troll Cross

By Rick Coleman of Huntsville Forge

This is the first in a series of articles I am preparing for the Bits on my latest projects. I have been forging a number of medallions, pendants, and bracelets to be worn as pieces of jewelry. I now make these as gifts and include them in my stock at art shows.

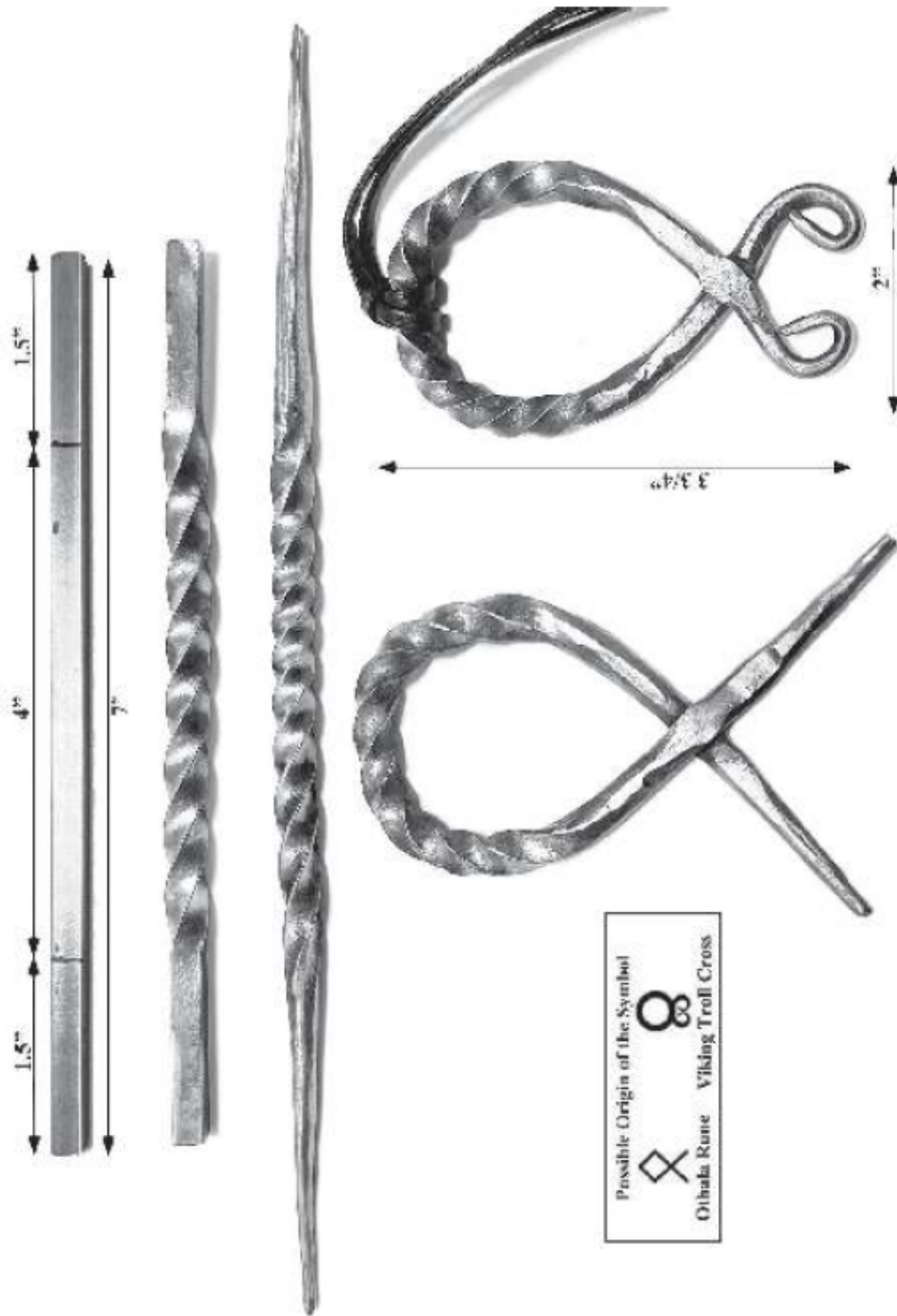
The first type of jewelry medallion I started making came about at the request of my step-daughter who asked me to forge a Viking Troll Cross for a friend of hers. He is interested in Viking history and culture. She had found pictures of the Viking Troll Cross on a couple of web sites and they looked like they were hand forged.

A quick web search turned up its meaning. In Sweden and Norway, a *trollkors* or troll cross is a bent piece of iron worn as an amulet to ward off malevolent magic. It allegedly originated in medieval Sweden. According to those claiming its authenticity it represented the Norse symbol of protection; thus if a Norseman wore this symbol, he believed that chances of falling into danger would decrease. Spoiler alert: Although commonly thought of as a part of Swedish folklore, the Viking Troll Cross was first seen as an item of jewelry created by the blacksmith Kari Erlands, sometime in the late 1990s. She was from western Dalarna County in Sweden. It was claimed to have been a copy of a "protective rune" found at her grandparents' farm, but this has not been verified. While it

does bear some resemblance to the Othala rune (see insert in the photo), representing the o and oe phonemes in Elder Futhark and Anglo-Saxon runic writing systems respectively, it is more likely Erlands mistook a Bumerke (a property marker used before people could read and write) for a protective symbol. This makes sense when you consider that meanings given to the Othala rune symbol are "homeland," "ancestral land," and "land owned by one's kin."

Whatever the origin this is a popular medallion and relatively easy to make. I start with a 1/4" x 1/4" piece of square stock 7" in length. Mark 4" in the center of the rod, heat and twist 2 revolutions to get a fairly tight twist. Try to get an even heat throughout the 4" so you can get an even twist. Next draw out each end to about 3" and round off. Heat the center and bend around so that the ends overlap symmetrically and flatten the overlap. A piece of 1 1/2" pipe makes a good bending jig to get an even bend. Heat each end and bend into a ring approximately 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter. A length of 1/8" deer skin lace looped around the piece makes a good neck cord. The final dimensions of the medallion will vary slightly. The one shown is 2 inches wide by 3 3/4 inches high.

For the neck or wrist pieces on all my blacksmith jewelry I use 1/8" deer skin lace. It is available from a number of sources but I found the best price at Weaver Leather Supply. Go to Weaverleathersupply.com and on their main menu under **Leather** select **Leather laces**. They have the lace in black, chocolate (a dark brown), and light tan colors.

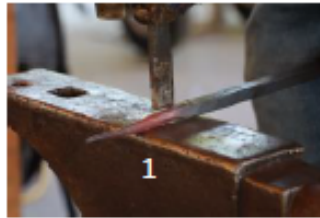


Bryan Parker Wizard head bottle opener

Written by Mike M. Pics John Sherwood, Bruce Herzog, Mike M.

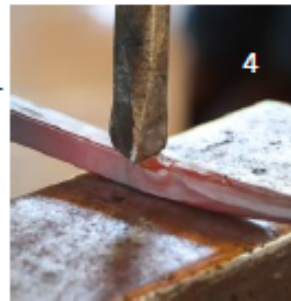
Bryan's demo is part of the path that he has taken to get to where he is. His bottle opener is from Mark Aspery's Book, The Skills of a Blacksmith Volume One. The book starts you out making tools and then has projects to use them on. Bryan explained how he made the punches and tools as he was using them.

Bryan used $\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Start by drawing out and tapering the end. Don't forget square, octagon, round. It will end up about 3.5 - 4" long. Using a sharp hot chisel, chisel in the lines that make the star pattern on the hat.(1,2)



Next use a punch to create the depressions that create the nose. You will be pushing a little material out the sides and leaving a lump that will be the nose. He made about 4 of these punches until he had one that he liked.(3)

The next step is to create a depression right below the eye sockets to make the nose stand proud. Mark's method is to lay it face down on the far edge of the anvil and drive it into the anvil to create this depression. Bryan made a butcher type punch that would mimic the edge of the anvil. You use it with the face up. You can see exactly where you are putting this depression. I really like this idea. Bryan said that he would usually smash the nose because you can't see exactly where it is.(4) Then he used a set hammer to flatten the area out where the beard would be.(5)



Punch the eye sockets again if necessary. Use an eye punch to put in the eyes.(6,7)



Heat up below the nose. Using the horn of the anvil lay it face down and forge it down to where it is about $\frac{1}{2}$ the thickness of the bar about .25" The bar will get wider also. This is where you will punch for the bottle opener.

Using your slot punch lay the piece on the horn of the anvil and punch it from the back. Then flip it over and drive out the slug. If you are a little off center, it will be ok.(8,9) Drift the hole open enough to go over the horn of your anvil.(10)



Using a hot cut chisel, chisel in whiskers. Start below the nose and walk it around in a circular pattern.(1)

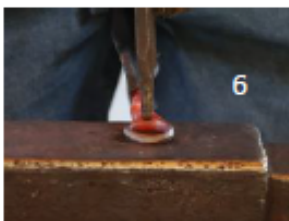
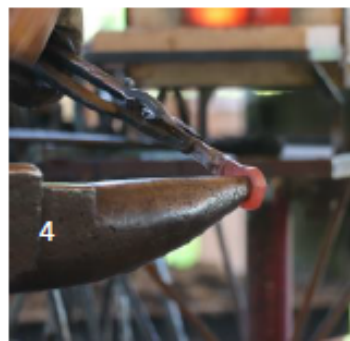
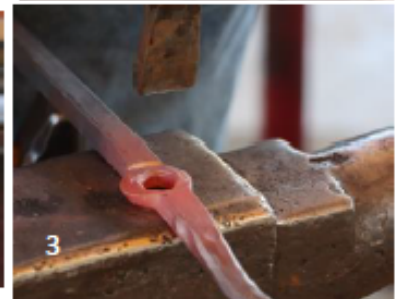
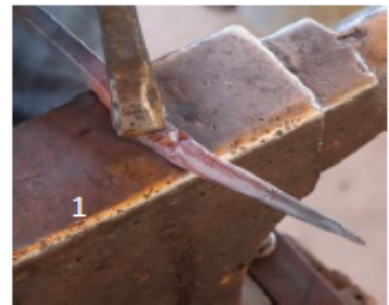
Bend the hat in the shape you want. Bryan does this while it is still attached to the bar. He bends it so he can still get a pair of tongs on it for the next operations.(2)

Cut it off from the parent bar using a curved hot cut chisel. Cut halfway through and finish from the backside. It leaves less unneeded material. You could use a straight chisel if you don't want to make a curved one.(3)

Shape the ring over the horn. Work out the thick sections first if your punching wasn't in the middle. You want the inside diameter about 1" in diameter.(4,5)

Use a ball nosed punch to push out the material that will pop the bottle cap off.(6,7) Bend the ring up a bit and make it into an oval.(8,9) Wire brush and apply your favorite finish.

Bryan gave a lot of information that I am not able to include. (Just not enough space) The Chisels and techniques are all covered in Mark Aspery's Book.



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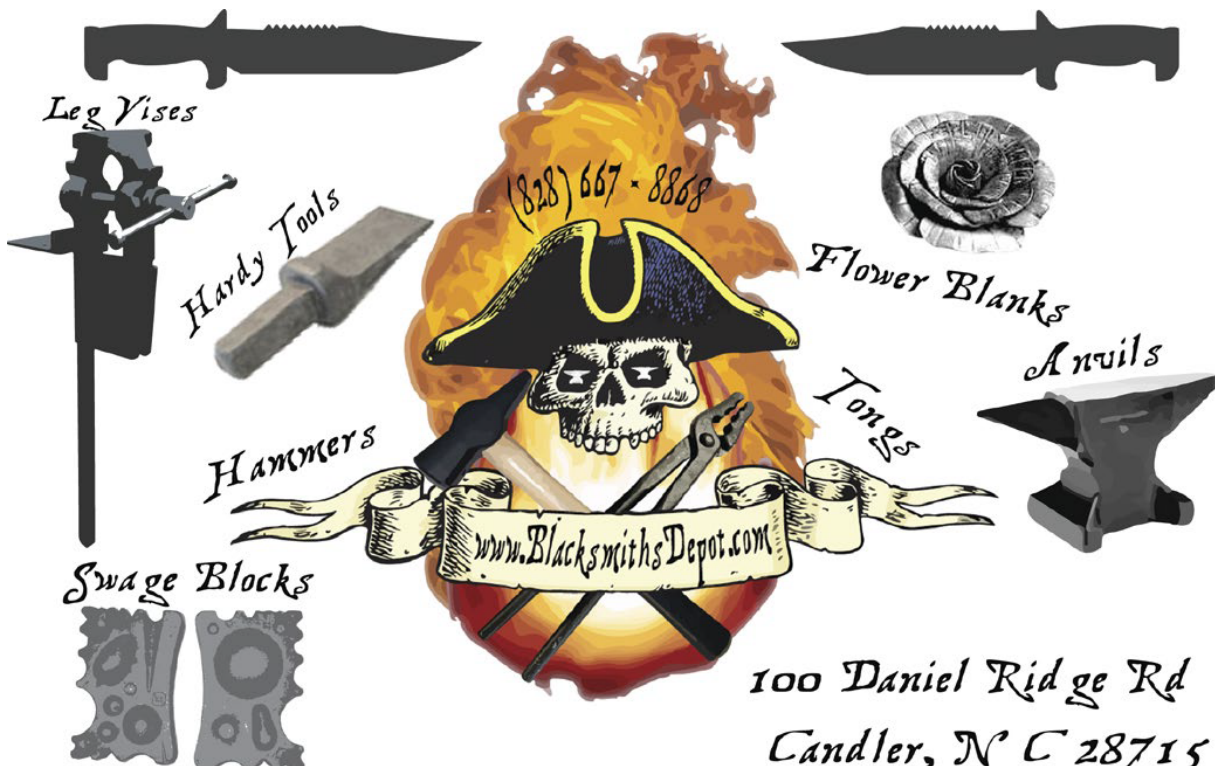
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Water Jet Services - Saltfork Discount

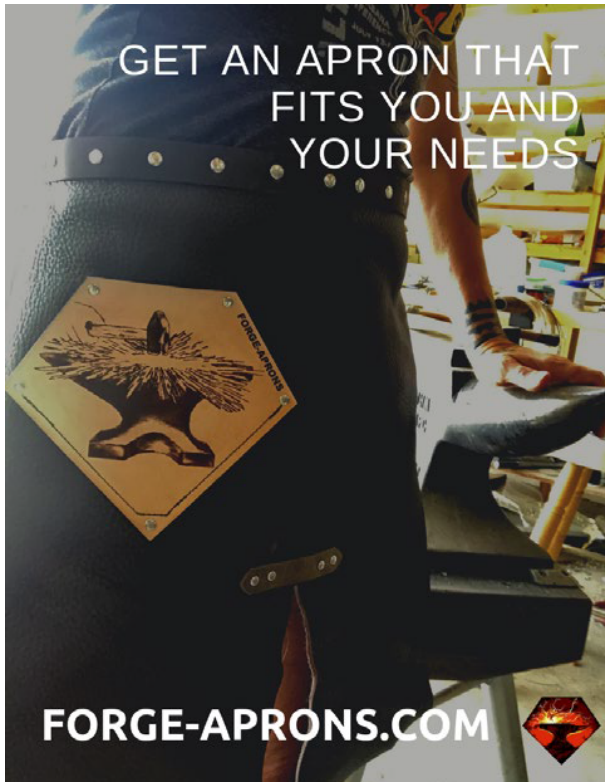
Taswallson Manufacturing is offering waterjet services at discounted rates for Saltfork members. I am currently operating nights and weekends.

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



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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

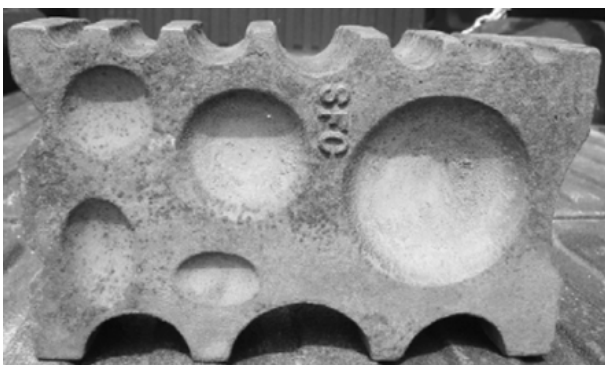
Send a check or money order for \$30 US to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013. Or send \$32 US to Paypal.Me/ClaySpencer. E-mail me at clay@otelco.net. PDFs will be e-mailed outside US. Phone 256-558-3658

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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
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- Ray Kirk Knives SCABA 2002
- Frank Turley SCABA 1997
- Frank Turley SCABA 2003
- Bill Epps SCABA 2003
- M. Hamburger SCABA 2007

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SCABA Membership Application

For Annual 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.

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Don Garner 580-302-1845
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Board of Directors Meeting

The board will meet online at 2pm on Sunday, November 19th. If you wish to attend please contact [Eric Jergensen](#). 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 report from the event. Text or email him. Anyone who attends a meeting can send pictures, but please make sure one person sends some description of it.

About Us

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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