

# Saltfork Craftsmen

## Artist-Blacksmith Association



October 2023

## In This Issue...

- President's Corner
- Annual Conference
- Conference Demonstrators
- Conference Projects
- After-Conference Class
- Iron in the Hat
- Quilt, Toolbox, and Auction
- Slate of Officers
- People's Choice & Gallery
- Elk City, April 22nd
- Elk City, July 22nd
- Elk City, August 26th
- Fairview, Sept 23rd
- Beginner's Class, Sept 16th
- Anchors Your Way
- Split Bar Sculpture
- Rosette
- Shop and Swap
- Scheduling Meetings

## Editor's Notes

Due to family obligations our editor is unable to keep up with Saltfork Craftsmen newsletter obligations. In the interim, editing is a group project. This issue is brought to you by Eric Jergensen, Jason O'Dell, and Katie Mitchell.

For board election results and contact information please see the Slate of Officers at the end of this issue.

## 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

I hope you are doing well despite the late summer heat. I'm looking forward to the year ahead as your new president. I want to say publicly: thank you, Mandell, for your leadership during your tenure as president! I plan to keep the legacy alive and growing.



We've got a fantastic conference coming in just a few weeks. The weather will be cooler and our demonstrators are world-class. Check out the details in this newsletter. Get your toolbox, auction, and iron-in-the-hat donations ready. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all there.

We have videos of last year's conference available for members to stream online. See the Videos page on our website. You must be logged in to view them. Previous conferences will become available as they are edited and uploaded. We can only do a few

per month so it will take a while to get our whole catalog up.

Forge on and make beautiful things!

– Eric Jergensen

## Annual Conference

October 21 & 22 at the Murray County Antique Tractor and Implement Association



# Conference Demonstrators

## Jennifer Horn



business have allowed her to branch into the artistic blacksmith world where she enjoys working with hot steel to create fun, beautiful and functional works.

Jennifer operates Daisy Hill Forge in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. She is an active member of the Executive Board of the Michigan Horseshoer's Association, currently serving as President. She also serves in many different ways to other aspects of the farrier industry. Jennifer is a past

Jennifer Horn is a Certified Journeyman Farrier and artistic Blacksmith. She has been serving the northern Michigan horse owner community since 1990. In addition to her career as a farrier she is also a creative Artist-Blacksmith. The skills she has employed in her horseshoeing

American Farriers Association Cultural Exchange student to England and sits on the Cultural Exchange Committee. Jennifer also serves on the AFA Certification Committee as an Examiner. She is a member and regular demonstrator for the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association. She is a proud member of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America and demonstrated under the farrier tent at the 2018 conference.

Jennifer loves learning and continuing to further her education and skills by attending several classes and workshops annually. Richard Becker, CJF is one of her biggest farrier mentors and Clay Spencer is one of her biggest blacksmith mentors. She is the mother of two wonderful boys, Brian and Jonathan Horn, ages 30 & 32. She enjoys the outdoors, riding horses & her Harley Davidson Heritage Softtail. She enjoys traveling in North America and abroad, meeting new friends and seeing the old ones too! And she loves to swing a hammer!

Jennifer's facebook page is Daisy Hill Forge and she is Jennifer DePollo Horn on Instagram.

## Clayton Spencer

Clayton "Clay" Spencer was raised on a farm in north Alabama and received mechanical engineering degree from Auburn. In the Army, he taught Field Artillery Gunnery at Ft. Sill, OK. Later, he worked at Redstone Arsenal as a support contractor on Redstone and Jupiter missiles. He subsequently hired to the Marshall Space Flight Center. Two of his most important jobs were being in charge of designing the rubber tired transporter for Saturn S1C stage, (bottom stage of the Moon Rocket) and being test engineer for Prototype Moon Buggies. Clay retired in October 1988.

Clay went to his first blacksmith meeting in October 1986 and then designed and built his swing arm treadle hammer in November and December of that year.

Clay took first blacksmithing class in 1987 and

started teaching blacksmithing in 1988. He took all of Francis Whitaker's classes. Subsequently, Francis chose Clay to succeed him to teach his advanced class when he retired. Clay taught over 100 classes at John C. Campbell Folk School where the new shop is named for him.

Clay Designed the Inline (roller blade) treadle hammer and later the Tire Hammer. He has demonstrated blacksmithing and led workshops to build hammers and tools in 40 states. He was newsletter editor for the Alabama Forge Council for about 10 years and received lifetime membership in AFC, Blacksmith Assn. of Missouri, North Carolina, Appalachian Area Chapter Blacksmiths and ABANA. He also received the Bealer Award from ABANA.

[Back to Contents](#)

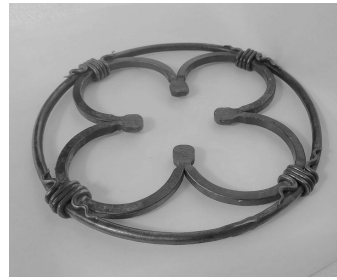
## Conference Projects

### Pan, Spatula, and Trivet



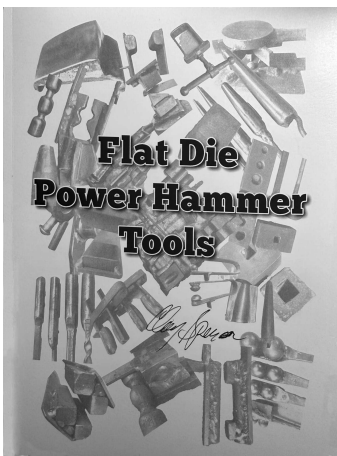
are fantastic for demonstrating and developing so many of the fundamental skills of our craft.

Jennifer Horn will demonstrate the forging of a pan, a spatula, and a trivet. Not only are these great looking items, they



Jennifer does world-class work. Seeing her do this, along with her instructions and tips, will help smiths of all skill levels improve their craft!

### Flat Die Power Hammer Tools



Clayton Spencer is well known for both his Tire Hammer design and his tooling for power hammers. He has just published "Flat Die Power Hammer Tools", a ninety-page book that will be the definitive reference for shop-made power hammer tool-

ing for years to come. Clay has been developing and refining these tools for years. This is the culmination of his personal use of the tools, feedback from users, and hundreds of classes he has personally led. You will learn what steels to use for a particular tool and how to deal with heat treating and dealing with the stress from welding. If you have never seen Clay demonstrate his processes, this is a chance of a lifetime. If you have seen a past demonstration, this is still the chance of a lifetime :-).

[Back to Contents](#)

## After-Conference Class

### Monday, the 23rd through Wednesday, the 25th

Jennifer Horn will teach a class for up to ten people. This hands-on class will lead students through the creation of the pan, spatula, and trivet that she will have demonstrated. Jennifer is one of the most capable and accomplished teachers in our craft. You will learn valuable new skills whether you are relatively new to the craft or have years of experience.

Materials are included, but smiths will need to bring their own forge and tools. We do have some forges, leg vices, and hand tools available from our teaching trailers. That will not be enough for everyone so bring your own if you

can.

Class is \$400 per student.

We have taken a loss on classes in the past few years because of a combination of unexpectedly low attendance and materials costs. We did not have enough signups for class by October first to justify the second class.

We have had people ask to take a power hammer tooling class. Although the demand is good, the logistics of materials preparation and moving the equipment required to our conference site make that impractical.

[Back to Contents](#)

# Iron in the Hat

Gerald Franklin

Many of our newer members were confused at last year's conference as to what this "Iron in the Hat" (IITH) thing was all about. Since I have served as the IITH coordinator for the past conferences, I guess it's one of my duties to explain the tradition and how we observe it at our conferences.

The Iron in the Hat activity is an old blacksmithing tradition (exactly how old is anybody's guess) that makes a little money for the sponsoring organization and provides an outlet for some of the things that an individual smith may not need anymore but another smith may "covet". Basically, it's a raffle of sorts where items are donated, tickets are sold and drawn, and the items then change owners.

Here's how it works at the Saltfork Conference. Members, merchants, and just good people donate items. We put the items out for display with a paper sack beside each item. Tickets are sold and buyers put one or more tickets into a sack corresponding to an item they are interested in. If you would really like to have a particular item, put several tickets into the sack. At a particular time, a winning ticket is drawn from a sack and then taped to the item. Buyers then come by and check the tickets to see if they are a lucky winner. This is pretty simple, and there will be more information posted at the conference as to price, frequency of drawings, etc.

So, what makes it work? The short answer is "item donors and ticket buyers". You can help in both ways. Bring stuff to the conference to donate to the IITH table. This may be a piece of tool steel that you don't need, an extra pair

of tongs (I know, NOBODY has an extra pair of tongs), supplies such as flux, rivets, old files, new files, etc. When you go to the hardware store and you see a set of screwdrivers, for example, on sale at a ridiculously low price, buy it and bring it to the conference for IITH. I have already had folks drop donations off with me so it's not too early to think about what you want to donate. Each year I manage to bring a few things and I used to wonder what would be appropriate. It finally hit me that if I were interested in a certain item, chances are somebody else would be interested in it, too. So now when I'm standing at the bargain bin at Harbor Freight, I buy things that I'd like to have. Simple stuff like epoxy, sandpaper, soapstone, steel tapes, etc are always welcome.

So, we've talked about donors. The other part of the deal that makes it work is the buyers. Even if you show up at the conference without anything to donate to IITH, you can buy tickets. They will be on sale by several sellers. You can't win if you don't play.

Not everybody who comes to the conference brings donations. Not everybody who comes buys tickets. Not everybody who buys tickets wins something, but every little bit helps raise a buck for the association. It's not cheap to put on a conference and we've managed to keep registration fees low for many years. Think about this: if 100 conference attendees buy \$10 worth of IITH tickets, that's \$1000 that can go a long way toward paying for demonstrators, travel, materials, etc.

[Back to Contents](#)

## Quilt, Toolbox, and Auction

Quilt and Toolbox tickets are \$2 each or \$15 for 20. Drawing will be held after the Saturday evening meal.



Quilt by Angie Phillips, Donita Smith, and LaQuitta Greteman

## Toolbox

Terry Kauk and Dawnavan Crawford are building this year's toolbox. **We need tool donations to fill it!** Any donated tool is greatly appreciated, as proceeds from this drawing benefit the Saltfork club as a whole, but hand made tools are the most appreciated by those interested in winning the box. Either way, the winner of the

tool box drawing will have a nice collection of usable tools that they will be proud to own.

## Auction

As in past years, we will have a fundraiser auction after the Saturday evening meal. Please **bring donations for the auction** and be ready to bid to win for the items. David Seagrist is our auctioneer again this year and will bring his

fantastic flair and humor.

### **RV Reservations**

RV hookups are available for \$20 per RV per night (to the Tractor Club) for electric only service. Spots are already being reserved so

contact J. J. McGill (580-369-1042 or [jjm-cgill88@yahoo.com](mailto:jjm-cgill88@yahoo.com)) as soon as possible if you would like to make a reservation.

Primitive camping is also available with access to clean toilets and showers.

## **Conference People's Choice Awards and General Gallery**

We will once again have two categories, one will be for work done using "Traditional" methods and the other will be "Open," meaning open to use any and all methods of the artist's choosing.

The intent here is to separate work that is done with methods generally considered traditional to blacksmithing, such as forge welding, joinery, punching, upsetting, drawing out, etc. from more modern methods such as arc/mig/gas welding, stock removal grinding, etc. These "modern" methods have become, in many cases, much faster and easier to use than the traditional methods due to modern machines and equipment. This separation is an attempt to allow a potential gallery submission to be judged against other work on a more equal footing than is practical with a single overall category.

If there are any issues that come up, the Board of Directors will make a judgment on how to place the piece in the Gallery. Mostly, any benefit of the doubt will go to the entrant.

### **General Gallery**

We would also like to see a general gallery of work from all levels on display. It does not have to be all new work or work submitted for the People's Choice voting. It can be for sale or just for display. But we would like to have anything you are proud of making or that you find inspirational to be on display. Even work by beginners is often an inspiration so please don't hold back thinking your work is "not good enough." Keep in mind, there will be visitors that have never even forged an S-Hook or a leaf key chain. Any work probably has something to teach and inspire others. Please consider bringing your items to display!

## **Regional Meeting Schedule**

<b>NE Region (1st Sat)</b>	<b>SE Region (2nd Sat)</b>	<b>SW Region (3rd Sat)</b>	<b>NW Region (4th Sat)</b>
Oct 7th (Open)	Oct 14th (Open)	Oct 21st (Open)	Oct 28th (Open)
<b>Nov 4th</b> Diana Simon Cherokee Strip Museum	Nov 11th (Open)	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)



## **Fifth Saturdays:**

December 30th, 2023 (Open)

March 30th, 2024 (Open)

June 29th, 2024 (Open)

## **November 2023 Meeting Details**

**NE Regional Meeting November 6th:** 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.

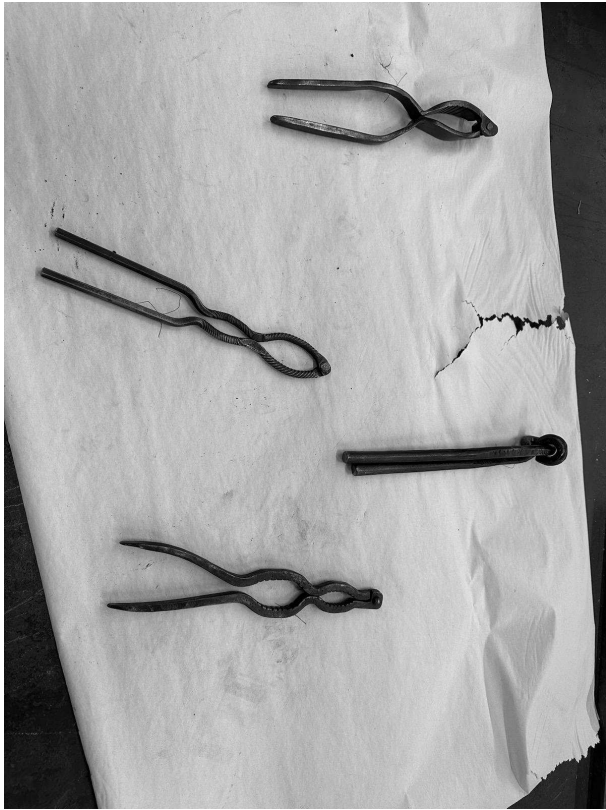
Contact Diana Simon at 580-572-8290 or [dsimon@okhistory.org](mailto:dsimon@okhistory.org) if you have questions.

## **Elk City, April 22nd**

Hosted by Terry Kauk. Trade item was a nutcracker.





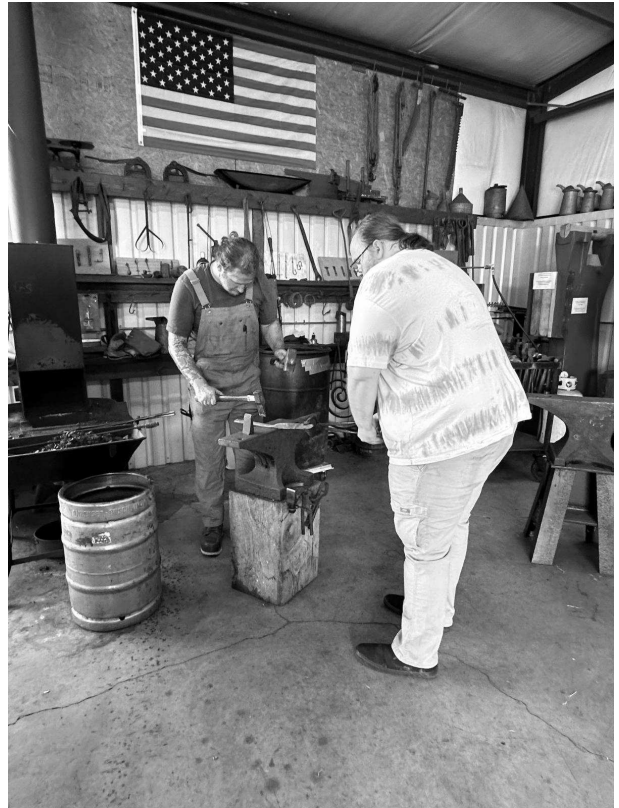
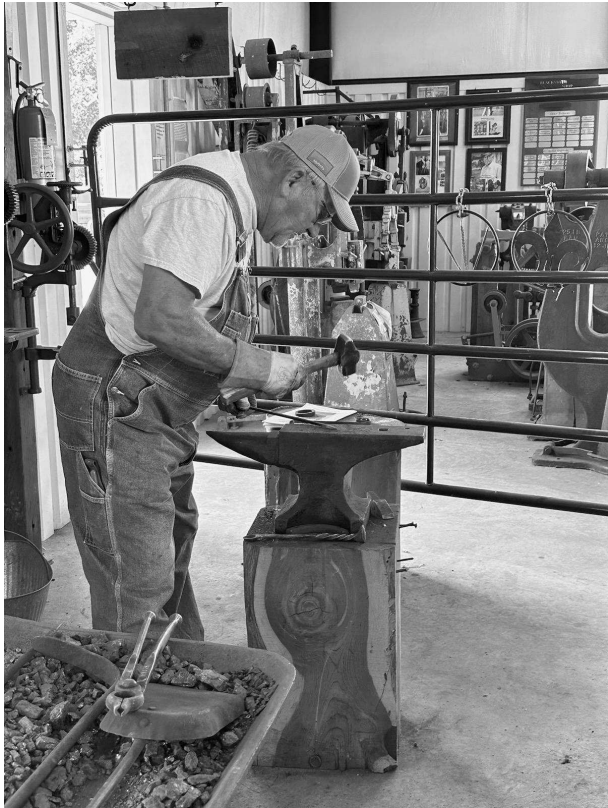


[Back to Contents](#)

## Elk City, July 22nd

Hosted by Don Garner. Trade item was a blacksmith's knife.



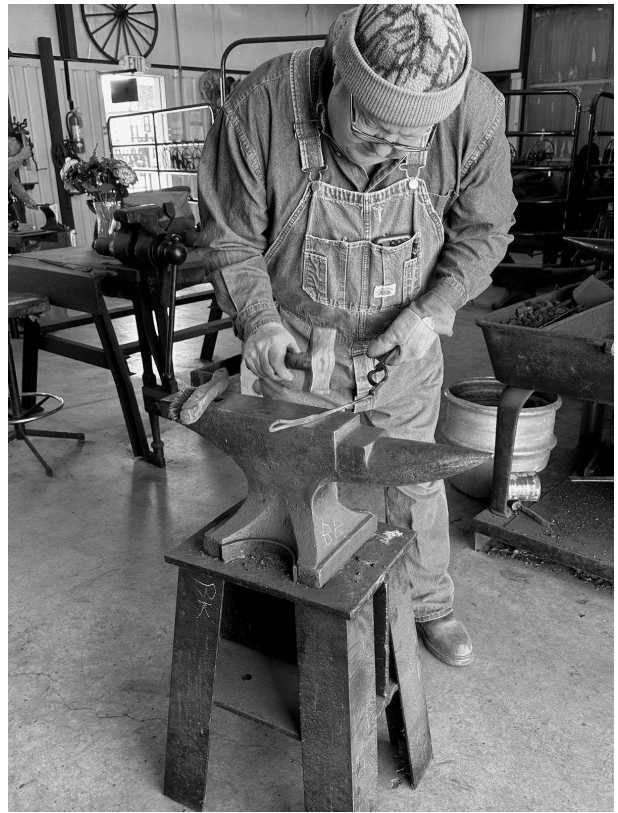


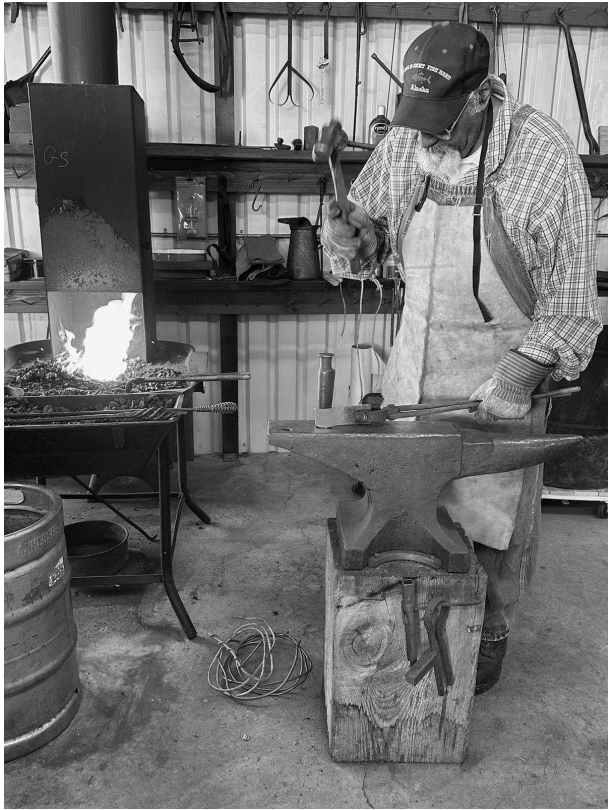
[Back to Contents](#)



# Elk City, August 26th

Hosted by Skylar Parker.



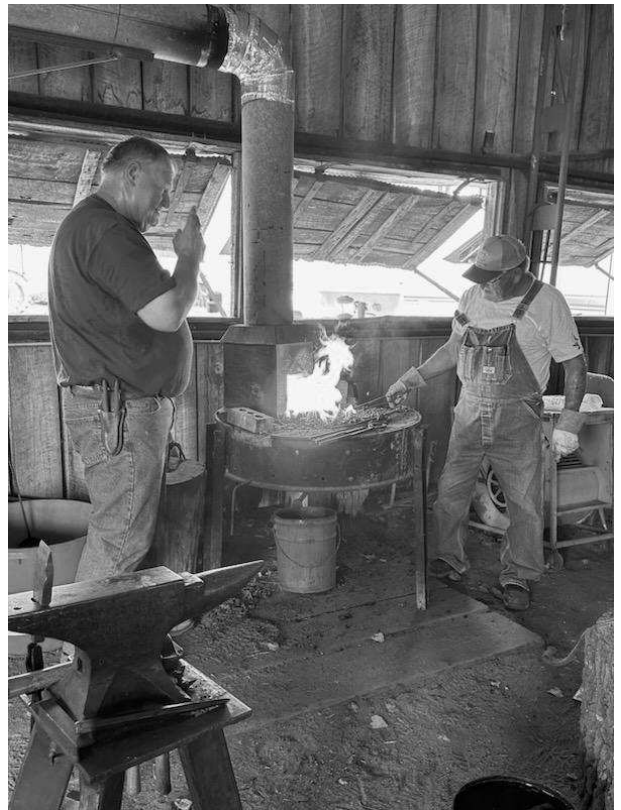


[Back to Contents](#)

## Fairview, Sept 23rd

Meeting at Fairview this year was a nice turn out. Don Garner and Everett cooked for us. Trade item was blacksmith nut and bolt.









[Back to Contents](#)

## Beginner's Class, Sept 16th





[Back to Contents](#)

## Anchors Your Way! By Tim Savino

*Editor's Note: This project includes many skills and could be helpful for an instructor to challenge students. Splitting, punching, drifting, tapering, drawing out, and symmetry are all goals to make this stylized anchor a special project. Perfect for a summer assignment at the forge!*

This anchor was presented to Chief Curtis Thiesse to thank him for the work he continues to do at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center. Appreciation was extended to him for his service in the Navy and continued service to veterans and from his Marine brother, Semper Fidelis.

Materials, one each: 1/2" X 1/2" X 10" Square  
1/4" X 4" Round

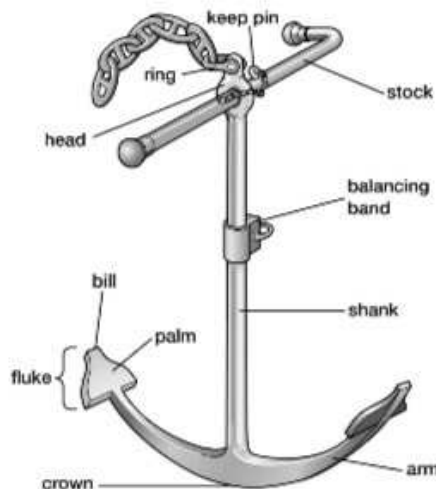
1. Split 3" of 1/2" square bar for the arms of the anchor while material is cold on a band saw or if you choose split hot with a chisel.
2. On the opposite end, mark with a center punch where the ring of the head of the anchor will be in the same orientation as arms of the anchor.
3. Drop down to mark (approximate) where the stock (crossarm) will pass through the shank of the anchor. (See photo below, the stylized version is different than the actual anchor)
4. Return to the head end of the anchor and drift the hole. Use a 1/2" slit punch to start the ring at the top of top of the anchor, I made my own punch. Drift the slot using a 1/2" drift punch. You will need to round up the corners of the material on the end of the bar. If necessary round out using the point on the anvil or cone mandrel.
5. Find the center punch mark for the crossarm and slot punch for 1/4" rod. You may have to adjust the site to be in proportion to the length of material. This stock (crossarm) is not located at the same site as the drawing.
6. Heat and open up the arms of the anchor vertically in a vise being careful of the completed work.
7. Draw out to even lengths and break edges. Shape so that each arm is symmetrical; flare edges. Option: You can upset the ends and spread a fluke on each end. Clean up with a file.
8. Heat and finish with a brass brush for a golden finish.
9. I added a rope by braiding three stands of cord together to complete the decorative anchor.



PAABA Member, Tim Savino and Chief Curtis Thiesse with anchor.



Left: Stylized anchor with braid. Center: Parts of a traditional anchor, note the stock and arms are perpendicular. For a stylized rendition they are turned to be on the same plane. This makes the anchor easier to display. Right: Splitting the square bar to make arms; symmetry is very important. Below Right: Actual anchor located on 8th street in Ambridge PA.



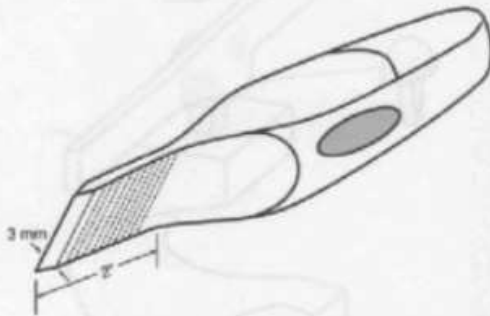
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## Sculptural Technique: Split Bar

Flavio Parra, Santiago, Chile

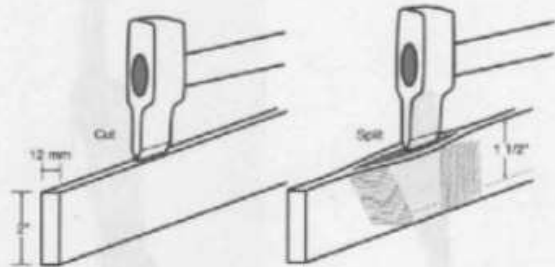
First: forge a "hammer chisel." The material is 1 ½" round 4140. Size your material to have enough to fit a 1" handle, with a 2" blade.



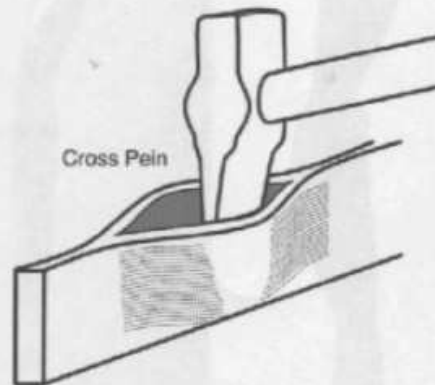
The blade is offset at 45° to the handle axis.



The template (or concept) for the process is to drive the hammer chisel into the narrow side of a piece of ½" x 2" rectangular bar. This will cut a tall, narrow slot part way through the bar (to a depth of 1 ½").



Next, open up, widen, and deepen the split.



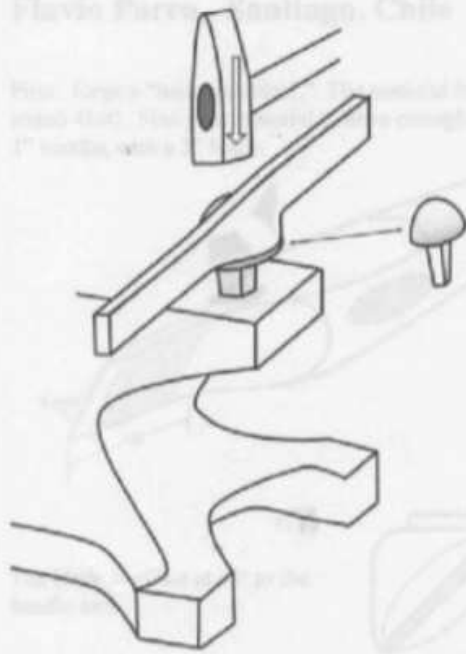
Flavio said that he was inspired to try this by the Stenico demonstrations at Spring Conference 2019.

*Editor's Note: As part of compiling this article, I gave this a try. Some thoughts based on my experiences:*

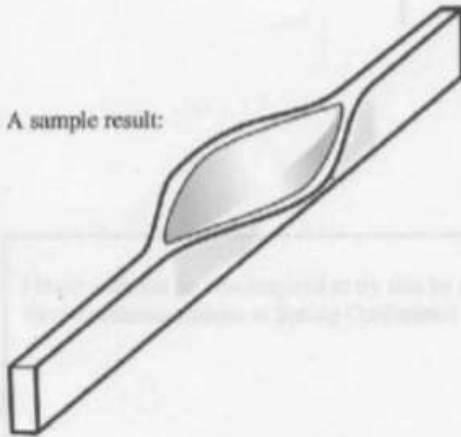
- Working alone, in my shop, I found it difficult to hold the workpiece. I had to make up a special jig to keep the workpiece still.
- Watch out for the split chisel drifting off to the side.

## Split Bar in Blacksmith Online

Spread and widen over a mushroom stake.



A sample result:



## Split-Bar Sculptures By Flavio

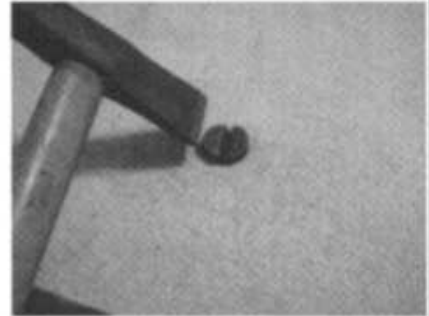
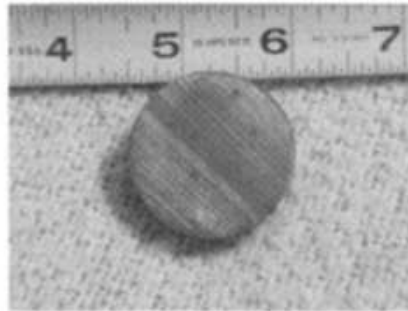
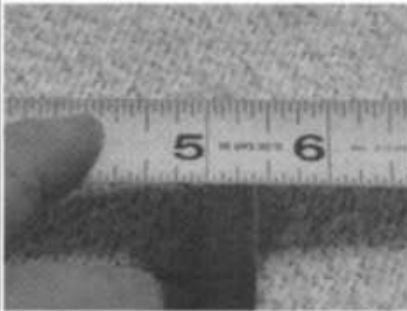




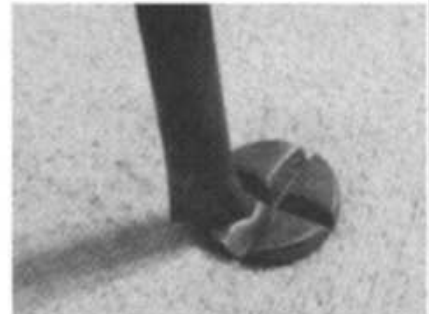
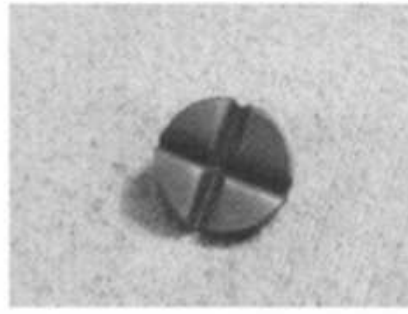
## A Forged Rosette

Here is a way to forge a rosette that can be applied to any number of pieces. You could rivet this onto a larger piece, or weld it onto a threaded shaft to make a small door pull... whatever you dream up.

Start by sawing off a slug of round stock. The one shown is around 1 3/4" diameter by 7/16" thick, but anything approximating those proportions will work.



Get it good and hot and using a hot set or a hot cut chisel bisect the disc to a depth of around 3/4 the thickness. Repeat with the hot set 90 degrees to your first incision. You are dividing the stock into 4 equal parts.



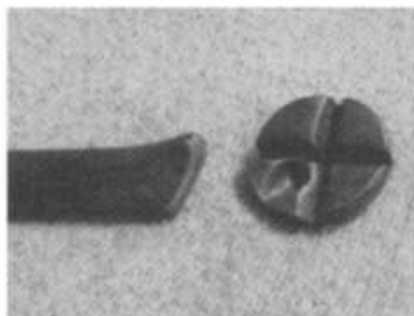
Using a "Teardrop" shaped punch, shape the 4 resulting flat spots by sinking the wide section of the punch close to the center of the circle and the narrow end pointing toward the edge.

To make a teardrop punch forge some round alloy steel as if you were making a simple chisel, but after the first few blows change you hammer angle from making an even thickness edge to one that is thick on one side and thin on the other. Liberal grinding of the punch to get whatever shape you are after is okay.

Repeat on all 4 quadrants of the stock. What makes this element look good is the deformation of the straight chiseled edge when the tear drop punch sinks into the adjacent material. Don't be afraid to really send the punch into the work piece.

Lightly sand and then oil with your finish of choice.

Judson Yaggy, VT Rep.



# SCABA Shop and Swap



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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

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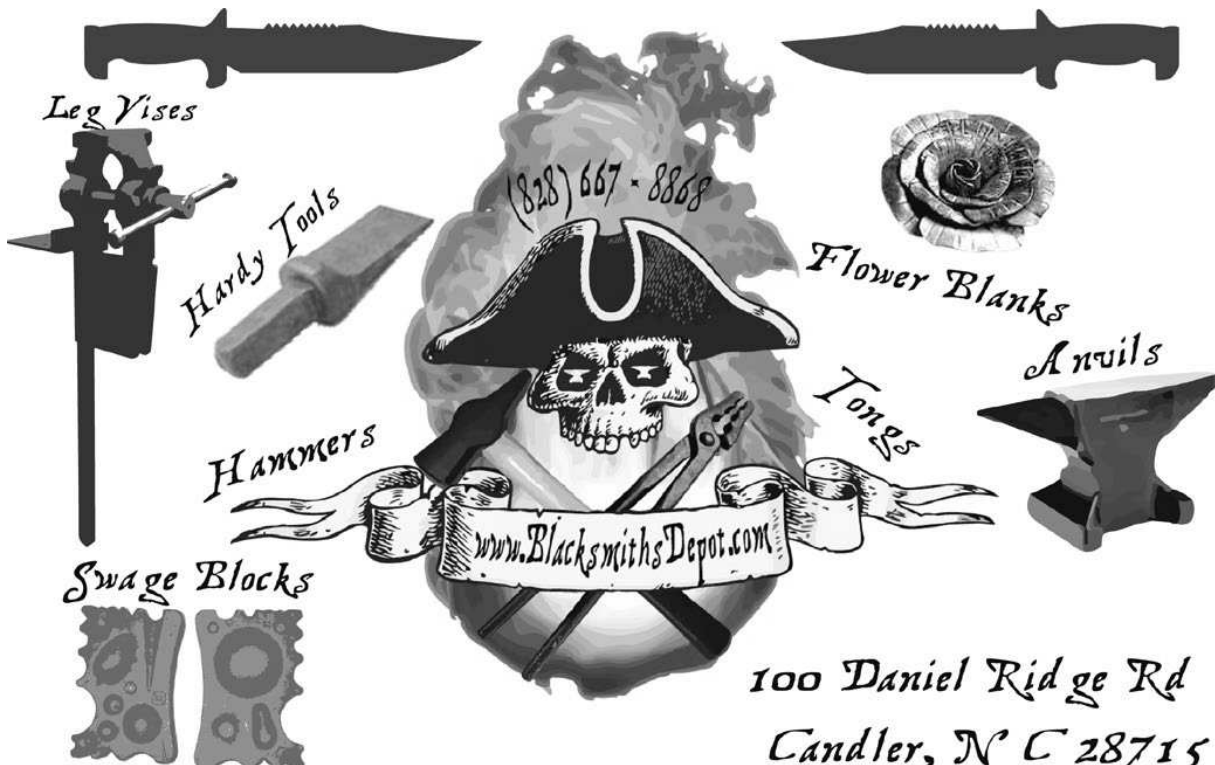
Small Anvils - \$500.00 (plus shipping) — Large Anvils - \$700.00 (plus shipping)

**Contact Byron Donor**  
**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](mailto:rtaswallson@yahoo.com) or 918-855-8250.





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## **Parks AAA Quench Oil**

We have 5 gallon buckets of Parks AAA medium-fast quench oil. Buckets will be available at the conference or by contacting one of

- 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 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 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 Swage Blocks

\$250.00 plus shipping.



## SCABA Floor Cones

\$375.00 plus shipping.

To order swage blocks or cones, contact our distributor:

**Nolan Walker**  
**Nature Farms Farrier**  
**Supply**  
**Norman, OK.**

**405-307-8031**



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## Board of Directors Meeting

The board will meet briefly on Sunday following the conference. If you have urgent business that should be discussed, please inform Carol Doner of the topic so she can add it to the agenda. Carol will hold the non-urgent business until our next board meeting (which will be scheduled at the post-conference board meeting).

## 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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<https://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org/>

## 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.

