

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTIST-BLACKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA



Volume 34 Number 1

First Quarter 2015



Peter Ross demonstrating at the 4th Quarter NCABANA Meeting.

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A Message from our President

Greetings All,

18th FEB 2015

Millers Creek, NC

With Spring showing a welcome advance, the farmer in me wishes for a nice cold snap to slow things down a bit affording time to complete the Winter chores.

Your Board of Directors met Saturday, 10th Jan at Steve Barringer's shop for our annual retreat. The meeting was very successful and we covered a lot of ground. The secretary's report will note the action items.



After analysis of the annual treasurer's report, the yearly dues were discussed. As has been the case recently, part of the earnings from the Heritage Forge at NCSF have been designated to cover some of the program and operational expenses of the organization. While this is within our scope, the dues should cover these items. Our three main expenses are the newsletter, meetings and insurance. The costs are modest and an increase of \$5.00 (25 + 5 = 30) now and a review in two years will help sustain our operations. This will take effect 01JAN16. Along this same line, the price of lunch at meetings will more accurately reflect an equitable division of the actual cost.

In fulfilling our mission we will be offering SIX meetings this year in the following schedule:

- 21 MAR – Q1 Big Blu / Oak Hill Iron / Morganton
- 06 JUN – Peter Ross at his shop / Silk Hope
- 27 JUN – Q2 Triad Blacksmith's / Dixie Classic Fairgrounds
- 12 SEP – Q3 Island Farm / Manteo
- 06+07 NOV – JCCFS / Brasstown
- 05 DEC – Q4 Roger Barbour's shop / Clayton

Nominations for officers will be accepted at the Q2 and Q3 meetings and voting will be by ballot, if necessary. The two officers elected this year will be Vice President and Secretary.

It has been awhile since the board has identified any members for honor with lifetime memberships. A slate of candidates was discussed and the following were nominated and voted on for recognition this year: Clay Spencer, Jerry Darnell, Billy Phelps, Peter Ross, Bernd Mergener and Marty Lyon.

The Heritage Forge at the NCSF will be part of the renovations in the planning stages for the Heritage Circle at the fairgrounds. Our part could begin as early as next year and will require some financial support, which the board has agreed to fund with a payback coming from the operating earnings of the forge. I have established an ad-hoc committee to work on this opportunity consisting of Al Andrews, Eric Campbell, John Fluke, Parks Low, Randy Stoltz, Jim Kennady and myself as chair. We had our initial meeting 30th JAN at the forge and outlined some possibilities and ideas, which I will pass along to the fair officials. If anyone has input to offer, please contact any member of this working group. As it stands now, the fair will be responsible for the outside of the exhibit building and we will finish and equip the inside. We expect to start a wish list seeking donations of materials and equipment to help support this effort. We hope to increase the footprint enough to expand the demonstration area to a double forge similar to W-S, increase our retail area and accommodate some enclosed storage.

We will once again have a group booth at Fire on the Mountain on Saturday, 25th April in Spruce Pine. We have solicited new members at this event the past two years and members are welcome to sell their offerings from this space. We will sponsor a total of four booth spaces, plenty of space to exhibit and sell. Please contact me if you are planning to attend this great event.

Eric Campbell has volunteered to become our next representative to the SBA Conference in Madison, Georgia allowing Cindy Alexander a well-deserved passing of the baton for this regional meeting. Paul Garrett has taken over the making of the frame for our part of the group project for this year's conference. The local groups will be responsible for inscribing the blacksmithing idioms on placards to hang on his frame.

The board has agreed to update our web presence and is in the process of determining what the new website should include. Garrett Dunn has explored some possibilities and is working on a basic layout. Please contact any board member with ideas and desires.

We have a gracious plenty to work on here and I am continually thankful to the board members for their efforts and dedication. I sincerely hope that our enhanced meeting schedule will better serve our large geographic obligation. Thank you for your support of our efforts. Do the hardest part first and the rest is easy.

Lyle Wheeler, President NC ABANA

Join NC ABANA

Annual dues are \$25 (inside USA), \$35 (outside USA) for the rest of 2015. In 2016, the annual dues will be \$30 (inside USA) and \$40 (outside USA). Make check or money order payable to NC ABANA and send it to:

NC ABANA c/o J. Phillips
97 Trinity Ridge Lane
Banner Elk, NC 28604

For more information email: northcarolina.abana@gmail.com

or visit the NC ABANA website: www.ncabana.org

Vice President's Report



Announcing the Re-launch of the NCABANA Library!!! Many of us have not been aware that the club has a library of books available to loan out because we have had a tough time finding a volunteer to put in the effort to manage

it. Thanks to the

generosity of John McPherson, we will now have the collection available to all members. John will be bringing them to the Quarterly meetings he attends so you can see them in person, as well as making them available for you to through the mail.

Here is how the library will work:

- Look for the list of books and videos on the NCABANA website. There will also be a form there to fill out to request the title you want to see.
- Send it to John through email - trollworks@hotmail.com. He will then pop it to you when it is available.
- Or just wait for a regional meeting that John is attending and you can check it out there.
- Return it at the next regional meeting or through the mail. You pay the postage!

Many thanks go to John for volunteering his time on this for the benefit of educating us in blacksmithing.

I also want to mention that we will have booth space available to any member at 'Fire on the Mountain' blacksmith festival. This year it will be on April 25 in Spruce Pine NC. This is a 'don't miss' event for us blacksmiths and has been getting

bigger and better every year to the point where it is drawing a pretty sizable crowd. People seem to be in the mood to buy trade goods there, so bring your work and you can display it in our NCABANA booth if you don't have so much stuff that you really need to get one just for yourself. This a pretty informal arrangement, you just come by the booth, set out your stuff (bring a table if you have more than just a few pieces) and hang around to meet the folks as they come by.

Don't forget to block your calendar for our own conference coming up - it is regarded as one of the best in the nation. NCABANA is a member of the Southern Blacksmith Association and we have 6 other partners in making it the very best conference in the south. This is the place to go every other year to see the top demonstrators plus meet like-minded smiths for a super relaxing weekend. There is also the best tailgating south of SOFA, and it is just about 6 hours or less away for most of NC in Madison, Georgia. Make sure you have this on the calendar for May 14-17 2015 to enjoy a great blacksmithing event. Oh, and did I mention the free camping?

Hammer on!

Garret

P.S. - I just wanted to add a few extra words about the National ABANA conference; this year in Delaware. This was my first one and it was a super way to start. Ten tents were set up with demonstrators going the whole time. Everyone there was a maker at heart and it was great to start a conversation with anyone and know you had plenty in common. The demos ranged across the board showing the full spectrum of the art - from bowls made from copper starting with sledgehammers to fine swords. From heavy hydraulic press work to the finest precision engraving. From power hammers thumping to team striking. This is the kind of event that makes me remember that ours is a small community and even those who are considered the best at it are as accessible and easy to talk to as the guy next door.

Treasurer's Report



Overall NCABANA had another good fiscal year. The Heritage Forge at the North Carolina State Fair again generated significant income and allowed the organization to have an overall net income of \$1,057. At the annual Board of Directors meeting we discussed the fact that the current membership dues are not fully funding our core expenses for the newsletter, state meetings and insurance. In addition, we learned that the State Fair would begin renovating the Heritage Circle with a plan to build a new Heritage Forge building sometime in the next couple years. The State Fair would cover the cost of the building and NCABANA would need to equip the shop and furnish the display area. The Board agreed that funds to outfit the proposed new building should come directly from the income generated by the Heritage Forge. To insure that our core expenses are fully funded and that the Heritage Forge income could be used in the future to outfit a new building, the Board voted to increase membership dues to \$30 effective 1/1/2016.

Our scholarship program also had another great year. Iron-in-the-Hat raised almost \$1500. I would like to encourage all members to consider applying for a scholarship. There is a scholarship application form on our website, www.ncabana.org. NCABANA Vice President Garrett Dunn oversees the scholarship program and anyone interested can contact him directly with any questions.

Finances as of January 26, 2015

<u>Business Checking Account</u>	2014 YTD	2014 Budget
Dues	\$6,750	\$5,875
Heritage Forge Net	\$2,249	\$2,800
SBA Madison Conference Net	N/A	N/A
Newsletter Printing & Postage	(\$2,719)	(\$2,390)
Newsletter Editor Fee	(\$1,200)	(\$1,200)
Insurance	(\$1,460)	(\$1,500)
Statewide Quarterly Meetings	(\$1,792)	(\$1,000)
Postage	(\$284)	N/A
Other	(\$487)	(\$100)
	Net	\$1,057
Balance		\$2,485
		\$17,078

<u>MMA - Scholarship Fund</u>	2014 YTD	2014 Budget
Income	\$1,483	\$1,560
Scholarships	(\$250)	(\$1,400)
	Net	\$1,233
Balance		\$160
		\$5,898

Jim Kennedy, Treasurer of NC ABANA



**NC
Whisper
Low Boy**

**NC
Whisper
Momma
w/Open
End Ports**



Minimize fuel consumption when you're forging *small hooks, leaves, flower parts and ornamental pieces* from bar stock. Place the bar stock through the end ports, leaving front door closed for quick heat recovery.



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 800/446-6498 www.nctoolco.com

Secretary's Report



On January 10th, 2015 the board of directors for NCABANA held a quorum to discuss business for 2015. Board members present included Lyle Wheeler (President), Garret Dunn (Vice President), Jen-

nifer Phillips (Secretary), Jim Kennady (Treasurer), Keith Roberts (Triad Area Blacksmith Chapter Leader), Steve Barringer (Southern Foothills Blacksmith Leader), Paul Garrett (Brasstown Blacksmiths Leader), Cindy Alexander (Southern Blacksmith Association Representative), and Doug Wilson (Former Editor for Newsletter).

Motions were as follows:

1. Membership fees will be raised to \$30 (inside US) per year starting on January 1st, 2016 to better cover core expenses. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motion passed unanimously to require advertisers in the "Hot Iron Sparkle" to be members in good standing granting up to a ½ page for blacksmithing-related items.
3. Six new members were inducted as lifetime members after a unanimous motion. Article about these members later in this issue.
4. There were also unanimous motions to cover NCABANA's four booths at Fire on the Mountain, renew our insurance policy, raise the editor's fee, and allocate money for the Heritage Forge fees & expenses.

Other business included planning the quarterly meetings for 2015, reviewing the treasurer's reports, discussing newsletters & scholarships, continuing work on the by-laws, planning events for 2015, and coordinating open NCABANA positions.

If you would like more information about the board meeting or a copy of the board meeting minutes in its entirety, please email Jennifer Phillips the secretary for NCABANA at northcarolina.abana@gmail.com.

New Members

Bryan Campbell	Chapel Hill
Lucas House	Raleigh
Sean Mele	Chapel Hill
Adam Oaks	Wilmington
Pattie Bagley	Marietta, GA
Mark D. Carpenter	Claremont
Michael "Whisper" Dix	Gibsonville
Ricky Feher	Ahoskie
Tucker Foushee	Moncure
Tim Lloyd	Durham
Ron Nichols	Brentwood, TN
Frank Parr	Fuquay Varina
Vernon Tolliver	Cameron
James Willauer	Raleigh

Opting Out of a Hardcopy

Due to increasing prices of postage and printing costs, NCABANA would like to make receiving a hardcopy of the "Hot Iron Sparkle" optional. Some members have expressed an interest in the preferred online copy because it is in color and better for the environment. If you would like to download your "Hot Iron Sparkle" newsletters from www.ncabana.org instead of receiving one in the mail, please email Jennifer Phillips the secretary for NCABANA at northcarolina.abana@gmail.com

Summary of publication and official meeting dates for NC ABANA

Quarter	Submission	Publication	Meeting	Location
2	25 April	4 May	27 June	Winston-Salem
3	25 July	3 August	12 September	Manteo
4	31 October	9 November	5 December	Clayton

Need representative to the SBA

We need to identify a new NC ABANA member to serve as our representative to the Southern Blacksmiths Association. (SBA) This role has traditionally been performed by the NC ABANA President, but the Board would like to seek others that have an interest in representing our organization.

Every other year on the third weekend in May the Southern Blacksmiths Association holds their conference in Madison, GA. Historically, this was one of the original conferences that revived blacksmithing. There are seven groups in the SBA; Alabama Forge Council (AFC), North Carolina Artist-Blacksmiths Association (NC ABANA), Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths (AACB), Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild (OBG), Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association of Georgia (ABBA), Philip Simmons Artist-Blacksmith Guild of South Carolina (PSABG) and the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA). Last year Cindy Alexander finished serving as NC ABANA's representative and we need to identify a new SBA representative. Many thanks to Cindy for all her years of dedicated service!

The SBA's Madison Conference involves participation by all seven groups. Each year one group is designated as the 'host', who is responsible for organizing the overall conference. The next Madison Conference is being planned now and will be held May 2015. NC ABANA is scheduled to be the 'host' group in 2025. Until 2025, the general duties for the NC ABANA representative include:

- Participate in phone conferences to plan the Madison Conference. Typically phone conference last 1-2 hours and are held every 6 weeks.

- General conference assignments which can change each year; for example, grounds keeping and organizing the auction, registration, t-shirt sales, catering, gallery, tailgate/vendor sales, green coal or demonstrations.

- Work at the conference in Madison, Tuesday through Sunday.

- Independently performing various conference activities, dealing with last minute changes and being able to handle multiple tasks in an efficient and professional manner as requested by the conference chair.

No prior experience is necessary, but flexibility and a willingness to work are required. The ideal representative will be familiar with organizing public events and work as an effective and proactive team player. Travel reimbursement is available. This is an exciting opportunity to interact with a fun-loving group of blacksmiths from throughout the South-east.

The SBA website has some additional information: <http://www.sbaconference.com/>

Those who are interested or want additional information please contact Jim Kennady, NC ABANA Treasurer. jimkennady@gmail.com 919-528-5636.

A Community workshop coming to the Triangle in 2015

Shop Space will initially be a full-service metal shop with access to a wide variety of tools and educational opportunities. The long-term goal is to create a state-of-the-art community shop offering a wide range of tools for many trades and materials, including wood, glass, and plastic. Shop Space will also have a library, classrooms, short-term fabrication spaces, and long-term lease studios. We'll offer a wide variety of classes in a number of subjects (such as blacksmithing and woodworking) to further student's skills and interests, along with introductory courses to teach students safe and proper use of the machinery. Please visit www.shopspace.org for more information, or contact Lucas House at (919) 345-6359 or at www.ironhouseforge.com.

SHOP SPACE
Est. 2014 n.c.
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
INITIATIVE

New Lifetime Members

As was mentioned in the board meeting minutes summary, six NCABANA members were awarded a lifetime membership. The Board of Directors worked long and hard to come up with the list of nominees taking into consideration the blacksmith's experience, work as a blacksmith, contribution to NCABANA, community work, and many other qualities.

Congratulations should go to the following blacksmiths: Clay Spencer, Billy Phelps, Peter Ross, Marty Lyon, Bernd Mergener, and Jerry Darnell. An article will be published in a later issue of the "Hot Iron Sparkle" detailing these inductees and their accomplishments but for now please know that you have our thanks and appreciation for your work.

Jerry Darnell Book Recommendation

Article by Keith Roberts

I recently had the opportunity to purchase Jerry Darnell's books "Forging Colonial Ironworks Volumes I & II". Volume I covers colonial lighting, 18th century hearth equipment, Early America hardware and brackets, hooks and hangers. Volume II covers more lighting and hearth equipment and hardware brackets, hooks and hangers.

Jerry had published 2 volumes of his shop notes and drawings to anyone who wants to learn

and/or do colonial iron work. These 2 volumes are a treasure of work and projects.

I wish more of our Master Smiths would do this so their knowledge will not be lost to time.

Thank you Jerry for your contribution to the future.

Please see ad below for more information.

Forging Colonial Ironwork

Jerry Darnell's new book *Forging Colonial Ironwork* is finally here. It is a compilation of over 22 years of teaching notes at John C Campbell Folk School and various conferences throughout the US. The book is about 120 pages both sides and divided into 4 chapters; Colonial Lighting, 18th Century Hearth Equipment, Early American Hardware, and Hooks and Hangers. There is a mix of 63 different projects from simple to advanced.

The cost is \$20.00 plus 6.75% tax and \$10.00 for shipping and handling. Order by phone, e-mail or visit the salesroom M-F from 10 to 5 and on Sat. 9:30-5.

www.millcreekforge.com

Mill Creek Forge

Jerry Darnell

4512 Busbee Road Seagrove, NC 27341

E-mail forge_on@rtmc.net

Phone: (910) 464-3888 (Shop)

(910) 464-2636 (House)

Regional Reports

Wilkes Teaching Forge

Report from Lyle Wheeler

Wilkes Teaching Forge (WTF) has met consistently the past few months with good turnout and enthusiasm.

WTF met on 9th December at the Wheeler Forge hosted by Lyle Wheeler. John Freas started off the demonstrations with a new-fangled tissue holder in 3/8" round, an interesting piece. Lyle led a tune-up on leaf making for those assembled. Reports were given on the November chapter meetings at JCCFS and Peter Ross's shop.

WTF met on 20th January, a week late due to poor road conditions, at the Wheeler Forge; again hosted by Lyle Wheeler, Forgemaster. A theme of nail-making was carried out and all those in attendance got to try their hand or show their prowess in this basic skill. Small tacks, finishing nails and framing nails were made following a discussion of basic nail-making techniques and theory. Gary Roath added his experiential commentary. Lyle had a show and tell with a new oven rack push/pull he is developing. The dates for the NCABANA meetings were announced and plans made to attend Fire on the Mountain in April.

WTF met on 10th February at the Wheeler Forge with special guest/host Will Wheeler and new enthusiasts Scott and William Hoover and Noah South. Lyle started off the demo with a newfangled oven rack push-pull out of 5/16 square, a new piece with a nice forge weld as the 2nd step. David Baker had a show and tell of a new nail header and nail he made from last month's inspiration. Will Wheeler led Noah and William through their first hooks and used clay to show the steps. The Q1 meeting at Big Blu was announced and plans made to attend.

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths

Report and photos by Ray Clontz

As usual, we had a lot going on. We had quite a few first time visitors. Our more experienced smiths tried to give one-on-one instruction to the beginners.

We had one member make a fire grate using the BIG BLU power hammer with tooling to crease the 1x1 bar for bending. David Stitt forged some bottle openers from box end wrenches. One new member, a high school student, forged his sen-

ior project: forged arrows thru a letter M. This was a very detailed forging for a beginner but it turned out very nice. Michael Matthews forged a very nice blade from a bearing race. As with every meeting, we have a lot of members discussing their personal projects, as many are building their own tire hammers, belt grinders, forges and tooling to make items.

Our meeting looks pretty unorganized, but our members prefer this style of meeting, which allows members to interact with each other to gain knowledge in many areas. We usually use Steve's big table to sketch out ideas with chalk, but sometimes we set up a dry erase board if more than members are interested in the sketches.



Starting out with a huge crowd



Learning hand hammering technique is an important first step in blacksmithing.



After the hand hammering, you can move on to some pretty amazing power hammer techniques and really move some metal.



This is a great picture of the forged tridents through the letter M.



Everyone gets a turn on the big hammers at Steve's shop. Thanks for being such a gracious host!



This picture is a perfect representation of the learning atmosphere at the Foothills Blacksmith's meetings. Notice how everyone pictured is paired off and working together.



Steve is truly a great demonstrator.



Long day at the forge. Look at that tong collection!



Great fireplace insert on the work table.



Check out the bottle opener made from an old wrench. Which end is going to work better to open the bottle?



Forged knife pictured above. This will take a lot of work to finish.

Triad Area Blacksmiths

Report & Photos from Marshall Swaringen

I have a hard time wrapping mind around this being the first quarter of 2015 newsletter since it covers November, December, and January.

First, I would like to thank Keith Roberts, Richard Howard, and Joe Allen for making sure the meetings went well while I was not able to attend. Keith represented Triad Area Blacksmiths at the NCABANA Board's yearly planning meeting. I think he may have a future as club president.

Last spring we had a lot of people wanting to see knives made from railroad spikes. Somehow I ended up making three different styles of knives and never heat-treated or polished them. I have a friend, Byron Cress, in Arizona that was telling me about his son's Eagle Scout project. Noah Cress, Andrew Knoblach, and Patrick Zemites have been friends in Cub Scout Pack 555 and Boy Scout Troop 565. All three received their Eagle rank at the same time. Bryon was looking for a special gift for all three. I told him that I have 3 great presents that our club will donate to the young men. The knives were heat-treated and polished. The final edge was left for the young men to apply their sharpening skills. Congratulations!



The new Eagle Scouts first look at their new railroad spike knives.



Pictured above are the boy scouts, from left to right: Andrew K., Patrick Z., Noah C.

Meetings are still holding good numbers. The best part is the visitors are returning for more anvil time. We may be adding more members to NCBANA.

We will be adding a new tradition to our club schedule. Keith Roberts has asked for permission to open the shop the past two years on New Year's Day.

Well it on the calendar as a regular event. Join Keith on New Year's Day at 9 AM for a day of hammering. I know this is eleven months away, but it never hurts to plan early. On a similar note, Andy, are you available Thanksgiving week

The Millennium Center Academy third grade was studying American history about the thirteen colonies. Joe Allen was able to set up and do a blacksmithing demonstration to enhance their learning experience. Here is a quote from the school newsletter: "Ms. Cummings assisted Mr. Joe Allen, Savannah's dad, an expert blacksmith. The children were able to enjoy just how valuable a craft this was in colonial days. They asked a lot of great questions. Big Thank You to Mr. Allen!"



Joe Allen demonstrating blacksmithing techniques for the students at the Millennium Center Academy.



One final close-up of those amazing knives.

Event Reports

NCABANA 4th Quarter Meeting

Story & Photos by Doug Wilson

NCABANA met 15 Nov at Peter Ross's shop in rural Chatham County near Siler City. The turnout filled Peter's shop to capacity with standing room only. For those who do not know Peter, he was the head blacksmith at Williamsburg for twenty-five years and is both skilled and knowledgeable in early blacksmithing history, techniques and processes.

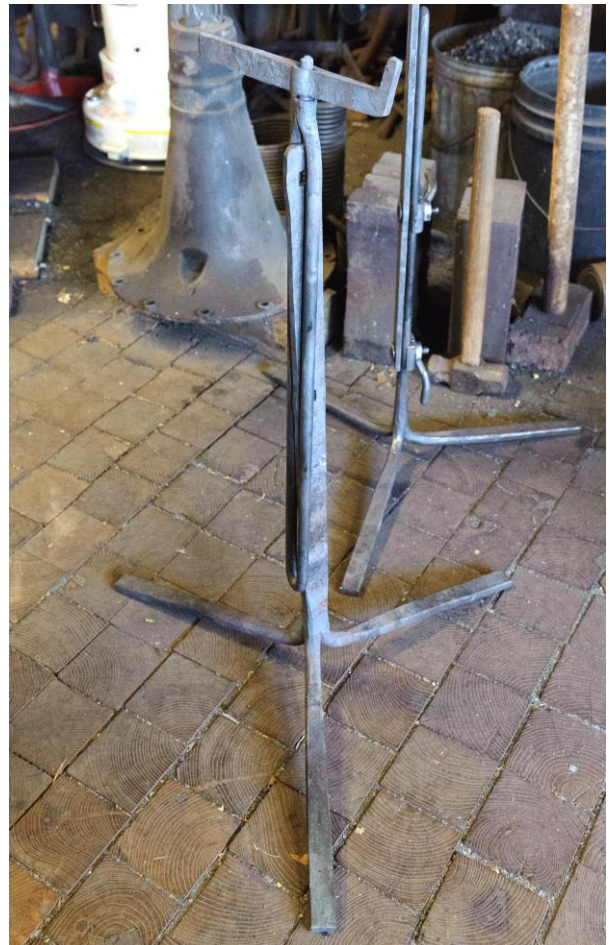


Standing room only at Peter Ross's shop

Peter's morning demonstration was a "blacksmith's helper" adjustable material stand forged with traditional methods.



Peter discusses the model stand for the demonstration



The demonstration piece in progress



A catered lunch was served



Robert Timberlake fired off a traditional but miniature anvil shoot

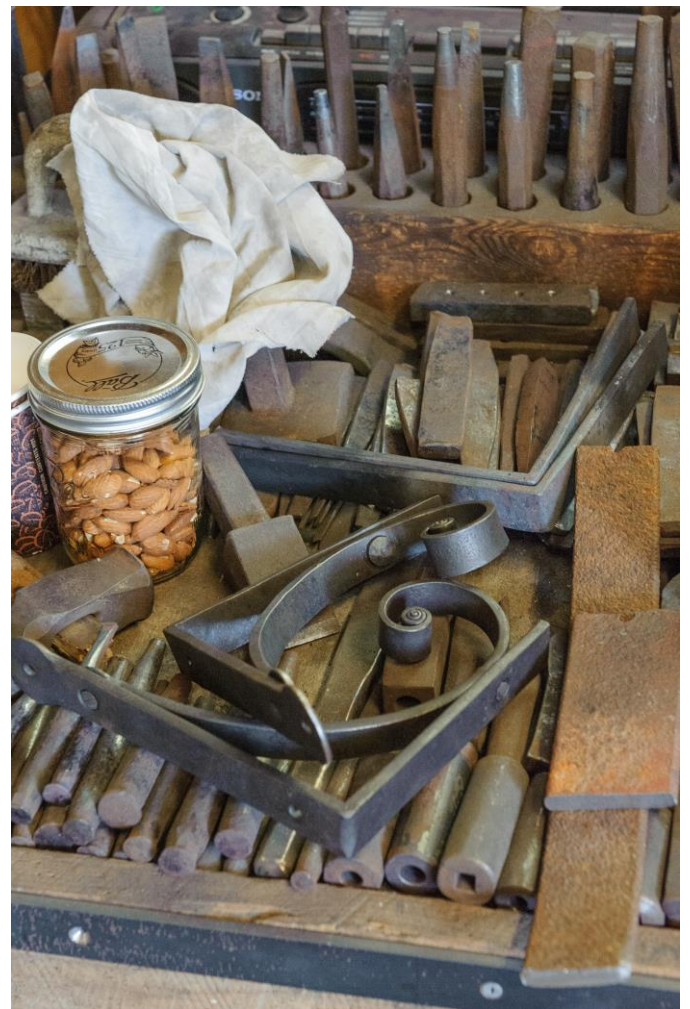


Countersinking the bracket back for a flush rivet



Garret Dunn calls the number for a lucky Iron-in-the-Hat winner

Following Iron-in-the-Hat, Peter discussed and then demonstrated the issues with forging a piece to fit set dimensions. He filled his demonstration with bits of history, technique details and tooling pointers.



Two finished brackets



Peter discusses the sequence to fit a scroll to a bracket using rivets

Many thanks to Peter for his outstanding hospitality and presentation.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN BLACKSMITHING FESTIVAL

APRIL 25TH, 2015 • 10 AM TO 4 PM - DOWNTOWN SPRUCE PINE

FREE DEMONSTRATIONS!!



THIS YEAR'S MASTER BLACKSMITH,
JAMES VISTE

THOSE INTERESTED ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FREE LECTURE AT 8 PM SATURDAY NIGHT BY OUR MASTER BLACKSMITH, JAMES VISTE, WHO WILL BE SHARING HIS WORK AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE AUDIENCE IN THE NORTHLIGHT BUILDING AT PENLAND SCHOOL.

THE ARTIST BLACKSMITH EXHIBIT IS ON DISPLAY AT THE TOE RIVER ARTS COUNCIL THROUGH THE END OF THE FESTIVAL. THIS EXHIBIT IS ALWAYS FULL OF EXTRAORDINARY WORKS OF ART, SO DON'T MISS IT!



ABOVE: WHITE CYLINDER
PILE KNIFE



James Viste

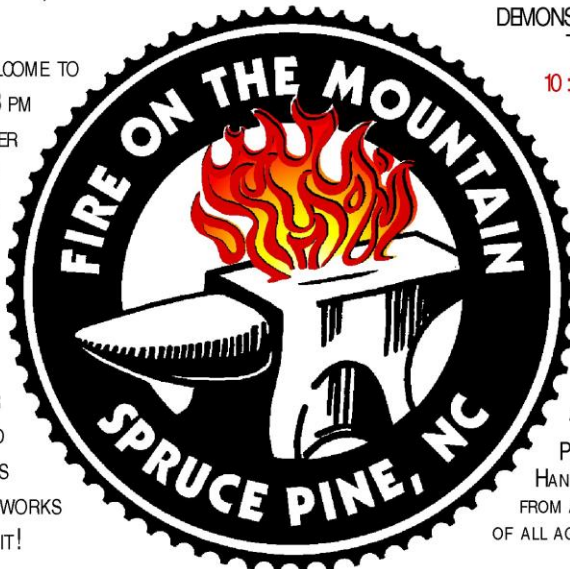


ABOVE: FRY PANS

LEFT: RISQUE BACKLESS DOILY

"FORGING COMPETITION"

WATCH VARIOUS BLACKSMITHS EACH COMPETE IN AN HOUR-LONG CHALLENGE ALL THROUGH THE DAY, AND HELP JUDGE THE WINNER!



DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE OCCURRING THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

10:00 AM - ANDREW DOHNER

11:30 AM - JAMES VISTE

1:00 PM - ELIZABETH BRIM

2:30 PM - JAMES VISTE

BLACKSMITHS WILL BE SELLING THEIR WARES AND BE DOING DEMONSTRATIONS AT THEIR INDIVIDUAL BOOTHS.

BLACKSMITH TOOL VENDORS SELLING FORGES, TONGS, HAND HELD HAMMERS AND POWER HAMMERS WILL BE OFFERED.

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OTHER FESTIVAL DEMONSTRATORS!



Andrew Dohner



Elizabeth Brim



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For More Information, Contact Spruce Pine Main Street at 828.765.3008, or go to www.downtownsprucepine.com

Dan Boone's Pasture Party Advertisement

Can you believe it... we are almost half way through the first month of 2015????? Hopefully you survived 2014 in good stead. Time to plan for this year's Pasture Party! Pertinent information follows:

DATE AND TIME: February 28, 2015, 9:00AM - 4:00PM.... There seems to have been some confusion about the date this year, but as always it's the LAST Sat in Feb!

REQUIREMENTS: Come prepared to have a good time! Bring something for Iron in the Hat and be prepared to buy tickets.... this is how we pay for the day without charging you an arm and a leg.... so please do your part.

DETAILS: This year we have multiple featured demonstrators: Phil Heath from BGOP, and Mark Sperry & Chris Henkels from Colonial Williamsburg. There will be craft programs for spouses and kids. There will be LOTS of tailgating, you are welcome to participate.

FOOD: Lunch will be provided, as always.... you pay for it with the Iron in the Hat!

PASTURE PARTY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Let us know by email (jmbb1000@aol.com) or by phone at 540-967-3267. We need everyone's name who is coming with you. Pray for warm, dry weather! Hope to see you then.

TRI-STATE SCULPTORS ANNUAL

IRON POUR

499 Industrial Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27406

**SATURDAY
FEB 20 • 9am**

FUN FOOD FLAMES

Tire Hammer Plans

Send check/money order for \$30 to

Clay Spencer
73 Penniston Pvt. Drive
Somerville, AL 35670-7013

Includes postage to US and Canadian addresses. Other countries e-mail clay@tirehammer.com for price. 256-558-3658.

Tire Hammers for sale contact me for current price.

Beverly Shears Sharpened

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CanIRON X Advertisement

They will be coming from Vancouver Island, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario; from California, Tennessee, Montana and Colorado; blacksmiths from as far away as Switzerland, Israel and the UK, have all registered to attend Canada's next national blacksmithing conference, CanIRON X. The event is taking place July 2nd-5th, 2015 in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Blacksmiths, metal enthusiasts, sculptors, artists, and individuals seeking something out of the ordinary, are making their travel plans to the rugged and beautiful island of Cape Breton, off the east coast of Canada. They will travel by air, sea, and ground; over the picturesque rural hills of Cape Breton and along the pristine waters of the Bras d'Or Lakes. Arriving on the shore of Baddeck Bay in the historic village of Baddeck, where the ringing of anvils and the fires of the forge will welcome them to CanIRON X, a celebration and convention on the craft of blacksmithing.

Drawn together by an art form that has played a pivotal role in the history of human society and culture, organizers are expecting hundreds of people to participate in CanIRON X. Visitors can attend lectures, watch blacksmithing demonstrations or take instructional classes. They can also visit an ironworks gallery, learn about the heritage of blacksmithing in Canada, stroll through a vendors market, and enjoy food, drink and conversation with the international blacksmithing community.

"You do not have to be a blacksmith to participate in CanIRON X," says event organizer and local blacksmith, Grant Haverstock. "This is a unique arts and culture event that will appeal to anyone. It will broaden your knowledge and appreciation for blacksmithing in Canada, inspire your creativity, stimulate your senses, and allow you to meet artisans and people interested in the craft from all over the world."

Although everyone is welcome, the event is attracting the attention of practicing artist-blacksmiths in Canada and abroad, due to the caliber of the talent coming to demonstrate and lecture. Renowned international smiths include Albert Paley, Zeevik Gottlieb, Mark Aspery, Uri Hofi and Lorelei Sims. It is unlikely these talented artists and instructors will be brought together at the same event again, making this a unique opportunity for up-and-coming artists from across Canada to learn from some of the best in the craft.

"We really hope to see a lot of artists and artisans from all disciplines and age groups at the event," says Haverstock. "Early bird prices are in effect till the end of the month, so it's a great time to register."

For more information or to register for the event, please visit <http://canironx.ca>

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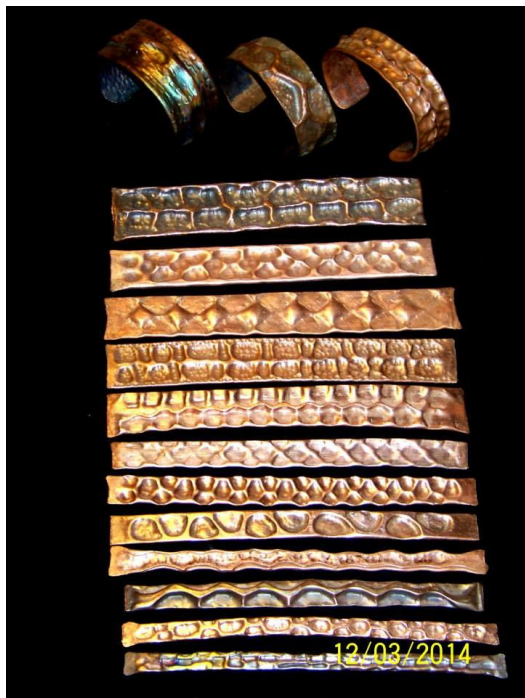
Featured Articles

Photo Gallery

Assembled by Jennifer Phillips

This is the third installment of the NCABANA photo gallery. This quarter's gallery has a Valentine's theme to it. (There is plenty of inspiration here for next year so no excuses.) In addition to all the hearts, there are also plenty of the traditional blacksmith pieces like bottle openers and some truly amazing copper work. I recommend you view some of these from the color downloadable copy of the "Hot Iron Sparkle" to get a real sense of the wonders you can do with copper.

If you would like to have some of your work featured, you can message my Facebook account (NC ABANA) or send an email to northcarolina.abana@gmail.com. I can also scan and upload any pictures mailed to my address (on Page 2). I hope you enjoy these pictures as well and happy forging.



This first picture is from the shop of Stanley Schwartz, owner of Trying-It Workshop & Forge in Pinckneyville, IL. These copper forged bracelets are works of art unto themselves. I know NCABANA has demonstrated copper folding techniques at a few of the quarterly meetings so use your imagination and you can turn jewelry into mini masterpieces.



And where do you store all those beautiful bracelets? In a jewelry box of course. Also crafted by Stanley Schwartz, is this faxwood jewelry box. Pipe forging lets you work with huge stock without the expense and added weight that is typical in using bar stock.





This last piece from Stanley is a new take on an old favorite. Even the praying mantis likes the added texture.



Pictured above is a horseshoe heart crafted by Brian Brazeal. Even the horses seem to be smiling at this beauty!



This next blacksmith is a favorite in the community that I know many of you have taken a class from, please show your appreciation for Brian Brazeal from Brandon, MS. Pictured above is what Brian is known for, his forged-to-finish technique is why his tutorials are so popular. Every class you take with him, leaves you sore but with a treasure's chest full of new tooling that you yourself helped create. While viewing these next few pictures of Brian's work, please keep NCABANA's scholarship in mind.



As I can personally attest, all of Brian's work is hand-forged to this high standard of blacksmithing. You can see these cranes all over his yard, if you look hard enough.



When forging roses, there are so many options available that people often overlook the most common material: steel. Brian's attention to detail for even the back of the rose truly illustrates his level of mastery as a blacksmith.



Here Brian Brazeal makes a simple heart design look effortless. Note the size of these little beauties.



Ending Brian's work with my personal favorite design is the above flower ring. This particular ring is made out of steel but I have now seen it recreated in everything from platinum to mocha mae.



Unfortunately I don't have the blacksmith's name for this piece but I wanted to include it as something different. How about a heart-shaped dinner bell for your Valentine?



Keeping with our Valentine theme are these impressive wall hooks by Mark Rossnagel, head smith of Revealed by Fire Hobby Blacksmithing located in Hertford, NC.



Tea cup candles are always a hit and as Mark demonstrates here (above & below), there are lots of different ways to highlight their aesthetic qualities. Mason jars always provide a little bit of Southern charm.



Pictured above is an elegant candleholder created by Mark. This is my personal favorite of his because of the detailed scrolls on the ends of each leaf. Pictured below is a little bit of fun with rebar. Go snail go!





Our last piece from Mark is a decorative egret. The owner of this one has chosen to use it as a necklace holder.



This copper rose wasn't heat-treated. The difference is in the color as you can see from the uniform copper color instead of the mixed reds present in the previous picture.



More Valentine action here with a beautiful copper rose by Ron Gizzi, owner of MiddleEarth Metalworks out of Guilderland, NY. The best roses I have ever received were of the copper variety like this one. I would highly recommend downloading the color copy of this "Hot Iron Sparkle" or you will never fully appreciate the rainbow of colors copper can turn when heat treated by a master smith.



Ron also does jewelry; check out these earrings (above). As any experienced smith knows, there are probably 20 other non-matching earrings similar to these in a scrap barrel somewhere. Below are necklace pendants of the leaf variety. The anvil they are sitting on really gives you perspective as to their delicate size.





Our next blacksmith is Robert Driscoll from Vallejo, CA. Here he has used a horseshoe to make a heart. These hearts can be decorative in themselves but I have also seen them used as trivets and picture frames.



Pictured above is an elegant wall hook that is a break from the usual scrollwork. Below, Robert has designed a firepoker and wall hook that are great for outdoor use.



Don't have any horseshoes of your own? Make one! As you might be able to tell from the ridges, Robert used rebar to make this one.





Our last artist is a different kind of blacksmith. This peacock was created by Jesse Scofield, owner of JS Copper in Dillon, MT. He uses copper for most of his work and does amazing repousse pieces.



It's not often you see a lotus in the blacksmithing world.



I consider this one of the best statement pieces I have seen in a while. Yes that is a laptop cover done with a relief engraving of a hummingbird set into wood.



I know blacksmiths loved details. How about these tiles? Can you imagine accenting a kitchen or bathroom with these works of art?



This last piece from Jesse is the perfect way to end this quarter's photo gallery. I can't wait for a margarita myself right now, especially if it was in a mug like this.

Iron Concept: Getting the most out of a day in the forge

Article by Andy Phillips



This series is named in honor of a long gone blacksmith's shop in East Bend, NC. Iron Concepts was one of the first large blacksmith shops I had ever seen and to this day serves and an inspiration to me. I find myself still referencing what I learned there at NCABANA meetings years ago. It still holds a special place in my heart, hence an iron concept.

Of all the things we as blacksmiths can make, the only really hard thing is figuring out what to do next. From the time you turn the lights on in the shop and light the fire, there is more to it than just time management. Of course there are only so many hours in the day, moving from one task to the next flawlessly and not wasting time is a big priority. But it doesn't do you any good to forge hard all day if you are working on the wrong things. A good blacksmith brings to the table more than just a good work ethic but also a logistic strategy as well as a set of long and short term goals that mesh together.

Work Ethic:

It is often that the biggest distractions in your day are the ones that you may not notice or you may think of them as a natural part of the day. Bernd Mergener once told me that a marine has an easier job than we do because the marine has someone to light a fire under him, we do not. You must become a master at seeking out inefficiency and waste in your own work day because no one else will do this for you. One of the simplest exercises is to sit down five minutes before the end of your day and make a list of everything you did, no matter how miniscule and then cross off everything you did that didn't move you towards your goal. Then try each day not to do those things. Over time, the crossed off items will get less and less until all that's left is the five minutes you waste at the end of every day making the list. Of course, if you're not careful, you can boil your work schedule down until you are nothing more than a metal forging robot and that's not good either. You are an artist after all. You still have to stop and smell the roses and of course you can't schedule the time your muse will strike. However, you can maybe stop yourself from compulsively sorting your tongs for the first hour of the day.

Daily Logistics:

As with many of the things we as blacksmiths make, you have to execute a series of steps in order with one affecting the next and often missing a step means wrecking the whole process. You can do the same with your day if you're not careful. When you look out over your day ask these three questions:

1. *Do I have what I need to meet my goals?*

If you find yourself driving to the hardware store every day for a single bolt, then you may have a problem.

2. *Are all my sets in the right order?*

If you have ever found yourself in front of the tempering oven having just loaded a tool you planned on spending the afternoon working on only to realize it won't be ready until tomorrow. Or if you have lit the forge and gotten it nice and hot but only then started cutting stock to load in it.

3. *Do my goals complement each other?*

Goal 1: Take it easier so I'm not so stressed.

Goal 2: Get more done fasterWhile this is possible, you might want pick one or the other. The more complex your goals are for the day, the less likely it is that everything will go smoothly. Keep it simple and you will never go wrong, also less will slip through the cracks.

A better list would look like - Goal1: forge 300 wall hooks, Goal2: make 700 nails Goal27: make 30 coat racks, Goal28: Go home happy. (You may not make it home and you most likely could have stopped your day at goal 3 but your purpose is clear!)

Long Term Goals:

Most big businesses have mission statements, why shouldn't you? Every so often it is important to sit down and ask why you do what you do. Do you forge to become a better smith or artist? Do you forge to leave your mark on this world? Do you forge because you want to keep history alive or

make your own path into the future? Why do you do what you do? It is one of the most important questions you can ask and it deserves to be put into word, hung on your wall, and venerated in your actions every day. While to you it may seem so clear and simple and almost embarrassing to write it down, you might be surprised to find the broad variety of answers that people will give.

A Visit with Jason Lonon

Article & Photos by Andy Phillips

I recently had the opportunity to visit Jason Lonon's shop in Marion, NC. I'm sure many of you know Jason from NCABANA meetings and think of him well from his demonstration at the second quarter meeting last year. So I definitely felt honored to get to visit his forge and listen to a demo from him.

The demonstration on a cold morning in January was about tong making. Jason showed how he made tongs that hold round bar and then each of us try our hand at making a pair. I was especially impressed by the way that Jason set the jaws and the space behind them using the swage block.

Jason's wife provided a wonderful lunch of cornbread and chili, which helped to warm us up to keep going. Afterwards, the guys and I got back out into the forges and did some team forging for some really large stock. Matt Clark was on hand needing a little help forging a mailbox post down to a taper.



Every hammer blow is not struck against the piece of iron you have in your hand but instead against the sum of the iron you will work in your life. Whether you like it or not, whether you know it or not, there is only so much time between the first and the last time you pick up a hammer. The better grasp you have on what you want to do in the end, the better grasp you will have on what you are going to do today.



All of the guys enjoyed the team forging so much that we continued making our pairs of tongs as teams. (It also probably had a little bit to do with laziness since our bellies were so full from such a wonderful lunch.)

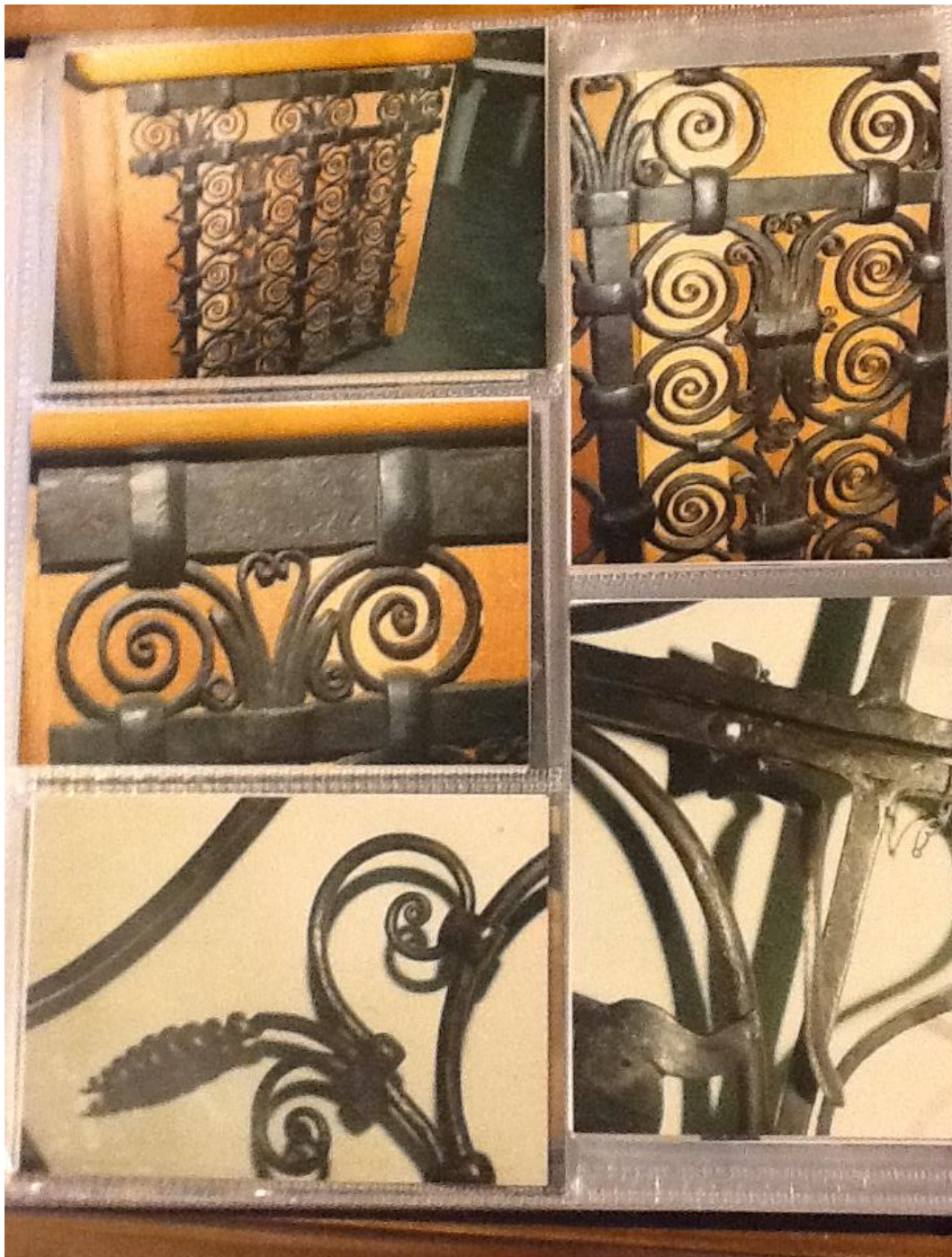


I would like to conclude with a special thanks to Jason for opening up his shop and home to us. It was truly a great experience and I look forward to coming back some time.

From the Shop of Samuel Yellin

Article by Doug Wilson, Photos provided by Clay Spencer

Recently, I received a CD of images from Clay Spencer. On that CD, were over 2000 photos of works from Samuel Yellin's shop. These had been taken in the early 1970s by Jeff Graves who was apparently working for a summer with George Dixon in the last days of the Samuel Yellin Metalworks shop. I will be sharing these photos in the coming issues of THE HOT IRON SPARKLE. The quality of the photos is not always the best. However, they are in many cases the only available documentation of Samuel Yellin pieces.

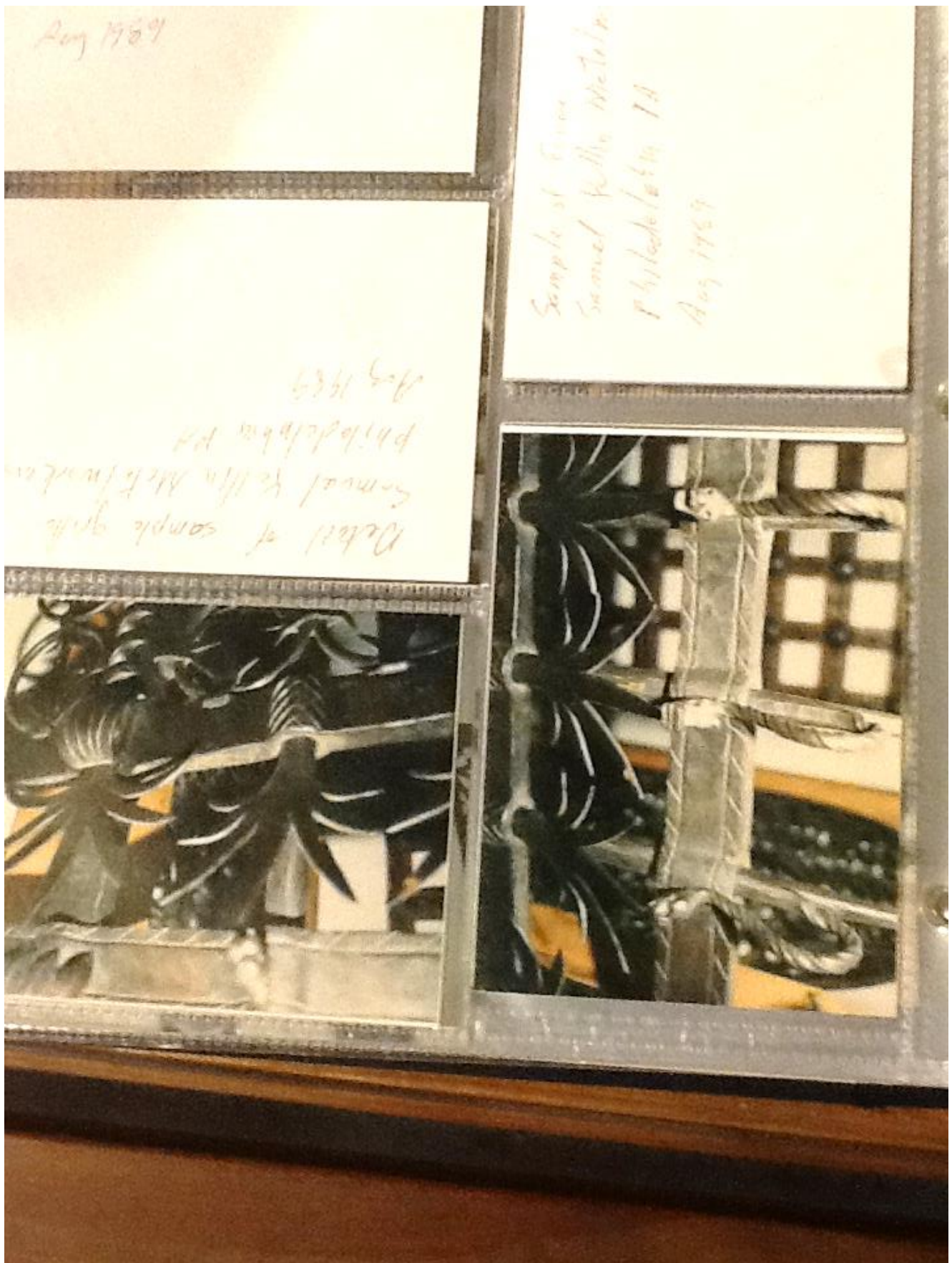




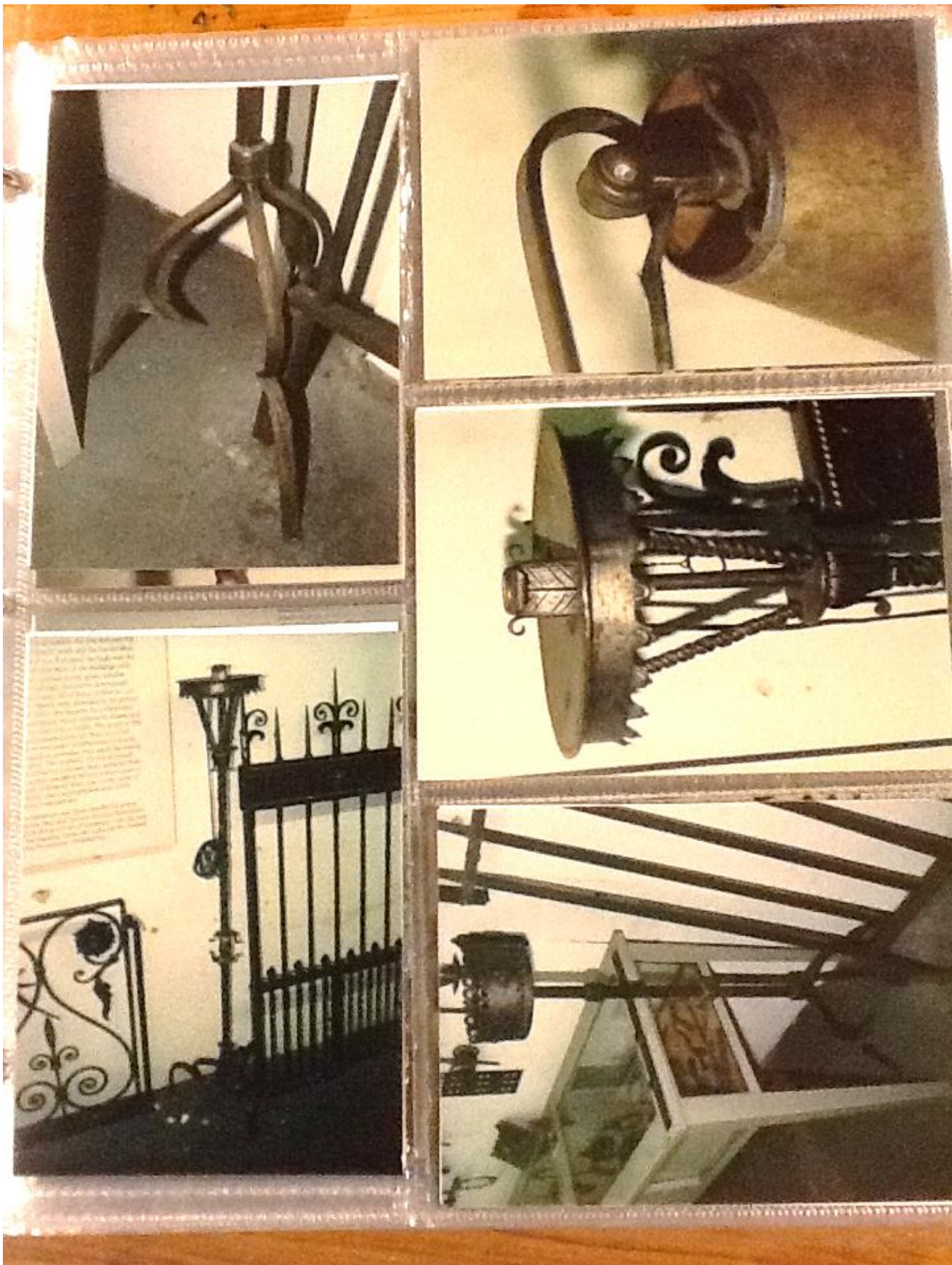












Quarter Corner

Steel of the Quarter: 8620

The steel for this quarter is 8620. When people talk about using 8620, they are using an alloy steel, as designated by American Iron and Steel Institute's (AISI) use of a four-digit number. AISI 8620 alloy steel is a triple alloy carburizing material. It features a hard case with a tough ductile core which experiences minimal distortion during heat treatment. This alloy steel provides a combination of toughness, hardness, strength and impact performance not found in lower grade carbon steels. In the industrial world, 8620 is used for gears, pinions, shafts, piston pins, cams, aircraft parts, and bearings. For blacksmiths and metalworkers 8620 is great for tongs and fixtures/jigs.

Most blacksmiths know that steel is made when carbon is introduced to iron. 8620 has quite a few elements in it besides carbon that help give it its strength like chromium, manganese, silicon, molybdenum, sulfur, nickel, and phosphorus. The nickel properties impart good toughness and ductility, and the chromium and molybdenum contribute increased hardness penetration and wear.

If you would like to forge 8620, the best temperature is between 2150-2250°F. To anneal 8620, keep it at around 1550-1600°F followed by slowing cooling it in the furnace. After you have annealed the steel, 8620 will have an average Brinell of 156. For tempering, first carburize the piece at 1650-1700°F for 8 hours, then oil quench. Then you can temper the piece between 300-450°F to get the desired effect. An interesting property is that the hardness of the steel can be increased if it has lower tempering temperatures. This alloy is typically used for carburized parts where a hardened case is desired for wear resistance.

Since 8620 stays flexible even with extreme crystal growth from heating over and over, it makes this steel perfect for tongs, moving parts, or fixtures that will get hot during the bending process. This particular steel is cheaper than a lot of alternatives which truly makes it the most cost efficient option.



Tongs are my personal favorite use for 8620.

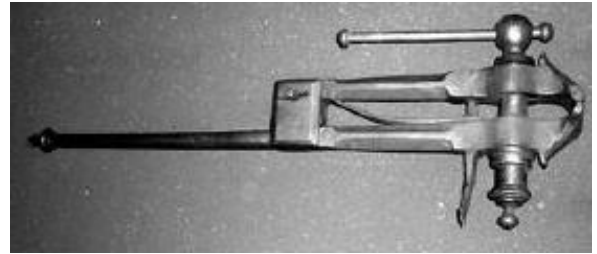


Whether your jigs look like the picture above or below, 8620 is a great steel to build them with if you are going to be using them to the point where they get really hot too.



Tool of the Quarter: Pin Vise

The first time I saw a pin vise was last month at Jason Lonon's shop. It was so cute. But how could such a small vise be functional in a blacksmith's shop? Shouldn't a vise look more like this:



Above and below are examples of pin vises.



Note the true size of a pin vise in the above picture.

Like *Machine Tool Operation* says, “a vise is a necessity in a forge-shop practice.” Most blacksmiths know the basics about using a vise: do not hold a heavy piece of hot metal in the vise (doing so destroys the temper of the vise jaws) and hammer the work, not the vise! The main difference with a pin vise is that you hold the vise in one hand. With this in mind, the uses of a pin vise narrow to small work like filing, bending, or engraving. Pin vises are usually about the size of a short pen and come in open-jaw and collet versions. Other great uses of the pin vise are for holding something further away from your body so you aren't directly in the line of fire, like when you are sharpening drill bits on a grinder. Lots of the uses of tongs would be better served with a pin vise. Think of how many times a piece of work or tool has slipped out of the tongs versus the strength you get from holding something in a vise.



Engraving work as an example of the pin vise's uses.

Whether you are using a pin vise to sharpen a drill bit or for detailed engraving work, it is a cute but useful tool in the shop.

Anvil Surfing Pic of the Quarter

As promised, here is a little bit of fun to end this issue. This picture comes via Nuno Nascimento from his forge Forgia Creativa in Brindisi, Italy. This picture especially stood out to me since it looks like he is holding a forged baby dragon.

Nuno even wanted to say a little bit about his forging philosophy so here is a good quote:

“When the metal is calling me for the first time, it attracts me like a magnet, impossible to resist; I walk or drive somewhere quietly, and suddenly I have a strong feeling that abandoned metal is there waiting to be found. And I always find it.

Then, observing the beauty of the piece found, metal speaks to me again. He tell me how I can work on him and turn it into something that can be appreciated by everyone.

Recycling, is the common thread in my work. If I could, I would turn the iron junk yard into a contemporary art museum. Just thinking about it makes my heart vibrate stronger.

When people ask me where I get my ideas I can only reply: I do not need ideas, I need metal.”

Thank you for all your submissions and please keep them coming. Now enjoy!



1st Quarter Meeting at Oak Hill Iron

Saturday, March 21st, 2015

Starts at 9am with lunch at noon

3308 Frank Whisnant Road

Morganton, NC

2nd Quarter Meeting at Triad Blacksmiths

Saturday, June 27th, 2015

Starts at 9am with lunch at noon

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Local Group Meetings

Triad Area Blacksmiths (Winston-Salem, NC)

Marshall Swaringen

marshall@swaringen.com (336) 998-7827

1st Tuesday at 6:30PM for demos

3rd Saturday at 9AM for business and all day forging
Dixie Fairgrounds, Winston Salem, NC

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths (Mooresville, NC)

Steve Barringer

steve@powerhammerschool.com (704) 660-1560

2nd Sunday each month

Triangle Blacksmith Guild (Raleigh - Durham, NC)

Randy Stoltz

rhstoltz@gmail.com (919) 481-9263

1st Saturday in even # months at various locations

Brasstown Blacksmiths (Brasstown, NC)

Paul Garrett

pdg86@hotmail.com (828) 835-8441

1st Tuesday in even # months; 5 to 8 PM

Wilkes Teaching Forge (WTF) (Millers Creek, NC)

Lyle Wheeler

ncchairmaker@gmail.com (336) 838-2284

2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM

Blue Ridge Student Blacksmith Guild (Flat Rock, NC)

John Matthews

john.knox.matthews@gmail.com (828) 645-2109

You are welcomed to attend any of the local group meetings. Please contact the host to confirm date, time and location.

NC ABANA Meetings

1st Quarter 2015 – March 21

Oak Hill Iron
Morganton, NC

2nd Quarter 2015 Extra – June 6

Peter Ross's Shop
Silk Hope, NC

2nd Quarter 2015 – June 27

Dixie Classic Fairgrounds
Winston Salem, NC

3rd Quarter 2015 – September 12

Island Farm
Manteo, NC

4th Quarter 2015 Extra – November 6-7

John C. Campbell Folk School
Brasstown, NC

4th Quarter 2015 – December 5

Roger Barbour's Shop
Clayton, NC

Other Events

Fire on the Mountain Festival

Downtown Spruce Pine, NC
April 25th, 2015

Southeastern Blacksmith Association (SBA)

Conference

May 13 - 17, 2015

Lion's Club Fair Grounds, Madison, GA

CanIRON X

Nova Scotia, Canada
July 2nd-5th, 2015

For the most current meeting and event information go to the NC ABANA website,

ncabana.org

North Carolina Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America



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First Quarter Meeting of NC ABANA

March 21st, 2015

Oak Hill Iron

3308 Frank Whisnant Road

Morganton, NC