



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

December 2011



Greetings!

Well, it looks like we may have a winter after all. Hopefully we can turn the AC off for a couple of weeks and with recent rain we can light up the forge and not have to worry about burn-

ing up what's left of the state. In my shop "black Friday" means "blacksmithing Friday" and a good time to get all the Christmas gifts hammered out. I got three done before I even broke a sweat.

The November meeting in Boerne went well. We had a good turnout, several folks took advantage of the open forges and we had excellent demonstrations by Tom Leining and Aaron Tilton. A few folks brought their forges and anvils, and although we didn't use them, we do want to thank you for bringing them.

December will take us to Wimberly and to the shop of "Tom the Blacksmith". Hopefully we can talk Tom into another tour of his smithy and outbuildings. Tom has some sort of antique tool buying disorder that he is working desperately hard to overcome, but no luck yet. This makes his shop look like its right out of the 1890's and a fun place to visit. My demo will be "how to work with deer antler". Cutting, shaping, drilling and polishing for tool handles, knife scales and even buttons for your leather goods. If you have something to demo or share with the group, please let me know. I can put you on the agenda.

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Meeting Date is Dec 10



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MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The trade item will be: “a decoration that the 1890’s blacksmith would have made for Christmas”. This should be easy and interesting, and it will almost be like exchanging Christmas gifts.

A few words of caution: As we seek out old tools and shops, keep in mind that the old shops were not the safest places to work. Most everything painted before 1960 is coated with lead paint. Do not open any old bottles, especially the brown ones. Lye, acids, arsenic and many other chemicals were just household products back in the day. Even Dynamite was kept and used on a great number of farms and ranches until the 1940’s. And then there are the spiders, the brown recluse and the black widow. Both like cool dark places and the aftereffects of their bites are very nasty. Wear gloves, try to ventilate buildings as much as possible, and use a good strong light to see; think about what you are doing. Please be safe!

Hope to see everybody in Wimberly, but if I don’t see you then, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jerry Achterberg
Balcones Forge President

Submitted by Jim Elliott

Balcones Forge Nov. 19, 2011

Boerne Agricultural Museum – Host Joe Trevino
President Jerry Achterberg called the meeting to order at 9:30 with the announcement that the December meeting will not be held at Vince’s shop due to scheduling conflicts. Dang, that work ethic stuff! The meeting was rescheduled to December 10 at Tom (the Blacksmith) Leining’s shop in Wimberly.

No decisions were made about the January meeting.

The February meeting is tentatively set for the second Saturday at the Lee Brother’s Shop in Bryan. It should include HABA folks as well.

Trade Items: Remember you have to make one to take one.
December – Christmas ornament
February – Spurs

There was some discussion of making bowls and the donation of same to HABA for a charity organization, auctions and fund raising efforts. Status?

Jerry then talked of his great grandfather, Gustov Achterberg and his work at the blacksmith shop in Cibolo, Texas in the late 1800’s. Jerry has a hand cranked blower in excellent condition that was used in this shop. He also had several interesting photographs from this era. Jerry is a busy guy... he talked about a Foucault Pendulum that he made. Very interesting!

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Meeting Minutes continued

David Walden displayed a jeweler's mandrel and a supplier of same; Rainbow Jeweler's Supply in San Antonio.

Joe Trevino brought some of his blades and briefly discussed the various shaping and finishing steps necessary to complete a blade.

Sale of coil spring brought in \$40, thanks to Jim Schmidt, George Graham and James Weaver. Sale of a book and magazines also brought in about \$60.

We then moved on to the introduction of new board members: George Craig and George Graham.

Floor was opened for other business or news and James Helms of San Antonio stated that he needs shop space. Anyone who knows of a place available should give him a call.

Tom Leining then demonstrated the making of utensils and hooks as well as the importance of engaging the audience. It is just as important to entertain as it is to inform. And yes, Tom can be entertaining! Great work Tom, Thanks! Aaron Tilton demonstrated forge welding and did a great job as well.

We had a good turn out and now several young people started hammerin' steel. Their enthusiasm was infectious and soon Aaron, Jim Schmidt and others were assisting.

The trade item for November was a competition and there was awesome work. Participants were Colby, Jim Schmidt, Aaron, Jerry A., and James Weaver. Each was outstanding but the prize of a knife making book went to James Weaver. All did beautiful, thoughtful work.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Bluebonnet Demo for 2012 will feature Elizabeth Brim. Check out the ABANA website for a gallery entry showing off her award winning talent. Once the date is set, you all will be the first to know.

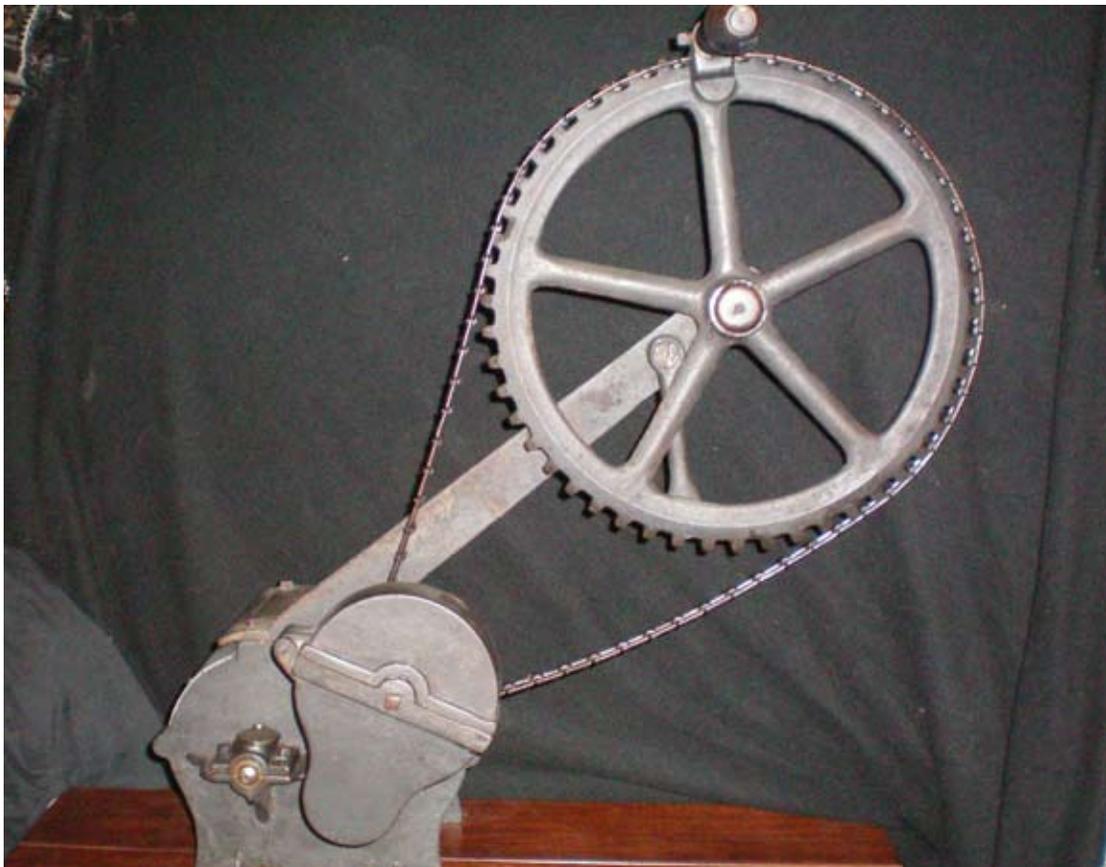
DECEMBER VENUE CHANGE

Due to a change in Vince Herod's work schedule, he could not host the December meeting. Thanks to Tom Leining for offering to host the December meeting.





Antique and rare forge blower owned by Jerry Achterberg. It was used by his great grandfather in Cibolo, Texas in the late 1800's.





Merry Christmas!

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NOV 27, 11

BALCONES FORGE MEMBERS

SORRY ITS TAKEN SO LONG TO GET THIS TO YOU,
BUT I HAVE QUITE HONESTLY BEEN ON THE MOVE
IN ONE FORM OR THE OTHER FOR THE LAST THIRTY DAYS.
BUT NOW I HAVE SOME SIT DOWN TIME, AND ITS TIME
I THANKED THE BEST BLACKSMITHING ORGANIZATION
THAT I KNOW OF, AND THAT WOULD BE BALCONES FORGE
W/ ITS SUPER TEAM OF OFFICERS AND A MEMBERSHIP
THAT HAS BEEN GENEROUS TO ME W/ THIER TIME &
MONEY. WHEN I SPOKE TO RUDY & JERRY ABOUT MY
WANTING TO HAVE AN AUCTION, THEY WERE SUPPORTIVE
FROM THE GET GO AND ASSURED ME IT WOULDN'T BE
A PROBLEM TO PROMOTE AND ORGANIZE SUCH AN EVENT.
THANK YOU ALL BALCONES FORGE MEMBERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL
AUCTION FOR THE CONTENTS OF HAMMERFEST FORGE, HOPEFULLY
ALL MY NICE EQUIPMENT IS OUT THERE BEING PUT TO GOOD USE,
MAKING BEAUTIFUL IRONWORK AND MAKING IT GO EASIER!

LIKE THE ACADEMY AWARDS I WOULD LIKE TO
THANK (I AIN'T ALL THAT FAR FROM HOLLYWOOD) EVERYONE
WHO PITCHED IN ON THIS EFFORT AND GAVE GENEROUSLY
W/ THIER TIME & EFFORTS. THANK YOU: JERRY ACHTERBERG,
RUDY BILLINGS, JERRY WHITLEY, JOHN & CAROLYN CROUCHET, SCOTT PYLE,
ALL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE RUNNING & TOTTING ARTICLES,
CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT THE GREAT AUCTIONEER AND ASSISTANT BILL
ALL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SETTING UP & ~~FEASIBILITY~~ ^{REMOVING}
THE SEATING, ~~AND~~ THE FOOD, THE BEVERAGES, ETC. SPECIAL THANKS
TO ~~THAT~~ THAT HELPED ME GET ALL THAT STUFF IN A MARKET-
ABLE MODE, MY GOOD FRIEND AND GO TO GUY WHEN YOU GOT A
CONCERN YOU CAN'T HANDLE BY YOURSELF, MR. JIM ELIOT AND TWO
GUYS THAT ARE WHAT MADE HAMMERFEST FORGE WORK
LUPE URDIALES & ECKER MILLER.

P.S. THANKS TO ALL YOU GENEROUS BIDDERS
YOU KNOW, ~~WHO YOU ARE~~
WHO YOU ARE.

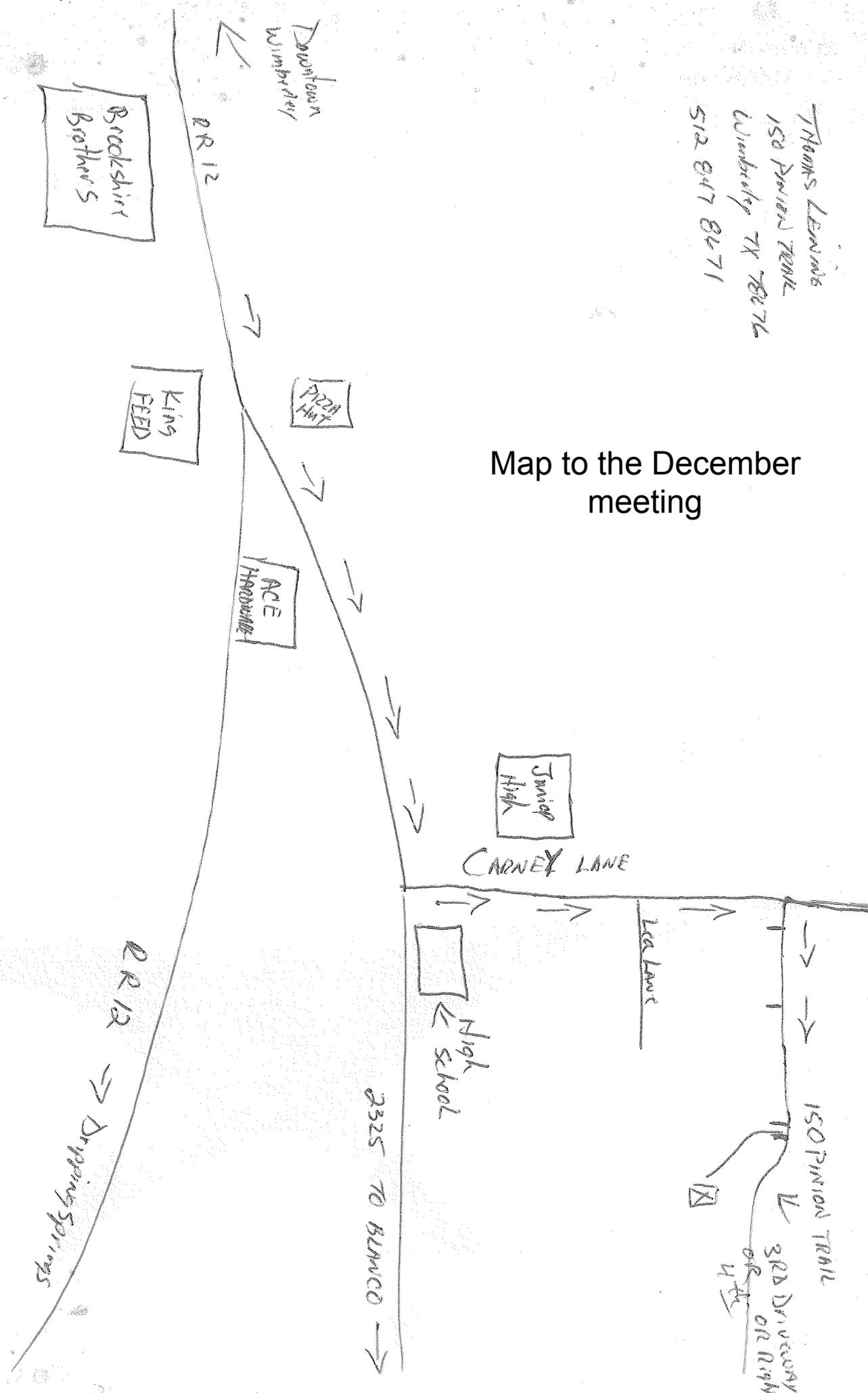
AS I FINISH THIS I'M WATCHING THE SUN SINK
INTO THE BLUE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THANKS

LARRY CRAWFORD

THOMAS LEONARD
150 PINION TRAIL
WIMBERLEY TX 78176
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Map to the December meeting





Tyler James Herod, age 2-1/2, is the new apprentice at Spotted Dog Forge.

Return Service Requested

Vincent Herod
Spotted Dog Forge
166 Granite Road
Paige, TX 78659-4922

