



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

July/August 2013



Well, I guess the vacation is over. Will I be getting out to the forge? Probably not, the digital thermometer on the patio is reading 127 degrees. The sun is shining on the sensor and I am pretty sure that it is not that hot but, I don't think anyone would want to pay what it would cost for me to get into the fire in weather like this.

Thank you James Helm for the great demo on June 29th. We were all extremely happy with the turnout. James and crew made a hammer using his hydraulic press and power hammer. This event had a hammer or handled tool as a competition item. Participation was good and 3rd Place went to James Helm, 2nd Place to Tim Teller and 1st Place to Jerry Achterberg. Jerry again amazed us with his work.

James donated a post drill to "Iron in the Hat".

Verl Underwood's widow donated 3 boxes of very nice books to the Balcones library. We agreed to do something to show our appreciation for her generosity.

We are still needing someone willing to take over the library. There are thoughts on ways to share the load. If you have suggestions or want to jump in, please give us a shout, we would be happy to have you.

Aaron is also in need of someone to take over the T-Shirt sales. Any volunteers?

*President's message continued on page 2*

## Meeting Date is Aug 24



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*President's message continued from page 1*

Jim and company are working hard on the addition to John's shop. Costs currently are at \$5300.00 and construction continues. For those that are not aware, this will give us more room for the Bluebonnet Demo as well as our workshops. Thank you John and Caroline for all of your hospitality.

The Balcones board members present went to lunch at Bill Miller's and had a very productive meeting. Mark Aspery will be our demonstrator for the 2014 Bluebonnet Demo. For the workshops to be held prior to the demo we need ten full operational forges. I will have a report on what is available for fire pots. John is getting the measurements for the stands. Jerry Achterberg donated a blower and we will need about 8 more. We will also need leg vises and anvils for each station. Can anyone help with these items?

The board will be getting together later in the month for more discussion on the above subjects. A date will be set soon and I will get an email and Facebook notification out to everyone in hopes that you can attend.

Don't forget that our September meeting will actually be held the first weekend of October (5 & 6). Ed Malgrem with HABA has taken charge of a joint event that will include Balcones, HABA, North Texas Blacksmith Assoc. and LAMA (Louisiana). They have been working to make charcoal for an iron smelt. This promises to be a very memorable and educational event.

We have a request from The Williamson Museum and Chisholm Trail Days to have demonstrators there on Friday, October 18th and Saturday, October 19th. Do we have anyone in the Georgetown area that is willing to take this on? Please let me know ASAP.

If anyone has any complaints or suggestions, please contact any board member and let us know.

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We have a great organization and if our direction needs to be modified, we won't know if you don't speak up.

If you have to get out and work in this heat, please be careful. It is a good idea to pre-hydrate the night before and continuously while you work. Don't forget to hydrate even more during your recovery period. Adult beverages don't count.

Stay safe out there,  
Jerry

Jerry Whitley  
President, Balcones Forge

P.S. Don't forget to like Balcones Forge on Facebook. We use it to help keep you informed.

## **BALCONES FORGE MEETING INFO**

Meetings are open to everyone -- you do not have to be a member to attend.

Meetings are usually held on the last Saturday of each month, but subject to change.

Bring your Safety Glasses -- REQUIRED

Other things to bring:

Hearing protection, notepad, camera, folding chair/bleacher seat cushion, drinking water, returning library book/video, "Iron in the Hat" auction item, trade item/competition "trade" item. Competition "trade" items are creations that take time and effort, so you get to keep your item. Usually the items are judged and prizes awarded.

## **BALCONES FORGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **UPCOMING BALCONES EVENTS**

July & August -Too hot to forge!

September- Date will be October 5th in Oldenburg, Texas. This is another event where we will work with HABA and North Texas Blacksmiths. The cupolas will be built and the charcoal made. We will have an iron smelt and each group should return home with 10 to 20 pounds of wrought iron from the bloom. This will be one that you do not want to miss.

October 26- Whitley's in Devine, Texas  
I know it is far for many. We have room for those that may want to bring an RV or tent. It is okay to show up on Friday (might get some extra forge time in) and if the after party goes too long and strong, stay until Sunday. We are planning to barbeque again and maybe even take a field trip to Stroud's Blacksmith Shop in Devine.

November and December are still in the works.

## **AUGUST MEETING INFO**

Just a note out to all to let you know that we will meet on Saturday, August 24th in San Marcos at Hays County Barbeque

<http://www.hayscobbq.com>

They open at 11:00 and said that they would be happy to accommodate our meeting.

We will start off with a quick membership meeting. If anyone has anything to show and tell, bring it and show it off.

As you know by now, Mark Aspery well be back again next year for our Bluebonnet Demo. So that we can get the most out of the workshops, he is requesting that we have ten forges up and running. The board will meet and discuss our forge building plans.

My plan was to continue again next year as President of Balcones Forge. I will be starting school on Monday and the demands of the 5 year program will not allow it. I will have to dedicate as much time as possible to my studies and their schedule. We had orientation last Monday and they said that it will be like trying to put 15 gallons of water into a 5 gallon bucket. I think that this melon of mine has a 1/2 gallon capacity so, I will have my work cut out for me.

I will still make myself available to help as much as I can when I can. This is a really awesome group, think about stepping up and giving us a hand.

I am sure that one day we will see a cold front again, stay cool,

Jerry Whitley



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership

- Regular .....\$55     Overseas .....\$65  
 Student .....\$45     Contributing..... \$100  
 Senior (65+)...\$50     Library .....\$45

\$5 discount for two year memberships and renewals

ABANA Chaper Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

www url: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Information

- Visa     Mastercard

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Submit check, money order (US banks only), or by credit card:

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M E M B E R S H I P    A P P L I C A T I O N

Return Service Requested

