



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

Rudy Billings, President
rudy@redhotironworks.com- 512/461-7375
Harvey P. Wise, Vice-President
hpw@tconline.net- 979/823-0813
Smokey Thompson, Treasurer
swthompson@aol.com- 512/694-9772
Sue Murray, Secretary
suraiyam@earthlink.net- 512/929-0416
Vince Herod, Editor
spotteddogforge@yahoo.com - 512/253-6045

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THE PREZ SAYS:

It's Election Time

To me, election time for Balcones Forge is exciting. It creates a transfusion of new ideas, people, and direction. We have two positions open on the board, and a few non-board positions. Please consider throwing your hat into the ring. To be a Balcones Forge Board Member, you...

- ...don't need to be a journeyman blacksmith.
- ...don't have to make every meeting.
- ...don't need to own a Bastas hammer.
- ...don't need to make three nails in a minute.

You just need to be willing to dedicate a little time to your organization to help make it better. If you would like to be nominated, but can't make the meeting, let me or another officer know.

Please consider becoming a more active participant in your organization. We have fun and the rewards are great.

Rudy Billings
President

This is an example of the fine work done at Pheil Forge in Llano. Besure to attend the October meeting to get in on how to do this kind of work.



Not only does Bob forge the iron, he cuts the wood as well!

Photos by Bob Pheil



MEETING INFO

Join Balcones Forge on Saturday October the 27th for what will be another fine meeting in Llano. Bob Pheil will be hosting the meeting at his shop, Pheil Forge. Bob always has something great to show the group and this year he will be showing how to build the bench in the pictures on page two.

The meeting will start at our usual time of 9:30am. As for the agenda, along with the usual announcements, we will have our annual board member election, but that won't take long and then we will get on with the demonstrations.

In addition to what Bob has in store for us, Tom Lupton will be doing a "bluing" demonstration. It is always good to have more options for the finish on your work and blueing is one you ought to know.

Now if the demos and election aren't enough to get you to the meeting; just think about the food. Llano is home to more than a few good barbeque joints and our members usually fill up at least one after the meeting.

Be sure and bring a chair and something to take notes with because you will be sure to learn something good at the October meeting.

TRADE ITEM

The host of the meeting gets to pick the monthly trade item. Bob says the trade item is a pair of workable scroll tongs. Get busy and have a pair ready for the 27th.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!



GARY HILTON REPORTS

Our member Gary Hilton has spent sometime overseas of late.

One of these photos is an anvil that is about 300lbs in front of a women's blacksmith shop (kvindessmedien stands for women's smithy, I think) with their opening times on the door. This is the only shop I've found so far in Copenhagen and it's in an old hippy community called Christiania. They are also well known for the Christiania bicycle (I think). One can type in Christiania and search the web and see a picture of the shop but not much of the insides.

Gary Hilton



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The September meeting was a demonstration day at the Sauer-Beckman Farm, which is part of the LBJ Ranch in Stonewall. Sixteen members and friends came out to participate and to enjoy spending the day at this 1918 Texas-German style historical working farm.

Our host was Ricky Weinheimer, a State park employee who oversees the blacksmith shop, among other areas. The blacksmith shop was about the size of the shop at Zilker. Although Roy Bellows was slated to be the official blacksmith for the day, his job was made very easy due to the enthusiastic assistance of other Balcones Forge demonstrators. Thanks to everyone who squeezed in to work with the one forge and show the public what blacksmiths can do.

The farm was a great setting for the day. When I arrived that morning, park employees had just finished milking the cows and I could smell bacon cooking. There were plenty of farm animals around the blacksmith shop to remind you it was a working farm. There was also an old log cabin, with the kitchen separated from the rest of the house by a dog run. There was no running water or electricity on the historical homestead and the cooking was done on a real wood stove. Raw milk was being naturally processed into all of the different products milk can be made into. We even got to sample hot, fresh cookies right out of the stove. Yum yum! It was a great place to spend the day and we met lots of nice folks, many from out-of-state, who had come to see the farm.

The trade item was a vessel, since we only had one made to trade during the August meeting. There were four vessels traded. We also had iron-in-the-hat items donated. There was a pair of rollers and two bundles of horseshoes. Jim Galish, our friend and member who passed away earlier this year, donated two of his books on blade-making to the Balcones Forge Library, as well as a binder of TABA Forge Reviews.

Remember folks...October is the month we elect Balcones Forge board members, so be deciding if you'd like to step up and give us a hand or who you'd like to nominate.

Sue Murray
Balcones Forge Secretary

A BLACKSMITH

Over in the corner,
In an old wooden shop,
An old country blacksmith
Is standing at a stump.
An old wooden handled hammer,
The head flattened by
Many blows of shaping
Red hot metal, and of
The years gone by.
The anvil, too, has
Been flattened by
The blows of much
Shaping and welding, and
Of the years gone by.

John Leslie

age 8

Jerrell, TX

July 1989

Texas Forge Review

A TIP FROM THE PAST

FROM UMBA NEWSLETTER: To protect your shop safety glasses from pits from grinding and such, buy a bottle of "Armorall" at your local discount house. Clean your glasses THOROUGHLY with a GOOD detergent, such as Dawn or Simple Green; be sure to rinse and dry thoroughly. Residue will interfere with the job Armorall is supposed to do - we tried it to be sure.

Make a swab of folded paper towel and give both sides of the lenses three coats of Armorall, letting each coat dry before adding the next one. Your glasses will look scruffy and scuzzy until the 3rd coat is on and dry, when you will buff the lenses. After that, you have a no-smear, uniform finish that protects your expensive glasses really well. (Carol's prescription safety glasses cost between \$80 and \$150 depending on where she gets them, so she has a real vested interest in finding a good way to protect them without sending them back to be re-coated every few months.)

CAUTION: Don't use Armorall wax - according to the label and a company rep, it eats some plastics, including those used in making glasses frames and nosepieces. Also, unless glasses sliding down your nose all the time, don't coat the nosepiece of your glasses with Armorall. Neatness counts. This stuff is slippery when dry.

This tip was found in the January 1990 Texas Forge Review



OLDENBURG PICTURES

Helen Wise sent the pictures on the right from the HABA festivities at Oldenburg in early October.

It sure looks like everyone was having a good time and it is good to see Harvey back at the anvil.



2008 BLACKSMITH CALENDAR

Thanks to Bill Miller in Rochester, WA, I was able to borrow enough old photos to produce a Year 2008 Blacksmith Calendar, which will likely be the last in the series. Like prior years, this calendar contains interior views of old blacksmith shops. Six old postcard views were added for a total of 18 images. The individually shrink-wrapped calendars were professionally printed using a 200 line-per-inch process, which yielded a near photographic result. A list containing available information for the pictures in all 9 calendars and 25 postcards will be included.

1-5 Year 2008 Calendars: \$16.00 each

6-20 Year 2008 Calendars: \$14.00 each

21-49 Year 2008 Calendars: \$11.50 each

over 49 Year 2008 Calendars: \$8.50 each

CD with 4000 Blacksmith & Anvil images

Contains a wide (very wide) variety of images collected from many sources over a period of years. They're arranged in several slide shows for easy viewing. You'll see anvils posed in every way imaginable. (For Windows only, not for Macs.)

1-3 CDs: \$15.00 per CD

over 3 CDs: \$10.00 per CD

Set of 25 Blacksmith Postcards

Note: This is not a new set of postcards. Only one set of 25 postcards has been produced.

1-5 Sets of Postcards: \$8.00 per set

6-25 Sets of Postcards: \$6.00 per set

over 25 Sets of Postcards: \$4.00 per set

Calendars from Prior Years

Year 2007 calendars are still available for \$8.00 each.

Year 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 & 2001 calendars are still available for \$6.00 each.

Shipping / Ordering

The prices shown above include the cost of shipping to a U.S. or Canadian address. Insurance is extra if desired. If interested, please send a check or money order to:

Gill Fahrenwald, P.O. Box 2323, Olympia, WA 98507

or PayPal to anvilman@orcalink.com

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2007

Nov - Pioneer Farms, Austin

Dec - Open

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP

Blacksmith Supply (www.blacksmithsupply.com) is giving away a \$500 scholarship this year. Nothing to purchase -- just fill out the form on the website to enter. Winner selected by random drawing on Nov 15, 2007. Only one entry per person per month.

CAPS FOR KIDS

Centaur Forge is collecting caps and hats to distribute to kids at MD Anderson who are going through treatment and have lost their hair. Please donate your NEW caps. (You really don't need 47 caps!) Bring to any meeting and we will deliver them to Centaur Forge for this worthy project.

DEMO LIST

Here is a list of things to take for a one day demo.

Whats on your list?

- o Portable forge
- o Bowl to catch ash & clinker
- o Forge tools (shovel, poker & water can)
- o Coal (1 bag)
- o Newspaper
- o Matches or lighter
- o Quench tub (black plastic muck bucket)
- o Anvil
- o Anvil stand
- o Steel side table
- o Tongs
- o Hammers
- o Hardies
- o Top tools as needed for planned activities
- o Hand tools as needed (twisting wrench, wire brush, chisels, punches, etc.)
- o Leg vise
- o Pop up canopy
- o Chairs
- o Items to sell
- o Receipt book
- o Sales tax permit
- o Tables (2 small plastic, 1 card table, 1 folding table)
- o Table cloths
- o Stock for demonstration
- o Water jug
- o Cooler for drinks & snacks
- o Plastic cups
- o Empty buckets
- o Business cards
- o Trash bags
- o 2 wheel dolly
- o Change fund
- o Apron
- o Paint/lacquer
- o Borax
- o Paper towels
- o Rags

INTERESTING BLACKSMITHING SITES

<http://www.innovationaliron.com/forum/>

<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/archive/publications/Wrought-Ironwork.asp>

What's your favorite site?

SUPER QUENCH HELP NEEDED

For those of you who attended Rob Gunter's demonstration a few years back, I have a question. Did you use his formula for Super Quench? Well I did and it worked just as promised.

A few years have gone by and now one of the ingredients is not available. The recipe calls for a 32 ounce bottle of blue Dawn dishwashing liquid and the local HEB doesn't seem to carry that size anymore.

Has anyone had success with the new Concentrated Dawn? If so please pass the information along so the updated formula can be shared in the newsletter.

The attempt I made proved to be unsuccessful.

S A F E T Y F I R S T

Something

Awful

Follows

Every

Time

You

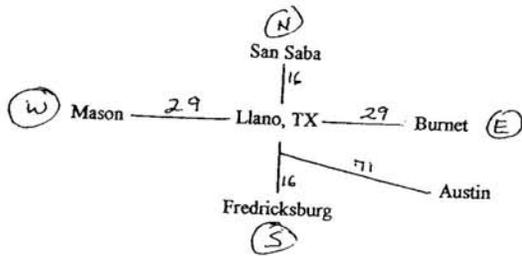
Forget

Implementing

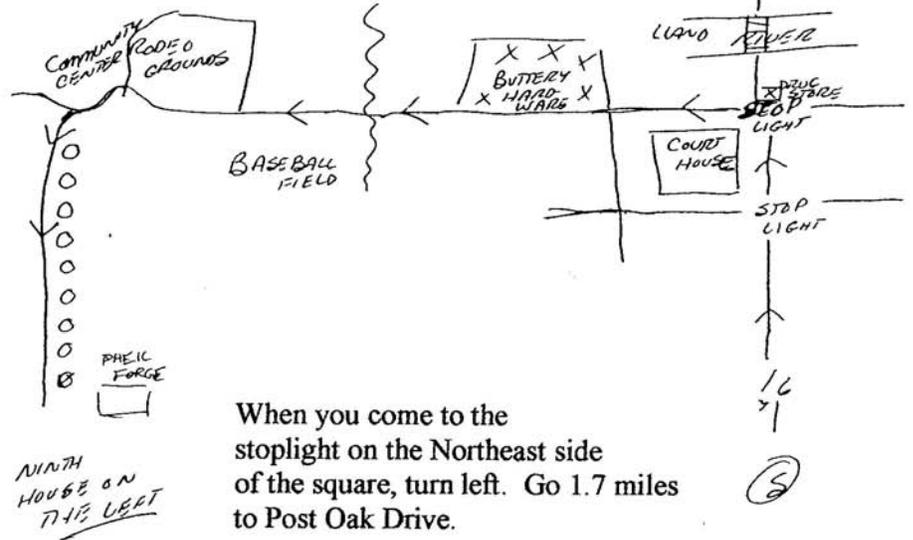
Reasonable

Safety

Techniques!



Pheil Forge
 200 Post Oak Drive
 Llano, TX 78643
 915-247-1370
 bpheil@tstar.net



When you come to the
 stoplight on the Northeast side
 of the square, turn left. Go 1.7 miles
 to Post Oak Drive.

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