



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

March 2022

Greetings,

The February meeting for Balcones Forge was held at Blackhawk Millworks. We were able to fire up a few forges and have several get in the fire and forge some hooks or nails. Thanks to all who attended and a big thanks to those members who helped mentor some of the inexperienced members (Aaron, Jim, Joe and Shane). We had a great time getting back in the fire and meeting with those members who we haven't talked with in a long time. We have a great group of members. Everyone is open to sharing their knowledge.

I want to welcome the new members who signed up at this meeting and look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Our next meeting is in Fredricksburg, Texas at the Pioneer Museum at 325 W Main St. We will be demoing for the public during this event and will have several forges hot and ready to go. Come on out and get in the fire and hit some hot metal.

John Meyer, President

Meeting is on March 19



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ABANA's 2022 Conference registration is now open. Please join us for what will be an outstanding event May 11 – 14 2022 in Denton Texas!

Get registered and get your tickets booked to come down to the Lone Star State this May for the ABANA 2022 Convention held at the Denton Fair Grounds. There are going to be amazing demonstrators and booths for all to see
Please register here <https://conference.abana.org>

Some of the demonstrators include:

Anton Yakushev

Randy McDaniel

Mark Ling

Lisa Geertsen

Sue Howerter

Lyle Wynn

Zeevik Gottlieb

BALCONES FORGE MEETING SCHEDULE

March 19 - Pioneer Museum, Fredericksburgh

April 9 – New Braunfels Folk Fest

May 11 – 14 – Denton, ABANA Conference

June ?? - ????

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ABANA Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America
PO Box 462, Johnstown, PA 15907-0462 814 254-4817 exedir@abana.org
'The Foremost Metal Arts Association in North America.'



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Consider supporting ABANA in perpetuating the noble art of blacksmithing. Donate to:

FUND: **STEEL \$1-\$99** **COPPER \$100** **BRONZE \$150** **DAMASCUS \$500**

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Membership: Renewal **New Membership**

Print \$65 For North America: US, Canada and Mexico only. Publications will be mailed.

Digital \$55 Optional for North America. Outside of North America Publications sent electronically.

Membership includes FREE placement in a searchable 'Find a Blacksmith' database to connect to opportunities.

[Check here to be included in the searchable on-line 'Find a Blacksmith Directory'](#)

Credit Card Payment:

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Signature _____ Charge Card Provided Check enclosed Money Order Enclosed

Credit Card Payments can be scanned and sent via email exedir@abana.org or call 814 254-4817. Checks or Money Orders should be made out to ABANA in U.S. funds and mailed to the address above. *Form revised March 2021*

EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2021

JANUARY BALCONES MEETING REPORT

The January meeting for Balcones Forge was held on January 28th at an event at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Museum in La Grange. Although not a formal meeting as such we had many members show up and attended the demonstrations. The demonstrators were Derek Melton, Johnathan Pinkston, Logan Brackin, and Josh Rachita.

Johnathan demonstrated the making of a 3D horse head, Derek Milton demonstrated making a coffee scoop and discussed using social media as a tool, Logan Brackin made a railroad spike knife and Josh Rachita made a spoon using files to finish the item.

There were vendors from all around with steel, coal, tools, and knives for sale. Alex Ruiz had a great display of knives.

The museum volunteers did an outstanding job providing sausages on a stick as well as chili for lunch and a nice selection of beverages.

The entertainment in the morning was the Mike Stroup Trio and, in the afternoon, it was The Harfman's Euro Accordion Music.

The auction was held right after lunch, and it appears that the auction raised a good amount of money. The bids were fast and furious for many of the items, with the president, vice president and secretary going home with some treasures. The auction proceeds are for the blacksmith shop being built on site. The foundation has already been poured so the monies from the auction should get a lot more of the construction completed. Hopefully it will be up and running for next year's conference.

Along with the blacksmithing events there were antique engines of all sizes and varieties being displayed and operated. The Zapalac sawmill seemed to be a big it and you could smell the cedar saw dust forever. The sawmill and planer were operated by tractors using drive belts. I'm certain this would give an OSHA inspector fits. It is amazing to see the old iron still moving and I'm thankful that there are still folks who know how to operate these machines.

Thanks to all who made this event happen it was a great time. Hope to see more of at next year's conference.

Lance Jensen, Secretary

The February Balcones Forge Meeting was held on February 26th, 2022, at Blackhawk Mill works. In attendance were 25 members of the forge

John Meyer, president of the forge started the meeting with introductions and welcoming new members. John discussed the new Facebook page Balcones Forge Organization. This change from our previous page allows for more interaction of the members of the group. It has been working well and he encourages members to post pictures and videos.

Rudy Billings, treasurer, is working on the process of sending group emails to the organization. We are in the process of getting members renewed so if you haven't renewed yet you can send your dues to Rudy or join at the next event.

Aaron Tilton, vice president, talked about the March meeting of the forge being held at the Pioneer Museum located at 325 W Main St, in Fredericksburg on Saturday March 19th. It follows the spring break week where Balcones Forge members will be demonstrating at the museum for the children on spring break. We will have 2 blacksmiths in the forge each day of this week.

F. P. Lilly will be our demonstrator at the Saturday meeting. He is a long-time member of the forge and is a wealth of knowledge.

The April meeting of the forge will be on April 9th at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture located at 1370 Churchill Dr. In New Braunfels. This meeting will start at 9am. The meeting is in conjunction with the museums Folkfest event. There will be living history reenactments and pioneer craft demonstrations. Folkfest is both Saturday and Sunday.

January's meeting was held at the Texas Blacksmiths conference. Although not a formal meeting John, Aaron Rudy and Lance attended from the board with other forge members in attendance. The conference went well with a lot of great demonstrations. It is suggested that the forge participate more in next year's event.

Andy Quittner stated that the Abana conference needs more attendees to make it a viable event. If you are planning to go the event it is best to register now.

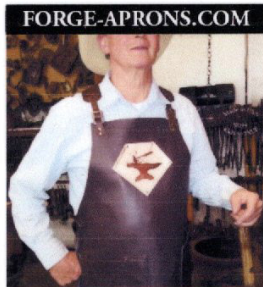
John added that the ABANA conference will have classes in hammer making and many other demonstrations. There is camping on site. To learn more about this event look on the ABANA website.

ABANA is requesting that the forge lend 10 of our forging stations to the event. These will be used in the education area. ABANA is looking for volunteers to assist with demonstrations during the event. The volunteers would work in 4-hour shifts and receive free admittance for the day of volunteering. Also, the forge is looking to have members available to give information out about the forge and to sell some of our merchandise.

The ABANA conference is being held at the North Texas Fair and Rodeo located at 2217 N Carroll Blvd Denton Texas from May 11th through May 14th. See the ABANA website or John Meyer for more information about this event.

Jerry Achterberg gave a demonstration of the making of a free standing Fredricks cross. Additionally, Rudy and Lance attended a Hammer In in Elgin on February 19th sponsored by To The Point Blade Sharpening Store representing the forge. The event was well attended, and we were able to add a few new members.

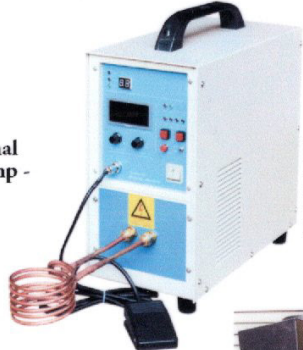
The ABANA Raffle *If you don't buy a ticket you can't win!*



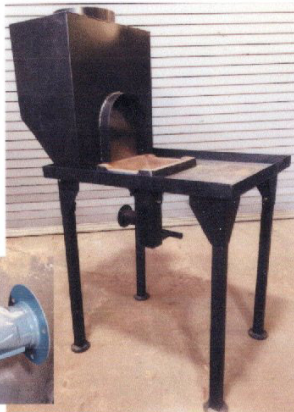
EIGHTH PRIZE
Custom Forge Apron -
Forge-Aprons



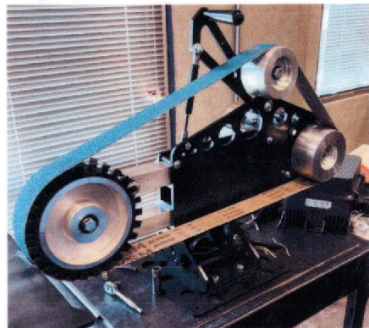
PRIZES 9, 10, & 11
(3 draws) Personal
Touchmark Stamp -
Steel Stamps.



FIFTH PRIZE
15KW 3-100 KHz Hi
Frequency 220V
Induction Forge



SIXTH PRIZE
Coal Forge &
Blower
from MASA,
Mid-Atlantic
Smiths Assoc.



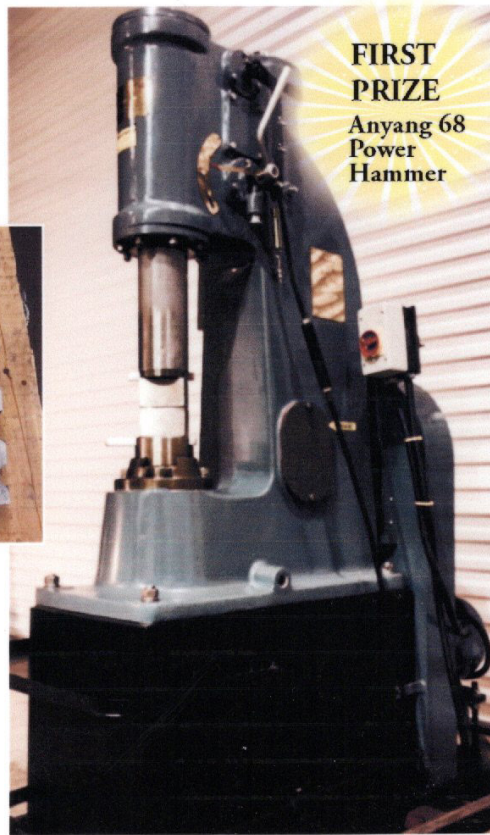
FOURTH PRIZE Broadbeck 72" Belt
Grinder + Grinding
Attachment



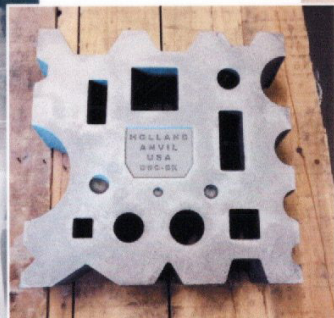
THIRD PRIZE
#6 Fly Press
from
Blacksmith
Supply



SECOND PRIZE Big Blu 50 Ton
Hydraulic Press



FIRST PRIZE
Anyang 68
Power
Hammer



SEVENTH PRIZE
Swage Block -
Holland Anvil

Read the description
to determine the actual
size and model.

Shipping not included.

ANNOUNCING THE 2022 ABANA RAFFLE

Back by popular demand, thanks to our President, Leigh Morrell and several very generous sponsors we have created an outstanding raffle with 11 must have items for every shop. Why not think about adding that needed piece of equipment to your shop.

Whether you win or not, we hope you will support our sponsors.

Prizes and Sponsors are:

- 1st prize
Anyang 68 power hammer
- 2nd prize
Big Blue Hydraulic Press
- 3rd prize
Blacksmith Supply #6 Fly Press
- 4th prize
Brodbeck Ironworks, Grinder Package
- 5th prize
ABANA purchased, Induction Forge, used at the 2021 Iron to Art
- 6th prize
Mid Atlantic Smiths Assoc NEB style Coal Forge
- 7th prize
Holland Anvils, Swage Block
- 8th prize
Forge-Aprons, Custom Forge Apron
- 9th prize
Steel Stamps, Personal Steel Touchmark
- 10th prize
Steel Stamps, Personal Steel Touchmark
- 11th prize
Steel Stamps, Personal Steel Touchmark

Hurry, we will only be selling 6000 tickets!

Drawing to be held at the Village Blacksmith Shop 221 North Street Goshen CT 06756
May 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., winner need not be present.

All items are FOB sponsors location. Winners are responsible for all applicable taxes.

Only \$10 per ticket. Look on the ABANA website!

W W W . B A L C O N E S F O R G E . O R G

HEY THERE GUYS!

Dan Richman here from North Texas Blacksmith Association with a message about ABANA 2022.

We are asking everyone that is coming to the conference to go online and buy their passes now.

Covid has slowed down our early sign ups and we are trying to get the numbers up to better reflect the type of numbers ABANA can expect to attend the conference.

I know that a large number of our fellow Texas Blacksmith Clubs members from Balcones, Houston and the 4 States Iron Munchers will be there, and I need everyone coming to get registered as soon as they are able to.

Thanks for listening and feel free to contact me with any questions

Dan Richman

President North Texas Blacksmith Association & ABANA Texas Chair

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