



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

October 2022

Greetings,

We had a great day of forging at the Wendish Festival last month. There is always a good crowd who engages well with us. There was a slight break in the heat but it still was hot. We had a new member get into the forge and forge a S hook. Looked great for a first of many attempts. We enjoy teaching and passing on our knowledge but it makes it easier when the student is so enthusiastic.

Balcones Forge will be hosting our next meeting scheduled for October 29th will be our Annual Demo & Memorial hosted by Rustyk Forge at 295 CR 663 Devine, Texas 78016. We will have Iron in the Hat which usually has a lot of tools and other blacksmith tools and made items.

Our Featured Artist & Demonstrator will be Lyle Wynn who will demonstrate making some tools and forge out some copper jewelry. Not something you will want to miss.

We will fire up the forge at 9:00am

11:30 - Memorial Ringing of the Anvil

12:00 Lunch Barbeque Dinner will be served (Donation to cover the dinner will be greatly appreciated)

For those that would like to participate in the Open Forge, we will have a shaded area set up away from the demo area.

Bring your Forge, Anvil & Tools (and chairs)

Look forward to seeing ya'll at the next meeting. Keep forging.

John Meyer, President

Meeting is on Oct 29

Starts at 9:00am



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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

It's finally starting to cool off. Time to fire up the forge and make something perhaps to donate to the auction at our next meeting. Which will be at Jerry Whitley's in Devine 295 CR 663. Lyle Wynn will be demonstrating jewelry making and the tools needed for that. You don't want to miss that. Lyle always puts on a good demo.

The November meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 19th in conjunction with Reforged makers fair.

December's meeting will be at furniture museum in New Braunfels on the 10th. This will be an open forge format possibly with a short demo by one of our members.

Hope to see y'all in Devine.

Aaron Tilton, Vice President

Upcoming meetings:

October	29th	Devine
November	19th	Reforged Makers Fair
December	10th	New Braunfels
January		Texas Blacksmith Conference in La Grange



More info in the two Balcones Forge Facebook pages. (You can check out the posts without having a Facebook account.)

<https://www.facebook.com/BFCTB/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688735415468063>

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



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



Blowin' Smoke ~ Installing a Stack Blower

story & illustrations by Glenn Wilson, Camino

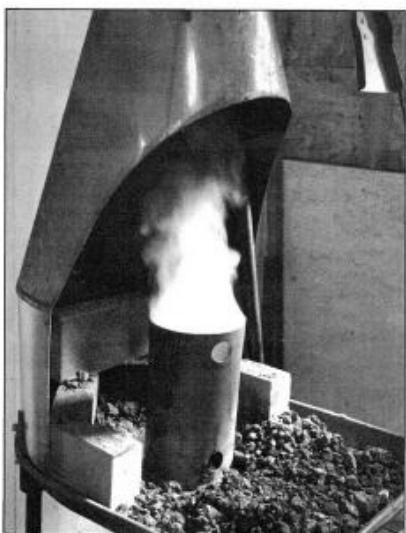
When I built my blacksmith shop four years ago, I made the common mistake of under sizing the forge chimney. I used 6" ID stove piping. It wasn't adequate. Every time that I started a fire, I had smoke curling out from around the hood and filling my shop with smoke. It would take a half hour or more to clear. This was not good for my lungs.

The problem was made worse by the fact that I live in snow country and often have a foot or more of cold snow surrounding the stack on the roof. The air in the stack was often very cold and heavy.

Pondering the problem, I realized that I had two solutions. Yes. I could rip out the stack, modify the roof flashing, and purchase and install a larger stack. Or I could try installing a stack blower.

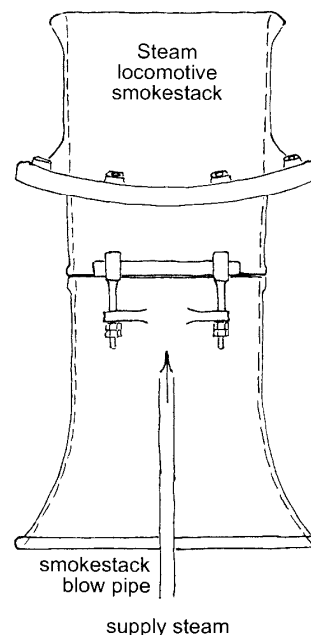
So, what is a stack blower? It is a part of steam railroading. Steam locomotives are not naturally aspirated (drafted). They require that fresh combustion air be drawn into the firebox continually. When the locomotive is underway, this is done by venting the exhaust steam from the cylinders up through the smokestack. Every exhaust (chug) of the engine jets steam up the smokestack sucking air through the engine and firebox with it.

This works well when the locomotive is working. But, what about when it is standing? There are no chugs to help it breathe. To compensate, every steam engine has a small steam pipe pointed up into the exhaust stack (see diagram). When the engine is standing, the fireman opens a valve which provides an upward jet of steam, which forces a slow consistent supply of combustion air through the firebox, through the tubes and up the stack.



Smoke is drawn up stack by the air flow created by the blower. Blower pipe is visible going up into smokestack. Note fire starter tube, 8" stovepipe 12" tall.

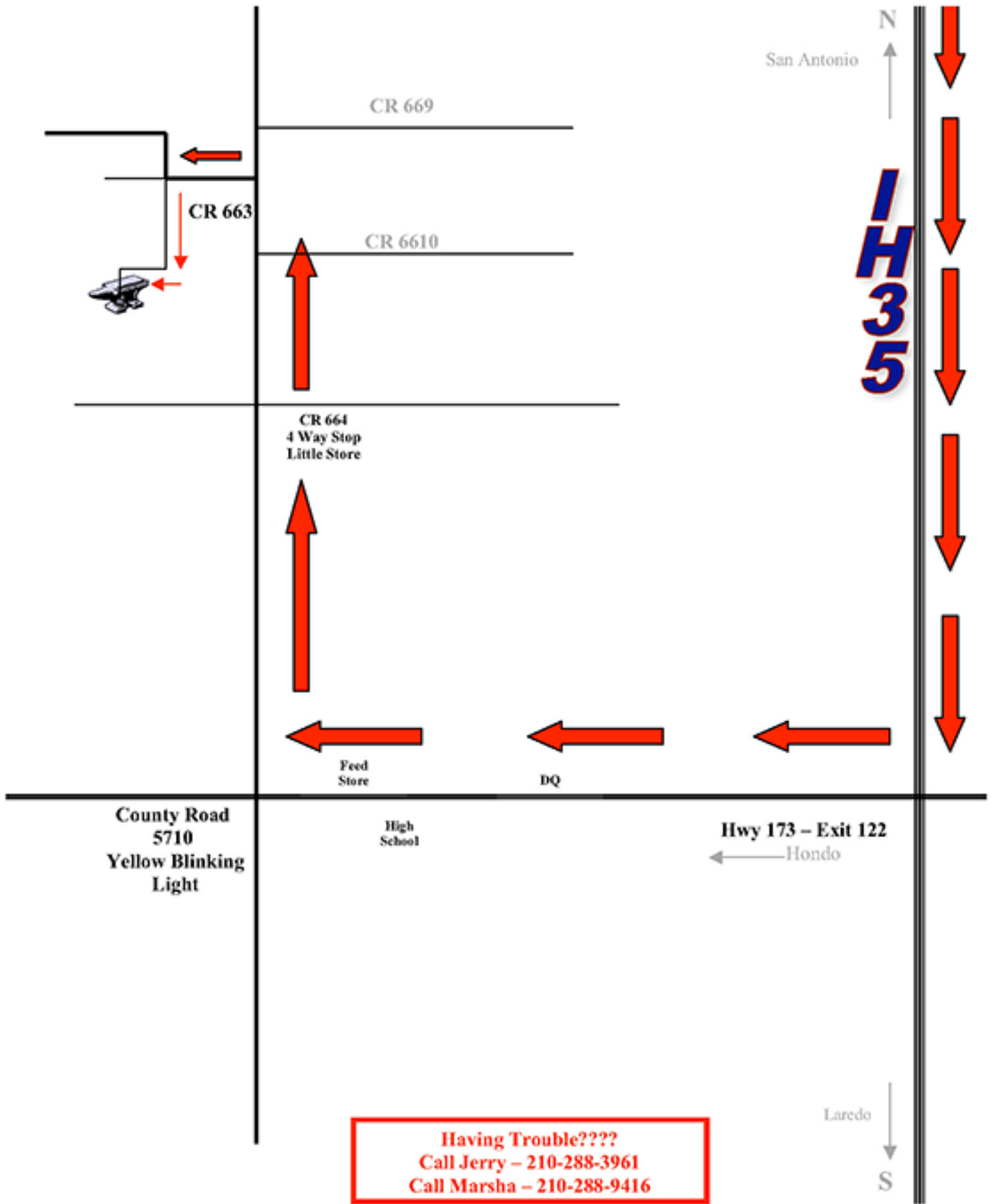
Editor's Note: This is one of those interesting techniques that are "well known to those who know them well."



My blower pipe is a length of 1" galvanized thin wall electrical conduit. It is inserted about two feet up under the hood where the 6" stack starts. I fabricated a bail for the top to hold the pipe centered in the stack. To test the concept, I attached my Shop-vac exhaust to the pipe and lit a fire. (see picture) Wow! It worked! It worked well!

Satisfied that it would work, I purchased a small 60 CFM blower (Farmtek.com item #109842) and wired it to a wall switch. Then I fabricated a mount and an adapter with a rubber hose to isolate vibration noise. I start the blower about a minute before I light off the fire. This allows a column of rising air to be established before I begin. Then I light it off. The cold smoke is drawn up the hood, and the exhaust emits from the hood on the roof.

Then, once the fire is well underway and the stack is hot, I turn the blower off. I am happy, and my lungs feel much better. You contact me at caminowilsons@sbcglobal.net. ♣



10th Annual Rustyk Forge Demo & Memorial



Saturday, October 29, 2022

At: Jerry & Marsha Whitley's
Rustyk Forge

295 CR 663
Devine, Texas 78016



We will fire up the forge at 9:00am
Our Featured Artist & Demonstrator will be
Lyle Wynn
11:30 – Memorial Ringing of the Anvil
12:00 Lunch

Barbeque Dinner will be served

(Donation to cover the dinner will be greatly appreciated)

**For those that would like to participate in the Open Forge,
we will have a shaded area set up away from the demo area.**

Bring your Forge, Anvil & Tools

**Please support Balcones Forge and this Event by bringing
something for the Auction.**

Bring your “Tailgate” & “Show & Tell” items.

Fine Print – To participate in the “Open Forge”, you must be a member and signed in on the sign in sheet.

We can get you signed up at the event with \$25.00 and a completed Registration Form.

I am sure that we can come up with a hammer or two, but if you plan to forge please try to bring your own tooling and stock.

Feel free to bring your anvil and forge.

All will need eye protection and hearing protection is highly recommended.



Great turnout and good times at Wendish Fest!