



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

October 2023

Greetings,

Wow! The Wendish Fest did not disappoint. I can't speak for all who attended, but I really enjoyed it. We had a good turn out.

The October meeting will be at Jerry and Marsha Whitley's in Devine. World Famous Mark Ling will be our demonstrator for the day. I've had the privilege of seeing Mark demo several times. He is top notch. The Whitleys are awesome hosts as well.

You don't want to miss this one! Hope to see you there.

Be sure to bring your wallet. We will also be having an auction with some pretty good items: anvils, forge, who knows what goodies you might find.

The trade item for October is a functional hand tool such as a chisel punch etc. Remember, you've got to make one to take one.

Arron Tilton, Balcones Forge President

Meeting is on October 21

Start time is 9:00



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???

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year.

October 21st	Rustyk Forge, Devine: Mark Ling, Demonstrator	
November 11th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels	2nd saturday
December 9th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels	2nd Saturday

TRADE ITEM DETAILS

For October, the trade item is a functional hand tool. To participate, simply make the item chosen for the month. Sometimes there are detailed instructions and sometimes you get to make what ever your imagination tells you. Bring it to the meeting, participate in the trade and you will walk away with another smith's version of the item.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!



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



Scenes from the September meeting.

Photos by the Editor.



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PRESENTS:

SECOND SATURDAYS

A FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY
LIVING HISTORY EVENT

10:00 AM-4:00PM

ROTATING DEMOS:

- BLACKSMITHING • WEAVING • BROOM MAKING
- HEARTH COOKING • CANDLE DIPPING • JEWELRY
- SEWING • CABIN LIFE • WOODWORKING
- WEAPONRY • MUSIC

DATES:

- 1/14/2023 • 2/11/2023 • 3/11/2023
- 4/15-16/2023 • 5/13/2023 • 6/10/2023
- 7/8/2023 • 8/12/2023 • 9/9/2023
- 10/14/2023 • 11/11/2023 • 12/9/2023

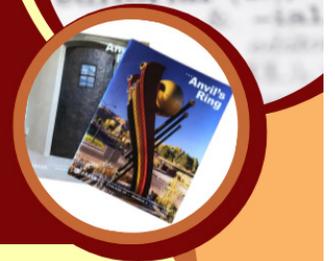
EVERY SECOND SATURDAY AT
HERITAGE VILLAGE
1370 CHURCH HILL DR.
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130

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NOW HIRING EDITOR

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Now Hiring: Editor of The Anvil's Ring

The Anvil's Ring is a quarterly, full-color, 60+ page magazine focused on traditional and contemporary forging arts. If you love blacksmithing and have experience with writing, graphic design, and editing for publications, this might be the perfect job for you!

The ideal candidate will have experience with Adobe Creative Suite or similar software, the ability to plan and work within set deadlines, excellent writing skills, and the capacity to get the job done with minimal oversight. This position includes creating content by approaching and interviewing blacksmith artists, soliciting articles from the blacksmith community, reviewing article submissions received by ABANA, and converting all materials to a print-ready journal. This is a remote, work-from-home position that reports to the ABANA Publications Committee.

Please send contact information, resume, and writing sample(s) to info@abana.org. (If you are not a current member of ABANA, please explain your connection to or experience in the blacksmith community.)

Punching and Drifting Tip

By Mark Ling

[Mark put this up on Facebook. I asked his permission to share it here in the Bits. - Steve]

Look at the difference between a round-punched and drifted hole and one that was slot-punched. The bar here is $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ and I'm drifting the holes to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

I see a lot of folks making bottle openers with rings looking like the hole on the left. This is not a proper forging. The hole on the left is wrong and the one to the right is correct. When I say it's wrong I do not mean that it may not have a purpose. I mean that it is not a clean, efficient, or structurally strong forging.

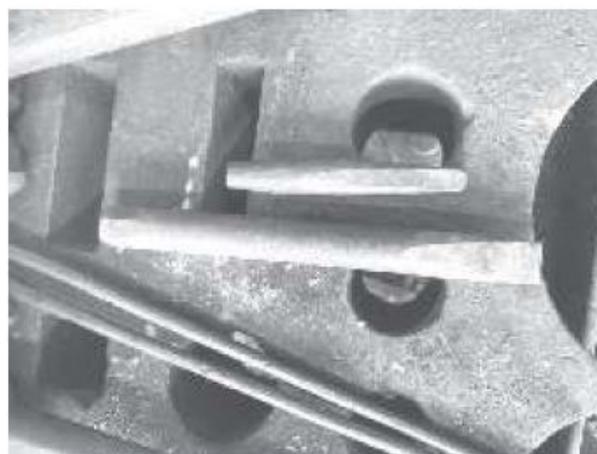
Regardless of application, in theory and principle the round-punched hole is weak. The round-punched hole has to be stretched to the final size and is much thinner around the perimeter of the hole. The round-punched hole took extra heats that were not needed for the slot punched hole.

The slot-punched hole is merely opened up with minimal stretching to achieve the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch final hole size. It has an even mass around the perimeter of the hole, substantially more mass than the round-punched hole. That is the strongest way of putting a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole in a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide bar. The series of tools for the slot-punched hole was a slot punch $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{13}{16}$ wide, then a $\frac{5}{8}$ slot drift to open the hole, then a $\frac{3}{4}$ final size drift.



Above: Round-punched and drifted hole on the left, slot-punched and drifted hole on the right.

Below: Face and side views of the slot punch and 5/8 slot drift.



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2022
The Journal of the Alabama Forge Council

11th Annual Rustyk Forge Demo & Memorial



Saturday, October 21, 2023

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
Mark Ling
11:30 – Memorial Ringing of the Anvil
12:00 Lunch

Barbeque Dinner will be served

(Donations cover the cost of the meal. Please be generous as prices have gone WAY up)

For those that may be traveling a long distance for the event,
we will have a lot of room for a tent or travel trailer.

**This is the “Big Event” for Balcones Forge for 2023 and
we need your help.**

**Please bring something for the auction and please participate in
our auction.**

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

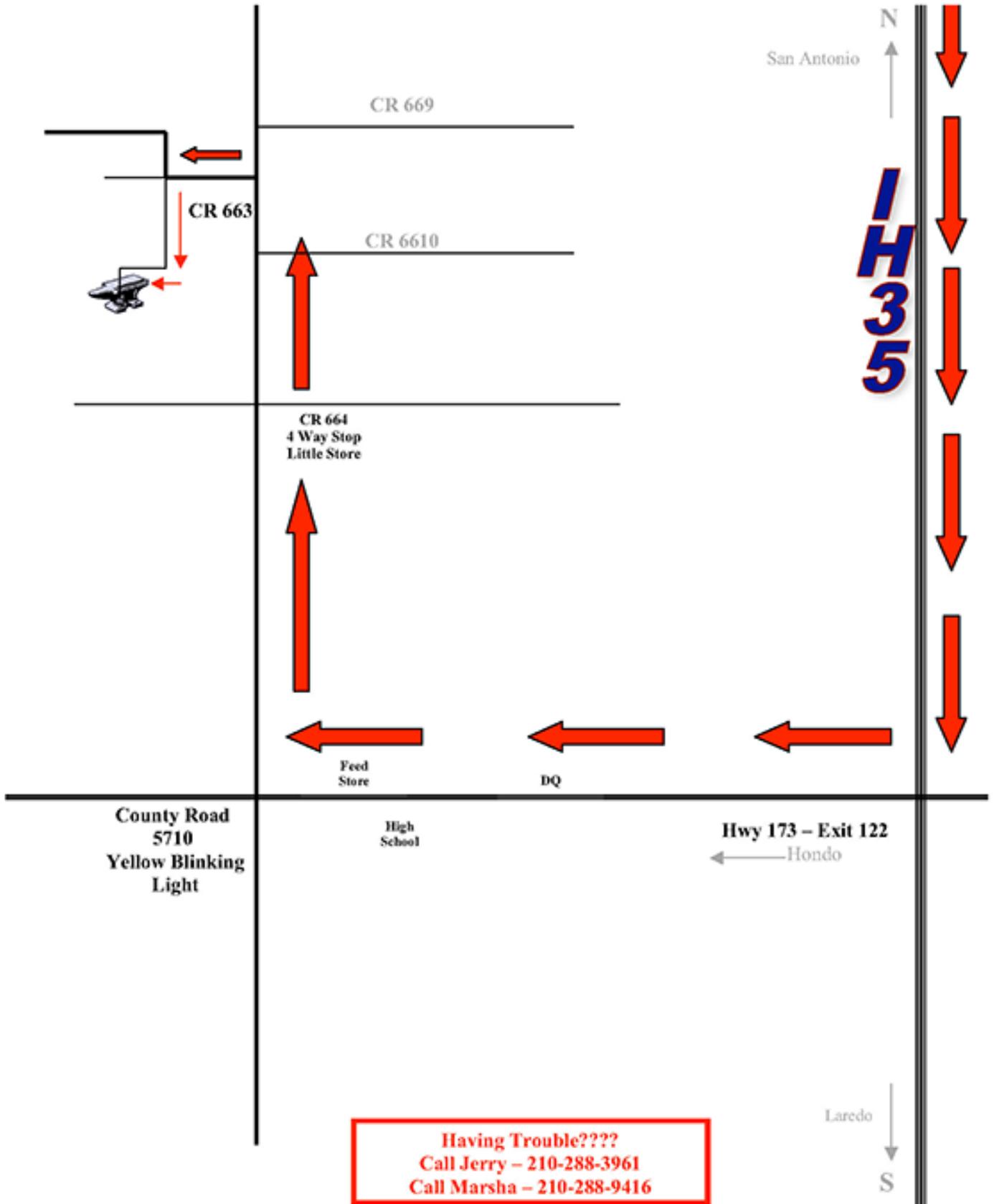
Fine Print – To participate in the “Open Forge”, you must be a member and signed in on the sign in sheet.

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.



PRESIDENT'S SOAP BOX

Have you attended a meeting lately? Were able to get in the forge? Did you learn something? Maybe you were even able to make a hook, a leaf, or another great item. I truly hope so. That is Balcones Forge's mission and my passion. Where do you think the coal for the forge, the metal you forged, or for that matter the forge and anvil itself comes from? Not to mention our demonstrators also deserve to get paid. It is provided willingly and gladly by the club. Again, that's why we're here.

This is all paid for out of the Balcones Forge budget. The \$20 yearly dues don't add up to much, so we rely on money raised from auctions held at our meetings. We haven't had any auctions lately because the last few had poor participation. I understand everyone wants a good deal and money is tight. If we want Balcones Forge to continue and be able to function, then we need to start having more successful auctions. If you are unable to spend much or nothing at the auction then what can you contribute? Can you make something for the auction? Maybe clean out the shop or have two of something? You get the idea. We want our club to continue to grow and provide great community outreach and need your help.

Aaron Tilton, Balcones Forge President

