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Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner...

August 2009

The summer demo turned out great! It was so hot that I think it worked well for the blacksmith to have a shorter demo this year. As usual, William Bastas showed us something very cool, with the way he split his flower petals and leaves out of flat bar. I hadn't thought of that and it sure made good sense! I also really learned a lot from the presentation on hearing damage. I had no idea how the cilia in the inner ear worked. Thank you Larry for letting us know how serious this type of hearing damage can be and for letting Angie give us the low-down on what you'll be facing so we can try to avoid damaging our ears to that degree.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Double Eagle String Band. I really did and I'm still listening to their CD. Just my kind of bluegrass. The day ended up being a fun family event and we might want to think about that for upcoming summer demos. It was nice having kids and families included in this event and it might just get more young people interested in learning the trade.

Thanks again, John, for hosting the summer demo, Carolyn and Jenny for picking up the BBQ, Helen and Ruth for setting it up and Helen for taking pictures of the event. Thanks also to everyone who donated auction items and who took some home, as well as to our talented auctioneer, Vince, and everyone who worked hard for the auction to run fast and smoothly. Success once again!

Remember that in October, there will be board member elections. It would be great to have some new folks step up to run. If you have some good ideas about things that would make the organization even better, step on up and take a turn! We'd love to have you.

Until the next meeting... keep on forging, drink plenty of water and don't forget that hearing protection!

Sue Murray, President

**MEETING DATE IS AUGUST 29
START TIME IS 9:30am**

MEETING INFO

This month the membership of Balcones Forge will gather in San Antonio at one of the historic sites we work with to further our educational mission. Speaking of missions, this month we are at Misson Espada.

Dan Holifield, NPS park ranger at Espada wants to take us on a tour to see the newly discovered fresco paintings at Mission Conception. They have found several on the walls and ceiling of the chapel; one was uncovered just last week.

We will also spend some time at the forge before we head off to a fine lunch.

August 29.....start at 9:30am

TRADE ITEM

The trade item for August is something, anything, use your imagination.....made from REBAR.

Come on now, you all have some rebar laying around the shop; get busy and be creative.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!

GO EAST, YOUNG MAN

For a majority of Balcones Forgers, we seem to always be going west for most of our meetings. Break the trend and mark your calendar for a big event on October 24 in Rockdale, 60 minutes east of Austin. The community historical society has built a fantastic blacksmith shop on the grounds of the 100-year-old train depot. Among the events scheduled is the dedication of the shop in honor of two notable blacksmiths -- one being **Mr. Charlie Stolte**. This beautiful little town does it up right -- you'll want to be a part of it. More info to come.

Rudy Billings, Treasurer

THE DEAF WIFE

In honor of our audiologist lecture from last month, Rudy submits the following:

A blacksmith feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem. The doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss.

Here's what you do," said the doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

No response.

So the blacksmith moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again he gets no response.

So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again there is no response.

So he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

"Ralph, for the FIFTH time, CHICKEN!"

ON THE WEB

Have you checked out the links on the Balcones Forge website lately? You could learn how to make a treadle torch or, if you have the time, read 106 years of Popular Mechanics. There is also a nice list of suppliers. And be sure to check out the websites of several members.

INFLATION?

Found in "Farm Blacksmithing," 1918 (average family income less than \$30/week)

To set up the average blacksmith shop, here are the costs:

Bellows and tuyere iron	\$5.35
Anvil	\$8.00
Vise	\$4.00
Hammer	\$1.00
Tongs (two pairs)	\$0.70
Hardie	\$0.25
Stocks and dies	\$3.00
Drill press	\$4.50

YOU OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES

Well, at least your pictures ought to be in the Balcones Forge Gallery. Email 'em, bring 'em to a meeting, send 'em by snail mail -- just get those pictures of your beautiful work to Rudy and he'll get them on the Great Web Way. And if you haven't checked out the Gallery lately, there's a lot of talent to be seen at www.balconesforge.org/gallery.

TOOLS, AND THEIR OTHERS USES

WISE-GRIPS: Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your coffee across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans rust off old bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "Ouc...."

SHOP NOTES

Heat Colors of Mild Steel	Temperature(F)
Red Heat	975
Black Red	990
Dark Blood Red	1050
Red Heat (visible in sunlight)	1080
Dark Cherry Red	1175
Medium Cherry Red	1250
Full Cherry Red	1375
Light Cherry Red	1550
Salmon	1650
Light salmon	1725
Yellow	1825
Light Yellow	1975
White	2220
White Welding Heat	2550

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ABANA Conference News

Site set for Memphis AgriCenter International

June 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 1

The ABANA 2010 conference will be at the AgriCenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. Located at 7777 Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.

Opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Thursday through Saturday will be full days of forging demo's and excitement ABANA style. Saturday will conclude with a pay as you go Memphis BBQ banquet and the conference auction.

The theme of the conference is to be "ABANA's Greatest Hits" in keeping with Memphis' musical heritage. The ticket price will turn the clock back at least 8 years... The site www.agricenter.org is within a few miles of thousands of reasonably priced hotel rooms. Camping and RV hook-ups will be available on site. Stay tuned for additional announcements.

Log on to the ABANA website and sign-up for our Constant Contact emails, find the box at the very bottom of the home page, enter your email address and click on "Get ABANA Email". You will receive periodic ABANA 2010 Conference announcements.

Gallery Open to Public
"Green Coal" Forges
Memphis Style Banquet
Top Demonstrators
Tailgate Heaven
Vendors for the Craft
Lectures & Workshops

"We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Dimitri Gerakaris, 1973



AgriCenter
International

Memphis
Tennessee

June 2-5 2010

Lance Davis, Co-Chair for the 2010 Conference said, "We are excited to be putting on the ABANA 2010 Conference at AgriCenter International because the site has ample room to spread out the demonstration areas, it has a great area for the "Tailgaters", supports a large attendance, has hot showers for campers and RV hook-ups, plus the great on-site parking arrangements.

Most of all, by hosting the conference on the grounds of AgriCenter we support our members by making the conference less expensive to attend. We are planning a conference focused on blacksmithing education while not forgetting the many groups that come together to be ABANA."

The Conference will open on Wednesday, June 2 and close on Saturday, June 5 with the Auction. See you in Memphis!

ABANA Conference News

Demonstrators Announced

July 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 2

The 2010 ABANA Conference Committee is pleased to announce the first group of confirmed demonstrators. We are working behind the scenes to secure additional demonstrators to round out the conference.

JOE ANDERSON (of NC) will do one demo on forged kitchen ware and 2 sessions on sculpture

MARK ASPERY (of CA) will do tool-making demos.

GERALD BOGGS (of VA) will do a demonstration; subject TBD.

DAN BOONE (of VA) will do 2 demo sessions on dragon's heads and his other products

DAN AND JUDY BOONE will do a round table talk and question session on how they market their wares.

PHIL COX (of MO) will do a session "power hammers - getting the most out of them" including both mechanical and air hammers, he will also cover tips on checking used hammers and rebuilding them

DAN NAUMAN (of WI) will demonstrate repoussé

DARRYL NELSON (of WA) will do a demonstration forging of animal heads.

STEVE PARKER (of IL) will demonstrate power hammer tools and forging.

TOM LATANTE (of WI) will lead the "Meticulous Metalsmiths" forging a lock during the conference.

MARK ASPERY will run the "Green Coal" teaching station, with DARRYL NELSON and GERALD BOGGS.

AMIT HAR-LEV and TSUR SADAN (of Israel) demo topic has not been confirmed

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SOFA QUADSTATE ROUND-UP 2009

September 25th - 27th

Additional information, photos and links constantly updated at www.sofablacksmiths.org

2009 Demonstrators:

Sheldon Browder, Williamsburg, Virginia

Stephen Mankowski, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Peter Ross, Silver City, North Carolina

Bob Bergman & Terry Suthers, Blanchfordville, Wisconsin

Mindy & Mark Gardner, Farmer City, Illinois

Ryan Johnson, Hixson, Tennessee

Display your work!

Exhibition: One of the highlights of Quadstate is the Gallery Area, and everyone is encouraged to bring samples of their work to display. Beginning Smiths are especially encouraged to show their works; as well as spouse and family member's crafts.

Young Blacksmiths: We are very interested in promoting the art of blacksmithing with the younger generation.

Cash prizes will be given for outstanding items in the exhibition.

This year's Gallery Feature will be "Birds" anything to do with birds, sculptures, houses, feeders, etc. (use your imagination)!

Other exhibits:

A designated section of the exhibit will be for the unusual or extremely well-made "neat old stuff" that was made by or for a blacksmith.

Saturday Evening Forging Competition: Once again our team of devious minds has come up with a common basic project that will include teamwork and basic forging skills. All necessary tools will be provided. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Quadstate Spouses: We will have a spouse's activity this year.

AUCTION NOTICE:

Auction starts 5:30 pm Saturday in area D

Vendors/Tailgate Sales:

To reserve indoor space, please contact Marianne Kettles via email: mariannekettles@yahoo.com

ON-SITE FOOD SERVICE:

The Newton Band Boosters Cafeteria located under the Grandstands will be open Friday, Saturday morning & afternoon until 4:00pm. Beginning at 4:30pm (auction begins at 5:30pm) they will be serving our Saturday Evening Meal of Roasted Pulled Pork or Baked Chicken Breast in creamy sauce with salad, vegetable, potato, roll, desert and beverages. Cost for the Saturday dinner is \$12.00 per person, all other meals are a la carte.. There will also be a food vendor located near the registration building. We reserve the right to resell any unclaimed meal tickets in the early afternoon with the refund to the original purchasing party.

\$20 per night for camping on the grounds overnight in areas with electrical hook-ups. Primitive Camping is \$5.00 per night in areas without hook-ups. Numerous people can stay in one camp but a camp is considered to be a single tent or vehicle set up for sleeping. Electric hook-ups require a RV plug. Anyone needing 220 electrical hook-ups must notify us in advance!

Hand-held video taping will be permitted at all demonstrations as long as it does not disturb other participants or the demonstrator.

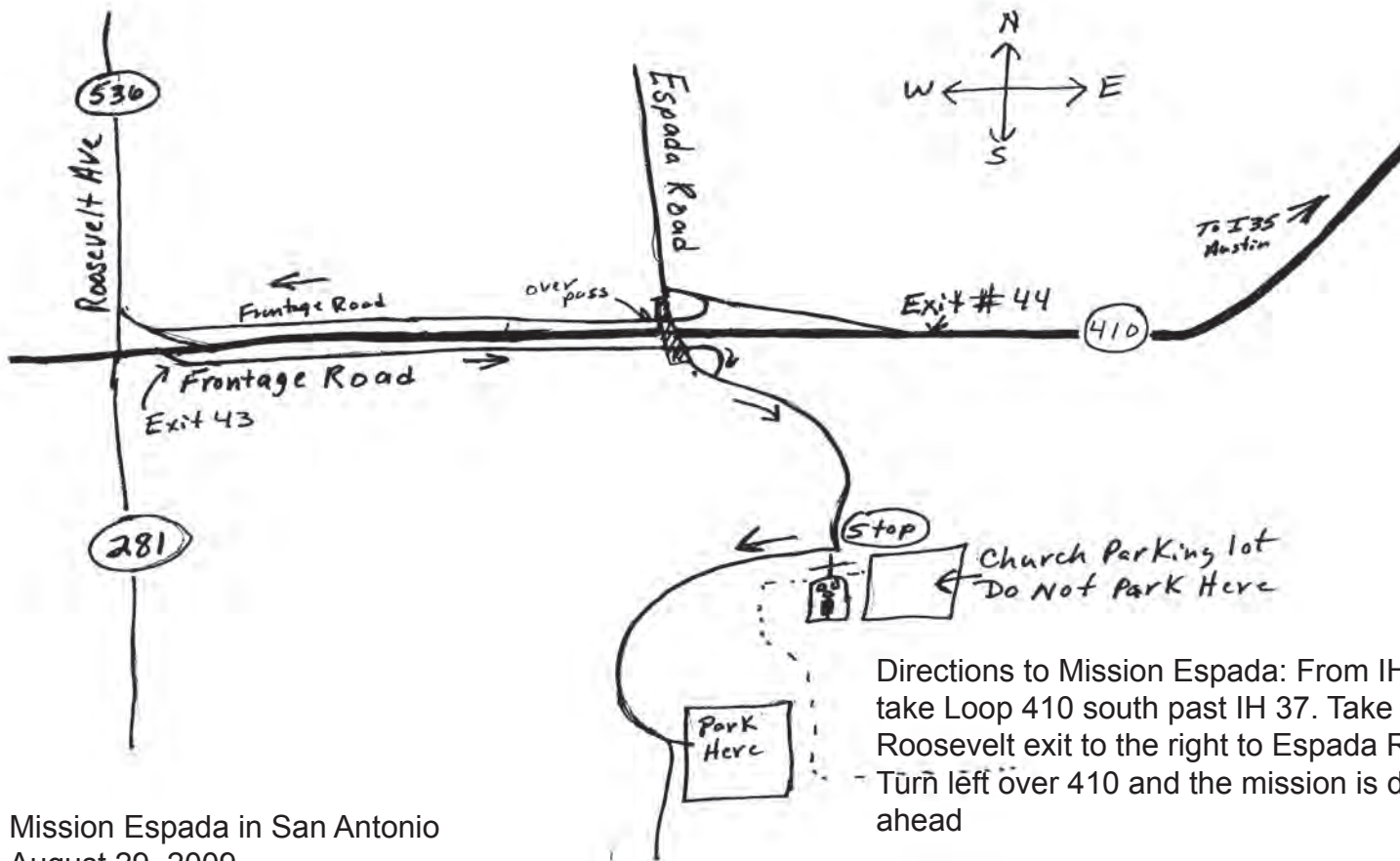
Check their website for more information!



SCENES FROM THE JULY DEMO

PHOTOS BY JERRY WHITELY





Mission Espada in San Antonio
August 29, 2009

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