



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner...

January 2009

Happy New Year Balcones Forge members! I hope that everyone had a great holiday season. Now that we are starting the new year, we are focusing our attention on lining up the 2009 Bluebonnet demo. This year, Corrina Mensoff, who has Phoenix Metalworks in Atlanta, Georgia, has agreed to come demonstrate for us. She has a professional blacksmith for many years and I've heard very good things about her work and demonstrating abilities from folks who have seen her at past events. Stay tuned and we will be sending out more information and sign-up sheets in the near future.

We had quite a few new members join us in 2008, many who benefited from the free Gordon Williams workshop and demo. We would love to see y'all at some of our monthly meetings. We have some very good, knowledgeable smiths in our group and there is no end to what you might pick up from them. You may have questions about joinery, jigs, finishes, or metallurgy, but you can rest assured that there will be several people who can give you more information than you're ready to soak up on any of these topics.

We now have a new t-shirt/cap person. Ms. Ruth Carter has graciously taken over the management of our Balcones Forge t-shirts, caps and patches for 2009. We have plenty of shirts and caps in a variety of colors and in all sizes, so if you'd like to be stylin' in your very own Balcones Forge garb... be sure to browse the selection at the next meeting. We also have plenty of iron-on patches sporting our colorful new logo, so get 'em while they're hot.

See you at the January meeting. It will be early this month, so be sure to pay attention to the post.

Sue Murray
President



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MEETING DATE IS JANUARY 24

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The December, 2008 Balcones Forge regular monthly meeting took place at Lee Lanford's shop just east of Manor, Texas.

At about 9:30 am our new president, Sue Murray called the meeting together. Twenty-eight people signed the attendance sheet; however, there were close to forty people in attendance.

Sue introduced Lee Lanford, the owner of the shop, who started the meeting by explaining how his water jet machine worked. His explanation lasted about one and a half hours and was very detailed. The water jet machine is used to cut shapes out of steel sheet or plate up to 8 inches thick and does it by forcing a jet of water charged with abrasive through a ruby orifice .014 in diameter at 60,000 pounds per square inch pressure. The cutting pressure is obtained by pumping water at 3000 p.s.i. pressure into an intensifier, which boosts the pressure by a factor of 20 to 1. Lee demonstrated how the machine works by cutting out a couple of door key shapes out of 1/4" aluminum plate and some spoon blanks out of stainless and carbon steel sheet metal. The computer controlled machine is very fast and efficient, can cut any shape you can draw, or put in a dxf format on a disk. It will cut any almost any material you would want, i.e.: rubber, stone, wood, steel, aluminum or whatever except for carbide and diamond.

The trade item for this meeting was a spoon and seven examples were traded, including two of the blanks cut on the water jet machine.

There were several items auctioned for Iron in the Hat and brought in \$108.00.

Jerry Achterberg showed a couple of bending machines he made which are very effective for bending hooks or small scrolls.

Several new members joined the group after the meeting.

Balcones Forge board members held a meeting

after the regular meeting and discussed the upcoming Bluebonnet Demo in March, 2009, as well as other business matters concerning the group.

Tom Lupton
Secretary, Balcones Forge

DUES ARE DUE

The Balcones Forge fiscal year is Jan 1 through Dec 31. What does that mean???

**Your dues are due!!!! Unless
you have already paid for 2009
!!YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS
EXPIRED!!**

Our Secretary or Treasurer will be glad to accept your dues payment so keep those cards and letters coming their way.

Dues are still the bargain basement price of \$15.00 per year!

TRADE ITEM

As of press time no word has come as to the monthly trade item, therefore your Editor gets to jump in and pick a trade item.

Since I can not be at the January meeting, here is your assignment; should you choose to accept. Take a 42" piece of 3/16" round stock and make something. You can cut it, weld it, forge it your only limitations are your imagination and the fact that you must use all 42" of material.

For those of you with long memories, you will recall that this assignment produced one of the most interesting and varied sets of trade items ever produced. If you missed the first time, here is your second chance.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!

MEETING INFO

Larry Crawford will host the January meeting at his shop in Marble Falls, however he needs the meeting to be on the 24th because he will be in California on the 31st.

Larry plans to demo some of the jigs he has used to make railing pickets and to do a little slit-n-drift or tennon type joinery. We will probably have some time left for another short demo or two so Sue and Aaron are being pressured by the Vice President to the demos that were planned for last month.

The meeting will begin at our regularly scheduled time of 9:30am.

A map is on the back page.

BALCONES FORGE BOARD MEETING REPORT

Location: Lee Lanford's Shop in Manor, Tx

Date: 12/13/2003

Time: 12:45pm

Board Members in attendance:

Sue Murray, President

Jerry Achterberg, Vice President

Rudy Billings, Treasurer

Tom Lupton, Secretary

Aaron Tilton, Board Member

Jerry Whitley, Board Member

Vince Herod, Board Member & Editor

Discussion centered on the upcoming March Meeting of Balcones Forge's Bluebonnet Demo.

The discussion to change the date of the March meeting so it does not conflict with Balcones Forge demonstrations at the Zilker Garden Festival was

tabled until next year.

There was a discussion about having more lessons and classes for members similar to the ones that took place in November this year. Most members of the board were in agreement.

Sue Murray made a motion to adjourn which Jerry Achterberg seconded.

Submitted by Tom Lupton, Secretary

HELPING HAND FOR FUTURE BLACKSMITHS

Recently, Balcones Forge donated hammers, steel, and propane to the Austin Waldorf School just in time for the new semester. It seems that this school is the only one around providing hands-on, practical knowledge to elementary and secondary students. The Board thought it worthwhile to supply some much needed items to their program. They have an excellent metalworking program headed by our own Dan Smith. Who knows -- there might be a future Francis Whitaker in their midst.

Rudy Billings, Treasurer

HANDLE EVERY STRESSFUL SITUATION LIKE A DOG.

IF YOU CAN'T EAT IT OR PLAY WITH IT,

PEE ON IT AND WALK AWAY.

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Scenes from the December meeting.

TOP: our host Lee Lanford.

MIDDLE: Lee's Granddad, Don Lanford.

NEXT PAGE: Pumpkin, the shop dog.

Photos by Helen Wise & Vince Herod



AFFILIATE LETTER DECEMBER 2008

First of all I want to thank our 2008 board for all of their hard work. Being a volunteer has its rewards; it has its challenges, and frankly speaking, its frustrations. Also, to those who have served and moved on, my hat is off to them as well.

In the past twelve months we have seen a nearly complete turn over of the board. With the exception of Jill Turman (who we could not do without) and Jim Masterson, the 2009 ABANA board has served one year or less. For all intents and purposes we are a new board and we are already hard at work.

Next on the agenda, I want to thank the 2009 ABANA board for their confidence in me, by electing me as your President. I have made the commitment to my fellow board members and now to you the ABANA membership, that in the months ahead I will do my best. You will be hearing from me and your board, about your ABANA, what our challenges are, what our goals are, and what you can do as a member to further ABANA's mission.

I'd like to make a point here. I have been told that in order to bring back the membership to levels of the past (5,300+), ABANA must publish the financial statements for the last ten years. The financial statements are available to all ABANA members who ask for them.

Furthermore I have been told that ABANA must admit to the mistakes of the past. This might be true. I can assure you that your 2008/2009 ABANA board of directors is painfully aware of the past. Hopefully we can use these past events to guide our future.

For those of you who care to debate the issues of the past, please consider this, your ABANA board is made up of fifteen volunteers from a diverse set of experiences. ABANA's past board members were too; they did the best job they were capable of; my hat is off to them.

You may be asking yourself, "Where is he going with this"? If you need an apology, please accept this as one. If you need someone to admit to the past shortcomings of the organization and promise to do the right thing in the future, consider this that confession and resolution.

Now moving on as to our future, we have much work to do. I hope that you will consider rolling up your sleeves and join us on the happy road of destiny. How can you help? Consider what you can offer in terms of time and other resources and contact a committee chair in your area of interest.

In closing, here are just a few of the accomplishments brought by you by your 2008 ABANA board. We did a complete revision of the By-Laws, including term limits. The Members Only Discount program was implemented; Constant Contact email system was brought on-line. The ABANA Trust is now on a level footing with three new trustees appointed, thanks to our 2008 president Chris Winterstein. The Health Insurance program was rolled out, and a new Shop insurance plan is coming soon! We relocated the Central Office and contracted with WH&L, a professional management firm. Last in the "short" list is.....drum roll please...yes there will be a 2010 ABANA Conference! Set your sights on Memphis Tennessee, early June 2010. It's back to basics, no frills, but lots of educational opportunities, friendship and camaraderie! The low early registration fee will shock and delight you! Way to go conference committee!

For Love of the Craft, Rome H. Hutchings, ABANA President

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

The ABANA Store has reopened and will be run through the Central Office. Please check out the ABANA Store Link here. ABANA clothing, caps, sweatshirts.....all of the goodies are found at the ABANA Store. If it's Book, Plans or Anvil's Ring and Hammer's Blow back issues you are looking for.....you will find them at the ABANA Store.

If you have not visited the ABANA website lately, be sure to check out some of the latest news on the home page.

Tax Deductible Donations via Web Site The secure membership processing system on the ABANA web site is set up to accept donations to 5 specific funds to aid your organization moving forward. ABANA is a non-profit 501c3 organization and so your donations are fully tax deductible according to IRS rules. Please consider ABANA for your end-of-year giving. Click on the link: [Donate to ABANA](#)

Here are the 5 specific funds you can choose from:

ABANA General Fund: This is the all-purpose operating account of ABANA. In addition to the Central Office and the Publications, this fund takes care of enhancing the web site, creating the Bealer award, paying for postage and all the little things it takes to keep the organization functioning.

2010 Conference Seed Money: This fund is earmarked to help set up the 2010 ABANA Conference in Memphis. Conferences are expensive complicated things to run and it really helps a lot to have some cash on hand early for deposits and planning and a thousand other things.

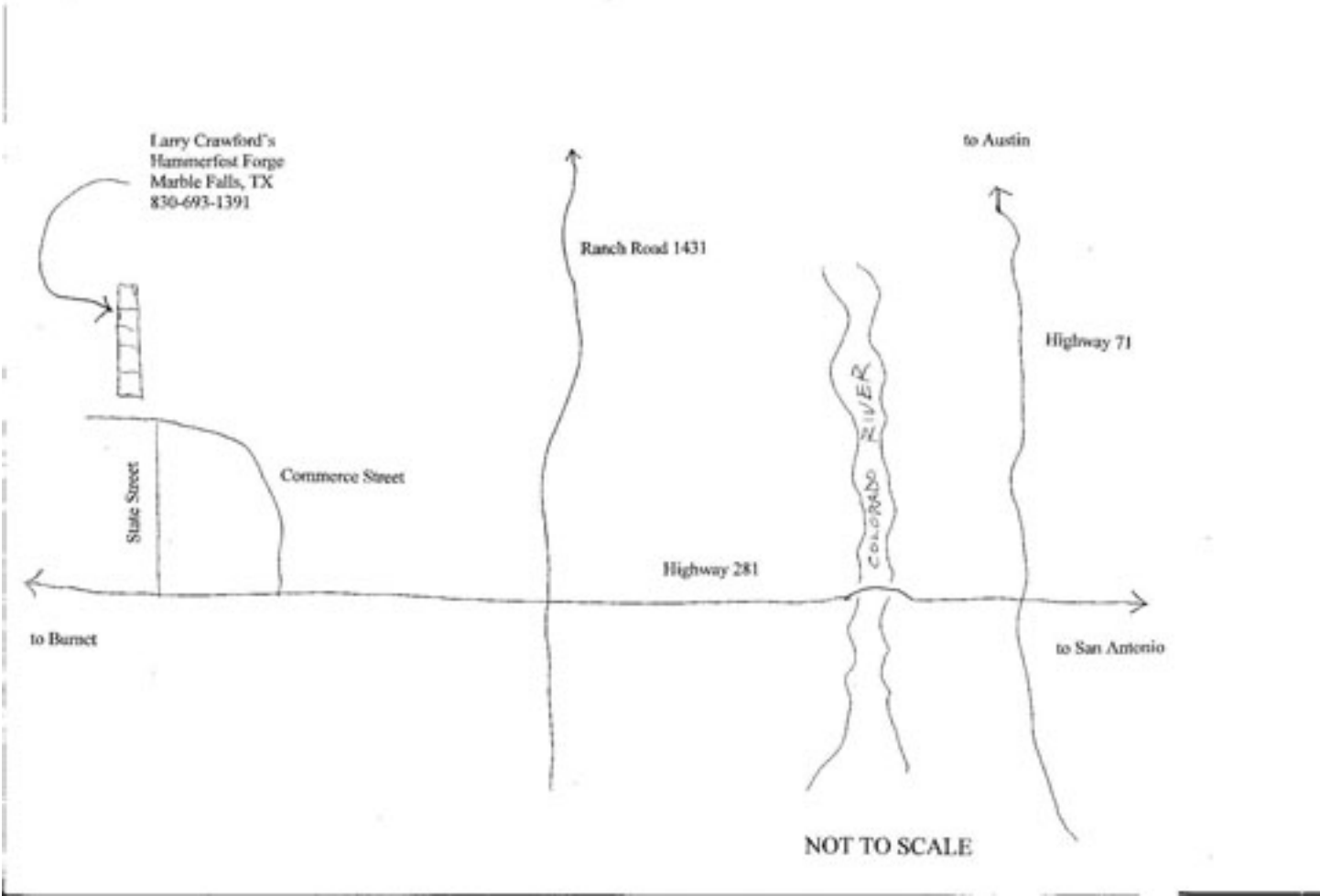
ABANA Scholarships and Grants: For many years ABANA has given scholarships to promising blacksmiths to help them take courses or gain key experiences. Also ABANA helps Affiliates to fund demonstrators at their meetings. This fund contributes to these and related causes.

ABANA Exhibition Fund: One of ABANA's missions is to increase the awareness of the craft of blacksmithing among the general public. This fund helps to produce and deploy public exhibitions.

National Ornamental Metal Museum Library Fund: The Library at the Metal Museum in Memphis is a unique resource to those who study the art and craft of blacksmiths and related metal artisans. The ABANA archives are housed within this library, this fund helps with the expenses of that worthy cause.

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