



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

July 2014



No meeting in July

Stay out of the heat and get ready for the show & tell meeting in August.



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## Next Meeting Date is August 16

The August 16th meeting will start at 11am, at Willies Grill in New Braunfels. The competition trade item is a wrench, the demo is: Show-n-tell. Hopefully we can have a board meeting to discuss new officers and/or board members, if any.

[www.williesgrillanddicehouse.com](http://www.williesgrillanddicehouse.com)

Willie's Grill is located at 2966 Coldsprings Drive, New Braunfels, 78130, just north of Buckeyes.

## **AUGUST TRADE ITEM**

The trade item for June is a wrench.

This is a competition; best wrench wins and you get to keep what you make.

REMEMBER: you gotta make one to **WIN!**

## **THE BALCONES FORGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Matt Czosnek, President  
Jerry Achterberg, Vice President  
Rudy Billings, Treasurer  
Tim Tellander, Secretary

John Crouchet  
Jim Elliot  
Vince Herod, Editor  
Alan Lee  
Jeff Lee  
Jerry Whitley

## **A GREAT DEAL**

Balcones Forge has Mark Aspery Books!

All 3 volumes:

I - Basic Blacksmithing  
II - Leafwork  
III - Joinery

\$50 each -- no tax, no shipping, normal price \$59

Send your requests to [Rudy@BalconesForge.org](mailto:Rudy@BalconesForge.org)

## **JULY MEETING INFO**

# There ain't one!

## **DEMO OPPORTUNITY**

From John Meyer:

I need some blacksmiths to do a demo during the Bulverde Jubilee on 9/20. All who come can sell there wares. I will be the point of contact for this.

My cell is 210-216-1926

E-mail at: [justtiger@yahoo.com](mailto:justtiger@yahoo.com)

Please contact John for more info!

## **SWAGE BLOCKS AND CONES**

Gerald Franklin is the man you need to talk to if you need a block or cone. These are great items at a fair price! Check them out on the Saltfork website:

[www.saltforkcraftsmen.org](http://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org)

Contact Gerald at:

[blackbullforge@yahoo.com](mailto:blackbullforge@yahoo.com)

580-467-8667

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## **BALCONES FORGE MEETING REPORT FROM 6/28/14**

by Jerry Whitely

The meeting was hosted by Lorenzo Fortuna , owner of Italian Ironworks.

Matt called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Thanks to Lorenzo for hosting. His shop is very well equipped, yet clean and very well organized.

No plans for meetings in July or August due to hot weather. We are still open to a show-n-tell luncheon as we did last year in San Marcos.

Safety note: Stay well hydrated when working in the heat. Once you become dehydrated, it's too late.

The Balcones web site is still not working, but you can get in from the Facebook site or by using Google.

Sam Richardson is rebuilding two Little Giants and they will be for sale in the near future.

During the tour of Larry Stevens shop, the Stevens Art Foundry, we saw a silicone bronze model of the Alamo as it was in the 1860's. That model was donated to the Alamo by Phil Collins a few week ago.

Iron in the hat donated by Jerry Achterberg & George Gramh.

Three Colonial dough scrapers showed up today.

Demos: Jose Sandaval, blacksmith at the Pound House -showed us his hoof picks.

Gary Evenson- showed us how to use heat to bend or straighten structural steel. Welding will cause steel to bend or warp and shrink. Heating opposite areas will help to straighten. Normalization will help to relieve stress.

Lorenzo showed us flower from 3"x3" & 4"x4" 1/8" plate.

Sue Murray showed us bottle opener from 1/4" round.

Words of wisdom from Lorenzo: Always make sure that you charge enough for your work. Good work demands a good price.

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN BLACKSMITHING CONFERENCE**

August 6-10, 2014, Carbondale, Colorado

Demonstrations by Peter Ross, Mindy Gardner, **James Honig** and James Makely.

Complete information at:  
[www.rockymountainsmiths.org](http://www.rockymountainsmiths.org)

To all Affiliates of ABANA,

Master Blacksmith/Teacher Jerry Darnell's second book

**"Forging Colonial Iron Work II"** is fresh off the press as of June 5th.

Cost \$20.00 plus shipping/handling.

Please contact Jerry directly:

Phone---  
(910) 464-3888 (Shop)  
(910) 464-2636 (House)

The following is copied from 1989 edition THE CLINKER BREAKER / Florida Artist Blacksmith Association by Aiken L. Bow.

A blacksmithing friend of great scientific knowledge, intellectual capacity, recently told me that if a sudden pulse of energy was applied to the exterior of a mass of steel (such as we have here in the form of an anvil), that the energy would radiate internally within the anvil from the point of application then strike the exterior faces, cause them to expand & contract, rebound into the interior again. This cycle would occur over & over again at the natural frequencies of the anvil until natural forces damped out these oscillations.

Interestingly, the air alongside the vibrating anvil faces would be set in motion at the same frequencies & would radiate out into the surrounding spaces as sound waves. When these impact on the sensory nerves in the human ear then this is what we hear as the anvil's ring. Knowledge is a wonderful thing, but then so is innocence. It's a sad thing that the two of them cannot coexist. In the happier days before Floyd told me all this stuff, I was content in the belief that an anvil would ring simply because you hit it with a hammer.

*Submitted by Tim Tellander*

*This follow-up from our own Jerry Achterberg:*

I have noticed the same phenomena occurring when an appendage (such as a finger) is placed on an anvil or similar surface, and struck with a large metal object (such as a hammer). A similar pulse of energy is transmitted up the arm to the vocal cords where it produces an ear piercing audio signal that at times may be confused with the language that a naval midshipman may produce while many miles out at sea.



Photos from the June meeting by Jerry Whitley





# Planishing HAMMER

E.W. RATLIFF

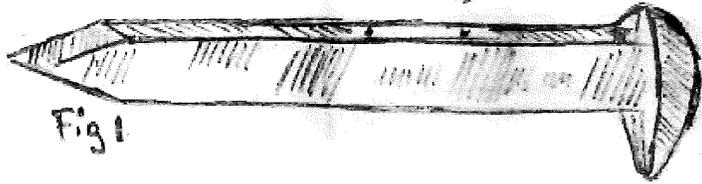


Fig 1

Fig 1. Use  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Rail Road Spike Center Punch For eye 1" inch Center to Center

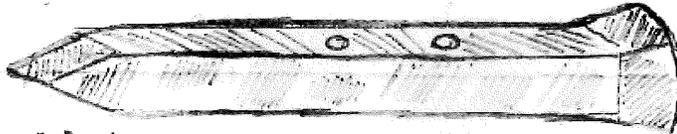


Fig 2

Fig 2. Cut and Grind Head To Shape. Drill Two  $\frac{3}{16}$ " Holes

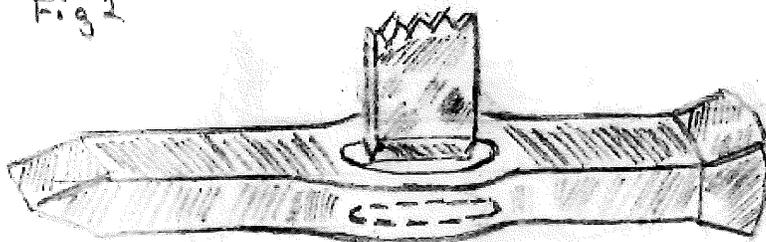


Fig 3

Fig 3 With 1" Chisel Cut  $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep into The Bottom of Hammer. Now Cut from Top all The Way To Bottom Cut.

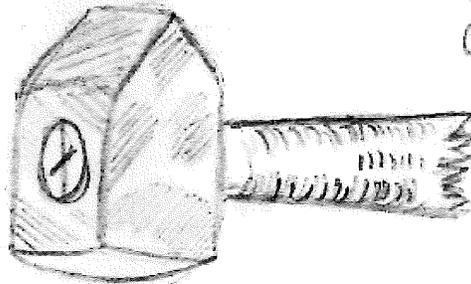


Fig 4.

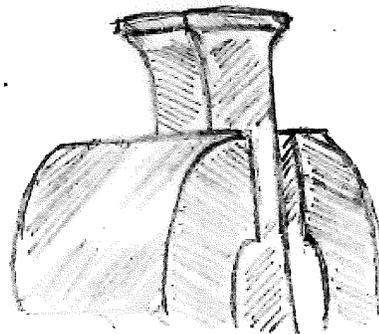


Fig 4. Up set and Shape Hammer Head. This will Take Two To Three Heats. Take your Time.

*Reprinted from the Appalachian Blacksmiths Association Newsletter*

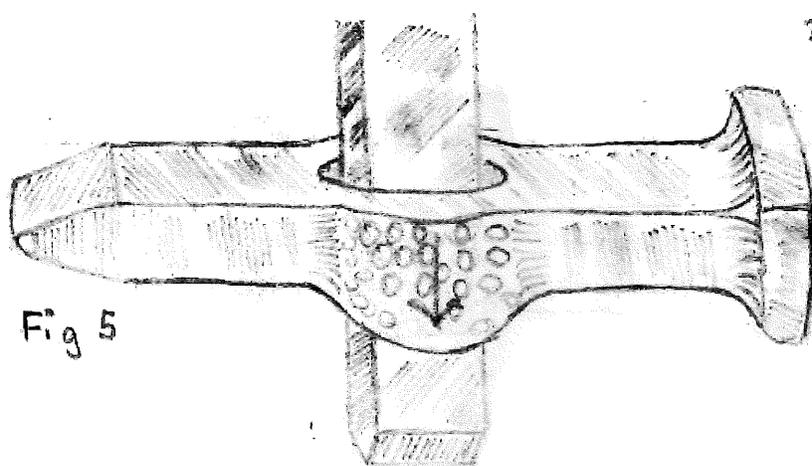


Fig 5

Fig 5. Heat eye  
and drive Chisel  
Through Cut. ✓  
Re Heat place  
Chisel Through  
and Hammer  
down wards, push  
Material Down.  
and out far ears.  
Do each side.  
Draw and dress  
both sides

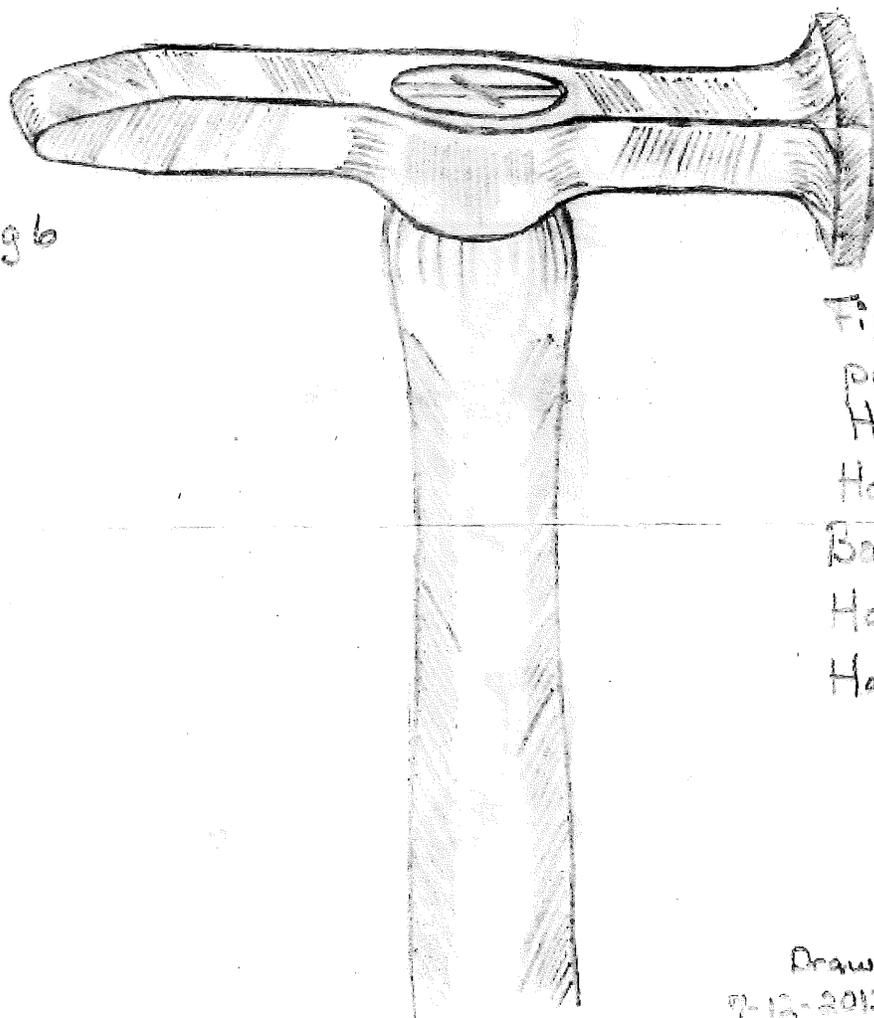


Fig 6

Fig 6. Grind and  
polish and File  
Hammer eye.  
How Temper  
Both Ends.  
Handle The  
Hammer

Drawing By  
7-12-2012 Eugene W. Parloff



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