



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

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THE PREZ SAYS:

A funny thing happened on the way to the forge. I started thinking about my short time as a blacksmith and everything I've learned. What is amazing is where I've learned. Unfortunately, I've never had the opportunity to attend one of the many schools around the country like Penland or Campbell, or been able to take advantage of the excellent courses available at Austin Community College. Luckily, about four years ago, I found Balcones Forge. Everything I've learned is due to the talented folks and outstanding meetings of this group. But there is a lot more I need to learn, so I'm looking forward to many more lessons. Come join me.

Special thanks to Terry Ross for helping bring 21st Century technology to blacksmithing at our August meeting. Terry enlightened attendees on how computers can make designing -- and forging -- easier, more accurate, and impressive to prospective clients. Lots of talent and many hours went into the programming Terry created just for blacksmiths. Thanks Terry! (If you would like to learn more, go to www.drawmetal.com.)

See you in Llano,
Rudy

ELECTIONS ARE IN OCTOBER

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

ADIOS

Till We Meet Around A Different Anvil

Sadly, we bid farewell to Valerie Ostenak who came to Texas a couple years ago. Unfortunately for us, she has found an opportunity to return to her native state of Arizona. Valerie graciously helped the Board design a new Balcones Forge logo -- not an easy task trying to please guys with no taste! Valerie -- we'll miss you, your talent and your smile, but remember that you always have family deep in the heart of Texas.

HELP WANTED

Larry Crawford is in need of able-bodied blacksmiths to work on a long-term project. If you would like to work with a master blacksmith in Marble Falls, contact Larry at 830-693-1391. Call now!

NEW LOOK, NEW FEATURES

Hey, have you checked out the new Balcones Forge website? Many improvements and features have been added. The discussion group works slightly different than before, so if you would like assistance setting up your features, please contact Rudy (512-461-7375 / Rudy@BalconesForge.org) or Terry (webmaster@BalconesForge.org). Get connected!

COMPUTER ISSUES

Next month we should be back to a full size newsletter. The editor is having some software issues that need to be resolved! Keep sending those articles for use in future editions.

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.

MEETING INFO

Bob Pheil has officially accepted our invitation to host the September meeting (again).

The meeting will be on the 27th at 9:30a. He has a 60" mesquite table that should be about finished by then and another mesquite bench to show. He will also do some upsetting on his textured table legs.

There will also be some open forge time for anyone who has something to show. Call Rudy if you want to demo.

Bob will have cold water, but we need to bring coffee and sweet things to munch on. Bring a chair, these meetings are always well attended.

And if we're real lucky, we might even see that big 8 point buck that hangs out around his back door.

The link to the meeting info/pix about Bob is

<http://www.balconesforge.org/meetinginfo>.

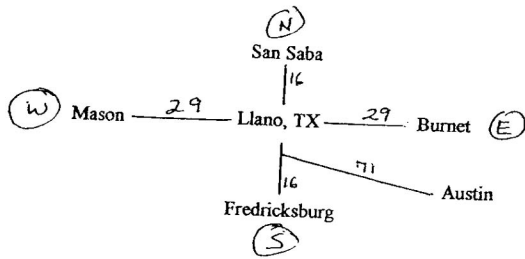
“Never fall in love with your work. You can create another one even better”.

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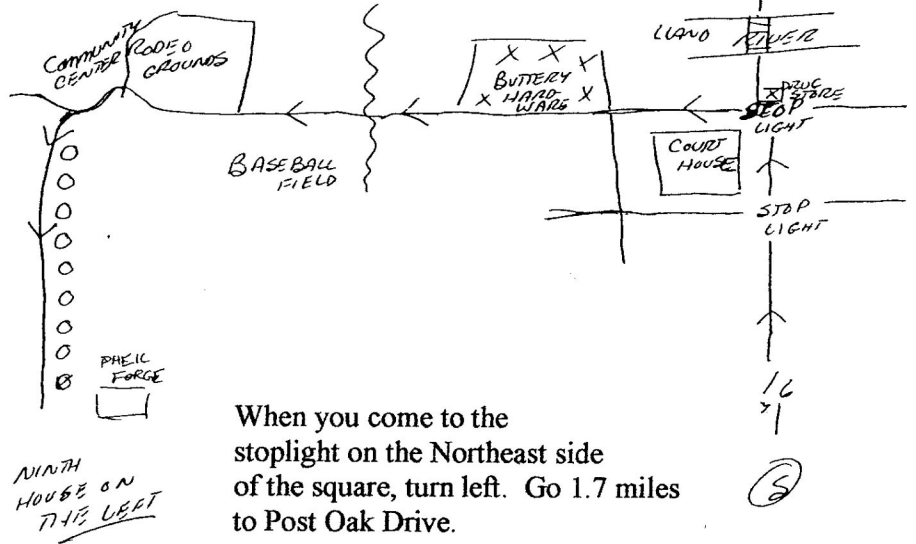


This is a 66 inch table, the top is 2 inches thick. Legs are 1 inch. Hope you like the lap joints and rivets. I should have another one that will be 60 inches by the time of the demo. The trade item is a center punch for indexing work that will be hot worked (blacksmith center punch). See you all then.

Bob Pheil
Llano, Texas



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