



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

September 2014



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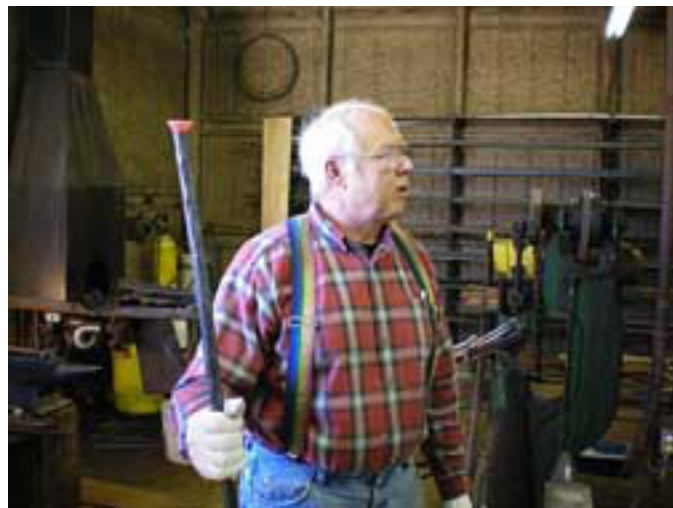
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Meeting Date September 27, 2014

Make the drive out to Llano, Texas to see the excellent work being done by Bob Pheil. His work will amaze and impress so remember this, blacksmithing is a craft Bob took up once he had retired!



SEPTEMBER TRADE ITEM

The trade item for September is a key.

This is a trade so give your best effort.....

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

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

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

The Balcones Forge Meeting took place August 16 at Willie's Grill & Icehouse in New Braunfels after members selected their favorites from a wide selection of food items.

Jerry commenced the meeting and the first topic was forge pans. John Crouchet indicated that he currently has orders for 4 forge pans and there are 6 request slots left for anyone that wants one. The initial forge construction is done by Lupe Uridales and these are exactly like the 10 forges used by the blacksmith participants at the Bluebonnet demo last March hosted by John Crouchet and demonstrator Mark Aspery. Contact John or Jerry to get in on this money saving deal. John will post a workday after the forges are delivered to him in Wimberly so that the legs can be welded on.

Jim Elliott reported that the anvils for Balcones Forge are ready for shipment and a workday is pending when the anvils actually arrive.

Jerry noted upcoming meetings as follows:
September - Bob Pheil, LLano
October - Georgetown
November - Blanco Buggy Barn / Meeting on the 8th, demonstrations 7, 8, 9.
December - Whitley's (tentative Dec 13)
January - Hunt, TX - Gary Hilton
February - Bryan - Lee(Blues)Brothers
March - Fredericksburg Pioneer Museum
April - Marble Falls- Bluebonnet -Dorothy Stigler
May - San Marcos - Swing Fest

The competition item for this meeting was a wrench. Jerry Achterberg & myself presented the only 2 forged items for the judges review and after some serious scrutiny by John Crouchet, Jim Elliott, and Robin Ream. They selected my spud wrench as the winner and I was awarded a vintage

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Stuart mini anvil and hammer. The show & tell items were also unique. Jerry Whitley presented the group with a 4x2 inch piece of block steel with the impression of a small open ended wrench pressed into it. A very clean & neat example that he had done with his hydraulic press.

Smokey Thompson had everyone on the edge of their chairs for his presentation of flint strikers. His demonstration included the technique for striking the flint and indicated that the best striker was one that he had made out of a file. He informed us about the forging of the individual strikers as well as quenching and the heat treating process. Smokey also had several hand made tinder boxes that stored not only tinder, but striker and flint. One of my favorites was the tinder box that he had crafted a handmade leather sheath for. Because Smokey is so committed to the Colonial style of forged items, he lights his coal forge with his own hand made strikers and carefully selected tinder. This made me rethink (silently to myself) that if I am to pursue future blacksmithing skills I must select and stick to only one brand of charcoal lighter fluid. Might even start using wooden matches instead of those footlong butane lighters.

Jerry Achterberg commented on his progress with forge welding after Mark Aspery's demonstration last April. The use of Iron Mountain Flux, according to Jerry, along with practice, practice, practice has resulted in his confidence and ability to complete a forged weld. He then held up a 4 foot piece of loggers chain with perfectly uniformed links of hand forge welded links. Numerous other comments from obviously successful forge welders were offered to the group.

A very interesting description was given by Jerry on how he detailed the attractive stamping patterns on his crosses. Another unselfish example of sharing from one blacksmith to another. Proud of his work yet wants to pass the technique on to anyone showing interest.

Jerry showed the group a very old miners lamp holder. After detailing the workmanship and rareness of such an item, the group got a good laugh

when Tom the Blacksmith from Wimberly presented one in pristine condition that he got off ebay.

The Iron In The Hat event got underway as John Crouchet started his display of antique tools that were still functional and useful. The interesting collection went fast as did all other items that individuals donated for the sake of Balcones Forge. It pointed out that if every meeting produced money like what was collected today (\$232.00), Balcones Forge would continue to do very well financially.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Tim Tellander, Secretary

NOTICE

The October meeting of Balcones Forge is the official business meeting for the year. The elections for Board of Directors will be held at that meeting. Officers are appointed by the elected Board.

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)

MARK ASPERY OCT 12-14 GLEN ROSE, TX.

A rare opportunity for 7 to 10 (per class) serious amateur or professional craftsmen to learn from one of the most respected educators in modern blacksmithing.

*Mark is the editor of ABANA's Hammer's Blow magazine. He has written and published three volumes of his book **Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing.** Most ABANA affiliates recognize Mark for his tireless contribution to blacksmith education through his demonstrations and clinics.*

*If you want to improve your skill as a blacksmith, perhaps now is the time to make a commitment to yourself and your craft. This clinic is open to those who have a **burn to learn!***



INFORMATION

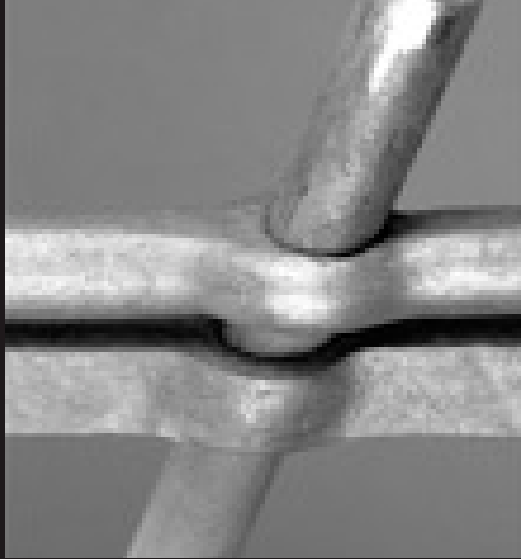
information and reservations.
call or eMail Ron Stafford
209 610 3448
hotshuz002@gmail.com

10/2014

MARK ASPERY



ONE PIECE CORKSCREW FROM
ALLOY STEEL



ANGLED PASS THROUGH

MARK ASPERY WILL CONDUCT A FULL PARTICIPATION HANDS ON CLINIC. COME PREPARED TO WORK AT THE ANVIL AND LEARN.

*You bring your own set up,
anvil, fire, water bucket , basic hand
tools, etc. We will have some set ups
available however they must be
reserved early to guarantee availability.*

Marks web site:

<http://www.markaspery.com/>

[SchoolofBlacksmithing/Home.html](http://www.youtube.com/user/SchoolofBlacksmithing/Home.html)

[https://www.youtube.com/user/](https://www.youtube.com/user/MarkAspery?feature=mhw5)

[MarkAspery?feature=mhw5](https://www.youtube.com/user/MarkAspery?feature=mhw5)

SUNDAY 10/12/2014

For those with limited time or funds we are offering a one day experience. A class that introduces the participant to the Aspery way of tool making. You will feel satisfied with your growth, and your new tools, at the end of the day. \$100.

MONDAY-TUESDAY 10/13-14

Two full days of instruction with Mark. We will begin with more tool making and use those tools to craft an item that is sure to please. This class is designed to stretch your abilities, forge to dimension, and make you a better blacksmith. \$200

ACCOMMODATIONS

These clinics are being conducted on a pecan covered property in Somerville County, near Glen Rose, Texas. Numerous motels are located just 5 miles away. Camping your thing? There is lots of room for you to park your camper or pitch your tent. Dry camping at no charge. Helps to keep your cost low. We try to accommodate your needs where possible, so if you have any questions please ask.

Call 209 610 3448



Above: crosses textured by pressing files into the soft metal
Below: tender boxes

photos by Jerry Whitley



(W)

MASON 29

SAN SABA (N)

LLANO TEXAS

29

(E)

BURNET

PHEIL FORGE

200 POST OAK DRIVE

LLANO, TEXAS 78643

915-247-1370

BPHEIL@TSTAR.NET

16

16

FREDERICKSBURG

71

AUSTIN

(S)

(N)

16

LLANO RIVER

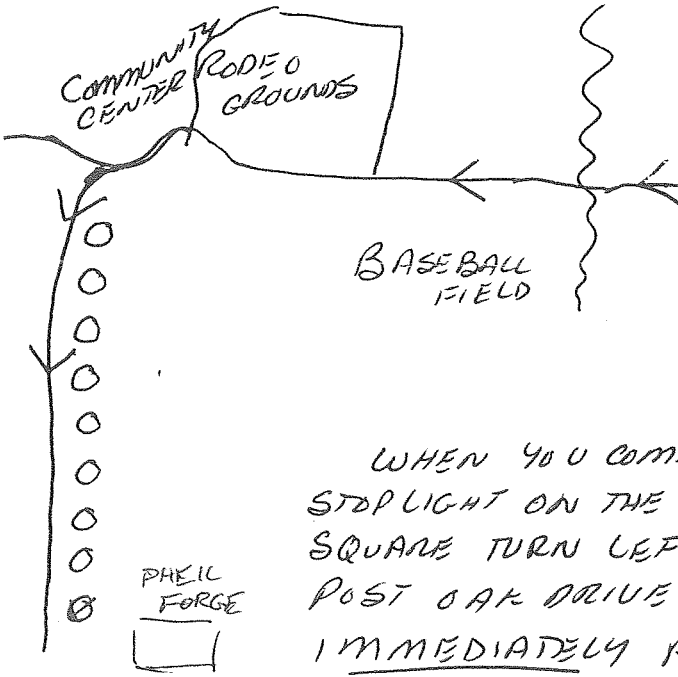
X X X
BATTERY
X HARDWARE X

DRUG STORE

STOP LIGHT

COURT HOUSE

STOP LIGHT



WHEN YOU COME TO THE
 STOP LIGHT ON THE NORTH EAST SIDE OF THE
 SQUARE TURN LEFT. GO 1.7 MILES TO
 POST OAK DRIVE. THE STREET IS
IMMEDIATELY ACROSS FROM THE COMMUNITY
 CENTER.

NINTH
 HOUSE ON
 THE LEFT

(S)

FUTURE BALCONES FORGE MEETINGS

September 27, 2014- Llano, TX. Bob Pheil

October 18, 2014: Chisholm Trail Days
San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, TX- (looking for volunteers the 17th)

November 8, 2014: Buggy Barn Museum - Blanco, TX
December 13, 2014 Jerry Whitley - Devine, TX

January 2015: Gary Hilton - Hunt, TX
February 2015- Lee Brothers @ Steep Hollow Forge - Bryan, TX
March 2015- Pioneer Museum - Fredericksburg, TX
April 2015- Bluebonnet - Marble Falls, TX
May 2015- Swing Music Fest - San Marcos, TX