# The Anvil's Horn

A Publication of: The Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 153

November 2011



# **President's Message:**

So, who did not make it to the demo in Camp Verde? We had a great turnout, Sixty Five plus people showed up for the demo. And what a show Gordon Williams put on! There have been numerous comments made to me like, how did he do so many things at once, I could not keep up with him and keep my notes straight! In my eyes a great demo, informative, well thought out and I got to be involved!

The Sunday after the demo a bunch of us went on a hike to Wet Beaver Creek and Gordon showed a few of us how to "jump" the crack! Then jump into the water from the high cliff! Actually a beautiful place and about eleven of us went, think we are gonna make a hike a part of some of these demos since so many of us enjoy it!

Keep watching the newsletters for upcoming info on The Iron in the Desert show coming up in March 2012, It's gonna be near Papago Park this year so this year it's gonna be in Phoenix. We will have a meeting very soon!

One more thing, have you signed up for the AABA face book page? Please share events, pictures of your work, or ideas on face book!

Rodger "GRIZZ" LaBrash

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**Demo: November 12 Demo:** 

**Demonstrator: Maurice Hamburger** 

At: Grizzly Iron 1329 W. Lincoln St. Phoenix, AZ 85007

Registration begins at 8:00 am, Demo at 9:00 Registration Fee: \$10 members \$15 non-members

# Let's Table That—Mo style

We all recognize and love Mo's style. He puts items in Iron In the Hat at almost every demo and those items always garner a lot of attention and compliments.

Mo has been making and selling *Mo style* furniture for well over a decade. Each piece is different, but each one contains his styling features. Mo's demo will break a table into its components and show some alternate methods he uses to construct each one.

#### The demonstration:

- Table components
- **Textures**
- Forged 90 degree bends
- Tube forging





Remember: Iron In The Hat Show and Tell

Tailgating encouraged Lunch is on your own





Directions to Grizzly Iron: 1329 W. Lincoln St., Phoenix

Take I-10 to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, by the tunnel Exit on 7th Ave. Go South on 7th Ave to Grant Turn right on Grant Turn right on 13th Ave Turn left on Lincoln It's on the left.



As always, safety glasses are required.

#### **Demo Report: Camp Verde**

Gordon Williams It is easy to see why Gordon is (unofficially) the most popular demonstrator in the country. His demo on Saturday was typical Gordon—fast, full of information, look away and you missed a bunch, He comes at you like a Gatling gun, but keeps the audience glued to his every word. He is the consummate teacher/entertainer - he has analyzed and honed his style and delivery to provide the perfect amount of information, accented with humor and limitless energy. Somehow, I'm going to figure out a way to make time to take his class at Pieh Tool. Ed.

I didn't get to stay for the weekend, but by all reports it continued to be a great time Saturday evening and Sunday. Terry Porter demo'd a wizard bottle opener; then Peter Sevin made some traditional nails. Bill Morris sent me a ton of photos and only a few of them look like they belong on CSI - Bill is a retired

forensic scientist.



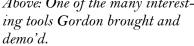


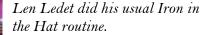
Gordon, who was hard at work for over 7 hours, brought a table full of his work to share with a crowd of over 60 smiths.





Above: One of the many interesting tools Gordon brought and





It was great to see old friends like Dale and Bonnie (not in the









The Wizard bottle opener, the tools and Terry Porter showing folks how to do it.



Peter Sevin, showing folks how to make nails.





# Gordon Williams' Demonstration Perception

By Dan Jennings

For many years, when I attended a demo I would go home and try the project and techniques I had seen. I soon realized that watching a demo was a learned skill. Forgetting one little detail would result in failure. Now, many years later, I stress to my students that they need to "pay attention" and "remember to look for the subtle details". Of course, this doesn't really help, but it makes me feel like I'm leading them in the right direction.

Gordon Williams has taken this concept and created a list of things to look for. So, instead of saying "pay attention" he says "look for....." So far, it has helped my students successfully perceive the demonstration —maybe it will help you as well.

Each demo tells a story –where does the story begin?

- 1. What tools are used
- 2. Size and type of steel
- 3. Anvil = where the story is worked out
- 4. Body Position
- 5. Elevation of steel
- 6. Angle of strike
- 7. Progression of strike
- 8. The body of the story—beginning—middle—end.

Gordon has a list of criteria for developing or changing techniques:

- Is it cheaper?
- Is it easier?
- Does it work better?

#### **Ask the Old Fart**

Hey Old Fart – Besides spending lots of time at the anvil how do I become a better blacksmith?

That's easy ya little whippersnapper - Embrace Failure! You heard me right - Embrace Failure. Don't be a failure, just embrace it.

The best way to learn is to push your limits. When you push your limits you are bound to fail and that's where the real learning takes place. I learn more from my failures than I do from a project that goes perfectly smooth. If you aren't afraid to fail you will try harder projects. Your skills will improve and you will be amazed at what you can do. I like to say: "It is amazing what you can do if you don't know you can't do it!"

Think of your failures as experiments. Learn what you can and then try it again. If you get stumped ask your fellow blacksmiths for ideas. Then ask some non-blacksmiths for their thoughts. A fresh set of eyes can open a whole new world of ideas. All of us tend to get stuck in ruts – our comfort zones. It is when we are out of our comfort zone that real learning and progress takes place. By embracing failure you will lose the fear of being out of your comfort zone and your skills will improve dramatically.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that you should tackle a 1000 feet of forged railing on your second day at the anvil. That's not embracing failure – that's committing suicide! You need to take your failure in bite sized chunks. Evaluate a potential project. If there is a little doubt that you can do it then go for it. If you succeed on the first attempt you need to adjust your doubto-meter and pick a harder project.

So there you are. Push your limits! Part of becoming a better blacksmith is taking perfectly good steel and creating a nice piece of scrap!

See ya at the anvil.

# Turn your Iron Into Copper from Gordon Williams demo

Get a bottle of Root Kill. I got some in the plumbing department at Home Depot for \$13. The ingredients list says 99.5% copper sulfate. Put about 6 oz. copper sulfate per I gal distilled water and shake or stir until dissolved. Apply (brush, spray or wipe on), wash with clear water, dry; then buff with dry cloth and clear coat (rattle can clear or some other sealer). Like any patina, the process works better when the metal is clean. Gordon used Scotch Brite to shine up high spots on bark texture. The shiny spots turned bright copper instantly. I found that the copper begins to age rapidly and in a short time will look like an old penny if the clear in not applied right away.

Ed.

#### **Glow 2011**

Again this year, AABA members kept the forges lit at the 2011 GLOW at the Triangle L Ranch in Oracle, AZ. Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10. GLOW is an annual nighttime art experience coinciding with the full moon. Ira Weisenfeld, new member Zach Lihatsh, and Bill Ganoe made stuff on site. Ira brought a truck load of his work, and Zach covered a table with some of his work. Steve Fisher and his daughter, Bethany, set up right next door.

We were worried about sparks from our fires. A group of gypsy fortune tellers also set up right next to us, and they draped the trees with colored streamers. But Mother Nature soon dealt with that concern. We had showers off and on all night Friday, and we got heavy, gully- washing rain most of Saturday evening. Of course, when we decided surrender was our only option and folded up Saturday night the rain stopped. At least Zach was then able to entertain an audience of visitors who had refused to let the rain discourage them. He also sold a few things to those hardy souls. Maybe next year the storm gods will ignore Oracle, AZ.



Bethany Fisher turns tin cans into candle holders. Will she be able to complete this one before the wind blows out her minitorch again?

#### by Bill Ganoe



Ira, having finished setting up, grabs a bite before the gypsies arrive.



Ira's solution for worn-out tongs.



Keeping the forge going in the rain.

### **Western States Conference Report**

by Peter Sevin

I was recently honored to be a demonstrator at the 2011 Western States Conference held August 18-21 at Government Camp, Oregon. Government Camp is located six miles below Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. The lodge was built in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration, a depression era government program that employed craftsmen to build the Lodge. It is a massive wooden structure filled with beautiful handmade objects including furniture, fabrics and ironwork. As part of its restoration in recent years there is additional ironwork made by Darryl Nelson, the late Russell Jacqua, and others. It is well worth the trip up the road to visit.

The opening ceremonies were held Thursday afternoon at the Timberline Lodge amphitheater. Jeff Funk of Montana forged an ice climbing axe while explaining the metamorphic processes of the volcano that is Mt. Hood. At the same time, unbeknownst to the audience, he was heating a 4"x 4"chunk of volcanic rock from the slopes above us. When the axe was finished, the rock, glowing red, was brought out and Jeff and his assistant pierced the rock completely through with the pick end of the axe. It was quite a dramatic moment.

As always at a conference like this there is far more to see than is possible to take in, but there were several events that stood out to me. One was an exhibit from the archives of the Northwest Blacksmith Association in the form of the many pieces produced in demos and workshops dating back 27 years. It was quite remarkable.

Another event I enjoyed was the "Blacksmith Wars." Four teams of four smiths each competed for a cash prize of \$1500. Their assignment was to produce a table that would support a certain sized piece of glass. The teams had to have a drawing, list of materials and all their equipment. All work was to be done by hand and although there were some electric power tools available, teams were penalized for using them. There were four sessions of three hours each during which the work was quite intense. There was definitely a high level of



Pete using a 4 post hydraulic press to forge a belt buckle Photo by Doug Kluender

skill on display and always a good audience on hand. The teams were judged on planning, drawings, safety, teamwork, workmanship and finished product. I had never imagined that blacksmithing could be a spectator sport. There is a slide show of the event on the Western States Conference website. It's worth a look.

I took particular interest in Jeff Funk's demo, in which he showed his approach to forging the grape leaves on wine cellar gate he had made. Rather than trying to copy an actual leaf he used his 35 lb air hammer to forge leaves from a ¾ inch square wrought iron bar that were very suggestive of actual leaves much like organic forms seen in art nouveau ironwork. He then brazed the stems of the leaves to the branch using 56% silver bearing solder. It required only a minute amount of solder to make a strong, clean joint.

Other highlights included a hands-on workshop taught by Mark Aspery, knife making demos, a wrought iron furnace, slide presentations, tailgating and commercial vendors. On top of all that they are still skiing on Mt. Hood in August. The site was beautiful, the weather was perfect, and the plan is to have it every other year. I won't miss the next one!

# **Painted Bra Project**

The Painted Bra Art Project was created to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. This disease has personally touched the lives of both Rodger LaBrash and Harold Hilborn who were moved to participate. Rodger made the iron bra (upper left). Harold made the aluminum bra (lower right).

Proceeds from the Project were donated to the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation.





CALENDAR 2011						
November 5	Open Forge	Grizzly Iron	Phoenix			
November 5	Open Forge	Holy Hammer Ironworks	Tucson			
November 12	Demo: Mo Hamburger	Grizzly Iron	Phoenix			
December 3	Open Forge	Grizzly Iron	Phoenix			
December 3	Open Forge	Holy Hammer Ironworks	Tucson			
January 7	Open Forge	Grizzly Iron	Phoenix			
January 7	Open Forge	Holy Hammer Ironworks	Tucson			
January 21	Demo:	$\operatorname{TBD}$				
March 17	Demo	TBD				
May 19	Demo	TBD				
May 19	Demo	TBD				

#### **AABA Elections**

In a few days or maybe weeks you should receive a ballot in the mail—please fill it out and send it in.

The nominating committee has yet to determine the entire cast of officers.

There are several board members who are up for reelection: Bill Ganoe, Ivan Hill, Doug Kluender, Bill Morris and Peter Sevin.

There are some new folks who have agreed to serve if elected: Tyler Adams, Chris Contos, Zach Lihatsh, John Silvestre, and Gordon Williams.

If you would like to serve on the board or as an officer, contact Rodger La Brash

Continuing board members, whose terms expire in 2012 (and are not on the ballot): Pat Clark, Sarah Harms, Harold Hilborn, Jason LaBrash, Kristen Loving, Jim Sheehan, and Ira Wiesenfeld.

Clark Martinek has moved to cooler climes. Apparently he missed shoveling snow all winter.

#### **AABA Publications**

Most of the Best Tips Project Ideas Patterns from ABANA Chapter Newsletter, aka The Tips Book, is 291 pages of all those things organized so you can find them. It is bound in a 3-ring binder so you can add info as you get it. Available at demos for \$25. The Blacksmith and His Art by Jess Hawley. Many feel this is still the best basic blacksmithing book available. Plus it's got pictures and a bit of history. Available at demos for the wholesale price of \$12, Or from Pieh Tool or Blue Moon Press for \$20.00

# Vern Lewis Welding AABA Discount

Vern Lewis Welding Supply, Inc has a great discount program for AABA members. Delivery is available at the low price of \$8.00 per order.

Vern Lewis Welding Supply, Inc: www.vernlewis.com or contact Carol Armold @ 602-252-0341

# **Open Forge: Tucson**

Holy Hammer Ironworks. Questions? Give Harold a call at (520) 603-6723.

### **Open Forge: Phoenix**

Grizzly Iron is hosting their monthly open forge 8:00 am until around noon. November 5 will be the next one.

Grizzly Iron, Inc

1329 W Lincoln St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

#### **Deadline: December 3** for the

January issue of the Anvil's Horn. Earlier would be greatly appreciated. Articles, photos, notices, and ads can be emailed to: Danshammer@cox.net or mailed to AABA 2522 W. Loughlin Dr. Chandler, AZ 85224

#### The AH Needs Your Photos

Thanks to all those who sent info, articles and photos for this issue. It's fun to see what everyone is doing. Don't forget to send stuff for the next issue.

#### **Welcome New Members**

Bob and Janice Evans

# **AABA Website: AZ-blacksmiths.org**

#### **Mesa Arts Center Classes**

Classes can be searched for and registered for at: www.mesaartscenter.com or 480-644-6500

Blacksmithing: Making Damascus Steel for Knives or

Jewelry Section: CAF11BL004-01 Instructor: Frank Christensen 8 Weeks Tuesdays 6 pm- - 10 pm \$173 Resident, \$207 Non Resident

Blacksmithing: Skills of Hand-Forging Iron

Section: CAF11BL005-01

Instructor: Michael Sobrado 16 Weeks

Thursdays 6 pm –9 pm

\$241 Mesa Resident \$289 Mesa Non Resident Course will instruct the novice in the magic of handforging iron. Students will learn to use hammers and fire to shape steel into art.

Spring classes start in the middle of January The Mesa Art Center is located at 1 E. Main St., Mesa

#### Yavapai College Metalsmithing

Chris Contos is now teaching Jewelry and Metalsmithing classes at Yavapai College. The focus is on non-ferrous metals, stone setting, surface textures and metal formation techniques.

Chris will offer three levels of coursework: beginning Jewelry class, Jewelry II, and Advanced Projects. These three credit classes are offered on Monday and Wednesday with many open lab hours during the week.

New classes start in January.

Feel free to contact Chris with any questions: christopher.contos@gmail.com

# Pieh Tool Educational Opportunities

Beginner/Intermediate Blacksmithing Classes with Gordon Williams

Classes for the remainder of 2011:

October 21-23 November 18 -20 December 9-11

\$455 per 30 hour class. All materials and equipment are provided.

Bill Pieh Resource for Metalwork at Pieh Tool in Camp Verde, Arizona. Contact: 928-554-0700 or www.piehtoolco.com

# MCC Blacksmithing & Welding

The MCC blacksmithing program is one of the best deals around - over 60 hours of instruction for just under \$450 and that includes material and propane! Saturday (Jaime Escobedo instructor) and evening classes (Dan Jennings instructor) are available. Blacksmithing is WLD103.

TIG, MIG, Arc, Gas, and Art classes are all available, as is certification in any of those welding methods at Mesa Community College, Southern and Dobson in Mesa.

If you try to register for any Welding Department classes on line, you might find all classes are closed (full). Contact Dan at danshammer@cox. net with the class number (time and days) of the class you'd like to take—I'll get an override number so you can sign up.

For more info go to: www.mesacc.edu

AABA New M	lember aı	nd Memb	ership Renev	wal Form
Name			<b>-</b>	
Address				
City		State	Zip	
Phone	Email		<u> </u>	
Professional blacksmith	Hobbyist	Farrier	Blade smith	
Your main blacksmithing i	nterest			
Occupation or skill				
Please check one:			27.1	T D
Regular membership (\$30)		Mail to:	Terry Porter	
Family membership (\$35)				2310 E. Melrose St. Gilbert, AZ 85297
Make Check Payable to	AABA			

# **Member's Gallery: Michael Sobrado**



Lighting for a Private Residence in Colorado



# Member's Gallery: Grizzly Iron



At a recent Open Forge Grizz showed how to make bamboo and at a later open forge we got to see this door on the paint rack.

We also saw the fire screens in process. All are superb.



# **Member's Gallery: Fred Borcherdt**

Right: "Meander"

Below: "Wishing Post"

Below Right: "Thor's Hammer"





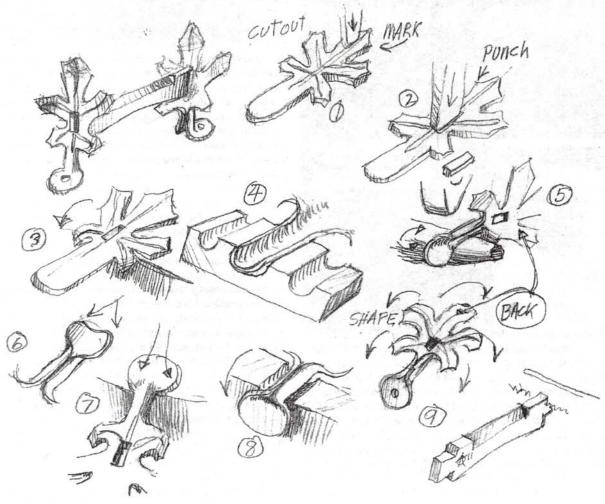


# **Boot Scraper**

By Steve Alling a MABA Member

- Cut out your design from 11 gauge material leaving the stem wide enough to curl completely around. Clean up and make any veining designs.
- 2. Punch hole for tennon.
- Bend any part of your design that will restrict you getting at the stem.
- 4. Pre form stem in swage.
- With the peen of your hammer complete rounding up stem being careful not to close end.
- 6. With a small hammer work the bottom out flat.
- 7. Draw out bottom to shape.
- 8. In swage bend bottom to 90 degrees.
- 9. Shape design and rivet it to scraper.





### **Quick Heat: Induction Forged Railing**

by Dan Jennings



The installed railing with the wood in place consists of 6 panels including the one down the center of the stair that transitions from horizontal to 37 degrees. There are 2 more panels at 37 degrees at the bottom of the stair.

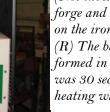
Below is the sales sample which shows the details. Each baluster assembly is 2 pieces of  $3/8 \times 1$ , space 1/4" apart, formed to hold 3/4" square on the diamond, offset 1/4" at the bottom to accommodate the  $3/4 \times 2$  bottom rail. The ends are beveled, and holes are punched for the 5/16 square head bolts. Finally a bowtie from  $1/4 \times 1$  is forged and placed between the  $3/8 \times 1$  and collared.

A perfect job for the Induction Forge and hydraulic press. Here's how it went..



After cutting the 3/8 x 1 pieces were edge hammered (20" propane forge) using a Vblock with a stop to keep the edges uniform.





(Not shown) The top end was heated in the induction forge and beveled and the top hole was punched on the ironworker.

(R) The bars were heated for 20 seconds, then formed in the hydraulic press (below). Cycle time was 30 seconds total because one bar would be heating while the other was being formed





We used the pin (lower left corner) to locate on the hole and cut each piece exactly the same length.



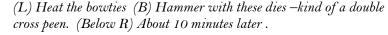
(Above) The same hole was used to locate the bottom hole, so the distance between holes would all be the same.

The machine is a Scotchman Turret 40 ton ironworker. The 11/32 hole takes about 2 seconds to punch.



The plate anvil worked very well for hammering the bevel on the offset end after another 20 second heat. Did I mention there's 270 of these?











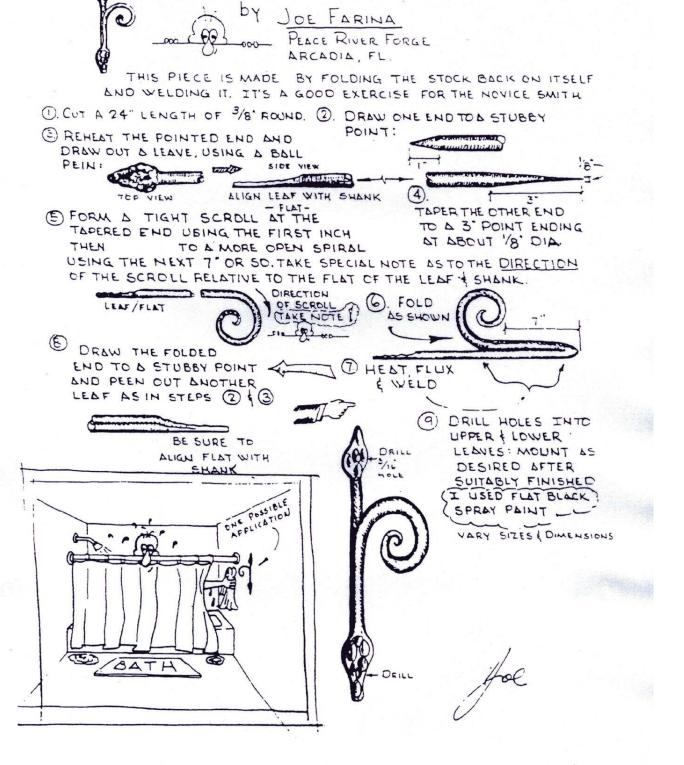
Installing collars by heating in the induction forge works very well. The 3/16 x 1 collars took about a minute to get an even heat without a lot of scale.

 $(R\ )$  The smallest panel, complete with collars and bowties.

For more information about induction forges: www.ocpinductionforge.com



SCROLLED WALL HOOK



# **Classifieds**

#### Need Help?

Do you live in the Tucson area? Maybe in an apartment or condo and you don't have a smithy but want to blacksmith. Or maybe you would like some one on one lessons for blacksmithing or welding. Perhaps you are a professional smith or fabricator and don't have all the equipment you need yet. I am making Holy Hammer Ironworks available for all these needs on a floating scale per hour depending on your needs. If you are interested please give me (Harold Hilborn) a call at (520) 603-6723. Thanks!

7 hp 3 phase Leeson motor \$100 Paul Bradsher 602-228-2426 Classified ads are free to members and can be submitted by email to: danshammer@cox.net

S5 Tool Steel for Sale 1", 1 1/4" and 2" Round 12-14" Lengths. \$3 per pound 602-716-9660 Rodger or Jason

**Wanted:** Wrought iron Bar 1" or larger – the larger the better.

Call Ira: 520-742-5274 Email treeira@hotmail.com

80 pound Kinyon Mark 11 power hammer. Contact Ron for info.

Ron also has air hammer pneumatic kits. Includes cylinder, valves, fittings and hose.
Ron Kinyon 602-568-8276

#### Satin Shield Quarts

SS10 Clear Acrylic Sealant.
Many professional blacksmiths swear by Satin Shield for indoor finishing. It is easy to apply—slop it on and use an air hose to blow away the excess or wipe it on with a soft rag. The resulting finish seals in the black carbon that is left from tumbling, seals out oxygen—preventing rust, and leaves a smooth, finish that darkens the metal with out hiding the texture. It holds up for many years in most indoor applications.

One quart ready - to - use for \$12.00 each. Doug Kluender 602-818-1230.

# Sources

Rocky Mountain Smiths have videos available of their conference demonstrators. Most of these are high quality edited, multi-camera videos. For more info go to: www.rockymountainsmiths.org

#### Bar U Bar Supply

Several 65 lb. & 85 lb. swage blocks for sale. Your source for anvils, post vises, and other new & used blacksmith tools. Barry Denton ph 928-442-3290 email: barubarranch@gmail.com website: www.barubar.com

IMS (formerly Capitol Metals). Full service supplier of Steel, Stainless, Brass, Aluminum, Copper. 5150 S. 48 ST. PHX. 602-454-1500

#### Pieh Tool Company Inc.

Blacksmith Supplies, Coal, coke, & Kasenit #1 in 1# cans, 661 Howards Road Suite J Camp Verde, AZ 86322 888-743-4866, www.piehtoolco.com

#### **Scottsdale Farrier Supply**

Mostly farrier supplies, but has hammers, tongs and other blacksmith goodies. Ph. 480-838- 4455 NW corner of Power and Williamsfield Rd. Mesa

MSC Industrial Supply Co. is a mail-order supplier of all kinds of industrial & metalworking supplies. You can get a 4500+ page catalog by calling 1-800-645-7270.

A Copper Rose Metal Art has Chasing / Repousse Pitch http://www.chasers-pitch.com Debra Montgomery P.O. Box 212 Dunlap, CA 93621 877-685-7467 toll free **Brent Bailey**. A blacksmith in California specializing in custom tools and ornamental forgings for artisans.

www.brentbaileyforge.com

#### **Pacific Insulation Company**

Supplier of high temp insulating materials. Bricks, Kaowool and other refractories. 215 S. 14 St. Phoenix. 602-276-1361

#### Blue Moon Press, Ltd.

Metalwork books, some of which are only available through them. Bluemoonpress.org
Toll free ph. 866-627-6922.

#### Vern Lewis Welding Supply,

Discount pricing for AABA members. Just tell them you're a n AABA member

Examples: Oxygen - \$12.30 (LG Cylinder) 75/25- \$39.38

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2522 W. Loughlin Dr.
Chandler A. 25224

Chandler, AZ 85224
Address Service Requested

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For membership info or address change, contact: Terry Porter 2310 E Melrose Street, Gilbert 85297 480-988-2070 trp555@prodigy.net



New work by Paul Dief

