

# *The Anvil's Horn*

**A Publication of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association**

Issue No. 225, November 2023



*Getting ready to start the September demo.  
Dead Horse Ranch State Park  
Cottonwood, AZ*

# President's Message

Hello Blacksmiths,

The cool down has started making it a bit more comfortable to get out into your shop and forge something. I'm encouraging everyone to try and forge something every day, even if it's one small item or a portion of an item. My biggest gains have been from day after day forging by swinging the hammer. It's not realistic for all nor all of the time, but the point is to do as much as you can. When I was able to forge every day for 6 weeks this summer, I was able to increase my hammer control dramatically. Now the trick is to keep these new skills well honed. You may have to work up to it and let your body tell you when you're doing too much and stop for a rest.

We could really use everyone's help in preparing for our Winterfest Conference. There will be a Winterfest Committee in person meeting notice sent out via email. Let me know if you're not on email and I'll get you the info. It should be a fun time, please plan on attending.



See you around the forge,

*Steve Miller*

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# **Demonstration: Saturday, November 18, 2023**

## **Workshop: Sunday, November 19, 2023**

Grizzly Iron  
1329 W. Lincoln St.  
Phoenix, AZ

### **Demonstrator: Mark Ling**

Mark Ling will demonstrate forging a cross peen hammer by hand, without a striker. This will cover punching the billet, forging the eye (drifting it larger while also forging the “cheeks” of the hammer) and drawing out the peen. It will be demonstrated that it is possible to do this without a striker - a problem so many smiths have who work by themselves. Mark will cover each part of the process, explaining his reasoning for choice of tooling and techniques, and why he believes them to be the most efficient way to accomplish the task at hand. Efficiency of forging is something he is highly concerned about when working. (Continued on page 4.)



- Registration begins at 8:00 AM, the demonstration starts at 9:00 AM.
- Registration fee:
  - \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members
- Lunch is on your own. There are several good eating spots in Cottonwood.
- Tailgating is encouraged. Tailgaters, please consider donating to Iron in the Hat.
- Bring things for Iron-In-the-Hat and Show-and-Tell.
  - Be sure to put your name on anything you bring for Show-and-Tell.
- The **Mark Ling workshop** on Sunday is \$100.
  - Students will be making hand forged 2 pound hammers using strikers, so students will be working in pairs. All materials will be provided. **Bring your own safety gear.**
  - Contact Richard Rozinski at **602-803-7255** or **rrozinski@me.com** to register.

**Presidents Project for November** is a forged leaf. It can be just a leaf, a leaf on a stem, a leaf that is part of another project and can be any size and shape. Let's see how many leaves we can get and who knows, maybe we'll make a tree out of them.



### **Remember Iron in the Hat**

Thanks to all of you who have participated in Iron in the Hat. By purchasing tickets and donating items, you help support AABA events and projects. Items for donation can be a tool, piece of art, something you made specifically for iron in the hat, something you don't need in your shop, a great book, a t-shirt, a hat ... something an AABA member would enjoy.

### **Directions to Grizzly Iron**

1329 W. Lincoln St., Phoenix, AZ

- I-10 (via the tunnel) to 7th Ave.
- Take 7th Ave. south to Grant.
- Turn west (right) on Grant to 13th Ave.
- Turn north (right) on 13th Ave. to Lincoln St.
- Turn west (left) on Lincoln St. to Grizzly Iron (on the left.)

### **Safety glasses are always required in the demonstration area.**

Hearing protection, closed-toe shoes, and long clothes of natural fibers are recommended.

## Our November Demonstrator: Mark Ling

(Continued from page 3.)

Before forging the hammer Mark, will also make a punch that will be used when making the hammer, one of the few tools necessary. After that, he will make a horse head handle fire poker. This will include forging a horse head, using fullers and decorative punches, punching and drifting, forging a hole in the middle of a bar (as opposed to at the end of a bar), drawing out flat bar- then making it square, and then round, and forging tapers as well as folding and forge welding the end of the fire poker. As time allows he may include a few other items, as well as take requests if there is something in particular that an individual would like to see done or explained better. He may also include forge welding, basic scrolling and collaring, tools, or more artistic work of pieces that are aesthetically pleasing.

To see more on Mark Link go to <https://www.marklingblacksmith.com/>



## Black Canyon City Windfall

Steve Miller

An AABA member contacted me recently with an offer for free steel to AABA members. We've been asked to schedule a visit by AABA members during which they peruse a 1.25 acre junkyard in Back Canyon City. Members can take for free what they can haul off. By the time you read this, I hope we will have a date figured out, but it will be when the temperatures are more reasonable. I visited the property at night, so all my photos are dark. There's a rack of pipe cutoffs, sheet steel, 150 ft (I'm told) of forged chain with 8-inch links made from square bar. Contact me at [stevemiller.az@cox.net](mailto:stevemiller.az@cox.net) or **602-989-6505** if you're interested in visiting. The property is so full, its impossible to park on the property. The road is narrow too, so we may have to visit in shifts and, possibly, over multiple days. Here are a few of the pictures I took.





# **AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction**

## **Sunday, December 3, 2023**

Fruit Packing Shed/Gallery at Sahuaro Ranch  
Glendale, AZ

This year the auction will be held on Sunday, December 3 at Saguaro Ranch. Registration will begin at 11 am with food being served at 12 noon. The annual meeting will start at 1 pm, and the auction will start as soon as the annual meeting is adjourned. There will be no cost for registration or lunch as AABA will cover the costs. We will need a head count so please contact Jason LaBrash to RSVP by November 18. Use the post card inserted in this issue, or contact Jason at 602-717-1459 or [jason@grizzlyiron.com](mailto:jason@grizzlyiron.com).

We will be in the Fruit Packing Shed again this year. This is the same location as the last several years. Make sure you enter off of 59th Ave and Mountain View. Park in the very first parking lot on the right.

The auction is always a great time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. This year the food will be catered by a local company, so everyone will have more time to relax and enjoy time with your blacksmith family. Please bring new friends too. We want to expand our blacksmith family, and, if you have a friend who would be interested in blacksmith or even just seeing some amazing blacksmith work, please invite them.

We have our auction annually to raise funds for the Read Carlock Memorial Scholarship Fund. That fund supports scholarships for qualified applicants to further their blacksmith and metalsmithing education. In recent years we've auctioned off items such as bottle openers, napkin rings, lamps, wall art, and even tables. You don't have to make a table to participate, but if you've got a project idea that you've always wanted to try, here's a great reason to make it. Maybe it's a centerpiece for a table or a unique door knocker. Every item donated, large or small, is welcome and appreciated. Craig Riggle, our professionally trained auctioneer, will auction off all the items and many people will go home with some amazing treasures.

We do need help during the auction with spotters and presenters, so, if you are interested, please contact Jason at 602-717-1459 or [jason@grizzlyiron.com](mailto:jason@grizzlyiron.com).

Also, remember that it is time to elect AABA officers and members of the AABA board of directors for the coming year. The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Be sure to vote with the ballot card insert in the middle of this newsletter.

### **Directions to the Fruit Packing Shed in Sahuaro Ranch**

Glendale, AZ

- I-17 to Dunlap Ave.
- West on Dunlap (which turns into Olive Ave.) to 59th Ave.
- North (right) on 59th Ave. to Mountain View Rd.
- West (left) on Mountain View
- Take first right into the East Parking Lot.
- Walk from the parking lot to the Fruit Packing Shed.



The Anvil's Horn



# Winterfest V

## January 19-21, 2023



### Demonstrators

Steven Yusko Cleveland, OH <a href="https://stephenyusko.com/wordpress/">https://stephenyusko.com/wordpress/</a>	TBA
Clayton Cowart Arizona	Knives
Victoria Ritter California	TBA

Peter Sevin and Len Ledet In the teaching tent

### Other activities:

Raffle for **The Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest** full of tools and other treasures for blacksmiths  
Iron in the Hat  
Tailgating  
Silent Auction  
Show-and-Tell  
Banquet Saturday evening.

## The Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest

Richard Rozinski

Hey everybody, Winterfest VI is coming up soon, and The Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest was such a success at previous Winterfests that we'd like your help again this year. We're looking for tools that you've made either especially for the Treasure Chest or that you have made in the past and have lying around that you'd like to donate. Also, we would accept tools that you have laying around your shop that you don't use. Tools that you can live without that someone else would absolutely treasure.

Watch for the raffle, and buy your tickets early. We'll see you at Winterfest VI.

Send your donations to:  
RICHARD ROZINSKI  
2675 E. Elliot Rd.  
Gilbert, Arizona, 85234



# Winterfest VI

January 18-20, 2024  
Sculpture Tucson, Tucson, AZ



**Help us create the  
best Winterfest yet.**

It's hard to believe next year's conference will be its 6th year. It keeps getting better and better with something new every year. In order to maintain the quality conference you have grown to know, we need your help. So, the Winterfest committee is forming now. We'll start having face to face meetings soon at a food venue to be determined. If you would like to attend these meetings, and probably get assigned some work areas, please let your Winterfest co-chairs, Steve ([stevemiller.az@cox.net](mailto:stevemiller.az@cox.net)) or Richard ([rrozinski@me.com](mailto:rrozinski@me.com)), know. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

But it takes more than just good ideas and suggestions to put on a great conference. It takes a lot of people doing a lot of real work. Below is a list of work crews we need to make this happen. We need workers for these crews and we need a manager for each crew. If you would like to work on any, or all, of these crews, or if you would like to manage some of the crews, please let your Winterfest co-chairs, Steve ([stevemiller.az@cox.net](mailto:stevemiller.az@cox.net)) or Richard ([rrozinski@me.com](mailto:rrozinski@me.com)), know. Hoping you will join us for some fun and fellowship along with a little bit of work.

- **Marketing/Advertising** – 1 to 2 People 9 months to 2 weeks prior to conference. Develop and manage advertising or the conference
- **Buy cake, snacks, & utensils** several days prior to and the day of the conference
- **Printing** – 1 Person prior to the conference  
Print gallery labels & Auction forms
- **Refill propane tanks** – 2 people several days prior to the conference
- **Setup Education Tent**  
Unload Education Trailer
- **Pickup steel** for demonstrator projects, education tent, forging contest
- **Clean shop** – 2 to 3 people the day before the conference
- **Table setup** – 4 to 6 People 1 day before the conference  
Setup tables in the tent for seating, displays, TV monitor,
- **Setup bench seating in Barn** – 1 to 2 People the day prior to the conference
- **Setup the Projector** in the main tent – 2 People the day prior to the conference. Troubleshoot during the conference.
- **Parking lot** – 2 People 1 day prior to the conference  
Setup the parking lot to keep driveway clear
- **Gallery Setup** – 2 to 3 people the day prior and 1st day of the conference. Get pedestals out of storage.  
Receive and set up gallery items
- **Gallery Security** – 3 to 4 people during conference
- **Camera** - 2 to 4 people the day of the conference  
Setup cameras, cables, & TV monitor  
Run cameras during conference
- **Demonstrator Drivers** – 2 to 3 people prior to, after, and during the conference  
Shuttle Demonstrator between their hotel and the conference
- **Trash removal** – 1 to 2 people during conference  
Remove trash, replace trash bags
- **Photographer** – 1 to 2 people  
Take photos before and during the conference, submit photos to the editor
- **Retail Monitor** – 3 to 4 people  
Manage retail sales
- **Silent Auction** – 2 to 4 people  
Arrange items, complete forms, provide security
- **Banquet** – 2 people Saturday of the conference  
Setup food tables for banquet
- **Iron in the hat sales** – 1 to 2 people during the conference  
Sell Iron in the Hat tickets
- **Cleanup** – 4 to 6 People after the conference  
Tear down Education Tent, pack up Education Trailer, remove trash, inspect entire grounds



# September Demo Report

*Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.*

On the weekend of September 16 - 17, about 25 people got together at a spot in the Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottenwood, AZ, to watch one of our favorite demonstrators, George Witzke, demonstrate the techniques he used to make a sign bracket. That involved drawing out, punching, drifting, twisting, and making mortise and tenon joints. Those are all fairly common techniques, but George had some tips and suggestions for improving these basic operations.

George recommended drawing out over the horn of your anvil. A lot of people do their drawing out on the face of the anvil, many times using the pein on their hammer, but that can take longer or create rougher surfaces that require more work to be smoothed out. [Note that some people create the tip of a taper using the anvil's horn rather than the edge of the face of the anvil to minimize the chances of chipping or dinging the face of the anvil. I guess the amount of potential damage to your anvil's face depends on how really precise your hammer control is - Ed.]

When you're using a hammer with a domed (usually a slightly domed) face, make sure you use overlapping blows to maintain a fairly even surface.

When you're drawing out, hammer on both sides of your workpiece to keep things even.

If you use a copper or aluminum softy or cutting plate, look closely and you'll see that your chisel will leave burrs on the softy when they come through the work piece. Those burrs can create dents and dings in the surface of your workpieces in the future. Use mild steel softies. They shouldn't mess with the chisel very much and they will keep a smoother surface much longer..

If your workpiece develops an unwanted twist or bend, fix it before you put it back in the fire.

Mark the middle of the anvil face. Hammer at that one spot and move your workpiece around like you would move it if you were using a power hammer.

When punching, remember that most punches aren't perfectly round. Rotate the punch after every blow so the little imperfections get averaged out.

When drifting, work the drift around the edge of the pritchel hole. That will keep your workpiece more or less completely flat instead of developing a raised lip around the edge of the drifted hole.

When you're punching on thinned out sections of thicker bars, use a small bolster sized for the workpiece and hole position to maintain the shape of the thinned section.



*George Witzke*

Marking your work piece: If you use a center punch or a chisel to make a mark in the center of a bar, it will be very hard to see when the bar gets to yellow heat. Better to punch near the edge of the bar. (If you can find a spot near where the mark needs to be where appearance doesn't matter.) The little bulge on the side of the bar will be much easier to see when the bar is hot.

Texture your bar all over. When you need to adjust things so holes line up, you don't have to screw up the appearance.



*Detail of the sign bracket made at the September demo*



## September Demo Report (Continued)

Remember: There are no errors or screwups, only late stage design changes.

George says Rustoleum Clear is better than Permalac.

You can add powdered graphite to (slightly thinned) black paint and then, when dry, buff it to an awesome finish.



*Marked with a center punch in the center of the bar.*



*Marked with a center punch at the edge of the bar*



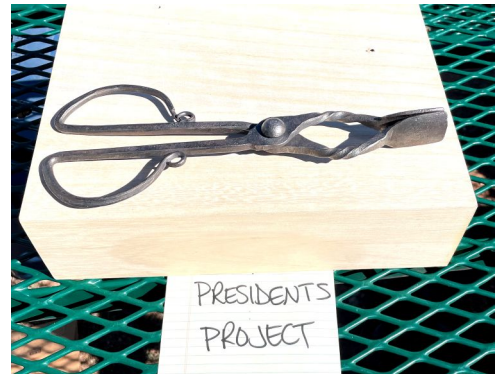
*Small bolsters sized for punching a particular project*



*Drawing out over the horn of the anvil.*



*Starting a tenon with a sharp butcher (made from angle stock).*



*Show and Tell - Rodger LaBrash*



*Shown and Tell - Josh States*



*Show and Tell - Ira Wiesenfeld*

## AABA Calendar 2023-2024

November 18 & 19	Demo: Mark Ling	Grizzly Iron	Phoenix
December 3	Annual Banquet, Meeting, and Auction	Sahuaro Ranch	Glendale
January 18 - 20	Winterfest VI	Sculpture Tucson	Tucson
March 16 & 17	Demo: Ed Brazeal	Mesa Community College	Mesa

### AABA Election

The annual election for AABA officers and board members is coming up in November. There is a pull-out ballot included in this issue of *The Anvil's Horn*. Please return it by November 24, 2023. Don't forge that members of the Board of Directors serve 2-year terms, and the following board members will continue to serve until December 2024: Dylan Cook, Len Ledet, Peter Sevin, and Ira Weisenfeld.

### MCC Blacksmithing & Welding Class

The Mesa Community College blacksmithing program is an excellent deal - over 60 hours of instruction including material and propane! Classes for the Spring 2024 semester started the week of January 15, 2024. Check the Mesa CC website for specific dates and details related to classes in the Spring 2024 semester. Blacksmithing is listed as **WLD103** in the class schedule. Classes fill up early, but waiting lists may be available. For more information go to: [www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

### New AABA Secretary

Jacie Cotterell has volunteered to be AABA secretary. She teaches knife making at Iron Rhino Forge in Tempe, and she appeared on Forged in Fire, Flip the Forge, Season 9, Episode 11, June 22, 2022. She did a great job, but she can explain more about that when you see her.

Terry Porter, retiring AABA secretary, said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Secretary for the AABA. My first stint was 10 years and the second stint is almost 3 years. Thank you every one for your support over the years, but it's time for a change. Please give Jacie your full support during this transition."

### Deadline for the January 2024 issue

December 1, 2023 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the January 2024 issue of *The Anvil's Horn*.

Send articles, pictures, etc. by email to:

[editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org)

or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe, PO Box 40233, Tucson, AZ 85717

### Not Seeing the Demonstrations You Would Like? Not Seeing the Articles You Would Like in *The Anvil's Horn*?

Is there a project, tool, ornament you would like to see at an AABA demonstration? Is there a particular demonstrator you would like to see? Send your request(s) to the AABA 1st Vice President, Richard Rozinski, **602-803-7255** or [rrozinski@me.com](mailto:rrozinski@me.com)

Is there a particular project or technique you would like to see in *The Anvil's Horn*? Is there a general topic you would like to see covered? Send your request(s) to the editor, Bill Ganoe, by email to:

[editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org) or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe

PO Box 40233

Tucson, AZ 85717

### Classes at Pieh Tool in Camp Verde

- Beginning/Intermediate blacksmithing classes taught by Dylan Cook

Nov. 10 - 12, 2023

Registration is \$585.

Students will make several simple projects to take home.

- Knifemaking class taught by Master Bladesmith, Ray Rybar

No classes were scheduled at press time.

Registration is \$585.

Students will make one knife.

For class dates when they become available, for full details about the classes, or to register call **928-554-0700** or go to <https://piehtoolco.com>

### Makerspace in Tucson

The blacksmith shop at Xerocraft in Tucson is becoming a reality. Ed Snyder, who has been doing most of the leg work to get this shop up and running, is looking for tool donations and people to teach classes. If you have a hammer or some tongs or some punches that you don't need, or if you are interested in teaching a low-level class, give Ed a call at **520-609-4237**.



# AABA Website: [www.azblacksmiths.org](http://www.azblacksmiths.org)

## Open Forge: Tucson

Desert Metalcraft, 544 E. 24th St., Tucson, AZ, will host an open forge for southern Arizona from 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday, November 4. Full details will be in the Tucson area email in late October. If you're not on that list, send a request to [editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org)

## Open Forge: Grizzly Iron

Open forges at Grizzly Iron have been paused. See details below under Classes and Events.

## Open Forge: Iron Rhino Forge

2051 E. Cedar St. Suite 6, Tempe

**Open forges** every Tuesday evening, 6 PM - 10 PM  
Free to watch or \$30 to participate. Details at <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf/open-forge>.

**Teen Social Open Forges**, first Sunday of every month from 5 pm to 9 pm. Come practice your blacksmithing skills with other youths, have some pizza, and make new friends! For ages 18 and under. Parents invited as spectators. Details at: <https://ironrhinoforge.as.me/youthsocial>

## If You Are Attending An Open Forge...

These open forges are part of AABA educational activities, but AABA does not provide funds for these events. They are hosted by our members for all of our benefit. So if you participate in forging, welding, use shop materials, or accidentally damaged something, please put something in the donation box to help our hosts with their expenses. Thank you! From all of your open forge hosts.

**You will need to wear safety glasses. Hearing protection is recommended.**

**\*\*\* Also, observe the safety requirements of the open forge hosts.\*\*\***

## Classes and Events at AABA Members' Shops

### Desert Metal Craft

544 E. 24th St., Tucson, AZ

The schedule at Desert Metal Craft features a wide range of classes and workshops. Check the DMC website, <https://www.desertmetalcraft.org>, for on-line events, details of specific events, and to register for each class or workshop. Check out the scholarship opportunities. Featured classes include:

Forged fighting knife class taught by **Nick Rossi**, December 7 - 10, 2023

Intermediate stone setting taught by **Momo Okada**, December 16 - 17, 2023

### Grizzly Iron

1329 W. Lincoln St., Phoenix, AZ

Grizzly Iron has indefinitely paused open forges, classes, and workshops because of the heavy current business work load. Check the website: <https://grizzlyiron.com/core-classes/> or <https://grizzlyiron.com/master-classes/>, or go to the **Grizzly Iron Open Forge and Workshops** group on Facebook for changes as they develop.

### Iron Rhino Forge

2051 E. Cedar St. Suite 6, Tempe AZ

The Iron Rhino Forge has a wide range of special blacksmithing and knifemaking classes, demos, and workshops with local instructors and master-level guests from around the country and the world! Classes coming up soon include:

**Master Neels Van Den Berg** is doing a Zoom meeting to talk about his creative process, his journey to becoming a Master, and the problems he's had to overcome along the way.

Forging a titanium knife guard, demonstration by **Nick Rossi**, Decembt 1, 2023

Details and registration at: <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf/>

## Open Forge: Desert Rat Forge (Phoenix area)

Paul Diefenderfer will host an open forge at Desert Rat Forge on Saturday, November 4, 2023 and Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 9 AM to noon followed by lunch (You gotta' buy your own.) at the world famous Big Earl's Greasy Eats in Cave Creek. Have fun with a propane or coal forge, flypress, powerhammer, widgets and gadgets.

Desert Rat Forge is at: 7645 E. Highland Rd., Cave Creek. 602-509-1543 or [dief@phoenixrockgym.com](mailto:dief@phoenixrockgym.com).

Directions: From the center of Cave Creek – 4-way stop at Cave Creek Rd & School House Rd. Head north on School House 1.2 miles to Highland Rd (if you get to the 4-way stop at Fleming Springs you've gone a tad too far) . Turn right (east) on Highland After about 1 mile the pavement ends. Please drive slow to avoid kicking up dust. As the gravel road makes a turn to the left there will be a single lane gravel road on the right with a sign for 7645. Drive down this road for bit until you see the big anvil. You are there! Park in the pullout if there is room – please do not park on top of any vegetation! If no room, return to main dirt road, park along the north edge, and walk the 700 feet back to property.

## 2023/24 Tubac Presidio Botanical Blacksmiths Update

The third annual rendition of the Tubac Presidio Botanical Blacksmiths exhibit should be a good one. The Presidio has been hard at work spiffing up the gardens and reworking their public outreach. There is a lot of new housing construction in the area and the economy is doing well so all things point to good visitation and lots of opportunities for the public to view the ironwork on display in the gardens. There are also a variety of new activities planned in conjunction with the outdoor exhibit to attract more visitors and provide more opportunities for artists. This is the year to get involved!

Here is the calendar of important dates:

**November 1, 2023** - Deadline to apply for the 2023/24 Botanical Blacksmiths exhibit (contact Cathi Borthwick at [flagforge2023@outlook.com](mailto:flagforge2023@outlook.com) for more info and application)

**December 2, 2023** - Opening day and artist reception for the Botanical Blacksmiths exhibit. Artists will have additional work on display/for sale during the reception. Come down and see what it's all about and support your fellow smiths. Reception hours 10am-4pm

**February 17, 2024** - Blacksmith demo and talk about Southwest Colonial Ironwork

**March 23, 2024** - Art Day at the Presidio. Held in conjunction with the Chamber's Tubac Art Walk, this will give artists a chance to show work that can't normally be part of the Botanical Blacksmith exhibit (i.e. work made for indoors, smaller pieces, etc). This event is open to all members even if not participating in the outdoor exhibit. For more information or to sign up, contact Cathi Borthwick at [flagforge2023@outlook.com](mailto:flagforge2023@outlook.com).

(Note: The Presidio would like to schedule an additional activity each month that the exhibit is up, i so we could use an event in January. If you would like to do a talk or demo, run a tour, or have some other idea, please contact Cathi Borthwick. You do not have to have work in the main exhibit to participate in this).



*Bird of Paradise*  
Ira Wiesenfeld  
In the outdoor exhibit



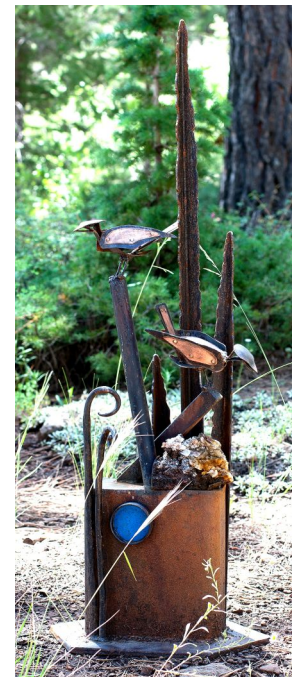
*Flame Painted Bowl*  
Liz Carlier  
In the opening show



*Balance Series #1*  
Liz Carlier  
In the opening show



*Knives*  
Josh States  
In the opening show



*Birds at Play*  
Liz Carlier  
In the outdoor exhibit



## Members Gallery

### *Brian Hughes*



Made for a Scottsdale designer, the twists are tapered  
1 1/4" square bar tenoned onto round ball feet. The copper decorations fit the Southwest atmosphere.

## Members Gallery

### *Jaime Escobedo*



My latest piece. It's forged from mild steel and measures 16 1/2" x 10". The main features are the 1 3/8" slit-and-drifted holes and the two-layered flower. This piece will be donated to the Arizona Fallen Hero Memorial Riders organization to help provide financial support to various charities that support families of Arizona First Responders who were seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

# Blacksmith Camp - Part 1

My Experiences at CMA's Forging Focus Program  
Steve Miller

My youngest brother affectionately coined the phrase “Blacksmith Camp” when I shared the news with my family that I was accepted into the Forging Focus program in the summer of 2023 at the Center for Metal Arts (CMA) in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. It is a 6-week, Monday thru Friday class with open shop time in the evenings and weekends. Yes, there was a lot of forging time. I learned so much and was able to improve my skills more than I could have expected. Pat Quinn and Matt Jenkins did an excellent job of instruction and sharing of themselves, their blacksmithing wisdom, and experience.

There were 8 students in the class. We ranged in age from 23 to 62. Guess which one I was! We began with some basics of drawing out a taper and making shoulders on smaller stock with the hand hammer and larger on the power hammer. Once we made those, we were instructed to make more and “rinse and repeat” and “rinse and repeat”. Below is a collection of what I made in the first 3 or so weeks.

We all stayed in the old rectory of a nearby church, built in 1906 and now an event hall, in the Cambria City area of Johnstown. It was about a 1/3 mile walk or bike ride (bike story in a future article) to the shop. The shop was the old Carpenter and Pattern Shop for the Cambria Iron Works and later Bethlehem Steel. The building we worked in was flooded most recently in 1977, and the high-water mark is about 4 feet high at the south end of the shop.

The big flood (as it's called in Johnstown) was in 1889 and wiped out most of the town. However, the stone bridge for the railroad tracks held and saved the shop we worked in, the blacksmith shop (more about that later), and many more buildings downstream.

Entering the shop at the office end, everything seems flat, but by the time you get to the student shop area, the shop floor is 3 to 4 feet below the roadway that passes within 2 feet of the building. The road went in after the steel mills shut down and the floods may have left the grade elevated from washout upstream. Most of the roads are curved in Johnstown except for the downtown area, which is a grid, and Broad Street where the Rectory is. My room was at the front of the house, which is very close to the street. So, lots of noise, especially the first weekend with a motorcycle rally in town. By the way, one of the CMA employees lives in a house that was built in the 1700's and is in great shape!

We worked with coal forges, and for the first time I got some great instruction on lighting and maintaining a coal fire thanks to Mark Kelly (who is not the AZ senator). We used bituminous coal, so 3 to 4 sheets of newspaper was all we needed to light those fires. Anthracite coal requires a small wood fire to get it started, I'm told. We learned how to get our hands dirty also by sifting thru the coke left from the previous fire to remove the clinkers. I burned up only 1 or 2 pieces I was working on, so I learned to pay attention to my fire and got quickly calibrated to how much fire was really needed. I also got really good at finding small pieces that were easily lost in the fire – just grab the poker and pry up the coals instead of poking and grabbing from the top, which just sinks your piece farther and farther into the firepot. I also learned what really hot steel is and that you're wasting your time and energy trying to use up every last bit of heat in the bar before reheating it. When it's yellow hot it really moves and in a way that you can't get unless it's that hot.

Our first exercise was practicing the SOR (square-octagon-round) sequence starting with a 3/4" round bar. Here are some tips for each step:

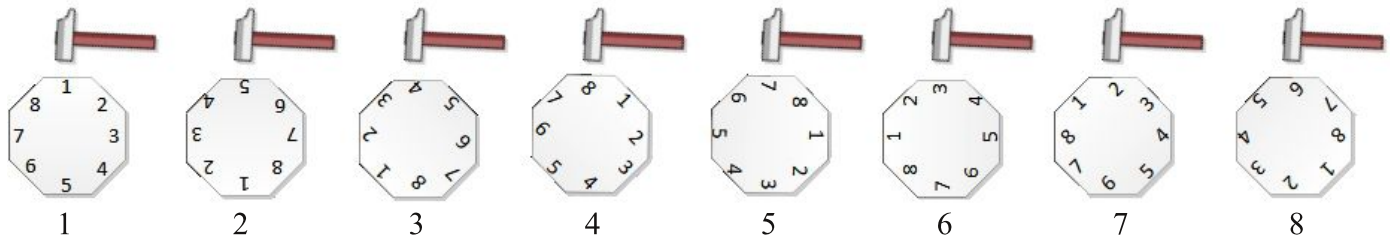
**Square** – With full face blows, start striking the yellow hot steel at the near edge of the anvil using overlapping blows. Flip over and forge the opposite side. Reheat as necessary. Turn 90 degrees and sighting down the newly flattened side, align it to be perpendicular to the anvil face. Repeat the above procedure. As the round bar becomes square, corners will start to develop. Continue hitting all 4 sides until sharp corners develop. Avoid making it into a taper by hitting the end of the bar too much. There is less resistance to





movement at the end of the bar (due to no mass past its end), so fewer and lighter blows are required. Flip the bar over and flatten the other end as described above.

**Octagon** – Forging on the diamond requires the top corner be aligned with the bottom corner vertically to avoid the dreaded rhombus. Again, with full-faced and lighter blows start striking yellow hot steel at the near edge and continue as described above. Forge all facets equally per heat while creeping up on the final octagon shape. The new facets will be shiny, while the original square facets will be dull. Use this



knowledge to keep track of the diamond facets. Work until the facets are similar. Smooth all lines, hitting all sides in this order:

**Round** – At a lower heat, orange, wire-brush quickly, and hit each line of the octagon. If all facets were forged equally, these lines will forge down easily and turn to round with stock this size. For larger size stock you may need to make it a hexadecagon, 16-sided before it turns to round.

**Correcting for a rhombus** – A rhombus has 2 sets of parallel sides, but not 90-degree angles between the sides. Correcting for a rhombus on the anvil, we were taught to turn the stock on the diamond and hit the long corner until the sides are again 90 degrees to each other and continue with forging, usually a taper. The sooner you discover you’ve forged a rhombus the better – its so much easier and possible to correct before you reach the final dimensions. On the power hammer, there is another technique I learned for which I coined the phrase “bulge the rhombus”. I was inspired by Pat’s cartoon of a fighting stick figure rhombus with a black eye presumably from the smith. I hope to have a t-shirt of that cartoon someday. Assuming it is early in the forging process, meaning you’re not close to the final dimensions of the forged item, lay the rhombus with 2 parallel sides (sometimes two sides are not parallel) down on the power hammer die and hit until the adjacent sides bulge. Turn the forging 90 degrees. You now have a curved surface on top and bottom. Align the just-forged surface to be perpendicular to the hammer bottom die. Since you are on a tangent point of the bulge, it will forge down with the adjacent sides perpendicular and no longer a rhombus, but square. Unfortunately, if the rhombus is realized too late, you just have to start over.

---

## Open Forge at Ira Wiesenfeld's shop October 7, 2023





# ABANA's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Conference

June 6-9, 2024 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

We are pleased to announce that we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary June 6-9, 2024 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

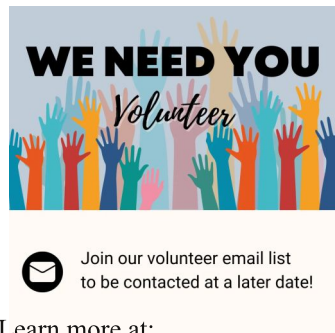
The event will feature:

Top-notch demonstrators  
A gear forging competition  
Hands-on educational opportunities  
Food, festivities, and more!

More details as they become available will be at  
<https://abana.org/upcoming-abana-conference/>



Learn more at:  
<https://abana.org/ring-project/>



Learn more at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yqwzrafr>



Learn more at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ytokob5a>

## An AABA team for the Team Forging Competition?

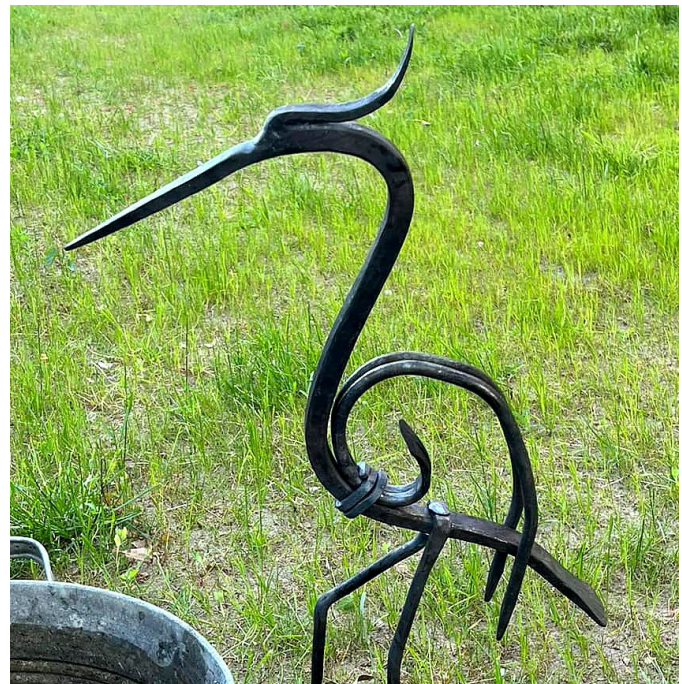
If you are interested in helping to form an AABA team, or participating as a team member, for the Team Forging Competition, contact Steve Miller at [stevemiller.az@cox.net](mailto:stevemiller.az@cox.net)

*Looking for a good project for an advanced beginner?  
Here's one that was posted on Facebook a few months ago by Frederik Verbeek.*



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November 2023



The Anvil's Horn





# **Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America**

ABANA is widely recognized as the preeminent organization of blacksmithing in the world. Visit us online at **[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)** and like us on Facebook and Twitter. Join or renew your membership at: **[www.abana.org/membership](http://www.abana.org/membership)**

Blacksmithing, the cornerstone of all crafts for centuries, has come back to life. Once rendered nearly obsolete by the Industrial Revolution and 20th Century technology, this ancient craft has undergone a contemporary renaissance. A new appreciation of the honest, enduring qualities of forged metal has developed.

At the heart of this revival has been the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc., a non-profit educational association dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge about the art and craft. Started by a handful of isolated blacksmiths in Georgia in 1973, ABANA now serves nearly 4,000 members.

As part of your Membership Benefits you will receive 4 issues of the Anvil's Ring and 4 issues of the Hammer's Blow Magazine each year you are a member. These magazines can not be subscribed separately but are only received by our members. We have recently added a youth membership at a reduced rate, this membership available to those 18 or under includes a subscription to only the Hammer's Blow magazine.

## **ABANA National Conference**

June 6-9, 2024  
Johnstown, PA

Watch the website (**<https://abana.org/upcoming-abana-conference/>**) for details as they become available.

## **New feature on the website: Smiths to Remember** at **<https://abana.org/smiths-to-remember>**

This is a page of memorial tributes to smiths who have passed on recently, such as Joe Koches, who opened and operated The Blacksmith Shop in Ferndale, CA, and Frank Turley, who taught many contemporary blacksmiths, well-known and not-so-well-known.

## **A Win-Win for You and for AABA**

Now through October 31, 2023, when you join ABANA or renew an existing membership, be sure to list your local ABANA Affiliate Organization (Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association). By doing so, both YOU and the AFFILIATE (AABA) will be automatically entered into a drawing!

Four times throughout the year, we'll do a random drawing. The individual drawn will win a 1-year membership to their local ABANA Affiliate (AABA), compliments of ABANA. The organization drawn will win \$100 to help with operational expenses, courtesy of ABANA.

Just remember to list the name of your local ABANA Affiliate (AABA) when you join or renew and we'll do the rest. It's that easy!

# Classifieds

Classified ads are free to members and can be submitted by email to: [editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org). Ads will run for 3 issues. You can renew your ad if you need to run it after the third issue.

Please let the editor know when you no longer need to run the ad.

I am including photos, but, if space runs short, photos will be dropped as needed beginning with the oldest..

**Will buy your unwanted** blacksmith or horseshoeing tools and supplies.

Barry Denton, **928-442-3290** any day before 7:00 pm.

## For Sale

TREADLE Hammer in excellent condition, with tools. Located in Phoenix. \$1,985

Call for photo and additional info. Len Ledet, **480-221-7411**

## For Sale

Welding instructor from Mesa Community College is downsizing and selling his blacksmithing equipment. Includes a homemade 35 lb. power hammer, and multiple handtools. Call him at **928-587-3706** or Richard Rozinski at **602-803-7255**

## For Sale

- 3 Gas Forges \$150 each
- Lg Dayton Grinder on stand, 1 hp \$400
- 3 sm Bench Grinders \$25 each
- Sm Gas Welding outfit on cart \$300
- 4" Pole Vise \$165
- Baldor Belt Sander with grinding wheel, 5 hp, 2x48 belt \$400

Pick up in Gilbert AZ  
(forklift available for loading)  
Ray Brown **(480)993-9315** or [lainne@aol.com](mailto:lainne@aol.com)

## For Sale

13 pairs of tongs, \$10 each or all 13 for \$100. Contact Brian Hughes, **928-717-8247**,

## Picture Rock

**Arizona Sierra Banded Sandstone** makes the perfect base for all your forged iron pieces. Awards, plaques, memorials, water features, furniture or anything you can imagine. Mined in northeastern Arizona, cut and shaped to your specifications.

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[www.FORGE-APRONS.com](http://www.FORGE-APRONS.com)

## Looking for

worn out horseshoer's rasps; will buy or trade.

Ira Wiesenfeld, **520 780-9076** or [circleofiron74@gmail.com](mailto:circleofiron74@gmail.com).

## Gas Forge Building Workshop

Richard Rozinski is offering gas forge building workshops in his shop in Gilbert. Two person minimum. Call Richard for scheduling and prices. **602-803-7255**



## For Sale

Titanium Tongs - All sizes and shapes, 50 pairs. Get them while they last. \$100 per pair. Bernhard Heer, **715-205-8786**

## Basic blacksmithing and metal forming workshops

Richard Rozinski is offering basic Blacksmithing and metal shaping workshops in his studio in Gilbert Arizona. Class sizes and complexity vary. Class topics range from basic blacksmithing, copper vessel raising, pewter construction and abstract sculpture fabrication.

For details text or call **602-803-7255**

## Free

Granite slabs in Mesa. Various sizes and colors  
Call Paul at **602-228-2426**



## Sources

### AZ Tool Steel

520 S. 52nd Street #201  
Tempe, Arizona 85281  
Phone: 480-784-1600  
Toll Free: 877-795-1600

### 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  
[www.barubar.com](http://www.barubar.com)

### IMS

Full service supplier of steel, stainless, brass, aluminum, copper. Discounts for AABA members. (See details on pg. 18.) 5150 S. 48th St., Phoenix 602-454-1500 3757 E. Columbia St., Tucson 520-441-5900

### Interstate Steel and Salvage

Specializing in Steel, Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Brass, Copper and some alloyed metals of all types, sizes and shapes. Cutting, Shearing and advanced Flow water jet cutting for all your project needs. Valley wide delivery. Let us quote your next large or small job! 12129 W Peoria Ave, El Mirage 602-944-2000

### Pieh Tool Company, Inc.

Blacksmith supplies, blacksmith classes by Dylan Cook, knifemaking and damascus classes taught by Ray Rybar, Milwaukee, Wilton & JET tools, air hammers, hand hammers, tongs, books, coal and coke. 661 Howards Road, Suite J, Camp Verde, AZ, 928-554-0700 and 28255 N Tatum Blvd. Suite 134 Cave Creek, AZ, 480-626-0924  
[www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com)

### Say-Mak Power Hammers

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Santa Fe, NM 87507  
[www.saymakhammers.com](http://www.saymakhammers.com)

### Big Blu Hammer

Power hammers and hand tools. Morganton, NC  
Info@BigBLUHammer.com  
828 437 5348  
<https://secure.bigbluhammer.com>

### Vern Lewis Welding Supply

Discount pricing for AABA members. Various locations in the Phoenix area. 602-252-0341 Dan, 602-316-4140, for tech support.

### Superior Steel Stamp Co.

Precision engraved, industrial grade stamping and marking products for any application. Brass dies for Hot Stamping Wood or Leather. Hardened Tool Steel Stamps made for marking stainless steel, forged knives/blades much more. 3200 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114 216-431-6460 Industrial marking  
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Makers  
[www.stampyours.com](http://www.stampyours.com)  
For either, contact  
Sales@superiorsteelstamp.com

### Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer.

Send \$30US (PayPal) to clay@tirehammer.com. Or send check/money to Clay Spencer 73 Penniston Pvt. Dr., Somerville, AL 35670. I can mail a copy or email PDFs.

### Tucson Iron and Metal

Steel, aluminum, stainless, copper and brass for sale by the pound. Open Monday - Friday 8 - 4:30. Also 1st and 3rd Saturdays 6:30 - 8 am. specifically for metal artists. 690 E. 36th St., Tucson 520-884-1554

## AABA Membership

Benefits for members include:

Member discounts at vendors around the state: See page 18 of this issue for more details.

Reduced registration fees at demonstrations and workshops

A one year subscription to the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Anvil's Horn*

Connection to members throughout the state who can answer questions and give advice

Free classified ads in the *Anvil's Horn* and on the AABA web site.

eMail notices when event details change or new events are scheduled on short notice.

### AABA Membership Form: New Member ☐ or Renewal ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Do not publish

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Do not publish

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Professional blacksmith \_\_\_\_\_ Hobbyist \_\_\_\_\_ Farrier \_\_\_\_\_ Blade smith \_\_\_\_\_

Your main blacksmithing interest \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation or skill \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Regular membership (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Jacie Cotterell  
2051 E. Cedar St.,  
Tempe, AZ 85281

**Make Check Payable to AABA**

Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association  
Attn: Bill Ganoe  
P.O. Box 40233  
Tucson, AZ 85717  
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**The Anvil's Horn** is the official newsletter of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association (AABA). Published every other month preceding the bimonthly meetings of the Association, the newsletter is oriented toward anyone interested in blacksmithing and related forms of metal work. Membership is available at the rate of \$35 for individuals, \$40 for families, and includes a subscription to the **The Anvil's Horn** for one year.

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For membership information or address change, contact:  
Jacie Cotterell, 2051 E. Cedar St., Suite 6, Tempe, AZ 85281, 480-319-3522, [redfrontforge@gmail.com](mailto:redfrontforge@gmail.com)

**Not seeing good coverage of events at your shop?  
Take some pictures and submit them.  
Write up some text and submit it.**

— The editor