

The Anvil's Horn

A publication of the
Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 237, November 2025



*Coffee Scoop
made by Ali Merriman
at our September demo in Clarkdale, AZ.*

President's Message

My Fellow Blacksmiths,

This is my last President's Message, and as I reflect on my time in office and the many accomplishments we have made together, I feel compelled to recognize and celebrate the enduring spirit of blacksmiths — the skilled hands behind the steel, and the soul behind the spark.

For centuries, blacksmiths have held a vital place in the story of our world. You have forged the tools, sculptures, gates, and the art that is appreciated and continues to inspire future generations. Ours is a trade that embodies precision, patience, and perseverance — values that our country holds dear.

In an age increasingly driven by speed and automation, blacksmithing reminds us of the importance of craft — of taking time to shape something meaningful, durable, and lasting. The blacksmith's forge is more than a workshop; it is a symbol of resilience, tradition, and the enduring power of human skill.

I also want to commend the Association for its commitment to education and mentorship. Every blacksmith I've met has some skill to share or interesting twist on a common technique. By passing down time-honored techniques to new generations, you are not only preserving a historic craft — you are ensuring that our cultural identity remains strong and rooted.

As I conclude my time as President, I want you to know that your work has not gone unnoticed. I carry with me a deep appreciation for our blacksmithing community — for your dedication, your artistry, and your unwavering pride in your craft.

May your anvils ring loud, your fires burn brightly, and your legacy continue to shape the future, one hammer strike at a time. As always, Forge On.

With gratitude and respect,

Steve Miller

President's Project:

November - Triskelion - here is one way to make it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtyxLC_1zGg

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Material submitted for publication in the Anvil's Horn may be edited or rejected by the editor. Material submitted must be your own work, not plagiarized. By submitting material, you agree to allow AABA to edit, print, or post on the AABA website. You also give permission for the material to be reprinted by other blacksmith publications (i.e. publications of ABANA and of ABANA affiliates). **Copyright.** The creator may retain copyright for the work. If we publish a copyrighted item, consent of the copyright holder will need to be obtained before republication. **Graphics.** High-contrast, high-resolution digital picture files and original drawings are preferred, but we can work with lower-contrast, lower-resolution graphics.

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Demonstration: Saturday, November 15, 2025 Workshop: Sunday, November 16, 2025

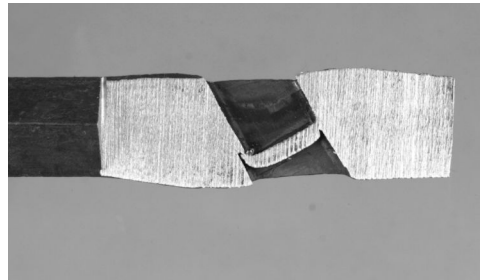
Sahuaro Ranch, Glendale, AZ

Demonstrator: Mark Aspery

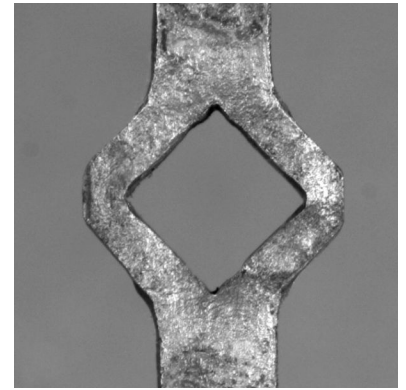
Mark will be demonstrating traditional joinery methods and techniques such as:



Collars



*Punching on an angle.
(cross section of almost completed hole)*



*Punching and drifting square
holes.*

Demonstration:

- Registration begins at 8:00 AM, the demonstration starts at 9:00 AM.
- Registration fee: \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members,
- Tailgating is encouraged.
- Bring things for Iron-In-the-Hat.

NOTE: No folded tickets. Any folded tickets that are drawn will be thrown away.

- Bring things for Show-and-Tell. Don't forget to put your name on anything you bring for Show-and-Tell.
- Lunch is on your own. There are several good restaurants nearby.
- Tailgaters, please consider donating to Iron in the Hat.

Workshop:

- Sunday, November 16, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. • The fee for the workshop is \$100.
- Contact Richard Rozinski at 602-803-7255 or neongod52@gmail.com to register.

President's Projects:

November: Triskelion. Here is one way to make it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtyxLC_1zGg

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 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 Brown St.
- West (left) on Brown St.
- Just past 60th Lane (street sign on the right) turn left and go through the gate.

As always, safety glasses are required in the demonstration area.

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

Our November Demonstrator: Mark Aspery

I currently own and operate my own school for blacksmiths in California, USA. My training as a smith began after leaving high-school in the UK, after starting work at a small fabrication & engineering firm that boasted a blacksmith shop. Over the years, I have worked for several smiths, as well as teaching in trade schools.

A certified journeyman smith with the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, and currently an Associate of the company (AWCB); I'm also a certified farrier with the American Farriers Association (AFA). Although I maintain that these qualifications and a Dollar/Pound will get you a cup of pretty-poor tasting coffee/tea, the endeavors were priceless.

Currently, I'm writing a fourth volume in my 'How to' blacksmith book series, *The Skills of a Blacksmith*. I'm careful not to call myself a traditional smith, perhaps classical is a more apt phrase. I do not take any regular commission work, just the occasional small job, I am quite out-of-touch with that side of the profession.

An underlying ethos of my classes is "make the tools before you begin the job". Currently, the single most important event that has improved my blacksmithing has been to teach it – having to know the root of the skill or information, but the phrase "best I could do at the time" comes to mind.

I'm as much a student of blacksmithing as the next smith, and always ready to learn more, taking classes where and when I can; with a subject this vast, how can I say anything else.



Coming Attractions

Call to blacksmiths

The Shemer Art Center in Phoenix has invited AABA to participate in their signature art show this fall by providing a Blacksmith Village including demonstrations, hands on forging, and art sales. It's been several years since we have participated in this event. The last time we had a 5-person striking team to forge a large mushroom. It was a lot of fun. Any smith interested in participating is welcome as are ideas to organize the 2 10 x 10 spaces assigned to AABA. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, November 1 & 2, 10 am to 4 pm. We'll want to promote AABA also. There is no charge for the booth space nor commission on any sales. Contact me, Steve Miller (stevemiller.az@cox.net), if you're interested in participating. Whether you participate or not, be sure you plan to stop by to see the Festival.



For more information on the event check out:

<https://shemerartcenter.org/> or <https://shemerartcenter.org/2025-shemer-arizona-arts-festival/>

AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Fruit Packing Shed/Gallery at Sahuaro Ranch
Glendale, AZ

This year the auction will be held on Sunday, December 7 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 Steve Miller to RSVP by November 24. Use the post card inserted in this issue, or contact Steve at 602-989-6505 or stevemiller.az@cox.net.

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 Steve at 602-989-6505 or stevemiller.az@cox.net.

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.

Auction Donations

What are you going to bring to donate to the auction this year? A nice hook? A beautiful candle holder? Shelf brackets? A tool that you made? A tool that you no longer need?

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



**Mark Your Calendars!
Save The Dates!**

AABA Winterfest VIII



**January 15-17, 2026
Sculpture Tucson, Tucson, AZ
Demonstrators confirmed at press time
*Jerry Harris***

Jaime Escobedo teaching in the education tent.

**Camping • Banquet • Gallery • Demonstrators • Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest
Peer Competition • Blacksmith Games • Silent Auction • Education Tent**

Check the AABA website, <http://www.azblacksmiths.org>, for registration forms and details.

We Need Volunteers

Volunteers are the key to almost everything that AABA does. And Winterfest is no exception. The more people pitch in, the better and more memorable Winterfest will be. And working shoulder to shoulder (more or less) with other volunteers helps to build the kind of comaradery that makes AABA great. Check the next page for a list of jobs that need to be done for Winterfest VIII and for ways to get involved.

The Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest

Richard Rozinski

Hey everybody, Winterfest VIII 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 VIII.



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



Help us create the best Winterfest yet.

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) or Richard (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 wks prior to conference
 - Develop and manage advertising or the conference
- Buy cake, snacks, & utensil
- 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 tent – 2 People the day prior to 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 Demonstrators 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

Bill Ganoe

Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.

Our September demo was held at the Arizona Copper Art Museum in Clarkdale, AZ. on the weekend of September 20-21. This museum contains a very impressive collection of copper ornaments, utensils, etc. I recommend a visit if you find yourself near Clarkdale.

We had two demonstrators for this event: Richard Rozinski and Ali Merriman. Both demonstrated making objects from copper rather than iron or steel. Copper isn't "real" blacksmithing? Some folks may think it isn't, but it is a metal, it has been made into useful tools, utensils, ornaments, and weapons for thousands of years. -- even longer than iron has been extensively used. And, if you want to be creative, you can make an ornament or utensil of iron and copper.

Richard started the morning off by describing how he makes bowls. They could be small or large, copper or aluminum, generally with fairly wide rims.

He does all of his work cold. Well, he still uses heat (in Richard's case, he uses a propane weed burner) to anneal his copper workpieces after they get work hardened from the hammering needed to shape the piece. He said you can tell when the piece gets work hardened and needs to be annealed by noting the higher pitched tone when you hit the piece with your hammer.

After annealing, he cleans (pickles) the workpiece with acid to get rid of the scale or surface oxidation created by the annealing process. That prevents the scale from getting hammered into the workpiece. The pickling acid works faster and more completely when it is hot, so the ideal process is to anneal your work piece and then drop the hot copper in pickling bucket.

You could use Sparex #2 which is usually available through jeweler supply houses or sodium bisulfate which is usually found in swimming pool supply stores. Both are granular powders. When added to water, they form sulfuric acid, but it is weaker than the acid you get when buying regular sulfuric acid. Being in powder form and producing a weaker acid helps to make these alternatives to commercial sulfuric acid safer to handle and less likely to over pickle (creating pitting and burning of the work piece)

Richard pointed out that you could sink a bowl in a depression in a swage block, but you can get sharper edges at the rim of the bowl if you hammer the copper at the edge of a block of steel.

Richard finished his demonstration at noon, and we all broke for lunch. There was a great Mexican place just down the street from the Museum.

After Iron-in-the-Hat, Ali Merriman spent the afternoon demonstrating her technique for making a copper coffee scoop. She started by braiding several strands of copper wire for the handle. She said it would help if you were already good at braiding hair. After she finished the process, she work-hardened the braid with a mallet.

She then shaped the ends of the handle by melting the ends together with a small MAPP torch, then flattening one end to rivet to the bowl and forming a loop in the other end.

To form the scoop (bowl), she started with a 2 1/2" disk of copper. She smoothed the edges with steel wool and then started sinking the bowl on a shot bag. She advised people to start working on the center and slowly work out. You should work on the edge last to minimize scallops and rough edges.

After working with the shot bag, she working the half-formed bowl over the ball of a trailer hitch. (Yeah, where did she find a hitch with a complete sphere since most hitches have a flat spot on top.)

She made the rivet from a piece of copper wire. She noted that you want to work harden the shaft while leaving the areas for the rivet heads soft. Otherwise, the rivet shank will fuse to the rivet heading tool. But after all of this, she finished a nice copper coffee scoop.

But copper utensils like this won't stay bright and shiny on their own for long. Ali recommended cleaning and polishing copper things with Brasso or Bar Keep's Friend. For things that will be used with food, she recommended vinegar and salt.

On Sunday, Richard taught a workshop on making bowls with copper and aluminum. None of us who took the workshop finished a professional-looking bowl, but we made decent bowls for beginners and we left with the basic skills to do a better job when we got home.



Looking for bargains on tailgates

September Demo Report (continued)

Bill Ganoe

Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.



Jaime Escobedo brought some of his work for Show and Tell



Richard Rozinski showed an example of a bowl he made with aluminum.



A partially completed bowl made by a student in the Sunday workshop.



Richard demonstrated creating a sharp edge on a copper bowl by hammering on a steel block



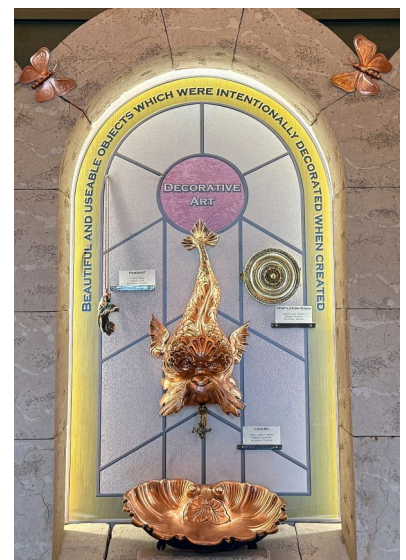
Ali Merriman starts braiding the handle for her coffee scoop.



Working on the bowl of the coffee scoop on a swage block.



A display of kitchen utensils at the Arizona Copper Art Museum



One of the displays in the Arizona Copper Art Museum.

AABA Calendar 2025

Nov. 15 & 16 Demo & workshop: Mark Aspery
Dec. 7 Annual Meeting, banquet, and auction
Jan. 15-17 Winterfest VIII

Sahuaro Ranch
Sahuaro Ranch
Sculpture Tucson

Glendale, AZ
Glendale, AZ
Tucson, AZ

Welcome New Members

Alexander Ivey Bosque Farms, NM

MCC Blacksmithing & Welding Class

The Mesa Community College blacksmithing program is an excellent deal - over 60 hours of instruction including material and propane! The Fall 2025 class is already in session, but check the Mesa CC website for specific dates and details for classes in the Spring 2026 sessions as they become available. 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/enrollment-centeru/

Available Positions in AABA:

AABA has several support positions that need to be filled by new people.

Scholarship Committee – Rich Greenwood has been our Scholarship Committee Chair and has stepped down. Steve Miller, David Goodman, and Richard Rozinski are serving as temporary members of the committee, but they are already in other permanent positions. They would welcome other volunteers for this committee.

Retail Sales – Richard Rozinski is doing double duty as 1st VP and Retail Sales. Its time to pass on the retail sales torch to a new person. Richard will provide training and all the info required for this position.

Contact AABA President, Steve Miller, at stevemiller.az@cox.net.

Thank you for your consideration on fulfilling these important roles in support of AABA.

Deadline for the January 2026 issue

December 1, 2025 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the January 2026 issue of *The Anvil's Horn*.

Send articles, pictures, etc. by email to:

editor@azblacksmiths.org

or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe

PO Box 40233

Tucson, AZ 85717

Election for AABA Officers and Board Members for 2026

The election for AABA leaders for 2026 is coming up.

Be sure to fill out and mail the ballot card insert in the middle of this issue of *The Anvil's Horn*. Please get it in the mail by November 30, 2025.

Blacksmith Workshops In Prescott

Individual and Small Group Classes/Workshops are tailored to individual skills, goals and interests of students. Half Day, Full Day and Multiple Day Workshops available.

ABANA LEVEL 1 Certification and LEVEL 2 Instruction also available.

Contact Dylan Cook for more information

928-830-8168 or dylancookforge@gmail.com

Not Seeing the Demonstrations You Would Like?

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

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

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 or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe

PO Box 40233

Tucson, AZ 85717

Xerocraft Makerspace in Tucson

Xerocraft is now offering multiple blacksmith classes and open forges at 101 W 6th St #111, Tucson, AZ.

A safety class is required for use of the Blacksmith shop.

All classes and open forges, along with non-blacksmith classes, can be found at <https://xerocraft.org/calendar>.

Be sure to register in advance for any classes to ensure space and supplies."

Classes at Pieh Tool in Camp Verde

The Pieh Tool store in Camp Verde has been permanently closed. Dylan Cook, who was the instructor for blacksmithing classes at the Camp Verde store, is teaching classes and workshops at his shop in Prescott.

AABA Website: www.azblacksmiths.org

Open Forge: Tucson

There will be an AABA open forge from 9 am to noon at Sculpture Tucson on Saturday, November 1, and Saturday, December 6, 2025. If you are on the email list for southern Arizona, you will get a notice with full details about a week ahead of the open forge. If you aren't on that email list, send a request to editor@azblacksmiths.org

Open Forge: Grizzly Iron

Open forges at Grizzly Iron have been been indefinitely paused because of heavy business work load. Check the website: <https://grizzlyiron.com/core-classes/> or <https://grizzlyiron.com/master-classes/> for changes as they develop.

Open Forge: Iron Rhino Forge

2051 E. Cedar St. Suite 6, Tempe
Open forges are scheduled every Tuesday evening from 6 PM to 10 PM. Free to watch, \$30.00 to participate. Check <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf/open-forge> for details and to reserve a spot. Since space is limited, reservations are needed.

Open Forge: Desert Rat Forge (Phoenix area)

Paul Diefenderfer will host an open forge at Desert Rat Forge on Saturday, November 1 and Saturday, December 6, 2025, 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, fly press, power hammer, widgets and gadgets.

Desert Rat Forge is at: 7645 E. Highland Rd., Cave Creek. **602-509-1543** or 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 pull-out 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.

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. A list of classes and workshops coming up this fall and winter has been released. Check the DMC website, <https://www.desertmetalcraft.org>, for details of specific events, and to register for each class or workshop. Be sure to check out the scholarship opportunities.

Grizzly Iron

Phoenix, AZ

Grizzly Iron has indefinitely paused open forges, classes, and workshops because of the current heavy 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! Details and registration are at <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf>.

Book Review

Hooked

by Matt Jenkins

Hardcover, 187 pages, \$45.00

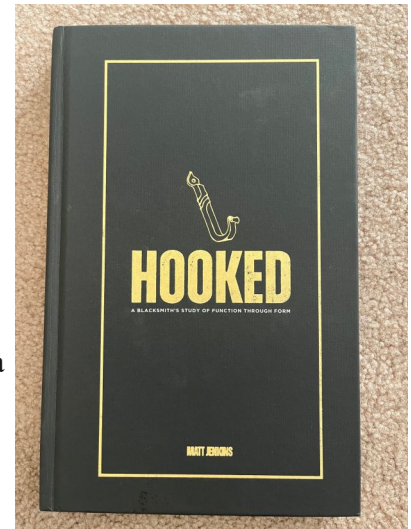
ISBN# 978-1-0688813-0-5

Available from: <https://cloverdaleforge.com>

Reviewed by David Bridenbaugh

Matt Jenkins of Cloverdale Forge set a goal for himself in 2016 to make a different hook each day for the entire year. Since 2016 was a leap year he made 366 hooks that are unique and a testament to his skills as an artist and a blacksmith.

The completed hooks were mounted on separate panels for each month. They were on display at various locations in Canada and the United States in 2022 and 2023. Perhaps you were fortunate to see them in person.



This book tells the story of Matt Jenkins' year-long journey and the hooks he made. The photographs of each hook are quite clear. Some of them have notes for the size of steel to start with. There are detailed drawings for making some of the more complicated hooks. The variety of ideas in this book is remarkable and inspiring.

It would be hard to pick a favorite hook from this collection. The hooks made from angle iron (105, 117, 141, 256 etc) would allow us to use up some scrap steel. The square knot hook 121 and hook 149 were inspired by knots tied in rope. The hook for April 1 was made from wood. He had a steel hook for backup in case the social media folks made a fuss that it wasn't forged but the wood hook was accepted. Hook 116 was the only one made from copper. He had two different ideas for a clothes hanger with hooks 086 and 238. If you know any musicians then the treble clef hook 088 is something to consider.

Jenkins starts each chapter/month with a quote and some interesting comments revealing observations, insights and things he has learned along the way. Don't skip these parts and just look at the pictures.

I found this book to be very creative and inspirational. We all need more hooks in our shop so let's make something that exhibits our skills as a blacksmith. The book isn't just about hooks though. Some of these designs could evolve to be decorative elements for tables, gates, railings or any other project. The Berlin Hook 244 is interesting and the idea could definitely be used elsewhere. This book is a welcome addition to my own library and I think it would be to yours also.

The Many Hats of a Modern Smith

Logan Hemingway Lichtenhan

Over years of bringing my work to shows, I've noticed that when people look at metal art, they don't just appreciate the object itself. They're fascinated by how it's made, and many tell me they are interested in metal work themselves. It's a far more approachable dream than many people realize, but making it a job may require a varied approach.

I had always wanted to make my own knife. Luckily, in Tucson, Arizona we have a metal arts school, Desert Metal Craft. Years ago I decided to take the knife making intensive class: a four day class that takes you from a flat piece of high-carbon steel to a completed and functional knife. The class teaches: forging to shape, heat-treating, grinding, handle attachment and finishing. It is tough work forging and grinding a piece of steel into a knife, but I tell you it is very cool to make your own useful tool from such a basic start. By the end of class, I was hooked. I bought the least expensive forge I could find, borrowed a railroad-track anvil from my father and modified a small sledgehammer into a crosspeen on my 2x42 craftsman belt/disc sander. I was ready to make more!

This was 2021, during the COVID pandemic, and I'd been furloughed from my two, decade-plus long, jobs. I was weary of both, and was unsure I wanted to return once restrictions were lifted. I decided to start forging as often as I could, making mostly knives, but also other basic blacksmithing bits and bobs, like hooks, keychains and scoops. I also took as many classes from Desert Metal Craft as possible: utensil making, specialty knife making classes, welding classes, pattern welding—you name it, I wanted to learn it. I also posted my creations on social media and gained some interest in my work.

During the first two years my creations paid for me to upgrade and add equipment until I had a functional home shop in my one-car garage. I now had most of the important tools for making quality blades and blacksmithing: a 2x72" belt grinder, a temperature controlled heat-treating kiln, a nice anvil, post vice, many hammers and tongs and of course a gas forge. My shop, skills and items I offered for sale grew.

I continued to receive interest in my work and was quite lucky that almost everything I made would eventually sell and commission projects would come along. I wondered if I could turn this interest into a



viable business. But I quickly learned (and am still learning) there is a big difference between a hobby paying for itself and a craft becoming an income. The past two and a half years have been a steep learning curve and ultimately a exercise in diversification.

When I started, I thought I would just focus on bladesmithing to make my living, but after the first year of focusing on knives and taking work to fairs and shows, income wasn't consistent. It is a rare customer that buys a high-dollar item at a craft fair, so I started making less expensive smithing items to have on my table as well: keychains, scoops, hooks, and the like. I have never lost money at an event, but I also haven't made large profits, but having a variety of work available makes a positive difference. Shows are about the marketing and mostly valuable for making connections that can turn into lucrative and on going commissions. It is important as a craftsman to have a variety of items and price points in order to capture more of the market, diversifying my offerings has helped. However it is still pretty hard to make a living making and selling custom luxury goods and crafted items. This is why even well known knife makers supplement with teaching, and thanks to Desert Metal Craft I am now doing the same.

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The Many Hats of a Modern Smith (continued)

Logan Hemingway Lichtenhan

Teaching is a great way to not only get some extra money in the door but also build a community, and help others learn and grow the craft. I am fortunate to have had some amazing teachers along this path, and now I have the opportunity to pass that knowledge along. Being involved with Desert Metal Craft and the metal arts community in Tucson, Arizona has been a key component in what I hope is a sustainable pursuit as a bladesmith, blacksmith, and teacher.

Logan Hemingway Lichtenhan
LHL Blades and Smithing
Tucson, Az
lhlblades.com



Having trouble seeing the color changes as the temperature of your steel changes? Check out...

Joe Seabolt's Bucket Trick

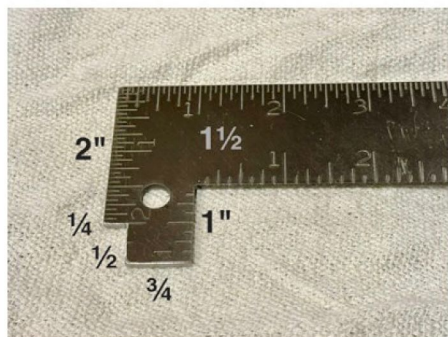
Joe Seabolt showed this trick for heat treating steel when there's just too much light, like outdoors on a nice sunny morning at the Batson Bladesmithing Symposium. He set up a blackpainted bucket where he could hold the blade while normalizing. In the dark inside the bucket he could get a better idea of the true color. At home he'd just turn off the lights in his shop for this process.

Joe showed us how the blade cools and then gets a bright band starting at the edge and proceeding up the blade to the spine. The effects at work here are called *recalescence* and *decalescence*. These effects are easiest to see in plain highcarbon 10-series steels like 1075, 1084, or 1095.

1

*This tip was reprinted from the May 2023 issue of **Bituminous Bits**, the newsletter of the Alabama Forge Council; If you are familiar with decalescence, you're good to go. If not, ask a blacksmith who's experienced with heat treating steel - e.g. a good bladesmith. This could also help when you're tempering tools like punches and chisels.*

Hook ruler



Here is a Hook Ruler by Ben Holt of the New England Blacksmith Assoc. A hook ruler is useful, easy to make giving quick accurate measurements by registering a piece, even hot, against hooked end. It is made from a carpenter's square.

Ben also adds a 1/4" by 1/2" notch to the end creating a very convenient set of gauges.

*This article reprinted from the November-December 2024 issue of **On The Anvil**, November-December 2024 issueswletter of the Philip Simmons Blacksmith Guild.*

BETH HOLMBERG

Dress Your Hammer

When you get a new hammer, it is never ready for blacksmithing! Think of it as a kit: the parts are all there, but it needs some effort from you to really come together.

What's wrong with my hammer?

Two main things. One is the handle. It's probably long and fat and only slightly oval- all of which encourages you to squeeze tight so you have a little control... but instead you get tendonitis and less smack-a-tude than you expect. And when you do hit the metal, the face leaves ugly divots that are hard to forge out (worse if you use the peen). Yuck!

How do I fix the handle?

Start by finding a spot on the handle that actually feels good in your hand- that will give you an idea of the size handle that works for your hand. Then use a rasp or surform tool to make the sides



of the handle flat and perpendicular to the face. Get it down to the size that works for you. Finish with some sandpaper (always sand with the grain). The smaller size should let you loosen your grip (avoiding tendonitis) while the flat sides give your fingers instant feedback for steering the hammer head. Consider cutting a few inches off the length after you've used it for a while, too. Ask to try other folks' hammers to try different handle shapes and sizes!



What about the hammer faces?

Nearly all hammer faces and peens have abrupt transitions – maybe a sharp-edged 45° bevel – between the face and the side of the hammer. If you strike deeply (or hit with the head angled), you get that sharp edge imprinted on the steel. Use an old file or some coarse sandpaper (old grinder belt) to gently smooth the transitions into continuous curves. On peens, the ends should be like a jelly bean. These will both leave nice rounded marks in your metal- easy to forge out, and unlikely to form a cold-shut. Finish with some finer-grained abrasive (400 grit will leave marks that look polished!). Whatever you do, *don't* use a grinder unless you can always keep the hammer cool enough to touch, and you don't mind losing a lot of metal. If it gets too hot to touch, you may have over-tempered your hammer head, and it will be softer than intended.

How about oiling the handle?

I'm not a fan. Oils make the wood sticky. Sticky wood can't slide well in your hand, so you get friction blisters. Dry wood will absorb your natural hand-grease as needed, but stay smooth enough to slide over your palm as you snap that hammer down. Thwack!



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Reprinted from the Newsletter of the New England Blacksmith Association

This article reprinted from the November-December 2024 issue of *On The Anvil*, November-December 2024 newsletter of the Philip Simmons Blacksmith Guild.

Seeds of Creativity

Little things don't have to be boring.



Bottle Openers

Rafael Gribaudo, Oliva, Cordoba, Argentina



Brooch

Lucas Damen

Reprinted from the New England Blacksmith, Spring 2023



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 and like us on Facebook and Twitter.

Join or renew your membership at: 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

November 11-14, 2026

Bentonville, Arkansas

Watch the website, <https://abana.org/2026conference>, for details as they become available.

Location: Benton County Fairgrounds located just 4 miles from the Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA). The fairgrounds include ample room for parking, 5 acres for tent camping, RV hookups, and plenty of space for all conference activities. Given that Bentonville is home to Walmart corporate headquarters, there are non-stop flights to XNA from most major US cities.

Demonstrators: ABANA has announced the first demonstrator scheduled for the conference will be **Emiliano Carrillo** of Sun & Stars Forge and **Zeevik Gottlieb** from Israel.

Emiliano's demonstration is sponsored by Marge Mills in memory of bladesmith Louis Mills. We are very excited to have Emiliano coming to the conference to demo his handmade blades. There is a feature article about Louis Mills and the tie-in to Emiliano's presence at the conference in Summer 2025 issue of *The Anvil's Ring*.

Zeevik's sculptures speak of relationships, movement, and harmony. For the event, he plans to create a multi-day, large-scale sculpture that some lucky auction attendee will get to take home! There will be more information to come in one of our future publications, so stay tuned!

The Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association is an affiliate of ABANA.

Classifieds

Classified ads are free to members and can be submitted by email to: 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..

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260 lb. anvil, double horn, with Hofi-style stand. \$1,400.
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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

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

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Benefits for members include:

Member discounts at vendors around the state including Vern Lewis Welding Supply and Industrial Metal Supply.

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.

NOTE: AABA membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year — unless you join in the last 4 months of any given year in which case your membership will expire on December 31 of the following year.

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Mikki Rakestrow, 2051 E. Cedar St., Suite 6, Tempe, AZ 85281, 520-405-9212, mikkijo101@gmail.com

**Not seeing good coverage of events at your shop?
Take some pictures, write up some text, and submit everything.**

— The editor