

The Anvil's Horn

A publication of the
Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 238, January 2026

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

AABA Winterfest VIII



**January 15-17, 2026
Sculpture Tucson, Tucson, AZ**

Demonstrators

Jerry Harris - Creating Life-Like Birds and Animals

Peter Sevin - How He Makes His Lamps

Genevieve Gural - Practical Heat Treating: Theory to Forge

***Jaime Escobedo and Mike Johnson** in the education tent.*

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

More details and registration forms inside this issue or at <http://www.azblacksmiths.org>,

President's Message

Good afternoon,

With the start of the New Year comes renewed hopes and opportunities. I'm pleased to have been elected to lead this fine organization that's been in operation since 1981 and was founded by Bill Callaway who unfortunately passed away nearly two years ago. I hope to carry on with Bill's vision for the association and bring back some of our past traditions and introduce new programs as well. Some of the things we'll be taking under consideration in the next several months are: financial health of the club, a revamped scholarship program, increasing membership, streamlining administrative processes, revamping the website, a stronger social media presence, new merchandise offerings, additional training opportunities and family activities, more hands-on training with a renewed emphasis on the training trailer equipment, and much more.

I'm equally pleased to have in leadership positions to assist in this endeavor are Dylan Cook as First Vice President and Mike Johnson as Second Vice President. Both these fine gentlemen are excellent blacksmiths and are both instructors at Mesa Community College in the blacksmithing program. They both bring valuable skills to their respective positions which will help tremendously as

we move forward. Thank you, Dylan and Mike, for stepping up to help run this organization. I look forward to working with both of you and the rest of the Board of Directors.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Steve Miller who has led our organization for the past several years through some tough times. Being the President is a trying position at best. Just ask any one of the past presidents. It requires long hours and pulls at you from several different directions. As past President Ira Wiesenfeld put it, "it's like herding cats!" Through it all, Steve handled it with remarkable aplomb always keeping the best interest of the association at the forefront. I'll be utilizing Steve's experience as I venture further into the position.

So, keep the forges fired, take advantage of the opportunities the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association has to offer, consider volunteering, continue attending our Hammer-Ins, and continue to recruit new members. Collectively, we are the blacksmithing community in the great state of Arizona. We exist to serve you, and in turn, YOU are the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association.

Looking forward to the coming year,

Jaime Escobedo

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AABA OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Jaime Escobedo, Payson, AZ, azoldwestforge@msn.com, 928-978-3111
First VP:	Dylan Cook, Prescott, AZ, dylancookforge@gmail.com, 928-830-8168
Second VP:	Mike Johnson, Mesa, AZ, 309-310-1266, mikejohnson22@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Mikki Rakestrow, Tempe, AZ, 520-405-9212, mikkijo101@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Scott Neece, Phoenix, AZ, 920-476-9840, scott.neece2021@gmail.com
Web Master:	Paul Diefenderfer, Cave Creek, AZ, 602-509-1543, dief@phoenixrockgym.com
Librarian:	Jay Griffin, Peoria, AZ,, 623-349-1422, jay.griffin@rtznj.com
Editor:	Bill Ganoe, Tucson, AZ, 520-850-7940, editor@azblacksmiths.org
Directors:	Alfred Cantwell, Monte Crawford, Bill Ganoe, Avi Goodman, Ivan Hill, Len Ledet, John Ledingeton, Zach Lihatsch, Ali Merriman, Steve Miller, Sam Rivera, Richard Rozinski. Ira Weisenfeld

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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AABA Winterfest VIII

Thursday - Saturday, January 15-17, 2026

Sculpture Tucson in the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, Tucson, Arizona

Program (subject to change):

Check the AABA website, www.azblacksmiths.org, for last-minute changes.

Thursday:

- 4:00 - 6:00 pm: Registration - Main Tent
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Dinner on your own
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Slide shows by demonstrators - Main Tent
- 9:00 - 10:00 pm: Blacksmith games - Smithy

Friday:

- 7:30 - noon: Registration - Main Tent
- 8:00 - noon: **Demonstrator - Jerry Harris - Creating Life-Like Birds and Animals** - Smithy
- 8:00 - 5:00 pm: Gallery open (Vote for your favorite gallery entry) - Gallery room east of the Smithy
- 9:00 - noon: - Education Tent
- Noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm: - Education Tent
- 1:00 - 5:00 pm: **Demonstrator - Peter Sevin - How He Makes His Lamps** - Smithy
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm: Dinner on your own
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Forging contest - bring your own hammers and tongs - Smithy
- 9:00 - 10:00 pm - Open Forge - Smithy

Saturday:

- 7:30 - 8:00: Registration - Main Tent
- 8:00 - 5:00 pm: Gallery open (Vote for your favorite gallery entry. Gallery voting closes at noon.) - Main Tent
- 8:00 - noon: **Demonstrator - Jerry Harris - Creating Life-Like Birds and Animals** - Smithy
- 9:00 - noon: Education Tent
- Noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 7:00 pm: Silent Auction bidding - Main Tent
- 1:05 - 1:30 pm: Iron in the Hat - Main Tent
- 1:30 - 5:30 pm: **Demonstrator - Genevieve Gural - Practical Heat Treating: Theory to Forge** - Smithy
- 2:00 - 5:30 pm: - Education Tent
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm: Appetizers - Main Tent
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Banquet - Main Tent
- 7:00 pm: Silent auction closes and winners announced - Main Tent
- 8:00 - 8:30 pm: Winner of the Lost Dutchman's Treasure Box announced - Main Tent
- 8:30 - 10:00 pm: Cleanup

Full Conference \$175 (The Saturday banquet is separate)

Single Day \$90.00;

Single Day for students currently registered for blacksmith classes at local schools \$30.

Saturday Banquet \$25

Register through the AABA website, www.azblacksmiths.org or mail the registration form on page 16.

Meals: • There are many good food places nearby.

Lodging: • Some dry RV Sites are available at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.

Reserve through the AABA website, www.azblacksmiths.org

• Hotels, motels, and other camping options are available in and around Tucson.

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

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

Directions

To Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, Tucson, AZ

- I-10 to the Prince Rd. exit
- East on Prince to Campbell Ave.
- North (left) on Campbell to River Rd.
- East (right) on River. Drive through several curves to the light at River and Alvernon (about 1.8 mi.).
- Turn right and enter Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.
- Turn right almost immediately at the Sculpture Tucson sign.

Our Winterfest VIII Demonstrators

Genevieve Gural



Although my occupation is engineering, I consider myself a craftsman first and have worked with wood, metal, and other media for as long as I can remember. I started woodturning in elementary school, learned machining and welding in high school, and designed and built off-road vehicles in college. I studied mechanical engineering and materials science, spending much of my free time at the school's metal casting foundry where I learned about heat treating and metal processing. I've worked with metal 3D printing, precision machining, and extreme thermal environments, but blacksmithing and teaching are what I love most.

I'm excited to discuss heat treatment and practical aspects of metallurgy. Topics include: general recommendations for heat treating in a forge; how austenitizing temperature affects grain size and toughness; considerations for material selection; and real-time demonstrations putting this knowledge to work.

Come with your questions! I'll do my best to answer them. If there's something I don't know, we'll figure it out together.

Jerry Harris

My family and three previous generations of my family have lived in Arizona and Arizona Territory. My Grandfather and Great-Grandfather were blacksmiths. I grew up in Tucson with a love for horses and the desert. Several years as a cowhand in the Aravaipa Canyon in the 50's taught me the ways of the animals and the plants. Countless house in the saddle following cattle and game trails honed my senses to the patterns and balance necessary for these plants and animals to thrive in the intense desert conditions.

I realize now that this period in my life was very important, allowing me time to observe, explore and learn the smallest details, so that I could create these forms that would tell others about my way of viewing the desert.

Later at the University of Arizona, I studied anthropology and animal sciences. However, shaping and forging steel came naturally to me, so that was the direction I followed.

The plants and animals and the spirit of the desert are what I love and do best. I try to capture a feeling of balance and harmony through my designs as I create a "timeless" desert out of forged steel.

My sculptures have appeared in several juried shows including Sculpture Tucson's annual Sculpture Festival, several regional galleries, and as public art in Tucson and Tubac. Articles about my sculptures have appeared in several regional publications.



Peter Sevin



For my demonstration I would like to show as much as I can about how I make my lamps, beginning with a mica shade and then explaining how I construct the lamp itself. Having been to many demos over the years I know that there are times when it can be hard to watch what can be a tedious task. In order to make it more interesting I would like to involve volunteers to make the parts as we move along. It's a lot to cover. We'll see how it goes.

I first tried my hand at blacksmithing in 1975 with a very primitive setup and here I am 50 years later. I owe a great deal to many people who have helped me along the way but most of all to Jess Hawley who became my friend and mentor from 1976 until he passed away in 2009. I'm a lucky man.



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.

- 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

Work Day at Sculpture Tucson

Saturday, January 3, 2026, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Just show up.

Help to get our corner of Sculpture Tucson ready for Winterfest VIII. Donuts and coffee may be involved.

November Demo Report

Bill Ganoe

Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.

Our November demo was held on Saturday, November 15 at the restored blacksmith shop at Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale, Arizona. (Repairs and restoration were needed after a devastating fire destroyed the historic shop in the late summer of 2017.) It was followed by workshop on Sunday, November 16. Mark Aspery was our demonstrator that weekend, and his focus was traditional joinery.

Mark got the demo started by talking about tool making. (Yes, you probably need to make some tools if you're going to do serious joinery.) After a short discussion of metallurgy as it applies to tool making, he moved on to the main theme of the demo: joinery.

He mentioned that rare earth magnets are his new best friend. He uses them to hold bars and rods in partially formed collars while he completes the process of forming collars.

He then went on to talk about making tenons. The important thing here is the butcher tool that you will probably use. Butcher tools should a little dull. A sharp butcher will create a sharp corner or stress riser at the base of the tenon. A stress riser could also be called a stress multiplier, because it concentrates stress in a small area which frequently leads to a fracture or a break. A slightly rounded edge on a butcher will produce a rounded corner at the base of the tenon greatly reducing the chances of a fracture or break.

Next, Mark talked about punching and drifting. He advised us to punch about 1/16" oversize to allow

for shrinkage as the steel cools.

Then he talked about heating the piece to be punched, Don't worry about a temperature gradient from top to bottom, but watch out if you have a temperature gradient from one end of the punch area to the other end, the punch will follow the path of least resistance. That is, it will tend to make a path through the hottest part of the steel, so the hole will not be accurately positioned.

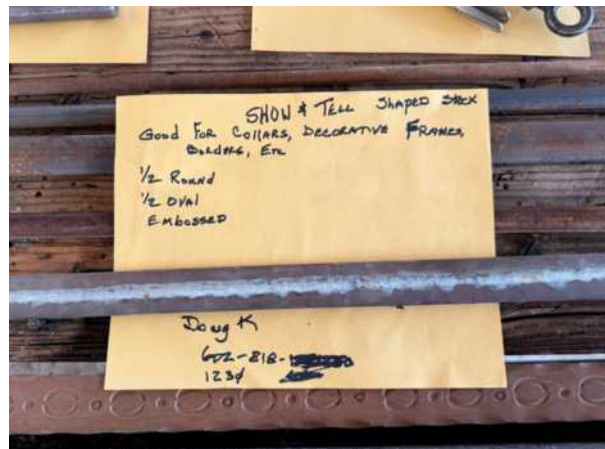
But keep in mind that a temperature gradient can sometimes be used to your advantage. If you missed the exact center of the bar or if the punch drifted off center, you will wind up with a thick side and a thin side of the hole. You can try to correct the problem by heating the thick side a bit more than the thin side, so that when you drive your punch or drift through the hold again, the punch will move more toward the hotter (thick) side, and the result will be that the sides of the hole will be more even.

Mark then demonstrated punching holes at an angle and punching holes on the diamond. He went on to making collars. And finally he demonstrated making a fishtail scroll and a ball finial.

The workshop on Sunday gave several of us a chance to practice what Mark had demonstrated on Saturday as we worked to make a carriage lamp bracket. No one actually finished their bracket by the end of the day, but we had a great opportunity to build our blacksmithing skills in that workshop.



Mark Aspery at the forge at the Sahuaro Ranch smithy



Doug Kluender brought some decorative bar stock from his shop for Show and Tell,

November Demo Report (continued)

Bill Ganoe

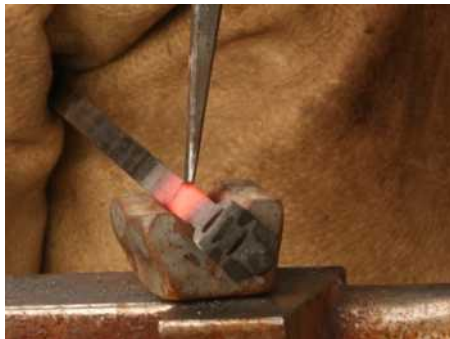
Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.



Using rare-earth magnets to hold collars in place while shaping them.



Fish-tail scrol with intermediate steps.



Punching on the diamond.



Filing rectangular tenons for final fit.



*Creating a ball finial.
Start with a large rod and
draw out a thin stem*



*Start to create a geodesic shape on
the bottom of the lump on the end.*



*Finish the geodesic shape on the top
of the lump.*

AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet and Auction

by Bill Ganoe

Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.

The 2025 AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction was held at the packing shed at Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale on Sunday, December 7, 2025. The banquet got started at noon with a great catered meal featuring BBQ pork and chicken, with a vegetarian option.

After the meal, AABA President Steve Miller conducted the annual meeting of AABA membership. Steve started out by commemorating Pearl Harbor Day with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection. He then spoke about long-time AABA member, Bill Morris, who passed on November 18, 2025.

Steve then announced the winner of the Bill Callaway award for 2025: Bill Ganoe. The trophy for 2025 was created by Jaime Escobedo.

The Bill Callaway Award recognizes those people who give an extraordinary amount of time, resources, and dedication to AABA and blacksmithing in general. It is named for Bill Callaway who, as the first recipient in 2005, set a very high standard. Since then, AABA has presented the Bill Callaway Award each year to various AABA members to recognize outstanding member contributions to AABA.

Steve announced the new membership prices that will go into effect in January 2026. Individual memberships with only an electronic copy of *The Anvil's Horn* will be \$35 per year. Individual memberships with a printed copy of *The Anvil's Horn* will be \$50 per year. Family memberships with only an electronic copy of *The Anvil's Horn* will be \$40 per year and with a printed copy \$50 per year.

The next order of business was the announcement of the winners of the 2025 election of AABA officers and board members. Jaime Escobedo was elected president, Dylan Cook was elected 1st vice president, Mike Johnson was elected 2nd vice president, Mikki Rakestrow was reelected secretary, and Scott Neece was elected treasurer. Elected to serve two-year terms on the AABA board were Alfred Cantwell, Bill Ganoe, Avi Goodman, Ivan Hill, John Ledington,

Zach Lihatsh, Ali Merriman, Steve Miller, Sam Rivera, and Richard Rozinski.

Steve ended the meeting with the act the outgoing AABA president passing a ceremonial key (key of the realm?) to the newly elected AABA president. Steve forged a key for the occasion. The handle had a small anvil on the end with "AABA" stamped on the side. Then he stamped his touchmark on the blade of the key. The idea is to have each president stamp his or her touchmark on the blade as a symbol of their term in office.

After the annual meeting was adjourned, the annual AABA auction started. The auction was again conducted by Len Ledet's friend and professional auctioneer, Craig Riggie. Roger Degner acted as a spotter.

Proceeds from the Annual Auction benefit the Read Carlock Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Fund was established to honor long-time AABA member, Read Carlock. The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to interested individuals who want to develop their blacksmithing/metalworking skills and abilities. More information about the Scholarship can be found at www.azblacksmiths.org/read-carlock-scholarship.

Before the auction actually started, Steve announced the results of voting for the gallery entries. Mike Johnson's Farrier Rasp Knife Set won 1st place in the Advanced category. Steve Miller's Nativity Scene, made from railroad spikes, won 1st place in the Intermediate category. Jaime Escobedo's Octopus won the Peoples' Choice award. All three of these pieces were included in the auction.

Items that were up for auction included pieces made and donated by AABA members, and things that were made by demonstrators at our bi-monthly demos. Dylan Cook also donated a certificate for a day of blacksmith training at his shop in Prescott. There were also several items donated by Vern Lewis Welding Supply in Phoenix. (AABA members get a 10% discount on purchases at Vern Lewis stores.) The items from Vern Lewis were given out during drawings for door prizes.



The crowd



Items donated by Vern Lewis Welding Supply

AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet and Auction (cont.)



Octopus
by Jaime Escobedo
winner of the Peoples Choice award



The 2025 Bill Callaway Award winner, Bill Ganoe, with Steve Miller and Jaime Escobedo
(photo by Sam Rivera)



Railroad Spike Nativity
by Steve Miller
1st place winner in the Intermediate category



Farrier Rasp Knife Set
by Mike Johnson
1st place winner in the Advance category.



Candle holders
by Peter Sevin
One of the items in the silent auction



Container
by Mo Hamburger
One of the auction items.

AABA Calendar 2026

Jan. 15-17	Winterfest VIII	Multiple demonstrators	Sculpture Tucson	Tucson, AZ
Mar, 20 & 21	Demo and workshop	Steve Fisher	MCC welding shop	Mesa, AZ
May 15 & 16	Demo and workshop	Pep Gomez	Sculpture Tucson	Tucson, AZ

MCC Blacksmithing & Welding Class

The Mesa Community College blacksmithing program is an excellent deal - over 60 hours of instruction including material and propane! Check the Mesa CC website for specific dates and details for classes in the Spring and Summer 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

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 March 2026 issue

February 1, 2026 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the March 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

Welcome New Members

Elisha Geschwentner	Phoenix, AZ
Melissa James	Mesa, AZ
Mike Nelson	Payson, UT
John Sage	Mesa, AZ

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 at **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, Dylan Cooki, **928-830-8168** or dylancookforge@gmail.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."

Note

The Xerocraft blacksmith shop is looking for donations of used equipment. If you have a surplus anvil (Is there such a thing?), extra tongs, punches, chisels, etc.. contact Patrick Cassidy at patrick.cassady@gmail.com

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, January 3, and Saturday, February 7, 2026. 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 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, January 3, and Saturday, February 7, 2026, 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>.

Members Gallery

David Flynn

Good Medicine



Forged steel, diamond plate,
copper and aluminum.
20"x5"x36"h, October 2025.

Blacksmith Village at The Shemer Art Center

It's been several years since we did a show at Shemer Art Center. We were invited back to put on a Blacksmith Village for their annual art show Nov 4th-5th. Participating smiths were Garrett Howell, Janet May, Steve Miller, and Richard Rozinski. It was a fun event with folks buying premade items as well as providing the opportunity to forge their own item with our guidance. Sales were very good, and we made a few bucks for AABA also. There was no commission or booth fee this year, definitely a plus. We're already invited back for next year, and it would be great to have more smiths join in the fun. Previously, we had 5 or 6 smiths swinging hammers as we forged a large mushroom together. It was a great experience, and I'd like to do a similar group forging event again. -- Steve Miller



Silent Hammer

Bill Morris

From Doug Kluender

My friend Bill Morris passed away on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at his home in Camp Verde, AZ, at the age of 83.

I knew Bill casually through our employment at the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Our friendship really took off when I received a call from him "out of the blue". He said he was looking at the roster of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association and found my name listed as an officer. He said there probably weren't too many people with that name and wanted to know if it was me. He was particularly interested in knife making and asked for some help. I was conducting work sessions and teaching members how to make some of the equipment they needed for blacksmithing. He came to my shop and we built a propane forge, an anvil stand, and some other tools for him.

Bill and Karen moved to Camp Verde in 2003, and they began hosting an annual 2 day workshop at their place. Free camping, blacksmithing classes, a cook out with Bill singing and playing around the bonfire, and Karen making breakfast on Sunday. That tradition continued for nearly 20 years until Bill started having mobility problems.

Bill gave blacksmithing demonstrations for the public during Camp Verde days and participated in cowboy lore and entertainment for visitors.

He was an avid hiker and hiked every available trail from the Grand Canyon south rim. He completed several rim-to-rim hikes and was also a serious traditional archer.

Bill used to say that he made a good living from other people's bad decisions. His daughter, Mary, used to tell her friends that her dad was into drugs, alcohol, marijuana and guns. He earned enough from them to send her to good christian schools. (Mary also worked as a DPS criminalist for a few years.)

Quite a life for a Jersey Boy !



From Steve Miller:

I have great memories of Friday night board meetings at Bill's while being treated to a delicious spaghetti dinner by his wife Karen, demo on Saturday, concert of guitar music and singing by Bill and a few others Saturday evening, a great egg scramble Sunday morning, again by Karen, and a workshop to top of the day. Bill even picked me up at the Camp Verde shuttle stop from Phoenix once when we were down to one car. When Bill could no longer host the September demos, we tried to recreate the same atmosphere, but it just wasn't the same. Those days will be remembered by many.

From Ira Weisenfeld:

I can't think about Bill Morris without recalling, with fondness, the AABA meetings we had at Bill and Karen's home. For many years they hosted us in September, and I think it was our best demo. Karen made a big spaghetti dinner on Friday night, after which we had a board meeting. Many of us camped there, and after the demo Saturday there was a barbeque and music. Bill and Karen were wonderful and gracious hosts, and as Bill always said of his musical performances, "We do take requests, but we play anyway." He will be missed.

Recap of the 14th Annual Botanical Blacksmiths Exhibit

Cathi Borthwick

This year's Botanical Blacksmiths exhibit at The Arboretum at Flagstaff was open from May 5 through September 20 and featured the work of 8 metal smiths. The exhibit consisted of 27 outdoor pieces and, for the second year in a row, 13 indoor pieces. Buyers were allowed to remove the ironwork at the time of purchase if they desired and then a new piece was added in its place, so, in the end, the exhibit displayed 40 different outdoor pieces and 24 different indoor pieces. It was a good year for sales with 10 of the indoor pieces and 20 of the outdoor pieces finding new homes. The most expensive piece to sell was priced at \$900 and most of the sales were in the \$300-\$500 range. The exhibit received good publicity as it was featured on Fox10 in Phoenix, in the Phoenix Home and Garden magazine, and on KNAU (the public radio station in Flagstaff) with both a day sponsorship as well as PSAs throughout the season.

Planning for next year won't start until January, but it is anticipated that the exhibit will be take place again in 2026 as it is popular with both visitors and staff. It is a non-juried show so all are encouraged to participate. Look for details about applying in the March newsletter. There will be some changes for 2026. The main one is that, after 14 years, I have decided to step aside as the organizer of the event. Fortunately, Liz Carlier has agreed to take my place so the exhibit will continue to be an opportunity for smiths to display and sell their work while letting the public see that blacksmithing is alive and well and relevant. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience for me, and I thank all of you who have participated over the years and shared your wonderful work. I look forward to stepping into the role of participant and seeing how the exhibit blooms under Liz's leadership. I hope you all will support her and plan to participate in 2026.

A Sample of the Sculptures in The Show



Garden Shark
Daniel Janssen



Pitchfork Turtle
Ira Wiesenfeld



Octopus
Ira Wiesenfeld



Sun Child
Douglas Stearms



Orion
Liz Carlier

Members Gallery

Brian Hughes

Fire Screen



I built this fire screen for the Cameron Trading Post dining room on the Navajo Reservation in 1986. Just recently I replaced the wire mesh after 39 years in use! It measures approximately 52" wide by 36" tall.

Rope Railing



Steel "rope railing" with tassel ends for a home. Three half inch round bars twisted together, brackets were forged from 1 1/2" half oval bar, and the tassels forged from pipe. Mike Riemer helped making the parts for this project. There were four of these railings made throughout the house.

Winterfest VIII Registration Form

Two ways to register:

• www.azblacksmiths.org (credit card or PayPal) or

• Fill out the form below and mail with a check to: Crossed Matches Forge C/O Steve Miller 4727 E. Bell Rd. Suite 45-310 Phoenix, AZ 85032

Winterfest VIII Jan. 15-17, 2026							Price Ea	Qty	Total
Full Conference Fee (Includes T-Shirt)							\$175		
1-Day Conference Fee (T-Shirt is extra, quantities limited)							\$90		
Blacksmith Student Day Fee (T-Shirt is extra, quantities limited)							\$30		
T-Shirt Size	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Included		
T-Shirt Qty							\$20		
Sat Meal - Price includes Gratuity % soda or water.									
Sat Meal Choice	Beef		Chicken		Vegetarian		Price Ea	Qty	Total
Menu Choice Qty							\$25		
RV Site # Nights - Limited Quantity							\$15		
RV Owner Name			License #, State				Total		
Name					email				
Street Address			City	State	Zip Code	Phone			
Will you submit a gallery entry?	Yes		No						
AABA does not have the facilities to ship entries. AABA cannot accept liability for gallery entries.									
Display Card Title:									
Height:	Length:		Width		Will your entry require a pedestal Y / N?				
<p>Each Person is required to sign an Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk in order to be admitted to the Winterfest VIII 2026 Conference (including minors through a parent or guardian). I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. In deciding to attend Winterfest VIII 2026 Conference, I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during the Conference, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear including safety glasses and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association (AABA), Pima County and its districts, members or employees of AABA and Sculpture Tucson, and any others involved in the Winterfest VIII 2026 Conference harmless from liability and expenses arising from my own actions or omissions. I agree that my admission to the Winterfest VIII 2026 Conference constitutes agreement with this Acknowledgment and Acceptance by signing this form or registering online. Furthermore, I accept the following cancellation policy and agree to be bound by its terms. I understand there are no refunds except in cases of significant financial hardship. Any request for a refund MUST be submitted in writing (or email) to AABA postmarked (or emailed) by December 18, 2026 with the reason clearly identified. Refund requests will be reviewed for eligibility on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, I agree to abide by and follow at all times, the mask requirements, if any, imposed by Pima County for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. AABA does not have the facilities to ship entries. AABA cannot accept liability for gallery entries.</p>									

Signed: _____

Date: _____

News from ABANA

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

2026 ABANA Conference Demonstrator **Zeevik Gottlieb**

Zeevik Gottlieb's sculptural work is focused on personal relationships, balance, and emotion as he draws on the world around him for inspiration. His work has been shown around the world, from galleries to public spaces.

For the conference, Zeevik will spend the three days forging a large piece (around 6-7 ft tall) that will be up for auction on the final day of the event.



More conference
info ➔



The ABANA National Curriculum offers certification for both blacksmiths and blacksmith instructors. Certification can help you hone your skills, be a resource for your local smithing group, or gain an advantage in finding a job or teaching gig. Visit abana.org.

Call for Entries “Favorite Forgings of 2025”



Topsy Table
by Frida Tranum Nielsen



Untitled
by Chris Unck

Submission deadline January 1, 2026

Images above are from prior exhibitions



Submit Your Work

What was your favorite project completed during 2025? Let's see it!

Submission Deadline:

January 1, 2026

<https://bit.ly/featuredforgings>

This is an online exhibition, so you're just submitting photos.

The Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing technical skills and design excellence in the blacksmith community. We offer educational workshops, technical and art publications, grants, awards, conferences, and exhibitions honoring the metal and forging arts.

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..

For Sale

2 hydraulic presses:
Enerpac horizontal 50 ton press with extra 50 ton cylinder, dies. \$2500 obo.

Vertical press, partially constructed-frame, Hydro-line cylinder and tank. \$700 obo.

Ira 520-780-9076 or circleofiron47@gmail.com

I Will Buy

your unwanted blacksmith or horseshoeing tools and supplies.
Barry Denton, 928-442-3290 any day before 7:00 pm.

For Sale

25 lb. Little Giant power hammer very good condition, \$4,000
32" floor cone mandrel, \$400;
Vertical bandsaw
good working condition, \$150
All items in Flagstaff, AZ
Cathi Borthwick, 928-890-9609 or info@flagforge.com

For Sale

206 lb. anvil, double horn, with Hofi-style stand. \$1,500.
25 lb. Little Giant power hammer with Hofi-Clark dies. \$2,300.
2-burner gas forge. \$75.
Jim Poor hand hammers, \$50 ea.
6" post vice \$500

All "as is".
602-302-0474 voice message only.

For Sale

MILLER DYNASTY 200 DX Tig/ Stick Welder. Includes TIG torch, stick stinger, variable foot control, cart, regulator, argon bottle, assorted tungsten's, diffusers and collets. Has been very lightly used by hobbyist, shows as new. \$3200.

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Chip Uren, Phoenix, 602-809-1200

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Ira Wiesenfeld, 520 780-9076 or circleofiron74@gmail.com.

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

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

For Sale

Argon botte, customer owned and partly filled, approximately 300 CF with flowmeter, \$300.
2" x 72" belt grinder, 4 speeds with five tooling arms on rolling cart, \$850 OBO.
Dozens of misc. punches, chisels, and files, \$1.00 each or 13 for \$10.00.
Misc. hammers \$5.00 each.
Pictures on request.

Jaime Escobedo,
928-978-3111 or
azoldwestforge@msn.com

Sources

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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.
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AABA Membership

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.

AABA Membership Form: New Member ☐ or Renewal ☐

Name _____

Address _____ ☐ Do not publish

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (mobile) _____ ☐ Do not publish

Email _____ ☐ Do not publish

Professional blacksmith ___ Hobbyist ___ Farrier ___ Blade smith ___

Your main blacksmithing interest _____

Occupation or skill _____

Please check one:

___ Individual membership (electronic newsletter only) (\$35)

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___ Individual or family membership with printed newsletter (\$50)

Make Check Payable to AABA

Mail to: AABA Secretary
4727 E. Bell Rd.
Suite 45-310
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association
Attn: Bill Ganoe
P.O. Box 40233
Tucson, AZ 85717

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For membership information or address change, contact:
Mikki Rakestrow, 433 S Hobson, Mesa, AZ 85204, 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