The Anvil's Horn

A publication of the

Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 243, November 2026

Winterfest IX

January 14 - 16, 2027



*** Details inside ***

President's Message

We've gotten off to a great start with Fall forging activities. Sarah Harms had a great demonstration with her forging of small jewelry items followed by a hands-on forging session where attendees got to forge their own jewelry utilizing Sarah's techniques. It was an outstanding event with nearly 40 attendees. It was good to see a mix of new members, long time members and everything in between. A memorable event to say the least. Karen Morris, who so graciously hosted the event, also held a tool sale event of her late husband Bill Morris' blacksmith tooling and equipment.

There is a full slate of forging activities for our members this Fall. Up next will be the Mark Aspery training at my shop in Payson in October (which will be over by the time you read this), the Shemer Arizona Arts Festival in east Phoenix in November, The ABANA Conference in Bentonville, Arkansas in November, the annual Read Carlock memorial Scholarship Auction and Banquet at Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale in December, and finally the Winterfest Conference in Tucson. You'll find the details of all these events in this issue of the Anvil's Horn.



Remember to support your organization, the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association! One way to do that is to purchase some of our AABA branded merchandise. We have a couple of new and unique items: the copper BLKSMTH license plates and the newly received all copper AABA challenge coin. It is indeed a stunning collector's item! These items and many more will be offered for sale at all our events.

The nice weather is now upon us! Get out to the forge and start hammering!

As always, bring the energy!

Jaime Escobedo

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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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November 2026 Demonstration

We're going to skip the usual November demonstration this year and focus on the Annual Banquet and Auction. As Jaime Escobedo said in his President's Column, please consider making something to donate to the auction. That could be a tool, a something useful for the home, or a work of art. How about a collaborative project with some of your friends or neighbors?

Note: Donate an item for the auction, and get a $10 discount on your 2027 AABA membership.

AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction
Sunday, December 6, 2026

Fruit Packing Shed/Gallery at Sahuaro Ranch
Glendale, AZ

This year the auction will be held on Sunday, December 6 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 Dylan Cook to RSVP by November 24. Use the postcard inserted in this issue, or contact Dylan at **928-830-8168** or **dylancookforge@gmail.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.

Bring new friends too. We want to expand our blacksmith family, and, if you have a friend who would be interested in blacksmithing 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

This year's auction will have a few special items up for auction along with all the other donated items. The first is a one-piece hacksaw forged by **Mark Aspery** during the weeklong training session in Payson this past October. It's an extremely beautiful piece carefully forged; draw filed to perfection and blackened. Mark's touch mark is stamped onto the piece. A collector's item for all discerning blacksmiths. The second is a coffee table in a vine and floral motif forged by famous 18th generation artist blacksmith **Mike Boone**, who as you know, is a direct descendant of **Daniel Boone**. Again, this is another beautifully forged piece that one of our members will be proud to own if he or she is the highest bidder.

And finally, we have our first time offering of a blacksmith's tool bag filled with essential blacksmithing tools, including; tongs, hammers, a tape measure, sight alignment tools, dividers, leather apron, mechanical welder's silver pencil, soap stone holder, combination squares, AABA hook rule, and various other tools all blacksmiths regardless of skill level should have. To sweeten the pot (or tool bag), your Board of Directors will also throw in a copper BLKSMTH plate, and our newest merch offering; a solid copper AABA challenge coin! The bag and contents are easily worth several hundred dollars.

We do need help during the auction with spotters and presenters, so, if you are interested, please contact Dylan at **928-830-8168** or **dylancookforge@gmail.com**

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?
Don't forget: auction donations this year will get you a $10 discount on your 2027 membership.

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.

2026 Shemer Arizona Arts Festival Call to Artists

Steve Miller

AABA has been hosting a Blacksmith Village at the Shemer Art Center off and on since at least 1991. My oldest Anvil's Horn, dated May 1991, talks about the Shemer Art Center Festival with several smiths selling their work and providing demonstrations for the attendees. We've been invited back to this year's Fall Festival on Nov 7th & 8th from 10am to 4pm each day. The purpose of AABA's presence there is to create awareness about the association, provide blacksmithing demonstrations, and provide the opportunity for attendees to participate in an interactive project.

Here's how we will accomplish these goals:
- Display an AABA Logo Banner approximately 4' x 10'.
- Handout a printed flyer on AABA benefits of membership and how to join the AZ blacksmithing community.
- Provide blacksmith demonstrations on a regular scheduled basis for attendees to watch.
- Conduct multiple Iron in the Hat drawings using the demonstrated items and other smith-made items with ticket sales going to AABA.
- Provide a group or individual project with proceeds going to AABA.
- Sell AABA branded items - TBD.
- Individual Smith's items for sale.
- Building a central desk/podium as a focal point.
- Discuss making a flat fee or percentage donation to Shemer at the end of the show.
- There is space for any smiths that want to apply to be a featured artist for Shemer with their own booth space to sell their art.

A few smiths are signed up already, and we're looking for several more to complete the Blacksmith Village. Consider joining in on the fun and fellowship. Contact **Steve Miller** at **stevemiller.az@cox.net** with your interest.



WINTERFEST IX

Amazing Demonstrators
Forging Games
Iron in the Hat
Slide Shows - Silent Auction
Banquet & Bar
Fellowship

Education Tent
Jaime Escobedo
Mike Johnson
Steve Miller



JAN 14-16, 2027

BRANDI FENTON MEMORIAL PARK, TUCSON AZ

DEMONSTRATORS:
ELIZABETH BELZ HEATHER McCARTY BOWEN BEATY

Join Us For Three Days of Craft, Community, and a Warm Arizona Winter Celebration

Registration available at **https://azblacksmiths.org/winterfest/** and on page 16 of this issue.

ARIZONA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

Winterfest IX Demonstrators

Heather McLarty

Artist Bio

Heather was born and raised in the Bay Area of Northern California. Her college training was as a theater technician where she learned to make almost anything you can think of, from almost anything you can think of. Working in prop shops from Arizona to Alaska, Heather learned steel fabrication and met her husband, Troy. She loved the theater, but wanted to learn more, do more, create more than the quick and dirty, temporary world of theater would allow. The steel seduced her. She was steadily pulled back in time and back in technology into the hot, dirty, primitive, ancient, exquisite world of the blacksmith. With Troy's encouragement she left the stage to concentrate on making sculptures and functional art from metal.

With the help of many generous men and women around the world continuing the great craft of blacksmithing, Heather has spent over two decades establishing herself as a well-known and highly respected craftsperson and artist. Her work has been selected for national art exhibits as well as public parks. Her gates, railings and other architectural pieces adorn many fine homes.

Heather works out of a large Sioux style tipi (sewn by her husband, Troy) at her home in Highland Park, California. She shares the rest of the place with the wonderful Troy, two dogs, a cat, and lots of stuff.

Artist Statement

It is my joy, as well as my job, to transform industrial materials into tactile, organic sculpture using fire, anvil and hammers, mind, body and heart. By hot forging, chasing and repousse, welding and fabrication, using whatever tool or technique I have access to, I transform steel, copper, bronze, silver or aluminum into pieces that express the joy and beauty I see in the world. I consider it an honor to be a minute part of the blacksmithing continuum.i







Elizabeth Belz

Artist Bio

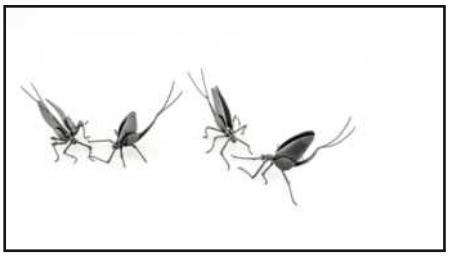
Elizabeth is a blacksmith, educator, the owner of Black Widow Forge and is the Blacksmithing and Metals Coordinator at John C. Campbell Folk School. She was the blacksmithing apprentice at the Metal Museum in Memphis, TN for two years where she trained under master smith Jim Masterson. Elizabeth was a craft education intern at North House Folk School, a resident artist with the Science Museum of MN, a Creative Catalyst fellow and has spent a lot of time at craft and folk schools across the country. Elizabeth has shown her work, competed, and taught blacksmithing throughout the United States and internationally and has most recently finished up a year long artist residency at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. Elizabeth sits on the board of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America the largest blacksmithing community non profit dedicated to preserving and advancing blacksmithing as both a profession and a hobby.

Artist Statement

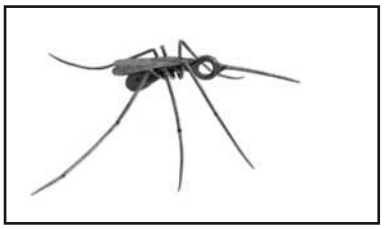
What started as a fascination with insect anatomy quickly evolved into an exploration of their narrative qualities and representational nature through the use of metal. By distilling the appearances of different species into general shapes, I push the limits of what is identified as "insect" while urging others to consider how astounding insects truly are. I use steel to capture these creatures through a detailed process involving both forging & fabrication techniques.

Winterfest IX Demonstrators (cont.)

Elizabeth Belz







Bowen Beaty

Artist Bio

I grew up in the American South in Raleigh north Carolina. From a young age, I was always building things in the woods out of whatever I could get my hands on. This passion for creating was channeled in high school when I began to blacksmith in my backyard. After this, I attended the American College of the Building Arts (ABCA) in Charleston, South Carolina, with a focus on architectural blacksmithing. During my summers, I would travel to study with blacksmithing artists around the world, including internships in Detroit, Greenville, and even an internship in Italy, and Austria working on sculptures with Roberto Giordiani. It was during this time that I discovered sculpture through blacksmithing. I graduated from ACBA in 2023 and moved to Chicago, where I worked on hand forged furniture and lighting fixtures. From there, I transitioned into grad school at SIU Carbondale. My sculptural work now explores relationships through the material lens of traditional blacksmithing connection methods.

Artist Statement

Drawing on my background as a classically trained architectural blacksmith, I use traditional architectural and industrial blacksmithing techniques to create sculptures that explore human relationships. My work examines these relationships through the physical language of traditional blacksmithing connection methods, transforming functional processes into metaphors for emotional and psychological bonds.

Using the same forged human form as a blank slate, I explore how bodies are shaped and altered by the relationships surrounding them. I have developed a visual vocabulary based on methods of connection: wedges signify trauma, rivets represent the joining of separate entities, and coal-forge welding symbolizes the melding of distinct bodies into a unified whole. Each technique carries its own physical qualities and implications, allowing the process of making to become a metaphor within my body of work.



Through iron, I create physical manifestations of the tensions, attachments, ruptures, and dependencies inherent in dysfunctional human relationships. The permanence and resistance of the material stand in contrast to the fragility and complexity of human connection. By using the visual language of blacksmithing to construct and transform the human form, my work examines how relationships can simultaneously bind, damage, alter, and ultimately redefine us.

Plans For My Winterfest Demonstration



The demonstrations I have planned revolve around my kinetic sculpture series. I plan on doing one quick kinetic sculpture that shouldnt take me more than three hours as an introduction to single point balance sculptures. I have worksheets explaining my balancing process that i used while teaching at Peters Valley School of Craft; I hope to have these available fr the people watching. Once the single-point kinetic sculpture is finished, I will move on to a double-point balanced kinetic sculpture. I hope to have them both done by the end of the day.

September Demo Report

Bill Ganoe

Photos by Bill Ganoe unelss otherwise noted.

Our September demonstration was held September 19, 2026, at the Morris home in Camp Verde. This was the home of Bill and Karen Morris. They hosted many memorable demos. But Bill passed last fall. Karen hosted our September demo this year as well as a tool sale. She wanted to see most or all of Bill's tools and equipment find good homes with active blacksmiths who would appreciate and take care of them.

Dylan Cook, our first vice president, opened the demo by ringing an anvil for Bill. The demo site, where Bill did his blacksmithing, featured a photo of Bill. Dylan also noted that our next event would be our annual meeting, banquet and auction to benefit Reed Carlock Memorial Scholarship. He emphasized that we need donations for a tool bag to be included in the auction.

Our demonstrator was Sarah Harms who makes a lot of jewelry using blacksmithing techniques. (She also works with glass and pottery.) On Saturday morning she demonstrated how she makes small things like hearts and spirals or scrolls for earrings, pendants, etc. While she was demonstrating she offered several tips for producing and selling small items. After lunch and the iron in the hat drawing, attendees had a chance to make their own small pieces and practice soldering them together.

The market Sarah works in is basically jewelry. She noted that a lot of people want to make jewelry, so the market is really saturated. You have to develop your own unique style to stand out from the crowd. And get that style in front of customers. You can do that online, but you have to be very diligent about posting every day. Still, that can build up a dedicated customer base. But Sarah is letting galleries present her work to the public while she stays home and makes things.

Sarah noted that she has five different galleries showing her work, so supplying those galleries can be pretty repetitive. She might make 8 - 12 hearts at one sitting. She said, "If you don't like repetition, production work isn't for you."

Sarah uses 5/32" round rod for many of the things she makes. The cheapest source for that rod is ladder rebar. Cut the ladder apart with a bolt cutter and you've got a lot of pieces that are about the right length (about 3") for the small things she makes. Watch out! The ladder rebar at Home Depot is galvanized. She usual goes to Powers Steel and Wire in Phoenix for ungalvanized ladder rebar.

That 5/32' rod is awfully small, and it looses heat awfully fast. But she still tapers the rod and creates the curves and scrolls on a big anvil - using a 250 gm. hammer. She noted that you could also create those shapes with jigs or scrolling tongs, but she still works on an anvil.

When it comes to finishing her pieces, Sarah likes to leave the scale on her pieces. If you want to remove the scale, she recommended using 3M unitized wheels on a bench grinder. She uses Renaissance Wax to finish her pieces. She noted that she has customers who have been using some of pieces for years with no signs of rust.

When it comes to soldering pieces together, e.g. putting earring wire on a small heart, Sarah uses a small air/acetylene torch. She said you probably don't need special tools as a beginner. She uses typical files from ACE Hardward. You will need some specialized things like solder, flux, soldering blocks, and sterling silver earring wire. She gets stuff like this from Rio Grande, a large jewelry tool and supply store in Albuquerque.

This was quite an interesting demo. While I don't think I'll jump into jewelry right now, other attendees, especially some of the younger students (from the blacksmithing classes at Mesa Community College) expressed great interest at getting into this sort of stuff. And, whether you wanted to get into jewelry or not, this was and interesting demo and a great opportunity to connect - or reconnect - with old friends and to meet some new blacksmiths. And, I believe that Karen Morris was successful at getting many of her late husband's tools into the hands of people who could appreciate them and take good care of them.

September Demo Report (cont.)

Bill Ganoe

Photos by Bill Ganoe



In memory of Bill Morris



Tres Amigos?







Showing the variety of things that Sarah makes.



Sarah at the forge.



Tapering small stock



Students making their own jewelry pieces.

AABA Calendar 2026

Nov.	AABA Elections	Ballot card insert in this issue	Mail-in
Dec. 6, 2026	Annual meeting, banquet, and auction	Sahuaro Ranch, Packing Shed	Glendale, AZ
Jan 14-16, 2027	Winterfest	Sculpture Tucson	Tucson, AZ

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
If you haven't renewed for 2026, you will be dropped from the AABA membership roster on July 1, 2026.

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 2027 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**

Welcome New Members

Steve Williams	Mancos, CO
David Ammons	Tucson, AZ

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 Cassady at **patrick.cassady@gmail.com**

Deadline for the January 2027 issue

December 1, 2026 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the January 2027 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

AABA Elections

The AABA 2026 election is at hand. We will be electing all of our officers, who server 1-year terms, and several directors, who serve 2-year terms. Please fill out the ballot card inserted in the center of this issue and mail it to **Mike Johnson, 9408 E. McLellan Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207-3422,** by November 30.

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.

Details at **prescottblacksmithschool.com** or contact Dylan Cook at **928-830-8168 or dylancookforge@gmail.com**

ABABA Level 1 class at Xerocraft

Patrick Cassady, at Xerocraft, is trying to determine if there is enough interest to offer a Level 1 class starting in Jan/Feb 2027. Contact Patrick at **patrick.cassady@gmail.com**, if you would be interested or have any questions.

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 Cook**, **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

AABA Website: www.azblacksmiths.org

Open Forge: Tucson

Open forges will be held in Tucson on Saturday, November 7, and Saturday, December 4, 2026 from 9am to noon at Sculpture Tucson. 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: 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 7, and Saturday, December 4, 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.

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**.

Prescott Blacksmith School

2700 N. Lake Valley Rd. Suite 4E, Prescott Valley AZ

Workshops are now open! Small workshop sizes allow us to work with many skill sets from beginner to advanced and provide instruction based on your interests. National Curriculum Certification available. For more details, visit **prescottblacksmithschool.com** and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on upcoming workshops.

Botanical Blacksmiths End-of-Season Report

Liz Carlier

The Arboretum Flagstaff
May 2026- September 2026

This season the outdoor exhibit opened with 29 pieces and the indoor exhibit opened with 16 pieces. New pieces were added to replace artwork that had sold. A total of 30 pieces were sold this season! There were 4 new artists that participated; Richard Rozinski, Elias Marshall, Janet Mays, and Dylan Cook.

While the Pocket fire did not directly impact the Arboretum grounds, the closure of Woody Road did have a financial impact on the Arboretum. Thanks to all for your participation and support of the Bontanical Blacksmith Exhibit at the Arboretum at Flagstaff.



Roswell
James Schremp



Strada
Cathi Borthwick



Last of the Holdouts
Dylan Cook



Brazen Bird
Daniel Janssen

Tucson Open Forge

October 3, 2026
Make a letter opener, or anything else, from a RR spike.





AABA Challenge Coins Are On The Way!

Jaime Escobedo

First off, here's a little background on challenge coins. It's been reported, among other stories circulating, that challenge coins originated during World War 1 with a U.S. Army lieutenant who wanted to provide his troops with a symbol of their service and the unit he commanded. Challenge coins in the U.S. military have evolved to represent unit pride, missions completed, a way to commemorate significant events, or as a type of an award. Many stories tell of service members "challenging" other service members at drinking establishments with the presentation of their coins. If a service member failed to have their coin in their possession, then they got the privilege of buying the next round of drinks. That's a pretty good reason to always carry your coin with you!

Challenge coins over the years have become popular in all walks of life. From special interests to hobbies to public safety organizations and other occupations. They have also become items that are widely collected with collections numbering into the hundreds, if not thousands of different coins. Challenge coins have, and will always be, a way to symbolize pride and honor.

And now AABA has a challenge coin. At a recent AABA Board of Directors meeting, a challenge coin representing AABA and the Great State of Arizona was approved! The coin is a deeply laser engraved solid copper coin measuring almost 1 5/8" in diameter and 1/8" thick. Copper was chosen as the coin material due to copper being one of the five "C's" representing Arizona and its importance in our history. On one side is the standard AABA logo consisting of an anvil, hammer and tongs, and encircled around the outer edge with "Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association". On the reverse side is a deeply engraved cowboy smith completing a forge weld at the anvil with "AABA" in relief on the anvil stump. In the background behind the smith is the Arizona flag representing the beautiful Arizona sunsets. On the left side are iconic Saguaro cactus with the famed Superstition mountains in the background. To the right of the smith is a Ponderosa pine tree with mountains in the background signifying Arizona's claim to the largest continuous stand of Ponderosa pine trees in the world. Around the outer edge is the slogan "Forging it Forward" on the upper portion and "Est. 1981" on the lower portion for the year AABA was created.

These coins will be offered on a limited run basis with only twenty coins being produced initially. These coins will surely be a treasured collector's item that you can display with AABA pride! They also make great gifts for the blacksmiths in your life. Don't miss out! Reserve your coin now by contacting Jaime Escobedo at **azoldwestforge@msn.com** or via text at 928-978-3111. The coins will be inserted in a clear removable plastic sleeve for protection. The projected cost will be approximately $45.00.





Blacksmithing Prodigy: Daniel Ammons

Websters dictionary has the word prodigy defined as anything wonderful or extraordinary, a miracle. We often see the term prodigy used to describe exceptional talents in the realm of music or the brush and paint world. These arenas are vast so an opportunity to see a rising star or prodigy is inevitable. It is rare, however, to see or hear about a prodigy in other talents above and beyond painting or music.

In the past few years I have watched Daniel Ammons fulfill the definition of prodigy in the blacksmithing world. A lot of his talent, some would say, comes naturally, inherited from his father's DNA. Dave Ammons, Daniels' father, is an extremely successful knife maker having been the student of the now passed Don Norris of Tucson, Arizona. You can see Don Norris' work in the coffee table book, ***Art of the Knife***, by Joe Kertzman.

Though Daniel does not lean toward knives, he can forge one better than most young bladesmiths. His forte is functional or utilitarian forgings of all types. Any forging technique I have ever shown to Daniel he has expanded on and improved the model greatly. He quickly realized that propane is quick and easy, but coal is king when you really get down to the fine points. Coal and coke really separate the men from the boys when forging difficult projects. Daniel immediately built his own jigs/tools to better his forging and improved every jig or helpful tool I have shown him.

My wife, Heidi, can forge. She admires and collects forgings, a lot of which happen to be made by Daniel. Obviously, she can also walk into my shop and put in a request for whatever she wants. These days that doesn't happen often. She waits for Daniel to come for a visit to put forth her requests. She recently commissioned Daniel to forge a pair of fancy early door latches for her newly built, walk-in chicken coop. The latch hook, to be done properly, is tricky and difficult, I have no doubt Daniel will improve on the early, original model she lent him.

The pictures I have included show a couple of Daniel's very first tomahawks. It is obvious that their form is much better than those forged by many who have been forging for a decade or more. In my opinion, Daniel Ammons is a forging prodigy. A smart person would be wise to hire this humble, hardworking, talented young man, as a demonstrator, while you can. As his skills continue to increase exponentially, he will shortly be discovered and you will not get the chance unless your pockets are very deep!













White Mountain Blacksmith Convention

Len Ledet

I recently attended the White Mountain Blacksmith Conference held on Saturday and Sunday August 8th and 9th. It was held at the Taylor Rodeo Park in Taylor/Snowflake. The Conference was very well attended, over 150 attendees came for the very professional demonstrations, hands on workshops and open forge area. The Conference was created and managed by members of Iron Rhino Forge of Tempe. Iron Rhino studio specializes in traditional blacksmithing and teaching students of all ages the art of blacksmithing.

The protected overhead area provided space for the setup of 7 forging areas with multiple workstations. The open forge area was available for both days for the entire day and was continually filled with "young aspiring smiths". Several times I asked the "aspiring smiths" if any had been born in the 20th century, all born in the 21st century (most all teen ages). Of the 150 attendees, only a small number had "gray hair". That for me was the most impressive thing about this conference. Also attending was Dylan Cook and Sarah Harms.

Demonstrations included damascus forging, armor making, knife grinding, ABANA III forge welding, dragon sculpture, and Ellen Durkan – sculpting. Workshops included tool making and rosette flowers, grilling tools, and carbon steel skillet. It was a very fine weekend and time well spent. Learned a few new things (anvil devil) and techniques.











Registration Form
Winterfest IX

January 14-16, 2027

Two ways to register
1) **www.azblacksmiths.org** (credit card or paypal) or
2) Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:
Scott Neece, 3030 N. Second St., Suite 1521, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Item							Price Ea	Qty	Total
Full Conference Fee, Earlybird - Before Dec 17. Late fee +$20							$175		
1-Day Conference Fee, Earlybird - Before Dec 17. Late fee +$20							$90		
Blacksmith Student							$30		
T-Shirt Size	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	First Shirt Included, add'l $20 ea.		
T-Shirt Qty									
Sat Meal - Price includes Gratuity % and soda or water.									
Sat Banquet Dinner							Price Ea	Qty	Total
Mexican							$15		
RV Site # Nights - Limited Quantity			License #, State				10/Night		
RV Owner Name									
Total									

Name	Email			
Street Address	**City**	**State**	**Zip Code**	**Phone**

Each Person is required to sign an Acknowledge and Assumption of Risk in order to be admitted to the Winterfest IX 2027 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 the Winterfest IX 2027 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 personal protective equipment 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 Pima County and its Districts, and any others involved in the Winterfest IX 2027 Conference harmless from liability and expenses arising from my own actions or omissions. I agree that my admission to the Winterfest IX 2027 Conference constitutes agreement with this Acknowledgment and Acceptance by signing this form. Furthermore, I accept the following cancellation policy and agree to be bound by its terms. Notification of cancellations for refunds MUST be submitted in writing (or email) to AABA postmarked (or emailed) by December 17, 2026. Additionally, I agree to abide by and follow at all times the mask requirements imposed by Pima County for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. Safety glasses are required.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ _____

NO CANCELLATIONS will be accepted via phone! A $25 dollar cancellation fee will be charged prior to December 17, 2026. There will be NO REFUNDS after December 17, 2026.

Mail form and payment to:
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Join or renew your membership at: **www.abana.org/membership**



More information at **https://abana.org/2026conference/**

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

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 fool 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**

Looking for

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

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

For Sale

Power hammer, home built, single speed, available in Vail, AZ
$800 OBO. Pictures available

Contact Geoff (text preferred)
520-271-2553



For Sale

HOSSFELD 2 Bender w/dies, $1400. The largest model, with a small complement of dies. Hossfeld is still making these, along with every die you could imagine- even hydraulics is available. I'm including a Bulldozer die ($300) for bending 90's in 1/4" x 4" bar and plate. Includes other standard dies and a parts list/instruction manual to help you with setups. Bend pipe, round and square solid, tubing, and more. Includes a heavy duty stand for mounting. I have a forklift to load in your truck, **520-268-2208 (text)** or **info@arizonametalworks.net** email.



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 work shops 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

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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_____
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Phone (home)_____ (mobile)_____ ☐Do not publish
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Your main blacksmithing interest_____
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Steve Miller, 4727 E. Bell Rd., Suite 45-310, Phoenix, AZ 85032, 602-989-6505, stevemiller.az@cox.net

Not seeing good coverage of events at your shop?
Take some pictures, write up some text, and submit it to the editor.