



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

January 2022

Greetings!

I appreciate the vote of confidence from the board in selecting me as the new president. I want to thank Jerry Achterberg, and Jerry Whitley for their last few years of service and hard work to this organization. Aaron and I have big shoes to fill and we will depending on the their experience over our tenure. I also want to thank all the members of Balcones Forge without you we would not have an organization that fosters blacksmithing.

The goal for my tenure is are to build membership and maintain Balcones Forge's mission of education to the public about blacksmithing through demonstrations in the Central Texas area. This will be accomplished in several steps. The first one is to leverage social media to find and gain new members. I have created a Facebook Group, Balcones Forge Organization that gives us the ability to interact with all our members. Please feel free to join and post on the group. I would love to hear your questions and see what you are working on now. The second is to get all new members without forging experience into the fire to beat some hot steel.

Our February meeting will be at Blackhawk Millworks and Forge in Zorn, TX. Bring a hammer and we can have you forge a hook, and nail to start. You will be working with experienced smith members. From the experienced members of Balcones Forge, Aaron and I are looking for you to be mentors at these meetings.

Again, I can't thank ya'll enough for your confidence in me.

John Meyer, President

Meeting is on January 29



Officers

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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you may have heard, I am your new Vice President. As such, I am responsible for scheduling our monthly meetings. I would like some input about what you want from our meetings, open forge format, demonstrator, etc. Would you like to host a meeting? Let me know...

On January 29 we will meet at the Texas Blacksmithing Conference held at the Texas Czech and Cultural Heritage Center in La Grange. Check it out on Facebook. February 26 will be an open forge meeting at BlackHawk Mill works in Zorn. March is still open. April 9 is tentatively scheduled for the New Braunfels Folk Fest. May 11-14 is the ABANA Conference in Denton. Our very own Sue Howerter is demonstrating there.

We also need volunteers for the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg during Spring Break, March 14 – 19, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Two smiths per day are needed. This could be a great opportunity for new smiths to work with experienced ones. Let me know if you are interested and your availability. All you need is a hammer.

Aaron Tilton, Vice President , txsmith4@att.net

BALCONES FORGE MEETING SCHEDULE

January 29 – La Grange, Texas Blacksmithing Conference

February 26 – Zorn, Meeting and Open Forge

March ?? - ??????

April 9 – New Braunfels Folk Fest

May 11 – 14 – Denton, ABANA Conference

June ?? - ?????



PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I would like to welcome our new Balcones Forge officers. At the November meeting John Meyer was elected president and Aaron Tilton as vice-president and Lance Jensen as secretary. I think move is giant step forward for this group in this new year. Thanks for stepping up.

John has recreated our Facebook page which is now: Balcones Forge Organization. Pull it up and take a look.

It has been a fun ride for me as president for the past few years and I will remain on the board to provide as much help I can to support Balcones and thanks for helping out and supporting me during me during my time in office. I'm still available if you need help and look forward to seeing my friends again.

Jerry Achterberg – Past Pres. Balcones Forge

Texas Blacksmithing Conference 2022

Hosted with The Hume L. Baker
Texas Antique Gas Engine Reunion

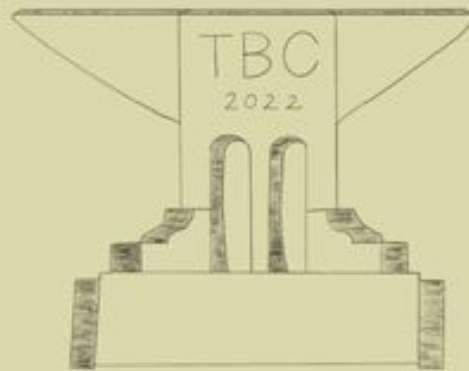
Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center
Saturday, January 29th, 2022

250 West Fair Grounds Rd., La Grange, TX 78945

8 am - 5 pm

Proceeds benefit the TCHCC Blacksmith Shop Project

- Demonstrations
- Iron Smelt
- Vendors
- Food & Drinks
- Engine Show
- Onsite camping
- Auction



Week Day Classes

- 1/26- Hand Tools \$150
(Chisels, Punches, Fullers, etc.)
- 1/27- Trivet Making \$150
(Scrolling and Collaring)
- 1/28- Hammer Making \$175
(Rounding Hammer)

Find us on Facebook @ "The
Texas Blacksmithing
Conference"
and Instagram
@texasblacksmithingconference



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EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2021



HAPPY 2022 Affiliates,

Welcome to another year and another year for personal growth and taking a risk. Playing it safe, and sticking with what you know is good but trying something you haven't done before is such a rewarding endeavor. Gathering with like minded people and trying something you never have before could re energize your outlook, it could ignite the spark you had lost with "playing it safe". So I encourage all of you to make 2022 a good one, step out of your comfort zone and get forging something you never have before. Sure it may not turn out the first, second or eighth time but once it resembles what you envisioned the feeling of success will be worth the wait.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

November's meeting was held at Jerry Whitley's Rustyk forge in Devine. Jerry Whitley opened the Memorial meeting greeting all the attendees and thanking his family for all the work they did to make the event a possibility. He also provided a general overview of events.

It was a beautiful day and lots of folks were in attendance. Jerry made cowboy coffee over an open fire and there were donuts and another coffee to choose from.

The first demonstration was tong making and the presenter was Henry Vera assisted by Frank Holman and Garrett. The tongs Henry made were a more stylized form of tong and Henry took time to explain his thought process as to the best way to make the tongs and the steps necessary to complete the tongs. The final product was a beautiful set of tongs.

Jerry Whitley provided material for anyone who wanted to make their own set of tongs.

The second demonstration/talk was provided by Jerry Achterberg and was titled Measuring in a pinch. Jerry Achterberg provided a demonstration of How to use a dollar and a carpenter's pencil to measure in a pinch.

A dollar bill can be used as a measuring device. It is 6 inches long so half of the bill is 3 inches and 1/4th is 1.5 inches etc.

A carpenter's pencil can be used as a measuring tool it is 1/2" inch wide and 1/4" inch thick.

Jerry also explained how to use a clock face to layout a 5-point star. A clock is divided into 60 minutes so by dividing 60 by 5 gives you 12 minutes for each point. With a starting point of 0/60 each point being 12 minutes apart (12, 24, 36, 48, 60). You can then draw your layout lines from these points.

Just before we stopped for lunch Jerry Whitley, with assistance from Jerry Achterberg, Memorialized the smiths that had passed in the previous year. Names of smiths who passed this year were read by Jerry Whitley and was rang in on the anvil by Jerry Achterberg. Additional smiths were recognized by attendees. All the attendees then rang the anvil in remembrance of the smiths who passed.

Lunch was served by Marcia Whitley and her family. The food was excellent, and Jerry's new outdoor kitchen is beautiful. Tim Tellander was quite fond of the Cole slaw and German sausage. The baked goods provided as desert were wonderful.

A board meeting was held right after lunch. Board members in attendance were Jerry Achterberg, Jerry Whitley, John Meyer, Aaron Tilton, Rudy Billings, Rick Dawdy, and Tim Tellander.

Jerry Achterberg called the meeting to order. There was a motion made to remove Ben Rath from the board. Ben is very busy attending to work. The motion was seconded and approved. There was motion made to nominate Lance Jensen to the board which was seconded and approved. A motion was made to nominate John Meyer as president and was seconded and approved. There was a motion to nominate Aaron Tilton as vice president the motion was seconded and approved. A motion was made to nominate Lance Jensen to the position of secretary the motion was seconded and approved.

There was discussion concerning the future of the existing lending library. The discussion centered on whether it was practical to continue with current practices of loaning out material or if with the amount of online information that exists, this process may have become outdated. It was tabled to be discussed further at the next meeting.

John Meyer asked the board's permission to establish a Facebook group page that would allow more interaction of Balcones members than the current page. The request was seconded and passed. Rick Dawdy asked that we revisit the new Facebook group page in 6 months to evaluate the effectiveness of the page.

In that there wasn't any additional new business to discuss the meeting was concluded.

The competition Trade item for this meeting was a flower.

Sue Howerter and Lance Jensen provided entries with Sue taking First place.

The auction was a success with approximately \$1200 raised. Big items sold were tongs donated by Henry Vera and a cast iron bank.

The next meeting will be held on January 29th, 2022, at the Texas Blacksmithing Conference. The conference is being held in La Grange at 250 west Fair Grounds Rd La Grange Texas 78934. You can find more information about the event on Facebook @"TheTexasblacksmithingconference": or on Instagram @texasblacksmithingconference

Lance Jensen, Secretary



Editor's Soapbox

Welcome to 2022. This year is off to a new start with a new set of officers. I thank them in advance for all the hard work they will be doing on behalf of the organization.

Please send monthly submissions by the 10th. My rarely met goal is to get the BFD published 10 days before the monthly meeting

BTW, I won't be at this meeting (damn real job).....somebody take some notes and pictures

Vince Herod
Editor

