



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

November 2023

Greetings,

Wow! What a great demo! If you weren't able to make it, then you missed a good one.

Thanks again to Jerry and Marsha Whitley for hosting and Mark Ling for an awesome demonstration. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in the auction, either by bidding or donating items. It went well and the money raised will help fund your Balcones Forge organization.

Our next meeting will be on November 11th at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels. We will kick things off around 9:00 a.m. There will be a short demonstration on making a chisel out of sucker rod. The weather is cooling off so come out and watch, visit, or get in the open forge. The trade item for November will be a struck tool such as a chisel, punch, etc..

Just a refresher on how the trade item works. After the trade item is announced, if you want to participate, you forge whatever that month's trade item is and bring it to the meeting. Someone is judged the winner. We draw numbers and then you will take someone else's item home. It is a great way to see different ways to forge similar items. The winner gets to select the trade item to make for the next meeting. Remember, you have to make one to take one.

Meeting is on November 11
Start time is 9:00

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President's Message continued

Looking forward to December...

Our meeting will be on December 9th at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels. They are also having their first annual Renaissance Festival that day. Come for the meeting and stay for the fun!

Upcoming Meetings

November 11	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture
December 9	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture
January 13	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture
February 10	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture

Meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. unless stated otherwise.

Arron Tilton, Balcones Forge President



More info in the two Balcones Forge Facebook pages. (You can check out the posts without having a Facebook account.)

<https://www.facebook.com/BFCTB/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688735415468063>

W W W . B A L C O N E S F O R G E . O R G



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PRESENTS:

SECOND SATURDAYS

A FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY
LIVING HISTORY EVENT

10:00 AM-4:00PM

ROTATING DEMOS:

- BLACKSMITHING • WEAVING • BROOM MAKING
- HEARTH COOKING • CANDLE DIPPING • JEWELRY
- SEWING • CABIN LIFE • WOODWORKING
- WEAPONRY • MUSIC

DATES:

- 1/14/2023 • 2/11/2023 • 3/11/2023
- 4/15-16/2023 • 5/13/2023 • 6/10/2023
- 7/8/2023 • 8/12/2023 • 9/9/2023
- 10/14/2023 • 11/11/2023 • 12/9/2023

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**NOW
HIRING
EDITOR**



Now Hiring: Editor of The Anvil's Ring

The Anvil's Ring is a quarterly, full-color, 60+ page magazine focused on traditional and contemporary forging arts. If you love blacksmithing and have experience with writing, graphic design, and editing for publications, this might be the perfect job for you!

The ideal candidate will have experience with Adobe Creative Suite or similar software, the ability to plan and work within set deadlines, excellent writing skills, and the capacity to get the job done with minimal oversight. This position includes creating content by approaching and interviewing blacksmith artists, soliciting articles from the blacksmith community, reviewing article submissions received by ABANA, and converting all materials to a print-ready journal. This is a remote, work-from-home position that reports to the ABANA Publications Committee.

Please send contact information, resume, and writing sample(s) to info@abana.org. (If you are not a current member of ABANA, please explain your connection to or experience in the blacksmith community.)

TRADE ITEM DETAILS

For November, the trade item is a “struck” tool. To participate, simply make the item chosen for the month. Sometimes there are detailed instructions and sometimes you get to make what ever your imagination tells you. Bring it to the meeting, participate in the trade and you will walk away with another smith’s version of the item.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!



Fellowship is a big part of Balcones Forge meetings!





Our featured demonstrator last month, Mark Ling

Photos in this edition by Arron Tilton.

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

PRESIDENT'S SOAP BOX (THIS IS WORTH REPEATING!)

Have you attended a meeting lately? Were able to get in the forge? Did you learn something? Maybe you were even able to make a hook, a leaf, or another great item. I truly hope so. That is Balcones Forge's mission and my passion. Where do you think the coal for the forge, the metal you forged, or for that matter the forge and anvil itself comes from? Not to mention our demonstrators also deserve to get paid. It is provided willingly and gladly by the club. Again, that's why we're here.

This is all paid for out of the Balcones Forge budget. The \$20 yearly dues don't add up to much, so we rely on money raised from auctions held at our meetings. We haven't had any auctions lately because the last few had poor participation. I understand everyone wants a good deal and money is tight. If we want Balcones Forge to continue and be able to function, then we need to start having more successful auctions. If you are unable to spend much or nothing at the auction then what can you contribute? Can you make something for the auction? Maybe clean out the shop or have two of something? You get the idea. We want our club to continue to grow and provide great community outreach and need your help.

Aaron Tilton, Balcones Forge President

