



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

December 2018



Greetings!

Tis the season! Hope everybody is ok and ready for Christmas.

Doug and Natallia Caroselli went over and above to host the November meeting at their Blackhawk Millworks in Zorn. If anybody left hungry it was their own fault. The breakfast tacos could only be topped by Natallia's homemade crapes and sweet cheese that melted in your mouth and before you could finish your coffee, the sirloin steaks and beans were ready along with chicken jalapino poppers to boot. Joe Travasio, Tim Tellander, Aaron and Shane Titon, and Wayne Byrd kept us entertained by hammering out a few blades and hawks at the anvil and on Doug's new power hammer, all heated with a gas provided David Starr at Chili Forge. Thanks to all who helped put on this event, including Doug's sawmill crew who helped cook, as well as Bryan who turned a beautiful mesquite peppermill on the lathe which he donated to Balcones Forge for the Bluebonnet auction. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/blackhawkmillworks/>. I don't think I have seen so much beautiful wood in one place.

December will take us to San Antonio where the South Texas Artist Bladesmiths (S.T.A.B.) will host on the 15th. Tobin Neito, James Helm, Alex Ruiz will show us around the shop. These are the guys who have appeared on Forged In Fire and represent Volundr Forge, Helm Industries, Stonehaven Knifeworks and J.B. Knife and Tool. They are also offering bladesmithing classes. Give Tobin a call at 210-724-4399 for more information. The trade item: A letter opener. Sounds easy enough, let's give it a try.

## Meeting Date is Saturday December 15

*President's Message continued on page 2.*



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*President's Message continued.*

And in case you didn't know it, Tim Tellander is also teaching bladesmithing at his shop in Bulverde. Call Tim for more information to 210-260-6736.

On a sad note: David Starr of Chili Forge in San Marcos, TX suffered a heart infection which caused a stroke. David spent thirteen day in intensive care and is now recovering at home. He has to wear an I.V. drip pack 24 hours a day and needs a lot of bed rest. Davis is very lucky to have a nurse like Stacie at his side to give all the care he needs. Be sure to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Balcones Forge still needs your help. Vince needs meeting photos and articles for the newsletter, Aaron needs help with the t-shirts, and we need a few members-at-large to help the board with keeping this organization running. Please contact on of the board members if you would like to help. And speaking of the board, long time member, Aaron Tilton has recently been elected to the board. Thank you Aaron and we are looking forward to working with you.

See ya'll in San Antonio!  
Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

Works in Zorn was definitely one of those positive experiences at least from my perspective. The immaculate work spaces and segmented product storage areas were impressive and accompanied by a warm reception from Doug and Natalia Caracelli was appreciated by everyone. Natalia had prepared copious amounts of delicious food and Doug informed us that steaks cooked to order would be available for lunch, just as soon as you finished the made to order tacos for breakfast.

A coal/coke forge with a sidedraft smoke exhaust was lit as well as a double burner Habanero Chile Forge with an extra floor protective shelf (for forge welding). Jerry Achterberg and Doug Caracelli welcomed the Balcones Forge members and special guest blacksmith Frank Lily formerly associated with the TABA organization and it's success. Jesse Stemper announced that Pioneer Farms in Austin with 8 forge setups will be conducting weekend classes. An associate with Blackhawk Mill Works named Bryan would be demonstrating the turning of a peppermill that will also be available for viewing at our next meeting in December. Doug presented one of our youngest member named Owen, with a slightly used anvil and a pair of tongs to the crowds obvious applaud of pleasure.

Joe Travesio was asked to describe the processes needed to forge weld cable into knives or workable billets. Meticulous preparation is very important as well as proper heating and hammering. I had forged a cable knife that was passed around for inspection as well as a smaller every day carry, of which Joe emphasized proper knife sizes depending on the job at hand, be it skinning game or opening a bag of fritos.

After a scrumptious lunch Shane and Aaron went to work on resizing the hardy hole tools I was going to work on for my anvil, and later Joe Travieso forged out some nice forge welded billets for his

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **FROM NOVEMBER MEETING**



Always anticipating a visit to someone's forge can lead to both sides of enlightenment, be it positive or negative. The Blackhawk Mill

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demonstration. The gas forge was used by myself & Wayne Byrd to forge weld a tomahawk of which I will profile, heat treat, and add a handle for the next meeting December 15. Jerry conducted the iron in the hat auction and as always, unique and useful items were up for the highest bid. Other members were permitted to utilize the remaining afternoon blacksmithing in the open forges. Owen got to hammer on his new anvil, Ben & son Zach got some valuable one-on-one with Joe, and I was regrinding the cutting edge on an antique, 18 inch long butcher knife forged by Ed Wusthof from Solingen Germany. With the help of Alex Taylor, new mesquite burl handles supplied by Doug were affixed.

Special thanks to Doug for a spectacularly successful Balcones Forge meeting. See you next meeting South Texas Area Bladesmiths (STAB) Headquarters in San Antonio, December 15.

Tim Tellander  
Balcones Forge Secretary

## Future Meetings

Dec 15, San Antonio, TX. Trade Item will be a letter opener.

Jan 26, Austin, TX. Mary Jo and Sue will demo at Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

Feb 16, Bryan, TX. Join the Lee Brothers for their annual Combo-demo.

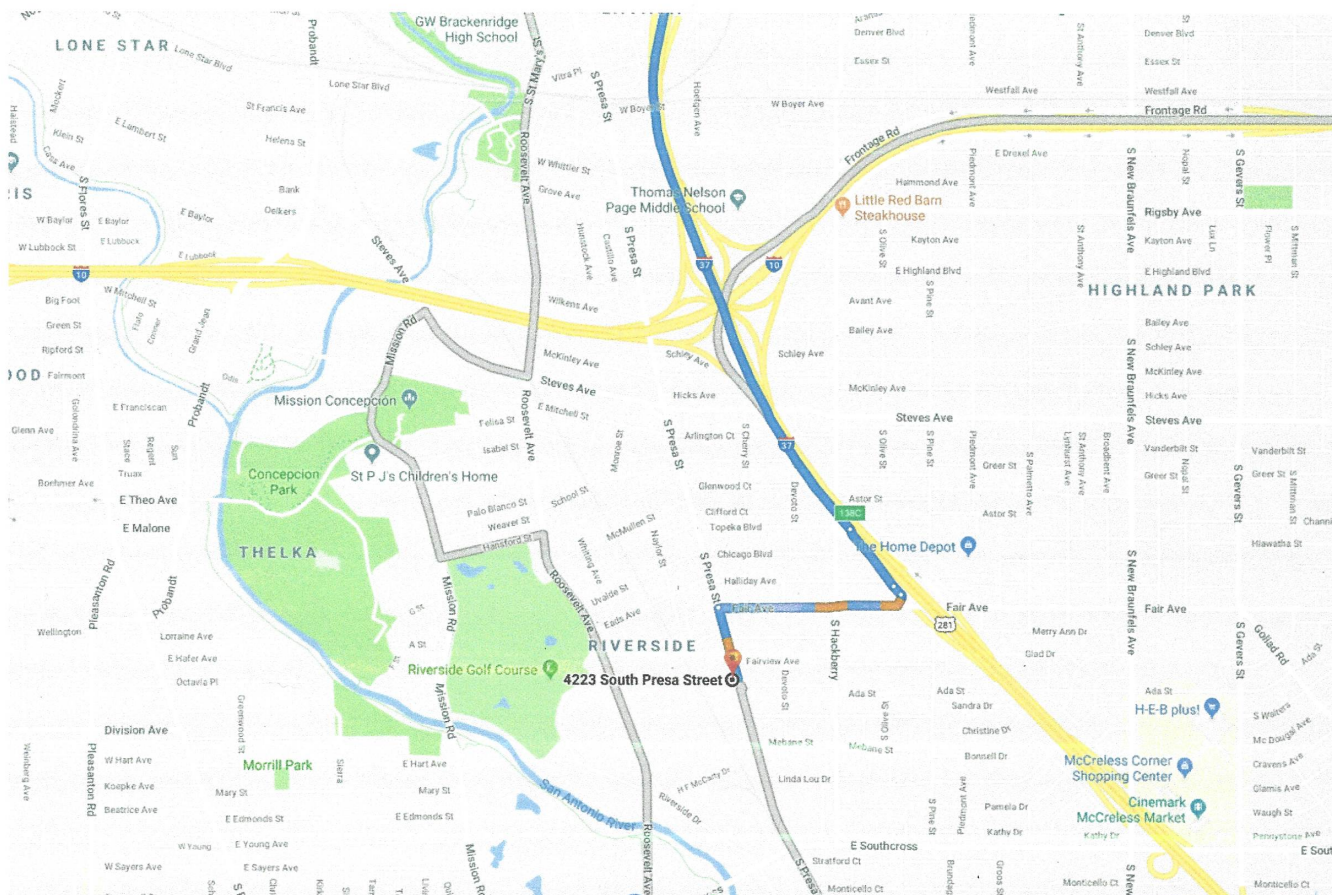
## Hammer For Sale

There is a guy in Floresville with a 50 lb Moloch power hammer that he has done some upgrading on. He will likely list it on the Balcones website as he is having trouble getting the HABA folks to respond. He's asking \$4000.00 for it. His number is 210-279-3518. I didn't get his name because my hearing is poor but he's a friend of Wayne Byrd.

Submitted by Gary Hilton



Trade Item for December is a letter opener.



Meeting Address

4223 S. Presa  
San Antonio, Texas 78223

(Next to Che's Chicken)

**LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR  
LITTLE GIANT POWER  
HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN  
EVER!**

You are invited to join us for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. It will be held Friday March 15 through Saturday March 16, 2019.

First taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana, we carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant from running but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working machine. Sid Suedmeier, former owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from Fred and 25+ years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, but we will also have a new style on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. Our city has a nice selection of cafes, antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

**IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT,  
THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!**

No experience is required to attend this class. Our past classes have been attended

by folks from every walk of life, from students to retirees... anyone who wants to learn can benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class, advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and typically ends by Saturday evening. We are available Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

**2019 REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

- Check enclosed
- Cash in person

(Sorry, we no longer accept credit cards, although credit cards can be used to purchase parts through the Little Giant business owned by Roger Rice, also in Nebraska City)

**POWER HAMMER INFO**

Brand: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402/873-6605 or sidsshop@windstream.net*

*You can contact Roger Rice or Greg Rice about parts and repairs at 402/873-6603. Their email address is mm21654@gmail.com. Website is LittleGiantHammer.com*



*I worked hard to make  
your CHRISTMAS merry.*

## EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

As 2018 comes to a close I believe it is time to ask a hard question.

Does the membership of this group wish for its continued existence?

The old guard is starting to get tired. We need new folks to step up and help run this thing of ours.

Did you know we have a Library? I bet many of the new members do not. When was the last time it was at a meeting? It has been suggested that since so much excellent blacksmithing information is on line.....well, perhaps we do not need the Library. I think that is an awful idea.

I get to say what I think because I am the Editor. Typically I do not feel the need to editorialize but I think the time has come.

What do YOU want out of the group?

What are YOU willing to contribute to keep this thing going?

Make no mistake, the folks who do most of the heavy lifting want to see this wonderful collection of talent and education continue. As with all volunteer organizations, there are some who lead and some who just enjoy the fruits of the leaders labor. We just need a few more leaders to step up.

Please consider what direction Balcones Forge should take in the future.....then share that vision.

Me personally.....I want to see this group continue to grow and flourish. Otherwise I would not keep cranking these newsletters out every month.

What do YOU want?

Happy Holidays,

Vince Herod, Editor

## DEMO OPPORTUNITY

Hello and Happy Fall!

I am president of the Friends of Nameless School, a one-room schoolhouse and the one remaining structure of the Nameless Community on Nameless Road in Northwestern Travis County. You can find us on Facebook to see more about us at Friends of Nameless School.

We are again inviting the community and surrounding areas to spend some time at the school to experience some old-time festivities from the late 1800s to early 1900s.

To that end, we hope to have soap makers, story tellers, spinners and weavers, folks who might present some "living history", reenactors, and demonstrators from bygone eras (Civil War, early West), music, etc.

In addition to our "Day in Historic Nameless" we will also host our biennial community-wide barbecue. If the April 2019 Saturday is anything like this past April 7, we will be even more crowded inside the schoolhouse—but that's ok!

We won't be charging money to attend, nor will we offer remuneration to presenters/participants. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) association, so any participating you do will qualify as tax-deductible on your part.

We hope you'll consider sending a representative (or several!) to join us **Saturday, April 13, 2019** for A Day in Historic Nameless. Please forward this to friends who also might be interested in joining us! Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Mary Cameron, President  
Friends of Nameless School  
maryc2@austin.rr.com



# ABANA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership

- Regular .....\$55       Overseas .....\$65
- Student .....\$45       Contributing.....\$100
- Senior (65+)...\$50       Library .....\$45

\$5 discount for two year memberships and renewals

ABANA Chaper Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

www url: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Information

- Visa       Mastercard

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Submit check, money order (US banks only), or by credit card:

*Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.*  
 259 Muddy Fork Road  
 Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659

Phone: [423-913-1022](tel:423-913-1022), Fax: [423-913-1023](tel:423-913-1023)  
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M E M B E R S H I P    A P P L I C A T I O N

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