



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

October 2021



Greetings!

We had a light turn out at the Texas Wendish Museum Festival in Serbin on September 26th but the crowd and the food were excellent. Tom "The Blacksmith from Wimberly" Leining and Tim Tellander brought their

forges and anvils and put on a good show for the onlookers. We had our usual spot in the shade under the trees between the hit-n-miss engine powered cornmeal grinder and the antique tractors. Our smiths donated several items to the silent auction and got to catch up with old friends over a few beers. It was a fun day.

Our next meeting is October 16th at Blackhawk Millworks in Zorn. Doug Caroselli will host. Several smiths will demo and Tim Tellander will be training a few young knifemakers. There will be some open forges if you like to do a short demo or just get in the fire for a while. Bring a chair. We will finish up around lunch time which will probably be in New Braunfels. Google Maps info: 2780 Dreibrodt Rd, San Marcos, TX 78666 and 512-738-3578 if you get lost. Note the early start time of 8am!

The Trade Item for October is a wall hook made from a horseshoe.

The November meeting will be on the 13th at Jerry Whitley's Rystic Forge in Devine. This will be 9th Memorial meeting. Jerry has Henry Vera lined up to do a tong making demo so bring your cameras and note pads. Competition trade item - a flower - that will be judged and added to a bouquet which will be auctioned. Bring a chair and your favorite beverage and something for the auction. Prize for the best. More to follow. Google Maps info: 295 CR 663, Devine, TX 78016 and 210-288-3961 - Jerry's cell. Meeting starts at 9am.

## Meeting is on October 16

*continued on page 2*



### Officers

#### President

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**COULD BE YOU!!!!!!**



#### Editor

**Vince Herod**  
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512/799-3636

*continued from page 1*

No meeting plans for December.

Time to start making plans for the 2022 ABANA conference in Denton, Texas May 11th – 14th. Check the web site for details:

<https://abana.org/2022-abana-conference/> .

Balcones Forge call for help. We are looking for a few good hardworking people to help with the monthly activities like preparing meetings sites and materials for meetings and cleaning up after the events as well as taking over some the board vacancies. Some of our folks have just become too busy or just too damn old to carry on and need a well-deserved break. If you would like to help please give me a call at 210-842-3049 or email me at [treefarm@swbell.net](mailto:treefarm@swbell.net) or contact one of the other board members.

Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

## **BALCONES FORGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Jerry Whitley, Vice President  
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Maybe this is a Trade Item?



## OCTOBER MEETING INFO

Our next meeting is October 16th **8am to 12 noon** at Blackhawk Millworks in Zorn, 2780 Dreibrodt Rd, San Marcos TX 78666. Blackhawk Forge/Blackhawk Millworks will host with this Balcones Forge Meeting Demo day.

Scheduled blacksmiths will demonstrate using the Anyang 242 & 120 LBS power hammers, also fly press forging with tooling will be demonstrated.

The current blacksmiths scheduled are Haley Woodward & Terry Estes with hopes of Jerry Achterberg sharing his fly press expertise. The knife makers demonstrating will be Alex Ruiz and James Helm. Search on Face Book and Instagram for our demonstrators to preview the talent and knowledge these men have to offer all of us. Tim Tellander will be training a few young knife-makers.

There will be some open forges if you like to do a short demo or just get in the fire for a while.

Please tell your friends and family about this meeting/demo day and maybe we can attract some new members. Bring a chair and water. We will wrap up at 12:00 and meet for lunch which will probably be in New Braunfels.

Trade item - a wall hook made from a horseshoe.

Google Maps info: 2780 Dreibrodt Rd, San Marcos, TX 78666

512-738-1770 if you get lost.

Please look at the Instagram and Face Book pages for updates and like our demonstrators, they can use our support!

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**ABANA Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America**  
**PO Box 462, Johnstown, PA 15907-0462 814 254-4817 [exedir@abana.org](mailto:exedir@abana.org)**  
***'The Foremost Metal Arts Association in North America.'***



Thank you for supporting ABANA. There are many benefits to membership: *National retailer discounts, ABANA shop discount, access to all digital archives, exclusive invitations, educational videos and materials, voting rights, conference and vendor booth registration, and more!* Discounts can be accessed with log in through your email address.

**Please provide an active email address.**

Renew online and build your profile with your bio, shop information, touch mark, and photos of your work. You can also access your digital membership card on-line.

Email:	
Name:	
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State/ Providence and Country:	Zip/ PC:
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**Consider supporting ABANA in perpetuating the noble art of blacksmithing. Donate to:**

**FUND:**                                    **STEEL \$1-\$99**        **COPPER \$100**        **BRONZE \$150**        **DAMASCUS \$500**

<b>General</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Grant &amp; Scholarship</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ABANA Gallery</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Exhibitions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Conference</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Disaster Relief</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Membership: Renewal**     **New Membership**

**Print \$65**  For North America: US, Canada and Mexico only. Publications will be mailed.

**Digital \$55**  Optional for North America. Outside of North America Publications sent electronically.

Membership includes FREE placement in a searchable 'Find a Blacksmith' database to connect to opportunities.

Check here to be included in the searchable on-line 'Find a Blacksmith Directory'

*Credit Card Payment:*

*If different than above:* Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Charge Card Provided  Check enclosed  Money Order Enclosed

Credit Card Payments can be scanned and sent via email [exedir@abana.org](mailto:exedir@abana.org) or call 814 254-4817. Checks or Money Orders should be made out to ABANA in U.S. funds and mailed to the address above. *Form revised March 2021*

*EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2021*

## The Iron to Art Festival in Johnstown, PA is fast approaching.

Not everyone can attend due to a number of circumstances. The opportunity to purchase a \$10 raffle ticket to win this Amazing work of art, filled with tools- Is OPEN TO EVERYONE!

To purchase tickets, follow these steps or call Janie in the Home Office at 814-254-4817.

Go to <https://event.abana.org>

- Scroll down and click on “Member Registration” or “Non-Member Registration”.
- Fill in the information on the first and second page.
- On the third page, scroll down till you see ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION CHOICES.
- Select the number of tickets you would like to purchase.
- Scroll down to the bottom and select the “I ACKNOWLEDGE” box.
- Then click on “Confirm Selection”
- Make your payment.

You do not need to be present at the festival, you do not need to be a member, you just have to be lucky to win! The winner will be announced on Saturday, October 16th and will be responsible for shipping cost.

This gorgeous BAM Box #68. Created by Pat McCarty, is finished and ready for the raffle at the Iron to Art Festival!

Years ago, Pat McCarty committed to making 100 of these boxes. This is #68 of the 100.

Pat is shipping the box to Johnstown, where a lucky raffle winner will claim it.

ABANA extends its gratitude to Pat for making BAM Box #68. You may recall that Pat typically heads up the ABANA Conference set-up crew each year. We will miss Pat at the October festival this year, as he has a scheduling conflict and cannot attend.

Thank you, Pat!





ARTIST-BLACKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

# ABANA

IRON TO  
ART



2021  
JOHNSTOWN,  
PA

## A Festival of Blacksmithing

October 14, 15 & 16

Demonstrations by the best \* Beginner classes for adults \*  
Beginner classes for youth \* Vendors of new tools &  
equipment \* Vendors of books and video resources \*  
Tailgating of used tools & equipment \* Blacksmith craft  
booths \* Gallery of ironwork (Bring yours) \* Auction of  
ironwork \* Iron-in-the-Hat raffle \* Tour of Center for Metal  
Arts \* Public tour of the Festival Saturday \* Dedication of  
the ABANA Home Office \* Intro of the ABANA Executive  
Director \* Camping & RV parking \* Food trucks and nearby  
pub \* and, always, camaraderie

Registration & full details are at  
<https://irontoart.abana.org/>



## **ABANA Affiliate Newsletter - September 2021**

Hello Affiliates,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you all busy and safe in the shop, busy creating and forging one of a kind pieces and sharing our tricks and tips. With the changing colors of the leaves come the changing of temperatures and the change of shop dress attire. Please remember to wear appropriate clothing for the task ie: long pants (denim or cotton or a leather smithy apron) cotton shirt (save polyester for the gym) closed toe shoes and safety glasses are a must.

We are looking for Affiliate photo submissions of your individual or group projects to share in our monthly newsletter. Send your photos to [ironcloverforge@gmail.com](mailto:ironcloverforge@gmail.com) with your name (s) Affiliate name and Affiliate location and what you're creating.

Thank you to all our Affiliate groups for your hard work, dedication to the craft and perseverance during this trying COVID time.

Respectfully Yours,

Chris Rowan  
ABANA Board of Director  
ABANA Affiliate Chairman

I

### **ABANA is creating a touchmark registry**

ABANA is creating a comprehensive registry of touchmarks. To submit your touchmark, please check the ABANA webpage and follow the instructions. <https://abana.org/touchmark-registry/>

Sincerely,  
Jerry Boyd  
ABANA Affiliates Committee  
Shop Helper  
325-207-8253

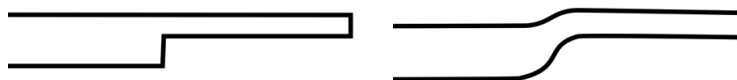
# Upset Square Corner Tent Stake<sup>1</sup>

John McLellan, Loomis  
Oktoberfest 2017

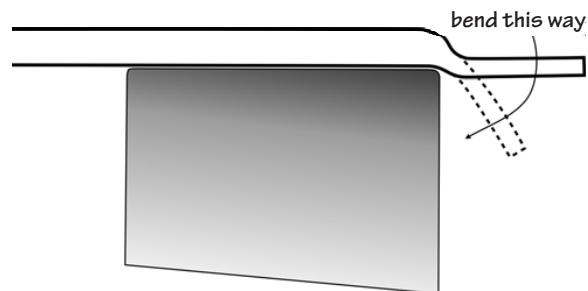


**Stock.**  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18" mild steel.

1. Make a shoulder and flat end.  
Draw out the end to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x 2".  
This will take about 1" of the stock.

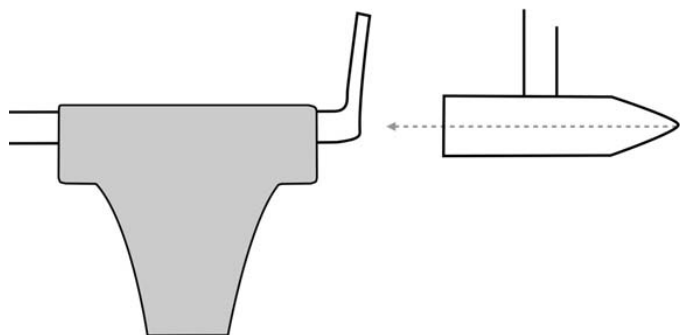


2. Leave the end offset. Make the tip square.

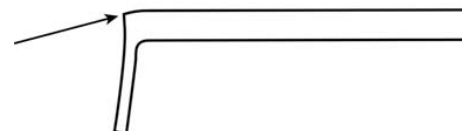


3. Flip it over and bend to an angle less than 90°. Note the direction of the bend.  
If 90° or greater, you are likely to get cracking in the inside corner.

4. Finish the outside of the corner in the vise.  
Take several heats, and use a small hammer.  
Try for a nice smooth inside radius for the corner.



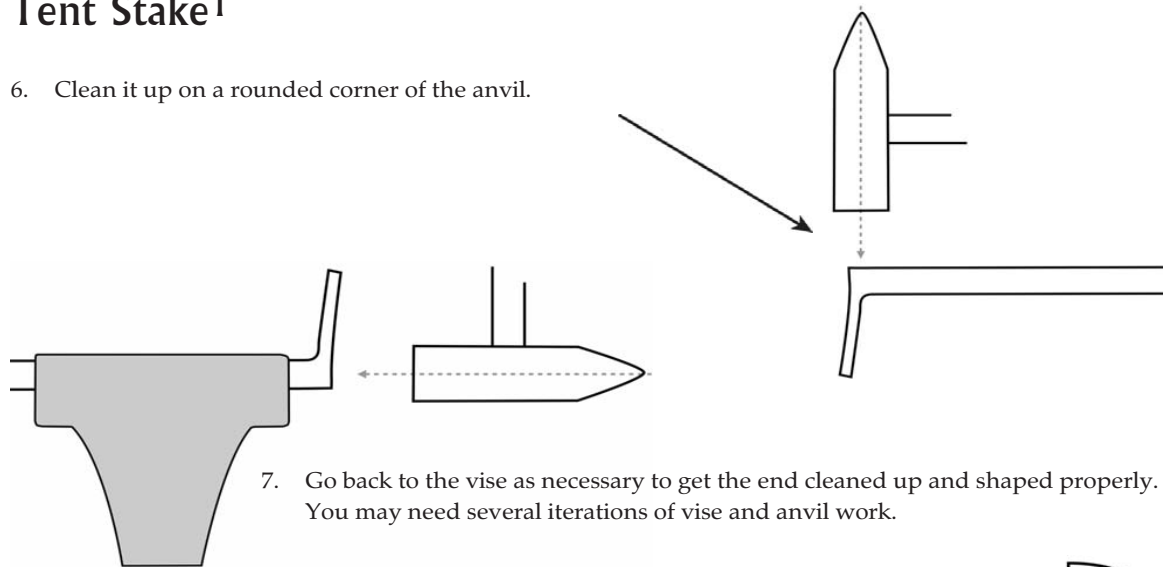
5. Working with the tent stake in the vise, sharpen the outside corner.





# Tent Stake<sup>1</sup>

6. Clean it up on a rounded corner of the anvil.



7. Go back to the vise as necessary to get the end cleaned up and shaped properly. You may need several iterations of vise and anvil work.

8. Once the corner is perfect, roll the eye over the horn.



9. Taper or decorate the other leg of the stake, as you desire.

10. Clean it up and admire!



## Words of Wisdom ~ John McLellan

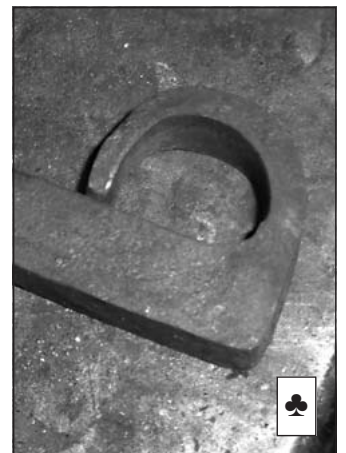
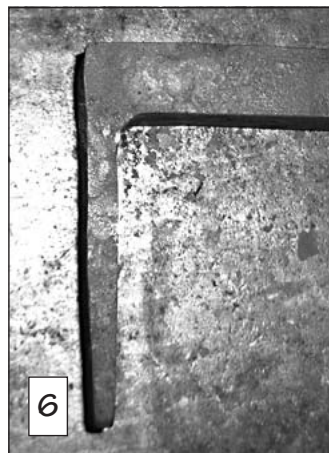
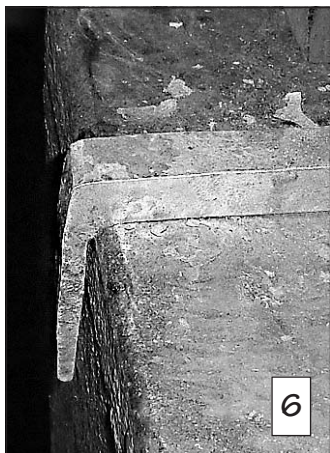
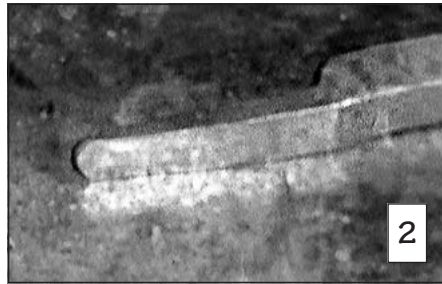
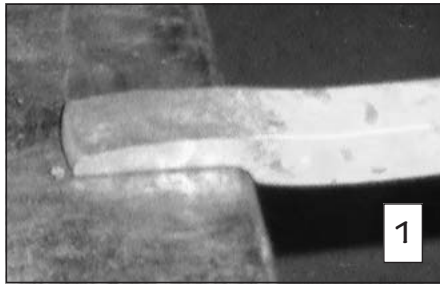
- ◆ An apprentice is someone who makes lots of mistakes.
- ◆ A journeyman is someone who knows how to fix them.
- ◆ A master makes it look like that was the plan all along.
  
- ◆ Learn the process first and become proficient. Then work on doing it faster.

*(see photo sequence on next page)*

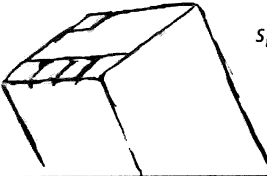
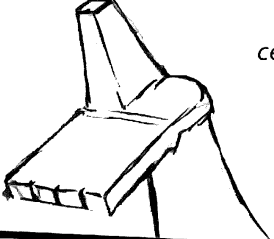
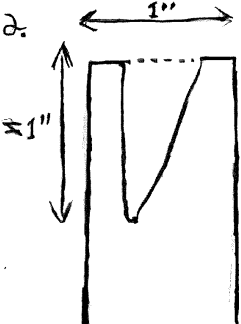

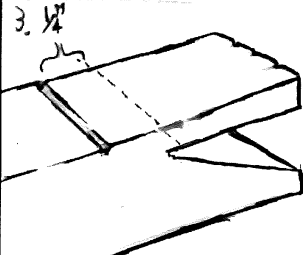
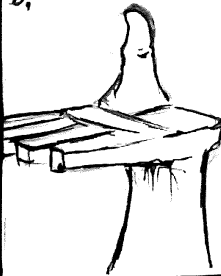
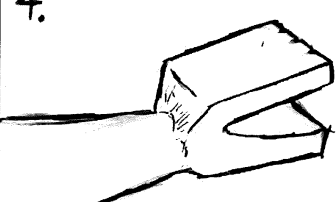
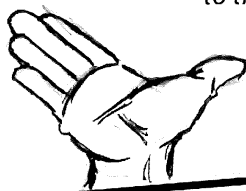
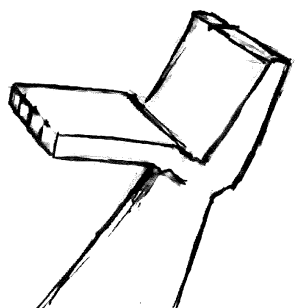

# Tent Stake<sup>1</sup>

## John's demonstration at Oktoberfest 2018

Numbers on the photos correspond to the numbered steps in the process explained on the previous pages.



## Peter Jonasson: Making a Hand

	<p>1. mark the fingers on your 1" bar like so. Tip: cut three equally spaced marks for the four fingers and thumb. Like so.</p>		<p>6. 1. Now from the thumb mark, cut at an angle to the center of the palm.</p>
	<p>2. 1. Now, cut straight down about the thickness of the bar, in this case cut down 1" or a little more. Then from the thumbs mark, cut at a diagonal angle to the bottom of your first cut.</p>		<p>7. 1. Mark and cut the four-fingers to proper length. Use your own hand as a reference.</p>
	<p>3. <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> ~Important~ On the back of the hand mark <math>\frac{1}{4}</math> on an inch bellow the end of the first cut inside the bar.</p>		<p>8. 1. Now shape and shorten the thumb, it should be around as long as the index finger. Shape with a grinder.</p>
	<p>4. 1. Now taper out the wrist on the edge of the anvil. Keep going until proper proportions are met.</p>		<p>9. 1. Lay down the thumb to the side.</p>
	<p>5. 1. Now fold the Four-fingers into a horizontal position.</p>		<p>10. And finally round off and detail the fingers and palm, ( Use your own hand as reference as much as possible.).  Add in as much detail to the hand as you want and above all else. Have fun!</p>





Vincent Herod  
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