



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

September 2011



Greetings!

Hope everyone is coping with the heat and lack of rain. This hasn't been the best weather for hanging out at the forge, but this is Texas. Not much else to say.

Please be aware that some of the current board members have served well past their obligation, need to be replaced before we burn them out. John Crouchet, Secretary and Rudy Billings, Treasurer have both been excellent in their posts, but they both need a break to get on with more pressing family issues. Thank you both for your devotion!

The board will now be accepting nominations for new board members. Give this some thought.

The September meeting will be hosted by Jim Schmidt in Austin. I will bring my collection of "junkyard tools" and jigs. I think I have more fun making tools than using them, and it's usually from old metal that I have found or salvaged. Several of our past demonstrators showed us special jigs to save time and ease production. Many of you have copied or made your own version of these cool tools.

If you have made such a tool or jig, please bring it to the meeting and show it off. Even if it's one that's been around for a few years, we have many new folks, and probably a few old timers that would like to see it.

Don't forget to make a piece of jewelry to trade. Make something pretty out of any kind of metal that you or a member of your family would wear out in public. I hope this doesn't cramp anybody's style.

President's message continued on page 2



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President's message continued

We still need to hear from you! We want your ideas, your suggestions and your likes and dislikes. Do you want to demo or host a meeting? All it takes is a call or an email.

Hope to see you all in Austin.

Jerry Achterberg
Balcones Forge President

The meeting date is September 17

LEG VISE

Balcones Forge is on the look out for a leg vise to donate to the Waldorf School. Does anyone out there have an extra that could go to a good cause?

Please let one of the officers know if you do.

TRADE ITEM

The trade item for September is a piece of jewelry. Now this is certainly a chance for all of us to shine as the possibilities are limitless. What do you see in your mind's eye? Once you see it, go out and make it.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Bluebonnet Demo for 2012 will feature Elizabeth Brim. Check out the ABANA website for a gallery entry showing off her award winning talent. Once the date is set, you all will be the first to know.

MEETING INFO

Sept. 17, 2011 Meeting; 9:30 AM

This meeting will be at American Youthworks in Austin where Jim Schmidt is teaching basic blacksmithing. His students have built a stove forge and blower stand in the Zilker Park style. They also made a hood and chimney for the forge from parts of a house chimney. The masonry students built two rubble walls around the blacksmithing area. Jim will do a demonstration on "fold forming" with steel and copper and the shop will be available to anyone who wants to do some forging.

Show us your jigs! Be sure and bring any great jigs or tooling that you have created for the show and tell portion of the meeting.

American Youth Works is located at:

1901 East Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741

This is the corner of Ben White and Woodward in south Austin. Going south on Woodward you turn right before you cross the railroad tracks and go past the Quizno's and park next to the next building.

A somewhat fuzzy map is on the back page.

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Please note the new phone number for President Jerry Achterberg. It is on the front page of this very newsletter.

The Balcones Forge Newsletter is written by the editor except as noted. Balcones Forge, its officers, members, contributors, editors and writers specifically disclaim any responsibility, or liability for any damage, or injury as a result of the use of any information published in the newsletter or demonstrated at a meeting or conference. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy and safety of information provided but the use by our members and readers of any information published herein or provided at meetings is solely at the user's own risk.



We will be back to a full size news-letter next month.

The Bastrop Complex Fire came too close for comfort to your Editor's house and shop.

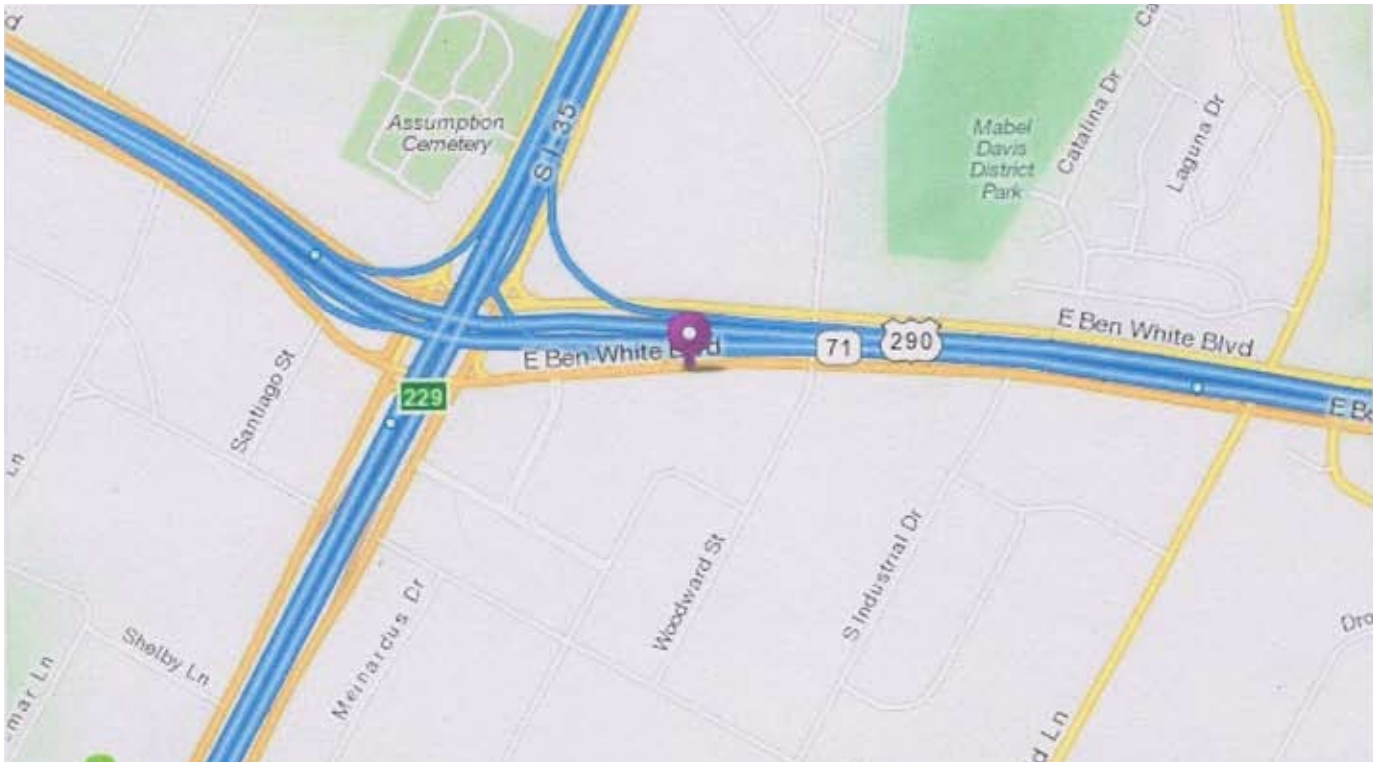
Those aren't clouds in this picture!

Photo by Jennifer Nichols

EDITOR'S SOAP BOX

As blacksmiths we must learn to both love and respect fire. Recently Jenny and I were reminded why it is also to be feared. We were lucky; we were only inconvenienced. The fire that came within two miles of our home has created over 1350 new homeless families in Bastrop. Have a plan; what do you really need to take? Should that 5 gallon gas can really be in the carport? Keep copies of important papers on a flash drive in a safety deposit box and have pictures of all your equipment safely stored away.

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



Map to American Youth Works at 1901 East Ben White Blvd, Austin, TX 78741

Meeting is on September 17 at 9:30 am

Return Service Requested

