

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTIST-BLACKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA



Volume 32 Number 3

Third Quarter 2013



Joe Allen (left), Don McDunnah, and Robert Timberlake forge welding a damascus billet under the watchful eye of Master Bladesmith Tommy McNabb (right)

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A Message from our President

Greetings from the Eastern slope of the Blue Ridge,

After more rain than anybody can remember at least as far back as the 'forty flood, it is drying out enough to bring the blueberries on, and a gracious plenty to stay busy with in the shops with the fall schedule to commence at the end of the month. Several local groups are planning educational demonstrations concluding with the Dixie Classic and North Carolina State Fairs. The board and officers have been busy working on policy and administration chores and consensus building.

The Q3 meeting will be at The Island Farm Museum in Manteo, NC on Saturday, September 14th

beginning at 9 am. Randy Hodges has organized what will be an entertaining, educational and interesting event. People are fascinated to see things made and we can all improve the perception of value in our offerings by educating the public on how we make things. See his meeting notice for details. Thanks, Randy.

Garrett Dunn has reworked the Scholarship Program and requirements to better serve the applicants, making administration easier and added a new category to further this effort. See his report for an excellent contribution.

Eric Campbell has stepped up to succeed Parks Low in his part of the operation of the Heritage Forge at the State Fair. Please support Eric's efforts in transition and contact him directly for demonstrating and sales opportunities.

Thanks to Cindy Alexander for her continued representation of our chapter at the recent SBA conference. She has done a long and fine job with this and is looking for someone to assist her in 2015 so that she may pass the baton in style. Be sure to see pictures and article in this issue.

There is a lot of positive momentum in the association right now and I am encouraged as we move forward. It is not too early to be looking at the 2014 calendar and to start packing for the Fair.

Take care, hammer strong and stay safe,

Lyle Wheeler, President NC ABANA



Postscript

The blacksmithing world is saddened at the recent passing of Don Dillon. Don was a charter member of NC ABANA and our first Secretary. He was the master of the Heritage Forge at the North Carolina State Fair for a number of years and during his tenure in that position the shop was twice recognized and honored as an outstanding exhibit of the fair by then Commissioner of Agriculture, Jim Graham. Don was well known in many circles and maintained phone contact with a multitude of people, being the glue that held folks together. He tromped the briars, making our paths easier.

Fair thee well, friend.

NC ABANA Reports

Vice-president's Report



The Fairs are coming! The Fairs are coming! Did you know that over the last 3 years the State Fair has averaged over a million attendees per year? One of the services the club offers to you is to give you the opportunity to demonstrate and sell at some of the largest annual events in

North Carolina. This year the Dixie Classic in Winston Salem is Oct 4 -13 and the State Fair in Raleigh is from Oct 17 - 27. That is almost an entire month of opportunity to show your work and skill to the continual stream of people coming through the NC ABANA demo shops. You can sign up to demonstrate or just send your work to sell.

Here are the details:

For the Dixie Classic contact Marshal Swaringen to arrange for your attendance. He will give you all the details of their rules and policies. Their focus is primarily on the fellowship and enjoyment of being with your fellow smiths, the excitement of the demonstrations and the interactions with the people watching the demos.

For the State Fair in Raleigh we have an official sales arrangement and shop stocked with goods. You can attend to demonstrate, attend to sell your work, or just send your work for sale. Last year we tried out allowing people to use credit cards and got away from the former cash only plan. The result was a big uptick in sales since it was easier for people to pay for what they wanted.

For the State Fair in Raleigh you pay a small commission to sell your work to the continual stream of attendees. As of this writing we are still finalizing the plan but the commission will be considerably less than any other venue or shop I know of. The proceeds from the commission go to paying for the space, the insurance, the sales tax and the credit card fees. Sorry that it can't be free but anyone who has spent all day trying to sell instead of smithing knows that the selling side

has real costs and you have to pay them one way or another. Anything left over after that will be applied to keeping the club running and ultimately of course to contributing to funding the scholarships that are so important to creating our next generation blacksmiths.

There are so many people coming through the State Fair that normally we come close to running out of things to sell and the shop gets pretty empty by the end of the fair. This is great news for those of us who are putting things into the shop to sell. The sweet spot is around \$20-\$30 on the price tag and pretty much anything that looks interesting in that price range is likely to sell considering the million people attending. This is a great opportunity to make your shop help pay for itself or to fund another big item you have been thinking about. So get out there and get some of your favorite trade goods ready to go by October!!

There is something else we are looking at this year to make the club work for you. We are trying to setup a shuttle to the western and eastern parts of the state to pick up and move your work to Raleigh for you this year to make it easier to get into the shop. If you have an interest in taking advantage of this, call me at 919 451 0857 before Oct 1 and I will see if we can work something out. If enough people are interested we will pick a day to meet you and do most of the driving just to help you get your items into the sales booth.

Another big focus of the VP job is to oversee the scholarship program. NC ABANA is about promoting blacksmithing at all levels of the craft from beginner through hobbyist to professional. We have been looking for ways that we do more for the professional smiths and we see an opportunity to support people who have chosen the profession through the colleges. There are some new programs that have developed in the community colleges in the last few years, notably at the Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, NC. Their programs for artist blacksmithing and professional smiths is an exciting opportunity that we should do everything we can to encourage as an organization. So we are going to support them by creating a student chapter at their campus and any other community college that is interested. We will help those chapters in a number of ways.

One way we will help will be to arrange for volunteer demonstrators to come in, give demos, and supplement the experience they are getting from their instructors. This will be your opportunity to meet, encourage, and get some excitement back from the next generation by passing on the gifts you have been given.

Another will be the new student scholarship, a third class of scholarship that we have just developed. This new scholarship is intended to help the promising new smith who needs help with tuition money at a formal program. I am excited to announce that we will accepting applications in this area and am looking forward to meeting them and seeing their work.

Call me and I will set you up to do a demo and share your skills with our next generation of professional smiths. Or just brace yourself to say yes when I ask!! In any event, get into the shop and make something new this week.

Hammer on!
Garret

Secretary's Report



The business meeting of the NC ABANA chapter was held at the second quarter chapter meeting at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds in Winston Salem, NC on June 29th, 2013. The meeting was led by Vice President Garret Dunn.

Nominations were held for the positions of vice president and secretary. Cindy Alexander nominated Garret Dunn for the position of vice president. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges with Garret accepting the nomination. Cindy Alexander nominated Jennifer Phillips for the position of secretary. The motion was seconded by Bernd Mergener with Jennifer accepting the nomination. Nominations will also be opened at the third quarter meeting. If there are more candidates, a vote will be held via mail before the fourth quarter meeting, where the winners will be announced. The people elected to the position of vice president and secretary this year will begin their term on January 1st, 2014 and will be in position for 2 years.

The third quarter meeting for NC ABANA will be in Manteo, NC at the living history museum on Roanoke Island. Randy Hodges will host the meeting starting at 9am on September 14th, 2013. Free camping might be possible as well with details to be announced later along with who will be demonstrating.

Cindy Alexander will be representing NC ABANA for another Southern Blacksmithing Association conference to take place in 2015 in Madison, GA. NC ABANA is looking for a new representative to help after the next conference. Please email northcarolina.abana@gmail.com or Cindy for more information. This year the SBA Conference raised \$2000 for NC ABANA.

Iron-in-the-Hat raised \$184 for the scholarship fund at this meeting. Scholarships for 2013 are available, please visit the website for more information (ncabana.org).

Before the chapter meeting on June 29th, 2013, the board of directors for NC ABANA held a quorum to discuss business. Board members present included Garret Dunn (Vice President), Jennifer Phillips (Secretary), Jim Kennady (Treasurer), Marshall Swaringen (Triad Area Blacksmith Chapter Leader), Steve Barringer (Southern Foothills Blacksmith



**Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
Annual Conference
BG Farms, Ocala Florida
October 11-13, 2013**

Demonstrators:

Roberta Elliott, traditional forging
Elsa Fantino, blade smith
Heather McLarty, chasing & repoussé

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Forging contests, Trade Item Exchange,
Iron in the Hat, vendor & tailgate sales,
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Banquet & Auction Saturday evening

Full information and online registration at
www.FABAConference.org

Leader), Randy Stoltz (Triangle Blacksmith Guild Leader), Randy Hodges (BOLTS Leader), Doug Wilson (“Hot Iron Sparkle” Editor), and Cindy Alexander (SBA Conference Representative and general advisor).

The first action taken was to approve the bulk mailing fee for NC ABANA and place the newsletter editor in responsibility of paying the fee each subsequent year as an ongoing resolution to this action. Garret called the motion; Marshall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The next motion was to help cover planned expenses for the 2013 NC State Fair in October. Jim Kennady proposed an allotment of \$500 for coal, drinks, and other expenses incurred during the week of the fair. Motion was seconded by Cindy and approved unanimously.

The last motion involved discussing other operating expenses and commission for sellers at the NC State Fair. The discussion continued online with the outcome posted elsewhere in this issue.

If you would like more information about the board meeting or a copy of the board meeting minutes in its entirety, please email Jennifer Phillips, the secretary for NC ABANA, at northcarolina.abana@gmail.com.

Treasurer’s Report



Business Checking Account	2013 YTD	2013 Budget
Dues	\$3,625	\$4,950
Heritage Forge at NC State Fair	\$885	\$918
Newsletter Printing and Postage	-\$1,105	-\$2,382
Newsletter Editor Fee	-\$600	-\$1,200
Insurance	-\$1,460	-\$1,180
State Wide Quarterly Meetings	-\$340	-\$1,000
SBA Madison Conference	\$1,539	-\$500
Other	-\$82	-\$300
Net	\$2,462	-\$694.00
Ledger Balance	\$11,753	

Money Market Account	2013 YTD	2013 Budget
Income	\$1,180	\$1,497
Scholarships		\$1,400
Net	\$1,180	\$97
Ledger Balance	\$5,155	

Jim Kennady, Treasurer of NC ABANA



SOUTHERN OHIO FORGE & ANVIL
QUADSTATE
September 27-29, 2013
Theme: “Early American Wares”
Items that would have been made for sale or trade.

Message from the Editor

I notice different things about blacksmithing now that I am a newsletter editor. People's names, what are all the steps needed to tell a complete story, how different individuals do things differently but just as well. With the loss of Don Dillon, I am really aware of how many obituaries I am editing.

This is not just the loss of loved and valued blacksmiths. It is also potentially the loss of knowledge. The first is inevitable; the second we can do something about. Each of the members we have lost has been active in passing on their knowledge through NC ABANA, apprenticeships and teaching. Each of us should be aware of what we have to share and see that it survives us. Jerry Darnell did just that in his recent publication of the first volume of his shop notes. Kudos Jerry.

My son works for a software project called LOCKS, Lots of Copies Keeps Things Safe. They distribute electronic copies of the scientific literature to many libraries to be sure it survives. Just because something has been done and documented once does not mean it can be found in the future.

Think about what you know and can share. Give a demo, write an article, author a book. The rest of us will thank you.

Doug Wilson

New Members

Ryan Burns	Kernersville
John Henry Hnatow	Fairview
Sam Thompson	Westfield
Jeannette Low	Durham
R. Dale Mashburn	Sanford
Donald McDunnah	High Point
Norman Rabek	Burnsville

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NC State Fair 2013

Al Andrews will once again be Master of the Forge at the North Carolina State Fair for the 2013 edition. The fair opens at 3:00 pm Thursday, October 17th and runs through Sunday, October 27th this year. Please give Al your full cooperation in working the forge at the fair.

Eric Campbell has stepped up to assume the duties of Parks Low and will be in charge of the sales area and scheduling the demonstrators. Please contact him directly to arrange demonstration time(s) and delivery of work to be sold.

Two considerations for demonstrators. The forge is fairly well equipped but if you are planning a demo which requires specific tooling please bring your own to assure a good demonstration. The same goes for steel. While there will be some general sizes and quantities available, if your demo requires a specific size of material, bring it with you.

After much consideration and some reconsideration the board of trustees has decided upon the following sales agreement for consigned items to be sold at the fair.

20 % consignment fee for demonstrators and 25 % fee for non-demonstrators. This amount will be deducted from your total sales. Out of this amount will be paid the sales tax and any transaction fees. The remainder will be retained by the chapter to cover building rental, insurance and operating expenses. After all this, any remaining funds will be retained by the chapter for the general fund.

Saturday, August 24th will be a work day at the shop for some minor repairs that Al Andrews will be organizing. We will also be installing the new sign (hopefully) and the new wi-fi connection. The fairgrounds will be replacing the main door and working on the run-off problem in the front of the building as well as the possibility of new lighting in the sales area.

Saturday, October 5th, will be set-up and safety review day. Everyone demonstrating at the fair will need to attend this safety review or do a one-on-one with the Master of the Forge prior to demonstrating. The only exception to this is if you have previously and recently demonstrated at the Dixie Classic Fair. To this end there will be no double striking and no forge welding as part of any demonstration.

SAFETY FIRST!

The fair is an excellent chance to educate the general public about the value of the handmade object and the effort it takes to create it. Please consider this opportunity,

Lyle Wheeler, President, NC ABANA

Book Review

Forging Colonial Ironwork

Author: Jerry Darnell

Having had some conversations with Jerry Darnell over the years, I was delighted to return from a recent trip to the answerphone flashing and the message from Jerry announcing publication of his first book. I have taken a few classes from him at JCCFS and always come away with the confidence that with enough practice and the class notes I might



could make another one. A good portion of the price of admission was the notes. I am truly grateful that Jerry has seen fit to publish this first volume of class notes. Now, when stymied at the anvil, I can shed light on the answer to the age old question, "What Would Jerry Do?", by referring to this compilation of inspiration. It is way past time for this book, for as we progress in our skill level it passes from the "how" to the "what", with a little insight as to "why". Thank you Jerry, and please reserve a copy of your successive volumes for me.

Submitted by Lyle Wheeler

Order directly from Jerry at: forge_on@rtmc.net

(photo by Randy Stoltz)

Proposed 2014 NC ABANA Dates

In planning publishing of THE HOT IRON SPARKLE for 2014, the editor put together this proposal for meeting and publication dates for next year. If you see any conflicts or know of any needed changes, please raise them with an NC ABANA board member to discuss at their next board meeting in September.

Quarterly Meetings

Quarter 1 - 15 March

Quarter 2 - 28 June

Quarter 3 - 13 September

Quarter 4 - 6 December

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE Publication Dates

Quarter 1 - 17 Feb

Quarter 2 - 26 May

Quarter 3 - 11 August

Quarter 4 - 3 November

"Forever, Side By Side"

I lost a brother, a mentor and a close friend in Don Dillon, today, August 6, 2013.

Ten years ago, in my search for a blacksmith and to satisfy my interest in forging metal, I spoke with Don, first, via telephone. After a brief explanation of my interests and an invite, I soon met his person. It was in his 30x50 cinderblock forge where, I thought, I was first introduced to his crisp hammer blows and mastery over the hot steel he enslaved to fire, hammer and anvil.

Why do I say: I thought?

Well, it just so happens, many years ago, before I found myself in Don's forge, Don was the smith that first captured my attention. Yeap, I was the young boy that loved the sound of a ringing anvil, the smell of burning coal and the bright glow of hot steel. And, yes, you all know that kid. The one that, once finding the blacksmith, no matter what the event, is there until its time to leave. For what kid isn't fascinated with playing with fire and in such a way so as not to draw negative attention. I can't even begin to count the times my hind end met with switch or belt because I got caught playing with fire. I don't recall the year, but it was Don entertaining the crowds at the NC. State Fair where I was so captivated by his craft and the unique way he interacted with his crowd.

You see, Don didn't just give a dry demonstration of his forging skills. He gave more than that. With Don's demos, came, a little, light comedy, some music from his harmonica, eye to eye conversation and a sense that he really appreciated you being there.

Now, I don't remember all that from my youth. But from having been in his same circle of friends and family for the last 10 years, I know he was the same then as he was during my apprenticeship under him. If you can call it that. Don and I soon became good friends. It didn't quite seem like he was my master and I his apprentice. As soon as he saw that I have a natural feel for forging, you see, he put me right to work, hammering out what I thought were simple items such as hooks, leaves and BBQ forks. I didn't realize how complicated those items should have been for a beginner. But Don saw my potential and he utilized it to his and my benefit. Little did I know, after a few hundred leaves and hooks, my forging skills such as hammer control and an understanding of how the metal should move when struck, had developed enough to help him with his more complicated projects. Yes, before I knew it, I was right in there with him, striking where he struck, heating the



metal or watching it so as not to let it burn in the fire, giving him a second set of eyes, and running back and forth to the coal pile.

Don would forge and assemble the occasional fire screen, forge tobacco leaves, hooks, trivets, fireplace tools, firedogs, skinning knives, tomahawk and hatchet heads, etc. He even let me forge the leaves for a chandelier he made to look like a small brush pile. But, most of Don's shop time was spent forging carving tools, making handles for his tools and sculpting mule heads.

The years I spent with Don revealed to me a man that loves his family and friends. A man that, truly, knew the value of having friends as well as being one.

The times we worked together in his shop, at the NC. State Fair, the Seagrove pottery festival or wherever, were definitely times well spent. He touched many lives all over the world.

Wherever his tools went, there also went something else. An extra tool that he may have slipped in with the order, a personalized note, a thank you and always a product guarantee. But of all, the 'something else', the extra that no other blacksmith could add, was the outstanding quality of his hand forged items and his obvious, to my eyes, forging style.

Few people new this, but, sometimes, Don's style would, actually, interfere with the function of some tools he made. And he knew this. Although Don knew that function is more important than esthetics when it applies to tools, he still had to

overcome the desire to give the tool both those qualities. Now, I'm not saying that Don was cutting himself short. He knew that the more time he spent on that tool, the more he would have to charge for it, and he had way, too much respect for the person wanting the item. So, to keep costs down, his aim was to concentrate on quality and performance. So much so, that he sought the guidance of the best of the best of those that specialized in the use of such tool. One example is that of master doughbowl carver, James Madrin. But, that's another story that I'm sure Mr. Madrin would love to tell. Just ask him what it means to "Lennyize" an adze.

Thank you, Don for all you've given me. Your hammer blows will show through my work for as long as I can throw a hammer and strike while the metal's hot.

(Thanks to Amos Tucker for use of his photos of Don and his work from theblacksmithsanvil.com)

Your memory will live on through your wife, Caroline, your son, Andy, daughter, Jennifer, your grandchildren and all others you've touched.

My love will forever remain with the craft we share, the many thoughts and memories of you in my mind.

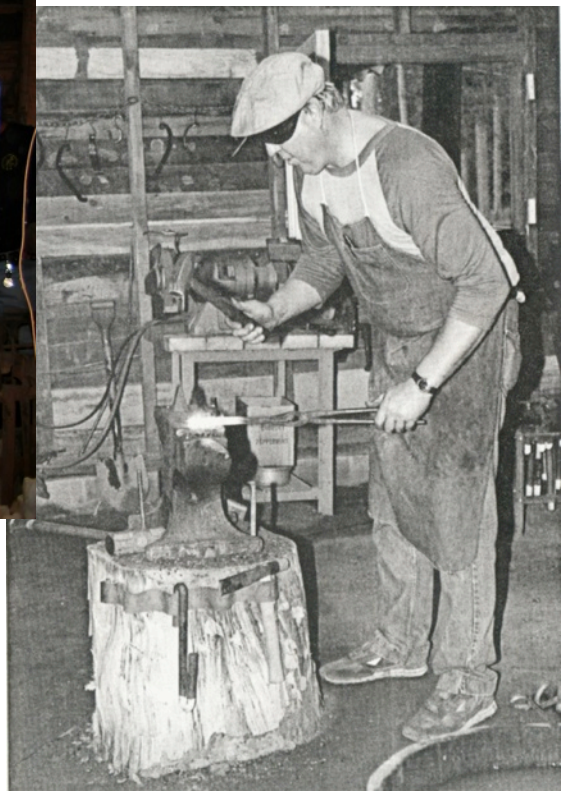
When I step back to look at my work, it will be yours I see, pleasantly melded with mine.

Forever, Side by side.

Lenny Moore, apprentice to Don Dillon



Don Dillon with Jerry Darnell striking (photo by Marty Lyon)



*Don from The Hot Iron Sparkle,
Vol 2, No. 4, 1984*

Regional Reports

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths

Report and photos from Ray Clontz

We had a good turnout for the June and July meetings with many projects going on. The members and visitors work on their own projects with help and advice from more experienced members. Some of the members worked on forging knives from rail road spikes and steel from automobile springs.



Forging and axe at the anvil



Shawn Emmons forges a knife from an engine head bolt



Railroad spike knife with pineapple twist



Houston Findley is fitted by his mother for a medieval knight's helmet he wants to make



Butch Silver helping Houston dish the helmet crown. This turned out to be quite a job and will probably be continued at the August meeting.



Arts & Crafts style mailbox fabricated by Ted Thompson

Wilkes Teaching Forge

Report from Lyle Wheeler, photos by Dave Baker

The Wilkes Teaching Forge (WTF) has met consistently the past three months at the Wilbar Forge, hosted by Gary Roath.

May's forging activity was centered around a demonstration of a progression of twists led by master of the forge, Gary Roath. He started with a simple twist, then showed a veined twist and progressed to a back and forth with alternate corner veining that he uses as a featured twist in the oyster knife/bottle opener he makes. The finale was a ribbon twist in 3/8 round. David Baker lead show and tell with tooling and scroll jigs for Fleur De Lis finials on a multi-plant hanger he was making bending 1/8 X 3/4 cold. David brought his boys Colton and Tyler and they worked on hooks, making one apiece.

June saw the return of Chris Hayes to the group on summer vacation from Chapel Hill. Chris was guided through a railroad spike knife as shown by Doug Merkel at the Q1 meeting. John Freas completed work on a Colonial candle stand. Participation as a demonstration at the upcoming Old Fashioned Day at Wilkes County's Stone Mountain State Park for September 21st was discussed.

July welcomed Robbie Edwards who made his first hook and James Jones who observed and offered discussion of forge welding. Special guest was Will Wheeler who demonstrated his hook making ability by making a beam hook out of 5/16 square. An unsuccessful attempt was made on a large section "T" weld and welding theory was revisited and the reasons welds fail were discussed. The paperwork for the Stone Mountain demo was reviewed and completed.

Wilkes Teaching Forge meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. 336/838-2284 or 336/984-9786 for location and confirmation.



Tyler (left) and Colton Baker with Lyle Wheeler



Cold bending jig used to make simple scrolls

Tool Steel for Sale

After supplying the materials for a recent tire hammer & tool build, I am now offering competitively priced tool steels to the local blacksmithing and horseshoeing communities. I have a small inventory of S-7 and H13 rounds in stock. Other sizes, shapes, and tool steel types can generally be delivered in about a week.

Contact *Walt Beckwith* for a quote or more information c/o

Woods Edge
3745 Swarthmore Rd.
Durham, NC 27707
1-919-309-5667 or by e-mail at: wbeckwith@mindspring.com

Triad Area Blacksmiths

Report from Marshall Swaringen

The big event for this past quarter was the Triad Area Blacksmiths hosting the 2nd quarter State meeting of NC ABANA. After watching Tommy McNabb and Joe Allen work making Damascus steel, it left you with no doubt why Damascus steel knives are so expensive. Ian Thomsen did the afternoon session on wizard heads. Ian demonstrated several methods on making the wizard heads.

Lunch was BBQ by Marshall Swaringen, and as always was excellent.

Joe Allen has on several occasions demonstrated making flower rings which was demonstrated by Andy Phillips at the 1st quarter State meeting. Joe has become our "in-house" ring man. What a great example of one smith teaching another and passing it on.

The fall season is shaping up to be busy as always with our smiths working local events and with the Dixie Classic Fair. The fair is our biggest event running through Oct 4th to the 13th.

Join NC ABANA

Annual dues are \$25 (inside USA), \$35 (outside USA). Make check or money order payable to NC ABANA and send it to:

NC ABANA c/o J. Phillips
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MADE IN THE USA

Event Reports

SBA Conference

Southern Blacksmith Association Conference - Madison, GA

Article and photos by Doug Wilson

The biannual Southern Blacksmiths Association conference was held in May at the Lions Club Fairground in Madison, GA. The event is known for its quality demonstrations, active tailgating and strong regional attendance. This year was no exception.

Tailgaters were already active when Garret Dunn, Jim Kroeger and I rolled into the grounds the afternoon before. A quick walk of the wares left Garret's truck already starting to feel the weight of newfound tools.



Well preserved leg vises just crying for a new home

The demonstration areas were well organized and ready to go with plenty of good seating. There was camping around the edges of the grounds and we were quickly set up and ready to find old friends and watch some smithing.



Preparation of the facilities was immaculate.

There were two headline demonstrators for the conference. Steve Williamson from Columbia, TN and Ernie Dorrill from Canton, MS.

Steve is best known for his animal heads and dragons. He traces his influences to Darrel Nelson and Dan Boone which can be seen in the style of his work. He also demonstrated some traditional forging based on an exercise from one of Otto Schmirler's books.



This is where he is going, an upset corner on the diagonal

Steve used a right angle v-block in the vise to support the inside of the corner and a v-block on the outside of the corner to clamp the piece and support the corner being upset.



Upsetting the corner in the vise against a v-block.



Driving down the top of the corner with a v-shaped top swage



A finished piece showing use of a square corner on the diagonal

The demonstration areas were next to each other so it was possible, if a bit schizophrenic, to follow both demonstrations.

While Steve was demonstrating square corners and then further warming up with an eagle head bottle opener and horse head, Ernie Dorrill was entertaining the crowd with stories of gothic design, chasing and repoussé.



Cleaning up the corner with a hot rasp



Ernie Dorrill, "So what did the four petals of this flower mean in 16th century France?"

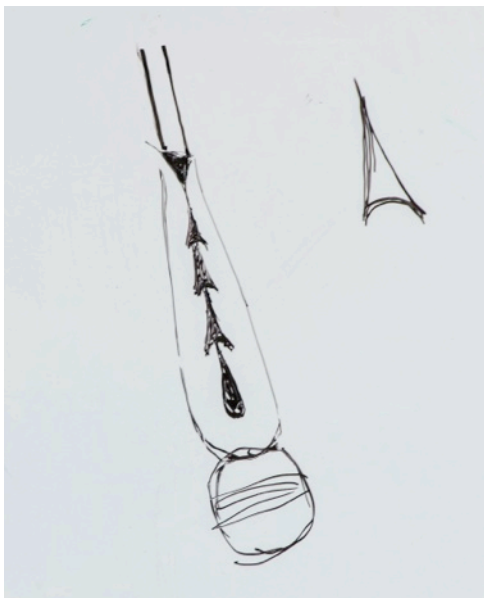
You may not think of lectures on art history as entertainment but it is when Ernie applies his personal flavor of academic rigor and humor. He got his initial inspiration from George Dixon and uses the techniques popularized by George to do chasing and repoussé under the treadle hammer. The style that he prefers is gothic especially as interpreted by Samuel Yellin. His first exercise was creating a leaf element using chasing in the round. As with most of his pieces, he had to reinvent how an original piece was made based on blacksmithing knowledge, examining original pieces and experimentation.

The chasing is done with just a few chasing tools specially shaped to form the indented areas. The punching is done hot,

starting with a preform already tapered and close to the finished shape.



Finished leaf element on a lamp stem



Sketch of the piece and main tool shape



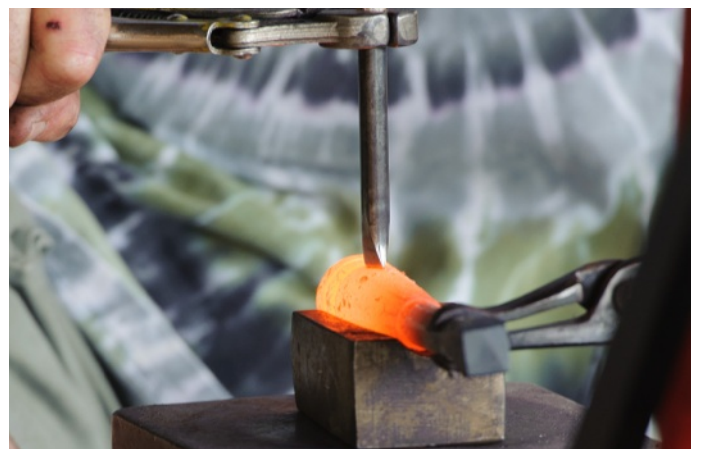
The chasing tools used to create the leaf
(1/8 x 1/4 rectangular punch not shown)



The X for the design being punched into the hot preform. Note the tapered round bottom swage supporting the piece.



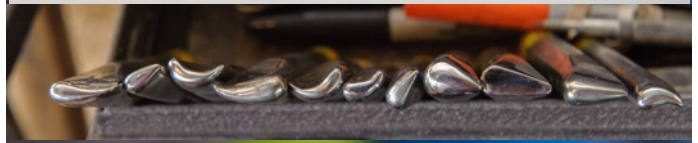
Preform after chiseling hot with multiple passes of the X and teardrop shape.



Running the rectangle tool along the axis of the pattern to clean up the separation of the leaves

The top of the leaf is lifted from the stem slightly with the flat sided chisels. ...and you're done! Slow and steady definitely did the job.

The following page has some of the other pieces from the main demonstrations.



Here are some of the gallery pieces:



Eddie Rainey - my favorite of several lamps made in a class this spring with Ernie Dorrill



Clay Spencer



My personal favorite of the gallery was this Art Nouveau music stand by Florida smith Kirk Sullen.



Bill Roberts

There was a forging competition on Friday night following the auction. The goal was to see how precise a cube a pair could forge using a two pound hammer in ten minutes starting with a piece of wrought iron round. Ten minutes turned out to be not very long and all teams were challenged. Fire management was critical and a good choice of tongs proved difficult. In the end, the judges measured the difference between faces of the cube to choose the score.



Robert Timberlake (L) and Andy Phillips (R) prep their fire.



Andy coaches while Robert upsets the wrought iron.



The results, sort of a cube, but good enough for 3rd place!

There is a project done for each SBA conference and this year the task of designing and forging the core project fell to NC ABANA. Robert Timberlake took on the task. He created a design based on the theme of fire, ice, earth and air with positions for each member chapter of SBA to hang a ring. He implemented the design with help from Cindy Alexander and Jim Kennady. You can see the finished piece with rings from each chapter on the next page.

The event finished with a final drawing for Iron in the Hat and auction of conference demo pieces and mementos. The anvil shoot (or rather miss-shoot) signaled the end of a great gathering.



Alan Cress signals the lucky winner of the SBA toolbox.

Many thanks from those of us who attended go to Cindy Alexander who was the coordinator from NC ABANA helping run the conference. She seemed to be everywhere over the three days. She will continue to be our representative for the next event in 2015. However, if you are interested please contact her since she will be hanging up her kilt after that event.



Thanks to Cindy Alexander and Robert Timberlake who each put in a huge effort on behalf of NC ABANA.



SBA Project



NC ABANA at Dixie Fairgrounds

Article by Doug Wilson; photos by Doug Wilson & Marty Lyon

The Triad Area Blacksmiths hosted NC ABANA in Winston-Salem at Dixie Fairgrounds for the 3rd quarter statewide meeting. In the morning, Master Bladesmith Tommy McNabb led a team of smiths in demonstrating forging of a damascus steel billet frequently used in knife making.



Tommy McNabb illustrates the forge welding of a five layer billet of alternating steels alloys.



The billet is drawn out to twice its original length



The long billet is cut, folded and forge welded again to double the number of layers



Robert Timberlake (L) and Joe Allen (R) forge weld the billet

This process of drawing out, folding and forge welding is repeated until the billet contains 2-300 layers. The result is a material that can be etched in a knife blade to show a complex pattern of the alternating layers of the alloys used.



"Mountain Knife" by Tommy McNabb showing the contrasting damascus pattern between L-6 and 1095 steel

Following the damascus demo, the NC ABANA board held its quarterly meeting.



The NC ABANA board has some lively discussion

Have a read of the Secretary's Report from Jennifer Phillips to see what was discussed. All lined up for some of Marshall Swaringen's personal barbecue with all the fixin's.



Marshall Swaringen serves up his best barbecue to Marty Lyon



Randy Hodges purchases Iron in the Hat tickets from Garret Dunn to support NC ABANA

After lunch, folks purchased their last tickets for Iron in the Hat and waited eagerly to see if they were winners.



Garret Dunn chairs the membership quarterly meeting as folks await the Iron in the Hat draw

Among the participants was Paul Spanhour who showed a new piece that he had made from a plate of naturally occurring metallic copper which he had mounted in a nicely made gingko themed stand.



Paul Spanhour and his latest copper and steel sculpture

Ian Thomsen then demonstrated making several styles of his wizard heads.





Ian Thomsen chisels in a wizard's beard



Using a self-made set hammer to flatten a bald headed wizard



A finished wizard

The meeting adjourned until September 14 when NC ABANA will be in Manteo for its next quarterly meeting. Join us there for more great demos and good food.

Featured Articles

Forging Colonial Ironwork

Primitive 2 Lite Pendant Lite & Gooseneck Andirons

Projects contributed by Jerry Darnell

Jerry Darnell has recently self-published a collection of his shop notes, *Forging Colonial Ironwork, Vol 1*. The notes are 240 printed pages of Jerry's notes from classes and demonstrations that he has given over the years. It is divided into four chapters; Colonial Lighting, 18th Century Hearth Equipment, Early American Hardware, and Hooks and Hangers. Jerry kindly contributed two example projects for publication so that you can see what to expect in his larger collection of shop drawings.

The first project, a pendant light, is one that Jerry would consider a simple project that could be undertaken by a relative beginner. The second is more for an intermediate smith. His publication includes notes on more advanced projects as well as descriptions of some fundamental techniques needed for many of the projects. If you find this interesting, check out Jerry's website at millcreekforge.com.



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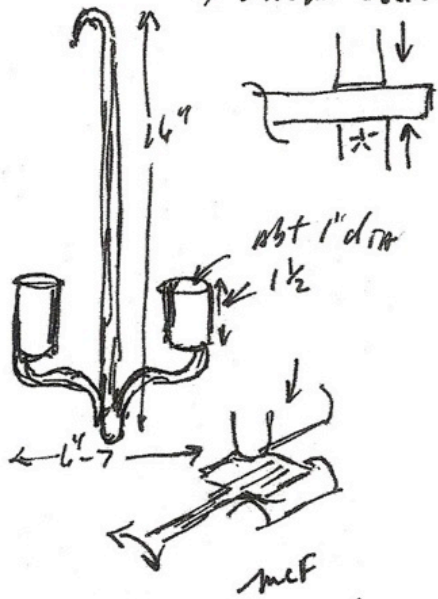
by

primitive 2 lite pendant Lite

guy bant mcf senyrove, NC. mill creek forge

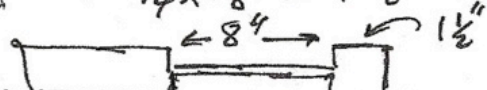
① Cup ARM 16" of $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{16}$

a) stock over $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by the dies of the Air Hammer

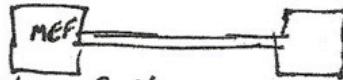


b) forge down the off set

c) forge and draw the center portion to $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{8}$ and 8" long



d) cut off the other end $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from shoulder



e) spread out with fullering dies on P.H. starting in the center, wash it from side to side.

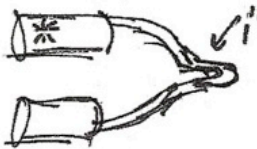
f) spread to abt $2\frac{3}{4}$ -3", even out edges with Hand Hammer.

g) Roll up the candle holder in a 1" bottom swage, til the ends meet. use $\frac{3}{16}$ Rod if necessary.

h) do both sides



i) fold in half, marking a slot for the center piece.



② Center Arm - 16" of $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{8}$, bevel the entire length first.

a) insert, Center Arm into folded Arm, flux and weld 1"

b) clamp 1" in vise, vertically, with tongs, bend out the arms and bevel the cups up 11 to center arm, keep arms even!



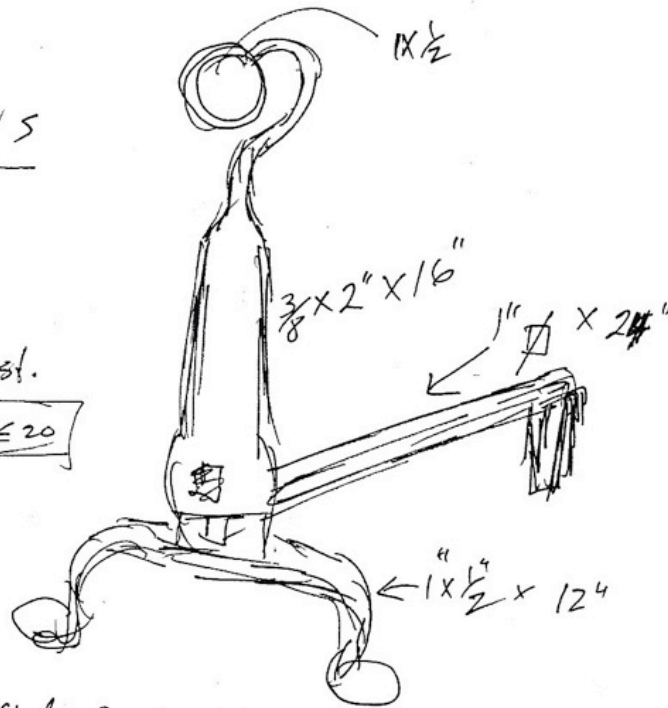
③ draw out last 8" to $\frac{1}{4}$ " then $\frac{3}{16}$ ϕ on end

a) Bend hook, 1" dia over top
b) align all, OIL/WAX



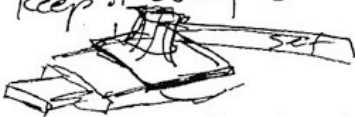
Goose Neck And Iron 5

3 ft x 2 x 3/8	ⓐ	4.00	cost.
4 ft 1" ⓐ	ⓑ	5.00	
2 ft 1 x 1/2	Ⓒ	3.00	
1/2 ft 1 x 1/2	Ⓓ	1.00	
		\$13.00	\$12 ≤ \$ ≤ 20



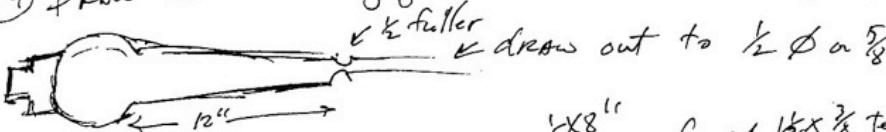
① 2 pieces of 3/8 x 2" x 16" flat, pinch off 3/4" on end with Air Hammer
 fange down abt 3/8", then on flat, down abt 1/8", Rotate abt all sides
 until the finished Taper is abt 1 1/4" x 1/4", Keep shoulders as sharp as possible

② Over the edge with Heavy sledge set a Line (shoulder) 2" up from bottom
 Keep it even, can use Air Hammer, or use (set Hammer)



③ spread out the Buldge with Hand Hammer
 Keep line straight. Keep taper even.

④ Draw out uniformly up the front to abt. 12", fuller with 1/2" or 3/4"



⑤

(E+H)


c) fanged 1 x 1/2, Around To, circle, cut-off, LEAVE GAP, RAMP AROUND the 1/2" Rod, forge with on, shape to Cube or BALL

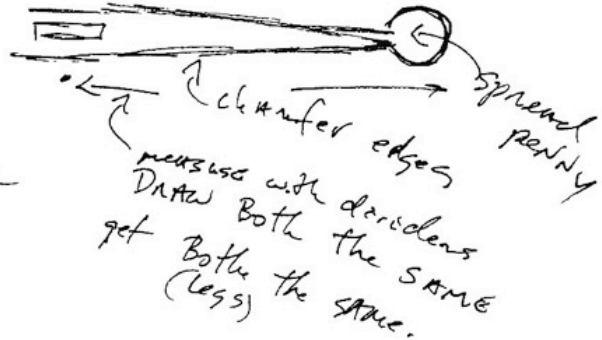
A (H) ① cut 2-2" or 1 1/2" cubes.
 ② forge faceted cube or go for BALL
 ③ DRILL BALL
 ④ Head over Taper P. over make Taper 3/8" long. And make 3" x 3/8" Disk drill 3/8 hole

⑥ Punch a $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{16}$ " hole in center of 2-12" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " legs, drift to $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{4}$ ", check fit on tenon.

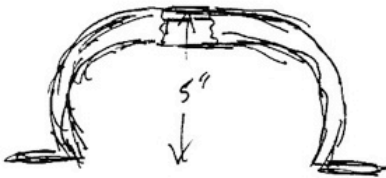


⑦ Fuller each end, 1" from end , Round up the corners

⑧ DRAW BACK from the Ball, to a smooth taper. about 3" or in the center 

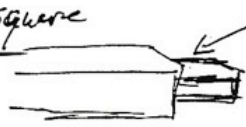


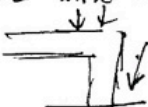

⑨ Form the legs, to shape over the horn.
 show up. legs.



⑩ CLAMP. Front in VICE, set legs, tenon on neatly, get STRAIGHT.



⑪ Pinch off $\frac{1}{2}$ " on AIR HAMMER and DRAW out to $\frac{1}{2}$ " square  1" long.

⑫ Center punch leg from other end at 6" ~~from~~ on measure up from base to punched hole, Turn right angle over ANVIL and form square corner , measure and DRAW to length, Taper leg.  6"

⑬ Clamp in VICE and, trim tenon, Bend over keeping front iron \perp to legs and face. , TRIM leg height to level with saw or grinder.

⑭ Finish with oil + wax with touch or in forge.

3rd Quarter Meeting in Manteo

Invitation from Randy Hodges

Saturday, September 14, 2013

9am 'til about 4pm

The Island Farm

Manteo, North Carolina

The Island Farm is proud to be hosting the 3rd Quarter Meeting for NCABANA. The Farm is a privately owned living history museum depicting coastal small farm life in the era just before the Civil War. The museum is operated by Outer Banks Conservationists, who also own the Currituck Beach Lighthouse in Corolla (one of three nearby lighthouses that are open for climbing). At the Island Farm there is a period appropriate blacksmith shop with a side draft firebox and a reconstructed great bellows. Find out more about the Farm at www.theislandfarm.com. Manteo is on Roanoke Island and is a part of the vacation wonderland of the Outer Banks. Within 5 minutes of the Island Farm is the North Carolina Aquarium, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, and the Elizabethan Gardens. The beach at Nags Head is only a 15 minute drive away. So this meeting is designed to learn and share blacksmithing in a venue where there are lots of fun things to do for family and friends as well. September is the favorite time of year for most OBX locals-the summer crowds are gone, but the water is still warm, and the fishing and weather is usually just right.

PROGRAM

9:00 am - Welcome

9:05 am - Morning Demonstration

by: Randy Hodges

topic: "The Blacksmith as a Performance Artist"

The demo will involve projects and tips for blacksmiths to use when they are demonstrating to the public. Ideas and safety issues related to the upcoming state fair will be discussed as well as some things you can do with smaller groups and at places where your audience can have a hands-on experience. And in that vein - the demo will end with members being invited to forge a nail on the Alex Bealer anvil. (Hodges won the anvil at the ABANA Convention in Georgia early this year and he will have it at the demo.)

11:00 am - Demonstration for Museum Visitors & Blacksmiths
topic: "Ironworking Timeline Trivia"

The museum will be open to the public at 10:00 am, but the earlier demo will be geared toward the NC ABANA membership. For this session Hodges will invite all museum visitors to join us as he continues to demo small projects and to discuss his view of world history from an ironworker's viewpoint. His "Ironworking Timeline" will be available as a handout, and he will share what is hopefully interesting blacksmith trivia such as the real reason horseshoes are lucky.

12:00 Noon - Lunch Time

Catered by "Garden Deli & Pizzeria" of Manteo

\$5.50 per lunch

Your choice of:

a) bag lunch with 6" Ham or Turkey Sub
with chips, pickle & a cookie

OR

b) pasta duo with chicken alfredo and baked
ziti with garlic bread and salad

NOTE: We will need a lunch count and choice by 10 am so be sure and get a ticket by then or email ahead of time (see note at bottom)

12:45 pm - Iron-in-the-Hat

Everyone please bring something blacksmith related for IITH to benefit the scholarship fund. Something cool from your scrap pile would be good; something you made would be better. And bring some extra cash to buy lots of tickets,

1:30 pm - Tong Making Demonstrations

by members of the B.O.L.T.S. Guild

Richard Morrison & Elton Etheridge

These smiths received scholarships to Peter Ross' tong making class and they will be sharing some of the techniques and skills they learned.

4:00 pm - Museum closes

ALL DAY

1) Recruitment Table - The meeting will be advertised around Northeast North Carolina in hopes of attracting new members for NC ABANA from the area. Volunteers for the recruitment table to sign up the new folks will be appreciated.

2) Tailgating - There will be space for tailgaters. Please send an email (as noted at bottom) ahead of time if you want to tailgate so we'll know how much room we will need.

3) Museum Entrance Fee Waived - The Island Farm is pleased to have the NC ABANA members enjoy the museum free of charge, but you MUST check in with Charlene at the visitors center when you first arrive on Saturday to get the proper entrance sticker.

OTHER THINGS

1) More Blacksmithing on the Outer Banks - There is blacksmithing from three eras represented on the OBX. The Island Farm is circa 1850. Festival Park, on the waterfront in downtown Manteo, is a state supported living history museum that exhibits life at the time of Sir Walter Raleigh's settlers (circa 1585), and they have a blacksmith shop also. If we get at least 10 folks from our group who want to go there, we will get a discounted rate of \$7.50 for adults and \$5.25 for students age 6-17. Children 5 and under are free. Check out Festival Park on line at www.roanokeisland.com. And please send an email ahead of time (note at bottom) if you think you might want to do that.

Also there is blacksmithing for the modern era. Randy Hodges' shop is in Kill Devil Hills (20 minutes from Manteo) at the KDH Cooperative Gallery and Studios, a local artists' cooperative that also features painters, potters, jewelry metal workers, woodcarvers, and batik artists (among others). The KDH Cooperative will hold an open house from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday evening, September 13th, for NC ABANA members. Both the gallery and Hodges' shop will be open and light refreshments will be served. The address is 502 S. Croatan Highway, KDH, NC 27948. Check them out at www.kdhcooperative.com.

2) Camping Available - Free tent camping will be allowed at the Farm. It will be primitive with space in a grass field for tents and the bathrooms at the museum visitor center available all night. Otherwise no amenities. If you plan to camp at the Farm you MUST send prior email notice (see note at bottom). On Saturday all tents must be down before the meeting starts at 9:00 am. There are other campsites available at Oregon Inlet and on Hatteras National Seashore through the National Park Service.

3) Hotels Nearby - There are many hotels on Roanoke Island and along the Nags Head beaches. You can't go wrong no matter which one you pick. The closest one to the Farm is The Elizabethan Inn about 2 miles away. They have an indoor pool and a full gym. They are giving NC ABANA a 10% discount on their standard room for 2 people with two queen beds. Our rate will be \$98.99 per night plus tax. If we take at least 20 rooms they will give us another 10% off, so if you want to stay there send an email soon (see note at bottom). Check them out at www.elizabethaninn.com.

DIRECTIONS

Manteo is at the eastern end of NC Rt. 64. It takes less than 3 hours drive time from where Rt 540 meets Rt 64 on the east side of Raleigh to get to Roanoke Island. Most of NC Rt 64 is interstate quality highway with a 70 mph speed limit. As you travel east along Rt 64 the first place you will cross over water is the Scuppernong River in the town of Columbia. From there, the last 40 miles to Manteo is 2 lane, 55 mph road. A lot of speeding tickets get written on that stretch of road, so beware. Just before you reach Roanoke Island the road goes back to 4 lanes and you cross a very long, low bridge over the Croatan Sound. Once over the bridge you will pass a visitor's center on the right and then come to a traffic light. Turn left at the light and go north along the main street of Manteo, past the retail area and past the Elizabethan Inn which will be on your left. In about a mile or two will be the Island Farm - entrance on the left (there are signs) and a windmill in the field on the right.

Let us know

Please send an email (or call) before the meeting if you want to do any of the following:

- 1) order lunch if you won't get to the meeting before 10 am.
- 2) tailgate
- 3) camp on the Island Farm property
- 4) stay at the Elizabethan Inn in Manteo
- 5) visit Festival Park while you are here
- 6) plan to attend the open house at the KDH Cooperative on Friday evening.

Email Address: manteoblacksmith@yahoo.com

Phone: 252-473-1709 (leave a message)

I Bet You Didn't Know

Contributed by Marty Lyon

You wouldn't think there is a connection between blacksmithing and cycling. There is in at least one instance, and it makes a pretty good story. Since July was Tour de France month, this a good time to relate what happened to Eugène Christophe on the sixth stage of the 1913 Tour de France.



Christophe was a top rider, and was leading the stage. On descending Col du Tourmalet, the highest road in the Pyrenees Mountains of central France, disaster struck. He was speeding down the mountain at full tilt with an 18 minute lead when, suddenly, he couldn't steer the bike. When he stopped, he found that the forks had broken.

Today, if that happened, he would call his team on his radio, and the team car would show up, in seconds, with a new bike. He probably would have maintained his lead. However, in 1913 the rules were much, much, different. In those days, racers were forbidden help of any kind. You changed your own tires and carried everything you needed with you.

Under the circumstances, you would have counted him out – but not intrepid Eugène Christophe. He carried the bicycle on his shoulders for a two hour trek to the village of Sainte-Marie de Campan. There he met the local blacksmith a Monsieur Lacomte. While race officials watched, and with Lacomte's tutelage, Christophe lit the forge and proceeded to forge the forks back together again. It took him three hours to do the job.

After all that effort, he was penalized ten minutes because he got some help. You see, the forge had a bellows and working the bellows and forging was just too much so a local lad was pressed into service to work the bellows.

There is a monument in Sainte-Marie de Campan today. It is the very same forge, preserved as it was the day Eugène Christophe was a blacksmithing cyclist. By the way, Christophe finished the 1913 Tour de France in seventh place.

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Hammers



Spring Swages



The **ABANA 2014 Conference** will held at the Delaware States Fairgrounds in **Harrington, Delaware**
Aug 13-16, 2014

"Save the Date"

Local Group Meetings

Triad Area Blacksmiths (Winston-Salem, NC)
Marshall Swaringen
marshall@swaringen.com (336) 998-7827

1st Tuesday at 6:30PM for demos
3rd Saturday at 9AM for business and all day forging
Dixie Fairgrounds, Winston Salem, NC

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths (Mooresville, NC)
Steve Barringer
steve@powerhammerschool.com (704) 660-1560

2nd Sunday each month

Triangle Blacksmith Guild (Raleigh - Durham, NC)
Randy Stoltz
rhstoltz@gmail.com (919) 481-9263

1st Saturday in even # months at various locations

Brasstown Blacksmiths (Brasstown, NC)
Paul Garrett
pdg86@hotmail.com (828) 835-8441

1st Tuesday in even # months; 5 to 8 PM

Wilkes Teaching Forge (WTF) (Millers Creek, NC)
Lyle Wheeler
chairmakr@yahoo.com (336) 838-2284

2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM

You are welcomed to attend any of the local group meetings.
Please contact the host to confirm date, time and location.

NC ABANA Meetings

3rd Quarter - Sep 14 at 9:00 A.M.
The IslandFarm, Manteo, NC

Bonus Meeting - November 2 at 9:30 A.M.
J. C. Campbell Folk School
Brasstown, NC 28902

4th Quarter 2013 – Date TBA

Other Events

Tommy McNabb Custom Knife Show
September 21-22, 2013
Winston-Salem, NC
Benton Convention Center.

Dixie Classic Fair
Winston-Salem, NC
October 4 - October 13, 2013
www.dcfair.com

North Carolina State Fair
Raleigh, NC
October 17-27, 2013
www.ncstatefair.org

For the most current meeting and event information go to the NC ABANA website,

ncabana.org

North Carolina Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America



THE HOT IRON SPARKLE

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Third Quarter Meeting of NC ABANA

Sept 14th - 9 am

The Island Farm

Manteo, NC

Randy Hodges - Blacksmith as Performance Artist

Richard Morrison & Elton Etheridge - Tongs

Lunch - \$5.50 per person

Free camping - mail ahead to reserve a spot