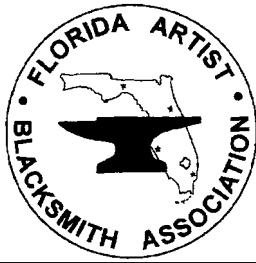


February 2009



*The Florida*

# Clinker Breaker

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - Established May 18, 1985

## *Bok Tower Meeting - Feb 28*

*Jerry Wolfe*

Our February 28th regional meeting will be at BOK Tower & Gardens in Lake Wales. George Dixon (<http://www.artist-blacksmith.org/gdm/index.htm>) who worked in Samuel Yellin's shop from 1988 to 1992 in Philadelphia will be demonstrating various techniques of making "Yellin Style" iron work. He will show treadle hammer chisel cutting both for outline / shape as well as chasing for textures and to create details. Hot work will include the split bar motif shown in the photos. Many additional details of metal preparation, forming, detailing as well as finishing will be shown. We will be getting a detailed tour of the Carillon Singing Tower and the iron work in and around the tower. George will demonstrate the repoussé work for the "Creation Door" and other items created by Samuel Yellin. George has a collection of tools and items from Yellin's shop as well as years of experience to share with us. Clyde Payton will also display his collection of Yellin drawings.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

8AM to 9:30 - View video of BOK Tower and Gardens; see displays and visit plant / gift shop

9:50AM - Be at Tower Door for tour

10AM to 11AM - Founder Room Tour of Yellin work & Carillon Singing Tower

11AM to 12:30 - Tour gardens / Lunch / View displays (lunch on own - bring it or buy at Cafe on site - (\$8.50-\$10.50))

12:30PM to 4PM - Demo by George Dixon from Asheville, North Carolina

2:30 - Iron in the HAT raffle

**Motels:** (Blocks of rooms held under Florida Artist Blacksmith Association)

Green Gables Inn -Lake Wales (863) 676-2511 (Single Queen - \$70 / King - \$80)

Hampton Inn & Suites - Lake Wales (863) 734-3000 (Double Queen - \$116 / Studio - \$125)

Admittance to BOK Tower & Gardens will be free for FABA members; please call Jerry Wolfe 941-702 1719 or send email to [wolfeforge@hotmail.com](mailto:wolfeforge@hotmail.com). MUST HAVE NAME ON LIST FOR ADMITTANCE otherwise it will cost \$10 for admission.

**Directions:** From I-4, East or West:

Take Exit 55 and proceed south on U.S. Highway 27 for approximately 23 miles. Proceed two traffic lights past Eagle Ridge Mall. Turn left on Mountain Lake Cut Off Road. At the caution light, turn right (south) onto County Road 17 (also known as Scenic Highway). Proceed on CR 17 for 3/4 miles. Turn left (east) onto Burns Avenue (also known as County Road 17-A). Proceed on Burns Avenue for 1.3 miles. On your left you'll see a main entrance sign to Bok Tower Gardens. Turn left and proceed to the entrance gate.

Use the following address to access map programs: Bok Tower Gardens 1151 Tower Boulevard Lake Wales, FL 33853.



*Examples of George Dixon's works*

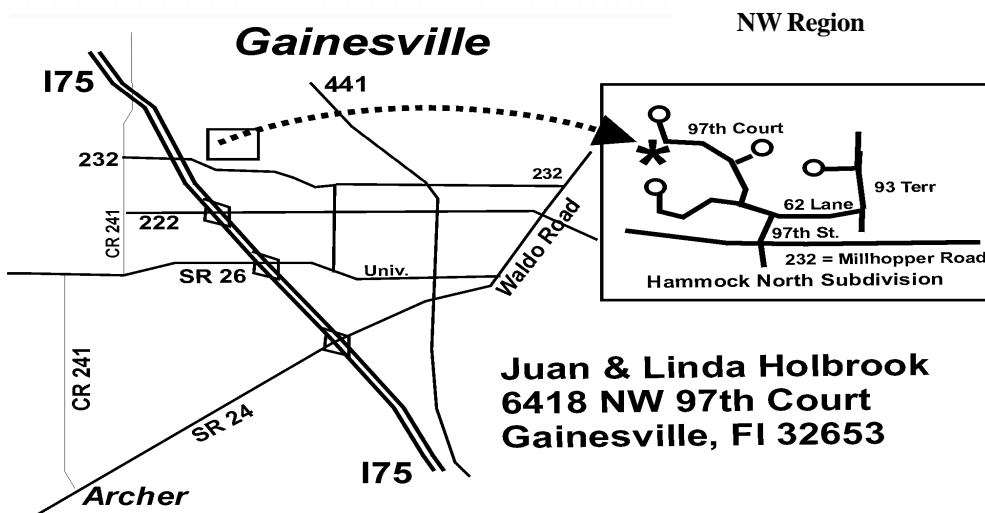
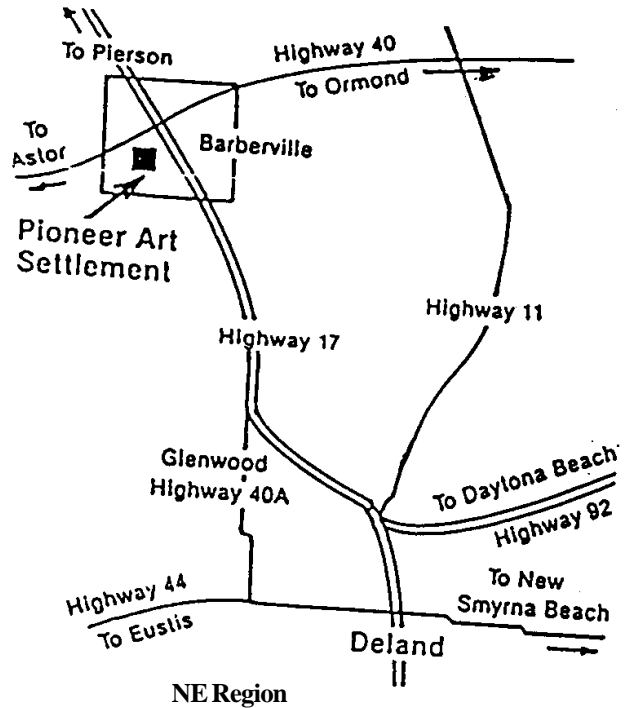
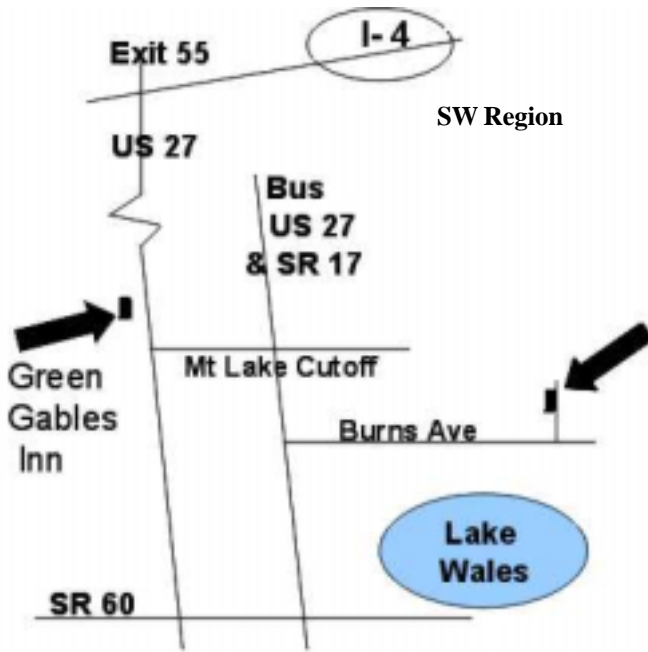
## Upcoming Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries - everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can. We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, SW-4th except for quarterly Statewide meetings. The actual dates vary so check the schedule below. Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9AM to 4PM and you'll need to bring lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Northeast Region Ken Knight	352-339-0629	Ironken@AOL.com
Northwest Region Billy Christie	850-421-1386	chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com
Southeast Region Ed Aaron	561-748-9824	edaaron9824@bellsouth.net
Southwest Region Jerry Wolfe	941-355-5615	wolfforge@hotmail.com

### February 2009

- NE 07 Open Forges
- NW 14 Juan & Linda Holbrook Gainesville, FL
- SE 21 Until further notice-Tanah Keeta
- SW 28 BOK Tower Tour of Yellin ironwork and Demo by George Dixon at BOK Gardens in Lake Wales (see special web page)



**Juan & Linda Holbrook**  
**6418 NW 97th Court**  
**Gainesville, FL 32653**

#### SE Region

Boy Scout Camp: from I-95 exit go east onto Indiantown Rd, go north (left) onto Island Way (1st traffic light). Stay on it until it ends at Country Club Dr. Go left—it ends at the entrance to Boy Scout Camp.

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### Future Events

SW- Mar 07-Boy Scouts at Wimauma - Metal Merit Badge  
NW- Mar 14 – Clyde Payton, Monticello, FL (see pg.4)  
SE- Mar 21 - Ann & Ray Reynolds  
SW- Mar 28 - Open house for a new forge at Trez Cole's  
NW- Apr 11 – Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown  
NE- May 2 - Steve Bloom's, near Archer, Fl  
NW- May 9 – Rex & Mary Ellen Anderson, Monticello, FL

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### Report from the Northeast

**Ken Knight**

*(Ken didn't send me any text but he did send the pictures of the sand casting of belt-buckle anvils - Editor)*



*NE meeting - admiring the results*



*NE meeting - Opening the mold & checking out the "seed" anvils*



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### Report from the Northwest

**Billy Christie**

November the 8th was a great day for blacksmithing in the NW. A cool morning met the 20 people who signed in, and many more stopped by while they toured the museum and farm.

Mike Murphy was our demonstrator and he brought many kinds of jigs and hold down tools that he has made throughout his blacksmithing years. We thoroughly enjoyed checking out everything he made and I'm sure most of us came away with great ideas for our next task and/or project. The ideas that we gathered from his demonstration and from the tools he made, that were on display, will enable us to incorporate them into our own blacksmithing jigs. Thanks, Murphy!

The "Iron In The Hat" brought in \$85.00. Thank you, Amber Houston, for drawing the winning tickets.

The lovely ladies at the museum cooked a delicious meal on a wood stove, complete with two kinds of cobblers for dessert!!

Thank you everyone for a meeting enjoyed by all!

*(We're catching up a bit here - two reports - Editor)*

We had a cold start to a typical beautiful winter day at Bill Adam's "Blind Hog Forge" in Havana, Florida. This was a joint meeting between FABA and the Southern Bladesmith Association (SBA). There was a good crowd on hand with 37 people signing in at this December 13, 2008 meeting.

Our feature demonstrator was Russell Bass from Ochlocknee, Georgia. The demo was on how to make a solid steel knife from about a 10" piece of hay rake tine (1095). After Russell's great demo he had everyone breakup into small groups to make their own knife. The ones that I saw were well done.

The "Iron In The Hat" was a big success. Thanks Bill for cleaning out lots of stuff, and thanks to Aaron Bass for drawing the winning tickets. We took in \$331.00.

A delicious lunch of chicken and rice, and tantalizing covered dishes were served. One pot of chicken & rice was complete with chicken feet & gizzards ~ looked interesting ~ ask Patty! After lunch, we had a knife cutting demonstration. This demonstration consisted of a 1 1/4" rope hanging freely. While hanging freely, this rope had to be cut in two with one swift swing of the knife. Steve Enfinger was the only participant who succeeded.

This meeting was definitely a fun-filled, educational event! Thank you Bill, Russell, and co-host John Butler. See ya' at the next event! Happy Holidays!!

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### Report from the Southwest

**Jerry Wolfe**

The SW region met on January 10th at the Crowley Museum and Nature Center during the Heritage Festival. We had an excellent demonstration by John Wright who is a FABA



*John Wright demonstrating*

member from Illinois and winters in Taveres FL. John demonstrated the "Roycroft Style" of copper work. John showed how you can take a simple piece of copper tubing and make an very elaborate vase or other utensil. All the steps from cutting, annealing,



*Bethany Allen-Ford - Demo on a hook*

hammering techniques, cleaning with "pH down" pool chemicals, soldering and the finishing techniques for different styles of vases.

Several others demonstrated various techniques during the



*Phil Pauley - Demo on Twisted wire handle*

day to entertain the crowd at the festival. Thanks to Trez Cole, Travis Meek, Phil Pauley, Jerry Wolfe and new member Bethany Allen-Ford for their participation.

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### **Notices, For Sales & Want-Ads**

#### **BLACKSMITH COAL**

\$35 per 100 lb bag (Pickup only) & details - Pioneer Settlement, contact the Settlement at 386-749-3353 (direct line to Gudrun in bookkeeping) or mail your order with payment to PSCA/COAL, P.O. Box 6, Barberville, FL 32105. Accepted forms of payment: cash, money orders, checks, MasterCard and Visa.

#### **CONFERENCES & MEETINGS**

Madison Conference is May 14 -16, 2009  
Art of the Blacksmith & Smokey Bear Days, May 1-3, 2009;  
Lincoln County Fairgrounds; Capitan, NM (see webpage for details)

#### **THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING**

*Clyde Payton*

The MARCH NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING will be held at Clyde and Vi Payton's shop on Saturday, MARCH 14, 2009. We have a very interesting program lined up that will titillate the fancy of quite a few. This full day of activities will start at 9:00 am sharp and go until 5:00 pm.

First on will be Mike Bettinger, a professional welder/fabricator/forgers who owns his business in Tallahassee, Florida. Mike will demonstrate making FIREPLACE TONGS.

After lunch we will have TWO very interesting exhibitors:  
1 - Marty Shimansky in Tallahassee, Florida runs the unique SHIMANSKY SPECIALTY MACHINING, INC. In this shop Marty does conventional fabrications, tool making, models and prototypes of just about anything, and abrasive jet cutting and etchings. His specialty is WATER JET cutting. Marty is going to bring an exhibit of his work and give us a presentation on what can be done with his machines and the various metals used.

2 - James Levy is an archeologist and historic conservator who works in the Florida State Museum for the Division of Historical Resources. James is going to bring an exhibit of some authentic early Spanish ironwork that has been dug up and dived up in Florida.

Throughout the day these activities will be going on -  
- Andy Ellis of Monticello, FL is a fantastic wood carver (and an excellent knife maker). Andy is going to have an exhibit of his American Indian figures.

- We will have two BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE blacksmithing stations set up with teachers. Minors must have parental consent and/or supervision. Bring your own eye and ear protection.

- A SHOW AND TELL table will be available – bring your favorite piece(s) to show off. Bring your own folding table for this if you can.

- TAILGATE SALES is always a big feature at this March meeting. Load up your truck with all your surplus “stuff” and bring it. A special area is set aside for tailgaters.

- An IRON IN THE HAT raffle is likewise a big feature of this meeting – bring a donation to go on this table. This raffle is the way we pay for the port-a-potty and other meeting expenses.

- LUNCH will be served promptly at 12:00 noon – please bring a covered dish to add to the table.

Look to the March 2009 issue for a map and directions to PAYTON FORGE at 250 Payton Road, Monticello, FL 32344. For further information or directions call 850-997-3627 or 850-210-5177. Or go to web site [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org) and look up the March 2008 issue of the CLINKER BREAKER for a map to PAYTON FORGE.

Hope to see you on Saturday, March 14th.



### **The Forge of Vulcan**

*by Diego Velazquez*

*contributed by "DAVID REDDY" <[dpreddy1@verizon.net](mailto:dpreddy1@verizon.net)>*

Vulcan was the deification of metallurgy, a god apart from the Olympian deities - an outsider who works and sweats, who is not socially acceptable but whose professional skills are admired and desired. Here the myth is brought down to earth : gone is the traditional reference made by Velazquez to Apollo informing Vulcan of his wife's infidelity. No divine aura surrounds the figure of Vulcan supporting his hammer on his shoulder : the intense light bathing these two figures is the reflected glow of the furnace.

His assistant -traditionally one of the Cyclopes - has a look of wonder, almost of apprehension or uncertainty, which counterbalances the serenity of the blacksmith. The only hint of this blacksmith's divinity is the confident imperturbability of his pose : the proper use of fire and anvil is his domain. Is this an allegory of the artist's creativity - part divine, part rooted in craft ? Gerard M. Burns

## DRAGONS, WIZARDS, AND HORSES

*Butch Patterson, Recipient of the 2008 Walt Anderson Scholarship*

As I drove through Georgia to Brasstown, North Carolina and the John C. Campbell Folk School, my anticipation of the coming week grew. It was late September, however, the weather was more like autumn, 50's in the mornings and 70's by noon. That was welcomed since I had left 90 degrees and high humidity in Florida. I was on a mission, I had decided to apply myself to the fullest, to learn as much as possible, and to take as much away as I could.

Once I arrived at the Folk School, I checked into my living quarters in the Keith House, a 120+ year old farmhouse with heart of pine floors. The floors creaked loud enough to wake everyone, but by the next day I began to look forward to "the sounds of history" as we called them. The creaking just added character to the whole experience.

Being an early riser, I quickly became a charter member of the "Coffee Club" with about five other early awakeners. Collectively we drank most of the coffee in the urn, told a dozen or so stories and jokes, and solved all of the World's problems by sun rise each day.

Meals were served family style in the Olive D. Campbell Dining Hall and the food was excellent. Chef Steven Cipriano prepared good hot hearty dishes every meal.

The intermediate blacksmithing class I had selected was an opportunity to forge a variety of animal heads. It was taught by Steve Williamson and assisted by Kit Watenberger. Both instructors were very skilled smiths and knew their material well.

At the beginning of each class, I and seven other students would start a fire in our individual forges. Then Steve and Kit would discuss the techniques and special tools used to forge the next project. The discussion and lecture was followed by Steve demonstrating the project and pointing out the fine points of the process. At the conclusion each student returned to their forges to make the unique tools. Steve would always joke that these tools are no longer available at Wal-Mart so you need to make them yourself. Once the tools were ready, we tried the new techniques and skills to forge the animal head. As you might expect, some of the techniques were simple and some were very trying. Steve and Kit were always happy to get us back on track and reinforce each skill.

During the week there was a variety for projects:

Monday morning was a horse head from 1/8" x 3/4" bar stock. The methods included fullering and pushing the metal with a Wal-Mart butcher chisel to create relief in the metal. After lunch it was a wizard from 3/8" square stock. The methods included using a spring ball fuller to forge the nose and eye



*Ball swage*

punches.

On Tuesday morning we made a crazy mule from 1/8" x 1" bar stock. This head required folding and forge welding the stock and a large hollow tip chisel, again from Wal-Mart.

A bear head from 1" square stock was Tuesday afternoon's project. It required several special punches and chisels to create the fur, eyes, mouth, and wrinkled forehead.

Wednesday was the day I had been waiting for -- the Dragon Head! This was a much more complicated

item and required all of the methods we had learned earlier in the week. It kept us busy throughout Wednesday and Thursday. The dragon was forged from 1-1/4" square stock. It actually seemed to me to be the easiest project of all, but very time consuming. Or was it that I was actually learning and developing the new skills to forge animal heads?



On Friday we worked on any unfinished projects and cleaned up around our forge areas. The Folk School always has a Student Exhibit on Friday afternoon. It allows all students to display their items and to see what the other classes have been learning and working on all week. I was particularly impressed with the broom making, woodturning, and photography class's work and, of course, the blacksmithing.

After supper and the closing ceremony, I joined a couple of my new "Coffee Club" friends for an obligatory trip to Clay's Corner, a small country store within walking distance from the Folk School. Clay's Corner is your typical county store, they have boiled peanuts, local sourwood honey, pickled pig feet, soft drinks, and pickled eggs. However on Friday nights, it becomes an informal entertainment venue and a

hangout for the local musicians. We enjoyed ice cream and the picking, singing, and storytelling of Lawton, June, Avenel, Pop, and Earl.

Saturday as I headed back to Florida, I had plenty of time to reflect on the experience of the past few days. To me it was a vacation full of art, history, learning, peacefulness, and pure fun. I was so impressed with the John C. Campbell Folk School, I plan to go back again.

I would like to express my appreciation to the FABBA members and Board of Directors for making this trip a reality by awarding me the Walt Anderson Scholarship. It has had a profound impact on my smithing abilities, my passion for blacksmithing, and my confidence in my ability. The course was a huge step in learning for me and the opportunity will be something I will cherish for the rest of my life.



## **Message from the ABANA President**

First of all I want to thank our 2008 board for all of their hard work. Being a volunteer has its rewards; it has its challenges, and frankly speaking, its frustrations. Also, to those who have served and moved on, my hat is off to them as well.

In the past twelve months we have seen a nearly complete turn over of the board. With the exception of Jill Turman (who we could not do without) and Jim Masterson, the 2009 ABANA board has served one year or less. For all intents and purposes we are a new board and we are already hard at work.

Next on the agenda, I want to thank the 2009 ABANA board for their confidence in me, by electing me as your President. I have made the commitment to my fellow board members and now to you the ABANA membership, that in the months ahead I will do my best. You will be hearing from me and your board, about your ABANA, what our challenges are, what our goals are, and what you can do as a member to further ABANA's mission.

I'd like to make a point here. I have been told that in order to bring back the membership to levels of the past (5,300+), ABANA must publish the financial statements for the last ten years. The financial statements are available to all ABANA members who ask for them.

Furthermore I have been told that ABANA must admit to the mistakes of the past. This might be true. I can assure you that your 2008/2009 ABANA board of directors is painfully aware of the past. Hopefully we can use these past events to guide our future.

For those of you who care to debate the issues of the past, please consider this, your ABANA board is made up of fifteen volunteers from a diverse set of experiences. ABANA's past board members were too; they did the best job they were capable of; my hat is off to them.

You may be asking yourself, "Where is he going with this"? If you need an apology, please accept this as one. If you need someone to admit to the past shortcomings of the organization and promise to do the right thing in the future, consider this that confession and resolution.

Now moving on as to our future, we have much work to do. I hope that you will consider rolling up your sleeves and join us on the happy road of destiny. How can you help? Consider what you can offer in terms of time and other resources and contact a committee chair in your area of interest.

In closing, here are just a few of the accomplishments brought by you by your 2008 ABANA board. We did a complete revision of the By-Laws, including term limits. The Members Only Discount program was implemented; Constant Contact email system was brought on-line. The ABANA Trust is now on a level footing with three new trustees appointed, thanks to our 2008 president Chris Winterstein. The Health Insurance program was rolled out, and a new Shop insurance plan is coming soon! We relocated the Central Office and contracted with WH&L, a professional management firm. Last in the "short" list is.....drum roll please...yes there will be a 2010 ABANA Conference! Set your sights on Memphis Tennessee, early June 2010. It's back to basics, no frills, but lots of educational opportunities, friendship and camaraderie! The low early registration fee will shock and delight you! Way to go conference committee!

For Love of the Craft,  
Rome H. Hutchings, ABANA President

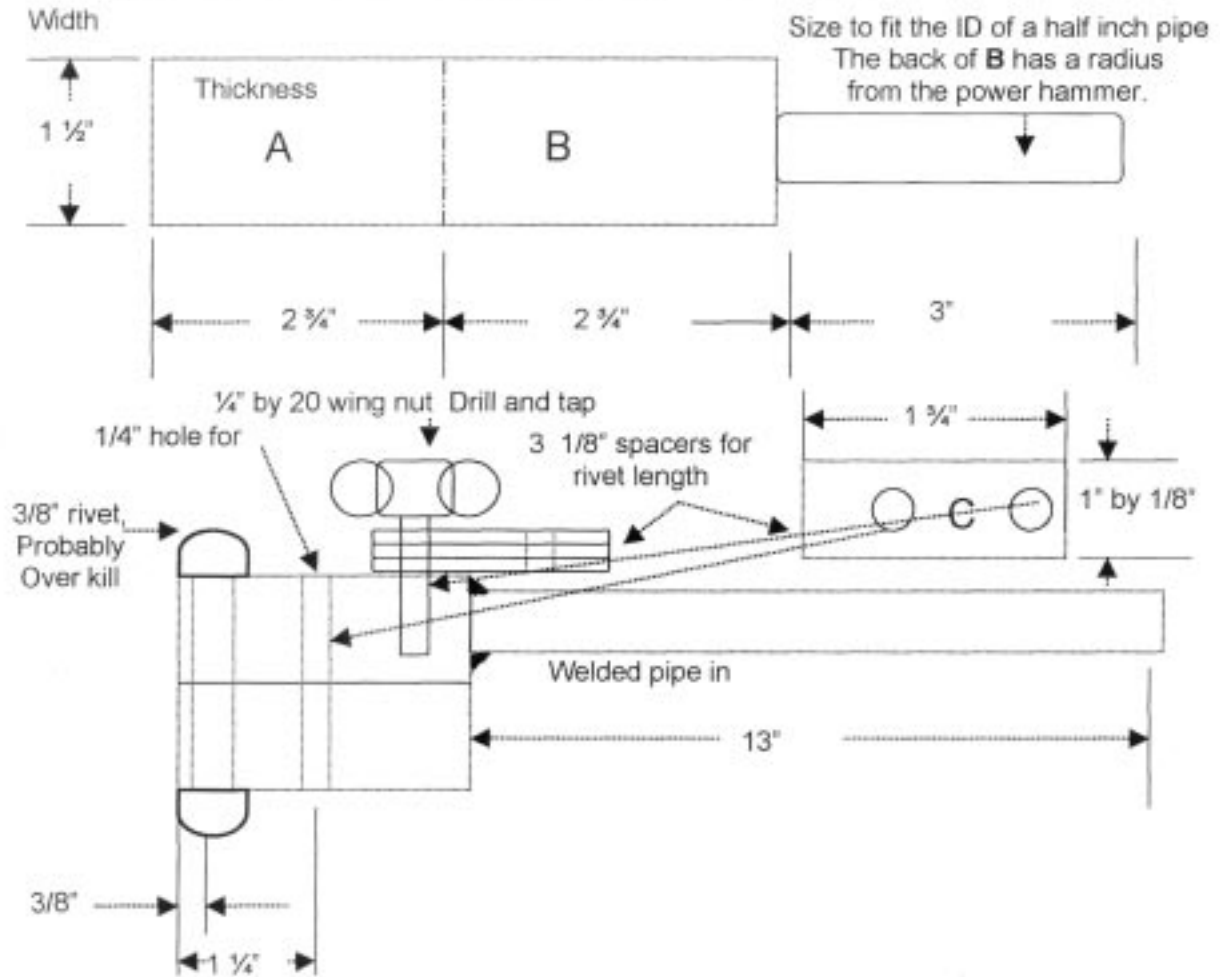
# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Making a Rivet Shear

by Rick Hartline, NC ABANA

I was in need of rivets of several lengths so I thought it might be practical to make a rivet shear. It worked out well. I wrote this article for anyone who might want to make one. All measurements are for general guide purposes as measured from my finished shear.

Start by using a piece of tool type steel, (I used a piece of jack hammer bit). Draw it out to a rectangle with a tang to fit into a 1/2 inch pipe. Cut/saw at A/B. **NOTE:** The final thickness of B is determined by the shortest rivet length to be cut. I used 1/2" for both but you may want to thin B after cutting.



The Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization whose purposes are to teach, promote, and preserve the art of blacksmithing. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly, and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA's purposes. ABANA chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher's permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.

### FABA Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Rex Anderson</b>	<b>850-997-2748</b>	<b>rexaanderson@embarqmail.com</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Charles (Hippie) Pate</b>	<b>850-997-6986</b>	<b>-unknown-</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Juan Holbrook</b>	<b>352-374-8888</b>	<b>juanylindagrace@aol.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jim Labolito</b>	<b>850-567-6464</b>	<b>fernforge@comcast.net</b>
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<b>Trustee SE</b>	<b>Ralph Nettles</b>	<b>561-747-5489</b>	<b>-unknown-</b>
<b>Trustee SW</b>	<b>Jerry Wolfe</b>	<b>941-355-5615</b>	<b>wolfeforge@hotmail.com</b>

Steve Bloom, Editor; P.O. Box 760; Archer, FL 32618; (352) 528-6508 or [smith@blacksmithing.org](mailto:smith@blacksmithing.org); <http://www.blacksmithing.org>

### FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.  
 Founding member Southern Blacksmith Association.  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ New      Renewal

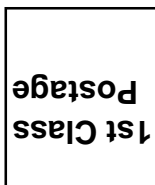
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City                      State              Zip  
 Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send application & a membership fee of \$25.00 to

Juan Holbrook, FABA Treasurer  
 6418 NW 97 Court  
 Gainesville, FL 32653

Make check out to FABA. Your FABA membership begins when we receive your payment and lasts one year. Membership is for a family.

Don't list me in the directory [\_\_\_\_]



**February 2009**

*The Florida Clinker Breaker*  
 FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
 Juan Holbrook, Membership Records  
 6418 NW 97 Court  
 Gainesville, FL 32653