

April 2021

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Touchmark database to be added to website

Happy April Blacksmiths! Spring has sprung, the clocks have moved forward, the days are getting longer, and soon the temps will seemingly be approaching that of our forges.

As things heat up, please remember to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. If you cut yourself and don't bleed, you need to drink more water!

Our website is still under construction with progress being made. Some areas are pretty much done while others are still a work in progress. Please be patient as things are changed over and brought up to date. The wait will be worth it.

We can still renew our memberships online, so if you experience any issues with that, let us know and we will take care of it. Mine is due this month, so I will be renewing online too. Jessica Sandlin is making good progress and working hard for us, and I am excited and looking forward to seeing the changes and new look for our site.

Once again, one of our members has participated in the History Channel's Forged In Fire. Marcus Wise was on the show February 17th. He chose the 3-hour Damascus ladder pattern challenge where he designed and forged a chopper. They had the choice of a two, three, or four-hour challenge with each challenge being more difficult with more time. The same went for the handle construction. More difficult/complex type of handle, the more time you had to complete your knife.

Marcus is to be commended on making it into the second round. Congratulation Marcus! We are proud of you.

A few months ago, Dr. Skeeter Prather brought up having our members send in either a good picture or sample of their touchmark so we can start a member database of touchmarks available for viewing and identifying forged items we acquire through purchase, trade, Iron in the Hat, auction, etc.



Mark Stone

This has been brought up in the past a couple times and with the new construction of our website, the regional Facebook pages, etc., now is the perfect time to get this going.

I would like to have a page on our new website showing the touchmarks and who they belong to so at any time, you can look up who made the item you have.

I know as time passes, we forget or acquire a piece from someone other than the maker and would like to know who the Blacksmith was that made it.

Please take pictures of your touchmark(s) and send them to me at president@blacksmithing.org.

Or, if you would like to send me a sample stamped in a small piece steel sheet, e-mail me at the aforementioned address, and I will send you my mailing address.

Something else I would like to build on is laminated name tags for our members. At last year's conference, I created laminated name tags for the attendees and family members with the hopes of the name tags being used at the monthly meetings instead of tape and sharpie or some other means.

I have or will be asking our Regional Coordinators for a list of names or scanned sign-in sheets of regular attendees so I can create name tags for them.

I would like to eventually create them for the entire membership, but will start with the regular attendees first.

I will create them, then send them to the Coordinators for distribution.

I hope everyone has a great Easter and month of April!

Stay well, stay safe and keep your forges glowing and your hammers pounding!

Mark Stone

Calendar of 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, Far West and SW-4th. The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

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 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	vacant	for questions, please email	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft. FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc. contained in this newsletter, our website, <http://www.blacksmithing.org>, our Facebook Page or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

Contributions to FABA 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. Send to editor@blacksmithing.org. Materials submitted must be your own work, and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting materials, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA's website. 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.



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Far West Region Report

For our meeting on Feb. 27, we had 29 people and 1 dog (Sophie) signed in on the roster. How a dog signed the roster will forever remain a mystery but she seemed to have a good time watching the activities.

During the business meeting we discussed how we plan to host our spring fund raiser, the “make and take” Medieval knife class. One great suggestion was to have an active FABA member at each forge to assist with safety and fire management since we anticipate a number of first-time blacksmiths at this event. After business issues were attended to, there was a short presentation on setting rivets and a discussion on the typical times one might want to set hot or cold rivets. Open forge time followed.



Megan Goldberg trying her hand at copper smithing a bowl on the tinner's workbench that we finished up in Traditions Workshop just two days before the monthly hammer in.



Michael getting focused making a nail.



Sophie chilling out during open forge time.



We had lots of first time visitors

Far West report continues on page 4

Regional Reports

Far West report (continued)

John Pfund brought over some items from FABA West for us to use for an “Iron in the Hat,” which worked out well since we had a much larger crowd this time.

“Iron in the Hat” was conducted shortly after our lunch, provided by Traditions Workshop and cooked by John Pfund and Billy Hay.

During the drawing the Goldberg family walked away with three hammers and a ladle; talk about beginner’s luck!

Unfortunately, Sophie did not win anything.

This month we also sold some of the coal that was brought back from the October conference.

All told, including some donations, the Far West was able to contribute \$175 to FABA operations this month.

If you are wondering how we were able to increase our number of visitors: We took the time to send in a public service announcement to all the local papers and radio stations in addition to announcing our event on Facebook and sharing the event to many of the local Facebook artist and home school groups.

If, as a regional coordinator or trustee, you elect to publish your event on platforms beyond Facebook, be advised that most media outlets (even newspapers) want 2 weeks’ notice before adding something to their community calendars – so much for rapid communication in the information age.



Everyone gathered around for “Iron in the Hat.” Bryce Hay drew and read the numbers for us.



Billy Hay using a bean pot on the forge fire to cook lunch for the crew. Safety Note! Never grill/broil foods directly over a coal fire unless you want to get sick. Instead use a Dutch oven or other closed cooking utensil.



Travis Acord with his son and daughter checking out some of the books we have available for loan at the workshop.

Regional Reports



Colt's first knife!



Aaron and William Duggins, a father and son team trying out blacksmithing for the first time.



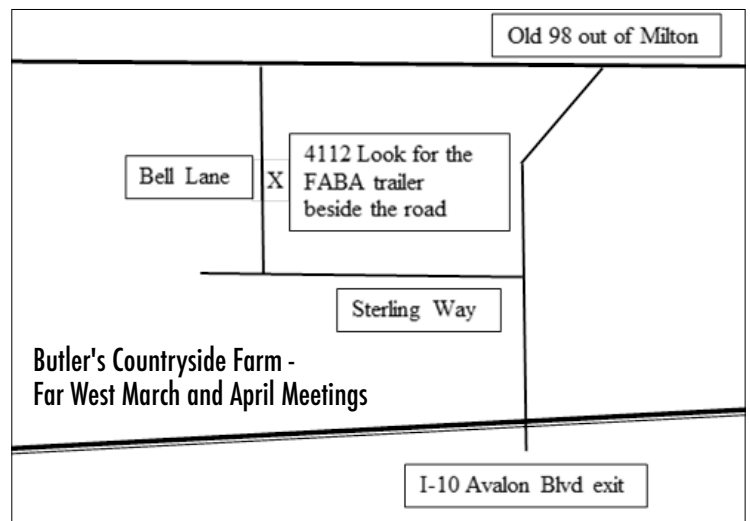
Far West Region Events

The Far West's March 27 meeting will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at [Butler's Countryside Farm, 4211 Bell Lane](#) in Milton, FL, and is intended to be a fundraiser with a "make and take" class on medieval knife making that will be open to the public.

Details about this class can be found at <https://traditions-workshop.square.site/>. The price includes a lunch provided by Sonny's BBQ.

The Far West's April meeting will also be held at John Butler's Countryside Farm with a Journeyman topic to be announced.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



NW Region Report

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest Region. The March meeting of the northwest region was held on Saturday the 13th at Bettinger Welding in Tallahassee.

We had 44 people signed in, but I believe we had at least 50 people in attendance. This was the first meeting with this many in attendance since COVID plagued us.

Danny Schul demonstrated making a hammer from bar stock. He had forged some tools for this project from a NASCAR axle. Afterward, he demonstrated a homemade track torch for a plasma cutter. During his demonstrations, we also had an open forge with several people working on their items.

Jerry Vermillion with VMW Welding Supply on South Monroe Street in Tallahassee brought MIG and TIG welders and demonstrated welding aluminum. Then he invited attendees to try their hand (with assistance) at aluminum welding.

After the demonstrations, we had our Iron in The Hat drawing with a lot of forged items, which brought \$222 for the club. We then had lunch, grilled chicken and a lot of side dishes provided by the attendees.

— Ron Childers and Roger Bell, NW Region



Danny Schul makes a hammer



Central NE Region Work Day, March 27

It is that time of year again. March 27th will be the shop maintenance day at the Barberville [Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Barberville](#). It is the fourth Saturday of the month. We have rusty forge trays that need some welding repairs, and we've got airways that need to be cleaned out or replaced.

There will be all manner of work to do. One project in particular involves restoring proper function to the settlement's wheel wright shop chimney.

If any of you have knowledge on that particular subject, then your presence would be especially welcome. Bring gloves, as a lot of the work is a bit messy.

If you happen to have extra oil appropriate for blowers, then that would be appreciated. Light power tools such as battery angle grinders and drills with wire wheels would also be helpful.

There will also be some general clean-up and organization of the shop going on, so even if you don't have shop skills, your time and effort will still be valued if you show up to help out.

Thank you in advance for your time and energy. There will be food and drinks provided to all that help out.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting, April 10

The Northwest Region will have our April meeting at [Aunt Louise's Farm, 8101 Waukeelah Hwy, Monticello, FL 32344](#). That Saturday (April 10th) will start their 6 weekend spring season of full day Saturdays and half day Sundays, when they are open to the public and we are invited to come out and provide a Blacksmithing presence.

Aunt Louise's farm is a place where people can get out in the country, see and pet animals, ride the hay wagon, buy food and drinks, lots of picture opportunities, etc.

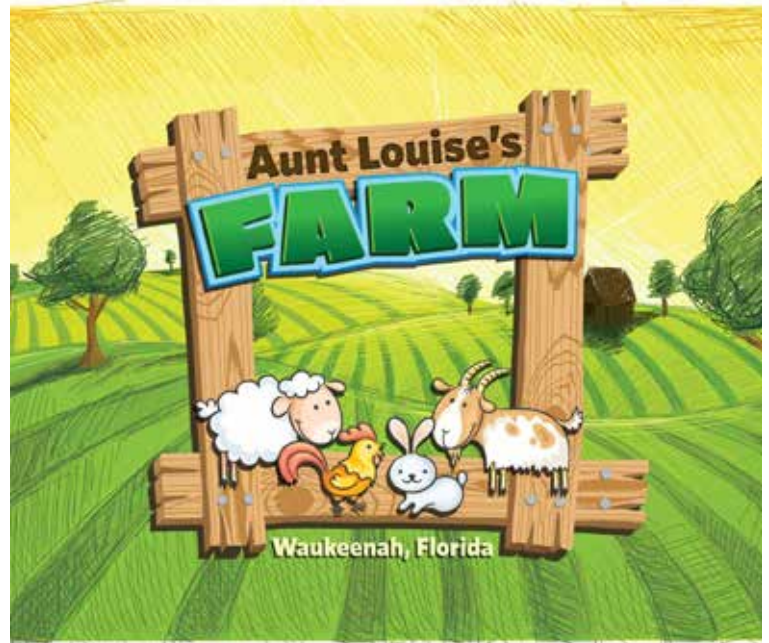
This is the third time Aunt Louise's has invited us to be a part of their event and the first time in the spring. Last fall season we had a presence there 12 out of 13 opportunities, and that was concurrent with our conference!

When we set up for our meeting, the equipment will stay for the next six weeks, and we are invited to come and practice our craft, and show and sell our wares any of those Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 6 p.m.

For our meeting, we will start at 9 a.m., an hour before they open to the public. We will have multiple work areas set up, ready for volunteers, with the theme, "Things that are fast and easy to demonstrate and sell!" Bring your favorite and show us how you do it.

Speaking of things to bring, don't forget to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle! You get 7 tickets bounty on your handmade donations or any pictures you get printed in the Clinker Breaker.

No need to bring food though, we can get our lunch from onsite vendors.



Most likely will will have our May meeting at Aunt Louise's as we will have our equipment already set up there.

I haven't set any meetings after May, so if you would like to host a meeting, please get in touch with me and let me know, especially if I have overlooked or forgotten about it.

We are so blessed with places to hold meetings that we usually have our meetings at a different place every month. I think that everyone who wants to host a meeting has had an opportunity to, but please let me know if I am wrong!

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

TIPS, TOOLS, AND TECHNIQUES

Super Quench

Super Quench was invented by *Rob Gunter* of Los Alamos Laboratory after sodium hydroxide was banned as a quenchant.

Use Super Quench to harden mild steel (up to 45-50 points of carbon) by causing a rapid cool down during quench.

Tools such as fullers and punches harden well. Guillotine tooling can really use this technique!

DO NOT use for tool steels or alloys. They will shatter upon use if not during the quench.

Ingredients

5 gallons water

5 lbs. salt

28oz bottle of Dawn blue dish washing detergent.

8oz bottle of JetDry

You need the full five-gallon batch for heat transfer, do not make less! Store in a sealed.

Instructions

Mix and set aside until all bubbles are gone.

Heat metal to critical (non-magnetic) temperature, submerge immediately and keep in constant motion – use a figure “8”.

Do not be alarmed if the metal shrieks as it cools...

There is no need to temper, the hardening is not through and through.

Boy Scout Merit Badge

From the 1952 Boy Scout Manual

- Make an open link of 3/4-inch stock.
- Forge a chain hook out of 3/4 x 1/2-inch soft steel or 3/4-inch round iron.
- Make a bolt of 1/2-inch iron.
- Bend and weld three links and form them into a chain, these links to be fastened to the hook of Requirement 2 by a ring, and links and ring to be made out of 3/8-inch iron.
- Make a straight lap weld of 1/4 x 1-inch stock.
- Make a rock drill.
- Temper a rock drill.
- Explain how to harden and temper a cold chisel.

This might not be a bad requirement to just say you are a blacksmith...

Punch Lube

If you are going to drift, slit, or punch it is prudent to use a good punch lube.

Carrier: Pick one

Beeswax

Paraffin

Bacon grease (Smells awesome)

(The wax is just the carrier for the lubricant.)

Lubricant: Pick one

Graphite (Best)

Coal dust

Charcoal dust

Get a good-sized tin can and throw a bunch of bolts, lead weights, or handful of pennies in it. (Helps keep it upright when you're fumbling around trying to drift something!) Put a sauce pan on the stove at low heat, add a couple of inches of water to it, put the can in the pan, and add your carrier to the can. When it is liquified, start to mix in your lube. Remember all of this can go up in flames right quick, be careful. Keep adding lubricant until it can't absorb any more.

If you decide on the bacon grease version, label it carefully, and store in the fridge.

Assorted Tips

- Know your anvil's measurements and use them for a quick reference while forging instead of reaching for a ruler. All my tongs are based on my anvil's face width and the measurements from the hardy hole to the edge.
- Remove the lacquer from new handles. A scraper works best, though paint remover or fire works pretty good too! Lacquer will cause friction and give you nice blisters.

Safety Tip

Wear your Eye Protection!
Buy them in bulk for less than \$2 that exceeds ANSI Z87.1-2003 High Impact Requirements!



THE SEVEN SKILLS

The object of blacksmithing is to manipulate metal. We heat metal to magma like temperatures, beat it between an irresistible force and an immovable object, and thus create beauty. But between the fire and the anvil, there are seven skills which are the building blocks of all blacksmithing. These foundational skills, once mastered, allow you to do almost anything - short of time travel.

Draw and Upset

Drawing is how we taper or lengthen a piece of metal, and upsetting is how we condense and thicken an area on our metal. It is the most fundamental of all the skills. It teaches you how to control your hammer, strike accurately and with the correct strength.

Punching

Punching introduces a hole or mark to our work. It can be round as in tenon holes, oval or square for hammer eyes. Slitting is a close cousin to punching and is used to conserve metal around the hole being created. A punch is made by drawing and upsetting stock to the desired dimensions. Punches can also be used to add texture and designs to the work!



Bend, Fold, or Twist.

These are the ways we create abrupt or subtle changes in the geometry of our project. A *bend* can be slight or exaggerated, but usually follows a radius or tangent. A *fold* overlaps the metal, it may either touch or not touch. *Twisting* is turning the metal upon an axis to introduce a pattern, usually on the exterior, but also in the interior when making pattern welded steel.

Welding



Forge welding, (not electrical), is the joining or combining of two pieces of hot metal by hammering them together on an anvil or joining them together by pressure. Forge welding is one of those techniques that seem fraught with mystery... until you figure it out, then it's not too bad!

There is nothing arcane or mysterious about the seven skills; it is a kinesthetic process, in other words you learn by doing! When mastered and used singly or in combination, it allows you to create almost anything that you might imagine.

What the mind can conceive and believe, the smith can achieve!

FABA regional meetings are a great place to learn about these foundational skills. We always have knowledgeable smiths in attendance who will always be willing to assist fellow members in developing these techniques. Many members also host Hammer-Ins at their homes!

Albert A Rasch

SW Region Report

There is no planned in-person meeting for the SW Region at the end of the month. I'm looking for anyone in the SW region who has a project or demo that they can do online in the coming weeks. Feel free to contact me via email at antony.fenn@gmail.com or private message me via Facebook.

I encourage you to go to the [FABA SW Facebook page](#) for the any meeting announcements and to find recorded video from past meetings. In the meantime, SW members have been busy working in their own shops on creative projects.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Regional Coordinator**



Tony Fenn forged this Sheep's Head fish skeleton sculpture from 1/2" and 3/4" round bar and 1/4" thick steel plate. Everything was assembled with copper rivets.



Marcus Wise has again been making some spectacular knives. He made this 10" Damascus chef knife from 1095/15n20 with an integral bolster and African Blackwood handle.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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April 2021

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FABA Membership Application: Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via Paypal by going to **blacksmithing.org/membership/join** and clicking through the Paypal button. You do not need to have a Paypal account to use this feature. OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to:

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) _____ OR Color Newsletter by Email _____

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