

The Forum

June 2007



Vol. 9, No. 6

History and hammers and more at next Guild meeting June 13

A unique setting, to be sure, awaits you when you plan to attend the next Guild of Metalsmiths meeting on Wednesday, June 13. The venue is the James J Hill farm blacksmith shop in North Oaks. People who show up early will be treated to the historic tour by Guild member Carl Nordquist, who just happens to be the North Oaks village blacksmith and who helped restore the shop at the museum.

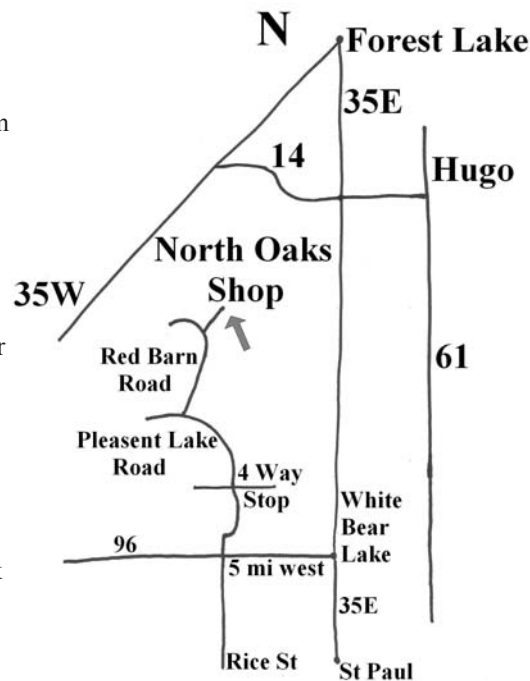
The program for June started out as an Education Committee discussion about the number of treadle hammers in The Guild that do not see a lot of use. Mindy Gardner did a nice showing of the tool when she demonstrated at the Madness, and long ago George Dixon did a nice Madness demonstration of the tool.

Herb Fick has talked Bob Walsh, Dave Mariette, Pete Stanaitis, and Jesse Gavin into offering to bring a few of their pet tools for treadle hammers to the meeting and demonstrate them.

We have space in the shop to show about three hammers. The difference in hammers is people devise ways to make them safer, and they make tool carriers that make them very effective. Hammers are not just for crushing cans.

The Education Committee is considering some classes for next year to make tooling for these machines. This will be an excellent chance to get some ideas in preparation for taking this class.

This is your first opportunity to come sample the works of Nick Heinen, the new coffee guy and volunteer exceptionale! Potluck starts at 6:30, as usual.



Forum deadline for July: Monday, June 18, 2007

The deadline for The Forum is always the third Monday of the month. If you have activities that will be occurring in the next few months and wish to have them published in the next Forum, please send them by Monday, June 18, 2007 to Georgia Myers, editor, by e-mail to:

forum@metalsmith.org

(e-mails will be forwarded to Georgia Myers), or to

gmyers@rconnect.com

or mail them to:

Georgia Myers
313 Dakota St
Lake City MN 55041



The Guild of Metalsmiths, St. Paul, MN, publishes the GoM Forum monthly. It is intended as a tool to further our educational mission, to keep members up to date on current happenings, to publicize projects and workshops, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, learn more about each other—in short, to help us run our organization.

For address change, or to submit comments, please mail to: The GoM Forum

Georgia Myers
313 Dakota St
Lake City, MN 55041-1869

or e-mail to

forum@metalsmith.org or
gmyers@rconnect.com

Guild educational grants

There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metalworking techniques.

The Guild educational grant program is designed to bring new skills into the metalworking community. Participants are given money to pay for a portion of their expenses and are expected to learn some new or poorly understood skill, and then to share what they have learned with other members and the public through an article in our quarterly magazine, "The Metalsmith." They're also expected to lead a workshop on the topic (or other educational service approved by the board).

Application forms are available from the president or treasurer at a regular meeting, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Guild of Metalsmiths
PO Box 11423
St. Paul MN 55111

Vintage Automobile Sheet Metal Repair Workshop

This workshop is designed to acquaint the student with the processes and skills used to repair auto body panels before the advent of plastic fillers. The goal of this workshop is for the student to leave the class with the knowledge and confidence to initiate these repairs on their own. This class will be held over 4 days. All students will take home a "Pzo" style fender stand.

Instructor: Don Hammer 15269 Upper 61st St. North,
Stillwater, MN 55082-6894
upnorthhammer@earthlink.net 651-351-0869
Contact prior to class for tools to bring

Registration: Gordon Barr 11021 - 27th Ave S. Burnsville, MN
55337
agbarr@aol.com 952-894-4821

Location: Dan Pate's shop - 35730 Hwy 56 Blvd, Dennison,
MN 55018 (map on page 7)

Class size: Limited to 8

Cost: \$150

Dates: August 11th and 12th and Aug 18th and 19th
9:00 to 5:00

**Register for this unique, 4-day
"Vintage Automobile Sheet Metal
Repair Workshop" by filling out the
registration form on the next page.**

Vintage Automobile Sheet Metal Repair Workshop (continued from page 5)

Day one agenda:

Intro, historical background, overview of course content. Analysis of painted panels. Develop the ability to see potential problem areas under the paint. Short discussion about panel alignment, gaps, proper and improper straightening and sanding techniques. Strip and analyze panels that we will be repairing. cleaning and conditioning. Techniques of bumping.

Day two agenda:

Rough shaping. Grinding techniques, Patch planning, fabrication and installation using Oxy-fuel. Discuss stress and techniques of stress reduction.

Day three agenda:

Continue patching, Shrinking with heat, Soldering

Day Four agenda:

Solder shaping, overall panel straightening, planishing, discuss protective coatings, wrap up discussion.

Register for "Vintage Auto Sheet Metal Repair Workshop." Fill out form below and mail, along with check for \$150 made out to "Guild of Metalsmiths" to:

Gordon Barr
11021 – 27th Ave S.
Burnsville, MN 55337

For questions, email or call Gordon at agbarr@aol.com - 952-894-4821

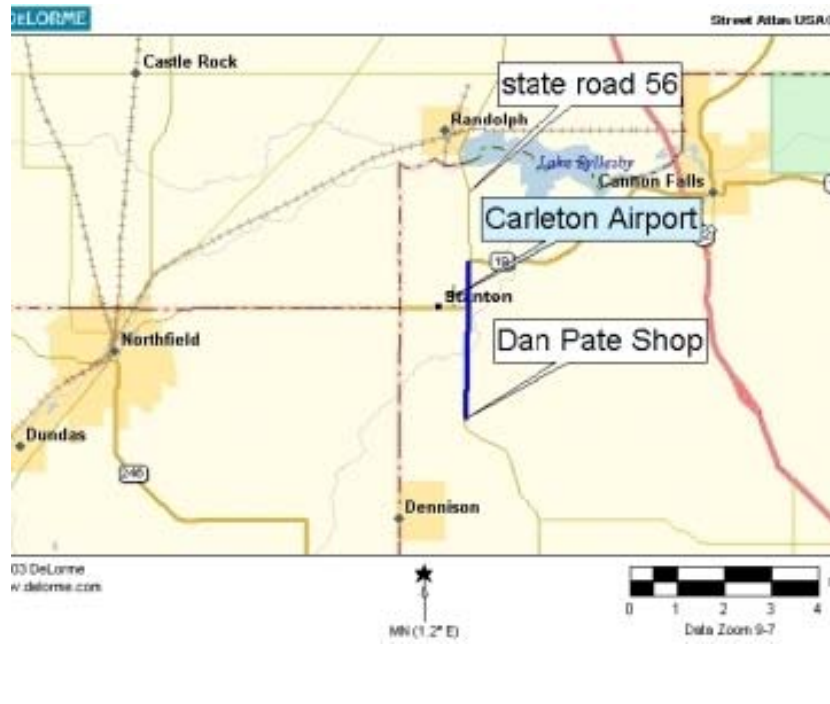
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Map to Dan Pate's shop for Vintage Auto Repair Workshop



Upcoming: Annual Corn Feed and Guild Membership Meeting!

August 8th at Olin Wrought Iron
And a lot more!

Everyone mark your calendars for this one! Just talking with Bob Walsh and Chris Rand about their demonstrations at the August 8th meeting has got me excited and thinking of the possibilities.

They are going to show you how to bring the power to the metal!

They will be demonstrating different size air hammer guns, showing tooling and the many uses in blacksmithing.

AND let's not forget about the corn feed. My taste buds are already craving it. Remember that this is normally one of the bigger gatherings, so please attend. These tools are very loud so remember ear plugs and safety glasses.

— Tom Phelps

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please notice the arrow on the address label of this issue of The Forum. If the date it's pointing to has come and gone, it's time to renew your membership. For example, if it says "2006, Dec" your membership has expired.

Changes

Tom Phelps
otbsmith@gmail.com

Greetings all!

I'm building a mentoring resource list for the Guild and would like you to sign up. You don't need to have a wealth of knowledge or even a shop. Just be accessible to members or the general public for metal related guidance. If you'd like to be included in the database, contact me, and I'll send you a questionnaire.

Don Hammer
15269 Upper 61st St. North
Stillwater, Mn. 55082
651-351-0869
carshaper@yahoo.com

Madness teaser!

Even though summer has just begun, the Madness is just around the corner.

On September 21st, 22nd and 23rd we have another great event in store with lots of things to do and see.

This year I am going to do the same thing I did last year, write this article to get everyone thinking about all of the things they can do to make our conference one of the best in the country.

GALLERY:

I will once again be working in the gallery so I will start there. We have many new members in the guild and this will be their first Madness. I really want to make this a gallery that highlights all aspects of the Guild to new members. Please bring your work in for display, old and new.

FOUND ART:

The found art event has gotten great reviews from members so again I say look through your scrap bins and that pile of stuff you thought you might use, but now gives you headaches. Donate, donate, donate!

AUCTION:

Ok now the big one, I want to remind all members that the auction at the conference brings in a good deal of money that keeps the guild going so please donate some of your work to the auction this year.

Let's make this a good one, folks.

— *Tom Phelps*

Printable Fall Conference flyer

Marty Hicks has created a one-page flyer that can be downloaded and printed, then posted on bulletin boards and other public locations.

Go to <http://www.hixwerx.com/sculpture/metalwork/guild.html>

Minutes – THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS, Board of Directors – 9 May 07

Held at the home of: Myron Hanson, 4015 Dodd Rd., Eagan, MN 55123

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 by Rich

Members in attendance:

Barr, Herman, Hanson, Frattalone, Moriarty, Fick, Sigurdson, Phelps, Moenck,

Missing: Myers

AMENDMENT / APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S

MINUTES: Motion to accept by Barr and second by Moenck. Passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee-Mike Frattalone

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS	\$11,646
REMAINING GRANTS	7,075
CERT. OF DEPOSIT	10,247
CASH TOTAL	18,721 (DOWN 282 FROM 5-10-06)

EXPENSES SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING	4,306
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DEPOSITS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING	3,497
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EXPENSE SUMMARY:

POSTCARDS AND STAMPS	43
BACKISSUE SERVICE	16
SEARCH ENGINE LISTING	30
FORUM	974
METALSMITH	1522
WORKSHOPS	1201
ANNUAL REGISTRATION	25
TAX PREP (LARSON ALLEN LLP)	495

MEMBERSHIP COUNT	307 (SAME AS LAST YEAR)
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REMAINING COAL ESTIMATE	18.7 TONS
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Education Committee-Jim Moenck

Met 2 May and continue to work on class schedule, probably 50% done.

The schedule will be published approximately 5 June on the WEB site.

Program Committee- Myron Hanson Myron will submit budget following the 17 May program committee meeting.

June 13 2007 Champion: Dick Carlson - North Oaks blacksmith shop (Carl Nordquist) at Rice and County road 96 location in North Oaks. It was

James J Hill Farm Four members have come forward offering to

demonstrate treadle hammers and favorite treadle hammer tools and

fixtures. Dave Gavin, Dave Mariette, Pete Stanaitis and Robert Walsh.

August 8 meeting Olin Shop, Tom Phelps is the champion. Tom did contact

Dave Olin. Bob Walsh will demonstrate hot forging with a pneumatic

hammer (riveting hammer). Also the annual sweet corn feed.

October 10 meeting:

Guild Board meeting minutes (continued from page 10)

Rod shop Kretchner? Corky will contact KretchnerHerb will find Corky and see how far we are and whether we need a backup problem. In Corky's hand as of last week.

Madness/Fall Conference: Sept 21, 22 and 23 2007.

Marty Hicks put together a single page flyer to post at events this spring. He brought it to the meeting. Myron Hanson is the listed contact. Marty Hicks has offered to do a draft for the 17 May program committee meeting.

Next program committee meetings:

17 May 21 June 19 July 16 Aug 13 Sept 25 Sept 15 Nov
13 Dec

Publicity Committee- Roland SigurdsonMet last week. Last two Forums for April and May are out and the Metalsmith in its new format seems well received.

LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE -Gary Myers

There is a committee of 6 now looking at bylaws from other chapters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Book Library:

Rich did contact Gavin to see where it is going. Jesse will continue working with the book library.

Coffee Crew: Nick Hienen has taken the ball. Thanks to Nick

Directory: Barr says it is time to gather all remaining loose copies and prepare to reorder. Barr will go with a simple printed version. Think about 30 – 60 days for completion. He has the job to get it ready to distribute by e-mail where he can and mail the rest.

NEW BUSINESS:

Myron's motion for payment to Little Log House and Pioneer Village:

As chairman of the Program Committee, Myron Hanson moves that The Guild of Metalsmiths pay a total of \$5000.00 to the Little Log House as a good faith support of the Log House efforts to improve the "seat" building at the Little Log House Pioneer Village near Hastings, MN. Payment contingent on an offer of rent free use of the "seat" building for 10 years. Passed.

Background:

We have been having our annual fall conference on these grounds for seven years with no charge for the use of these facilities. Each year our use has grown, last year we used one large shed for registration, general meetings, gallery, and meals; another building to hold two simultaneous demonstrations, a third building for the Altoid Tin repousse and Found Art workshops, and a large open field for parking, tailgating, and the Silent Auction. In return for use of the Little Log House facilities no fees have been charged to our group in the past other than paying for trash removal and other consumable items utilized.

Originally, the main hall used for our meetings was the Reception Hall. This building had a plain plank floor and was rarely used for any activities. Several years later, the first weddings were held at the chapel followed by receptions in the hall we normally used. Over time, the hosting of weddings and receptions became a primary activity for the facility. Improvements were made to the hall including installation of a quality wood floor and the

Guild Board meeting minutes (continued from page 11)

addition of a liquor license last year. We continued to be offered use of the hall despite the lost revenue the Bauer's had from us using the hall. From the Bauer's perspective, the lost revenue may become more significant in the future due to significant increases in property taxes that have been imposed in recent years.

Last year a new metal shed was built and due to a scheduling error for the Reception Hall, we used this facility for our main meeting area. In general, there was dissatisfaction with the dirt floor in this building and lack of a kitchen or bathroom facilities, but the size was better and it was felt there were fewer concerns with possible damage to the floor, a major issue with the Reception Hall. Growing conflicts between our event and activities centered around the church had also forced our group out of the normal parking area that had been used in the past and the new building fit better with the locations allowed for us to use for parking/camping/tailgating.

I (Myron) contacted Steve Bauer to determine if the new building could be enhanced to have a cement floor and a bathroom/sink installed for us to use. Steve Bauer has expressed interest in doing the improvements, but has concerns about the cost for the improvements, estimated to be over \$15,000. Mr. Bauer asked if the Guild would be willing to share in the cost of the project by contributing \$5000.00 in exchange for a guarantee for at least 10 years that we would be permitted to use the facilities for no monetary charge.

Following items are some of the reasons for supporting this motion:

- ◆ It is understood that this request represents a significant investment by the Guild, but it should also be noted that any equivalent facilities that could be located would probably charge a rent that would meet or exceed the total amount asked for in this motion for use over the next three to five years.

- ◆ This location meets the needs for our group very well and attempting to move to a new location would require a significant planning and preparation effort.

- ◆ Continuity of location is important with a conference such as ours to ensure people attending in the future have no problems planning for the event, a guarantee of a facility that serves our needs as well as this would be a significant benefit.

- ◆ Finding locations with similar facilities and proximity to our membership, particularly the members responsible for setting up the conference, would be difficult.

- ◆ Lost revenue by the Bauer's may force them to drop their offer of free use for the grounds if we continue to use the hall for our conference.

Mr. Bauer has requested a timely response to his proposal to permit him to make plans and establish a schedule to permit construction start by June 1. This will allow him to avoid conflicts between construction and other events scheduled this summer in this facility.

Rich Herman discusses what support we want to provide for the Hammer-in at Nowthen on June 8,9,10. There is a question about rent for Nowthen facility. There are about \$300 in expenses anticipated. Herb moves that the organizers ask for \$15 per family and the Guild will cover costs for differences. Either way. Passed.

Guild Board meeting minutes (continued from page 12)

What is the plan for the new “Ray Clontz” power hammer that the Guild now owns, the result of the recent workshop.

Option one: Keep it for Guild functions, demo’s and workshops.

Option two. Sell it for a fixed amount.

Option three. Myron moves that we use a long term silent auction at the fall Conference starting at \$2200, minimum increment of \$25 and starting June 8 at the Nowthen Hammer in and concluding Sunday 1 pm or two minutes after the last recorded bid following 1 pm. Gordon Barr seconds. Discussed and passed. Rich controls the auction. Hammer displayed at Myron’s.

Jim Moenck wants some input on the mentor program.

“Don H and I are both calling our endeavors the “mentor program”.

Although both are just that, I think we are traveling down different roads, but in the same direction. We may want to change a name or something, and I would like to open it up for discussion.”

Henceforth the Education committee’s program is “Mentor”. Don Hammer’s specific program is called “Outreach”.

Roland Sigurdson: Add to discussion the blacksmith shop at Murphy’s Landing, Shakopee. Gordon and I would like to share what we’ve learned with the Board. Roland moves that the Guild advertise the opportunity using the Forum. Jim seconds and done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting of the board is 11 July. Push back to 18 July. Program is 17 May, Education is June 6. Hammer in at Nowthen Friday night. Cowboys at Dundas.

MAIL REVIEW: United States Postal service offered a non-profit rate for Cornerstone (the publisher used) to use.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:25

ATTENTION ALL GUILD MEMBERS!!!

☐

MAKE PLANS TO SET ASIDE SOME TIME THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH, 2007.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A WEEKEND OF BLACKSMITHING AT THE NOWTHEN SHOW GROUNDS BLACKSMITH SHOP.

EVENTS TENTATIVELY PLANNED ARE:

- POWER HAMMER SEMINAR (SAFETY AND SOME HANDS ON TIME)
- GAS FORGE SEMINAR
- OPEN FORGE TIME
- TAILGATING
- AND????

SURE TO BE A GOOD TIME TO MEET WITH OTHER SMITHS AND EXCHANGE IDEAS, TO BOTH TEACH AND LEARN. BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR MORE UPDATES AS WE GET CLOSER TO JUNE.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT:
BRYAN STECKMAN AT 763-521-6917



**Power hammer
for silent
auction- see
page 15 for
details**



Weekend blacksmiths needed

http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/outdoor_ed/murphys_landing/

Historic Murphy's Landing on Highway 13 in Shakopee has a small rustic blacksmith shop that is in need of demonstrators. They are open every Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Everyone is welcome to come out for a day or a few hours to demonstrate, work on a project, or interpret blacksmithing for the public.

This is a great opportunity to practice your craft in an atmosphere much like the hay-day of blacksmithing in Amercia. If you would like to volunteer a day during the summer, contact Jefferson Spilman (763-694-7789) jspilman@threeriversparkdistrict.org directly at Murphy's Landing. Also, you can contact Guild members Roland Sigurdson or Gordon Barr.

News from Tunnel Mill...



There are still a couple empty spots for our June 23 & 24 class. We have Roger Degner scheduled for a Basic Rotcroft Style Copper Vessel Class. Students will make three vessels out of copper tubing: two straight and one tapered.

Class size for each is 8 students. Call for information.
Carol 507-289-4189 or e-mail jc-adams@msn.com.
(Not Guild-sponsored events).

REMINDER: Tunnel Mill Annual Fall Gathering is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 6 & 7. Mark your calendar now!

Power Hammer for Sale

In the recent Spare Tire Power Hammer workshop, one extra power hammer was built for The Guild of Metalsmiths. The Board of the Guild has decided to offer this power hammer for sale as a fundraising activity for the Guild. Rules of the sale will be as follows:

- Sale will be by a long term “silent” auction.
- Bidding will start at 8 AM on Saturday, June 9th, 2007 at the Nowthen Hammer-In.
- Starting price for the bidding is \$2200, if this reserve price is not met by the close of bidding, the power hammer will not be sold.
- Bidding ends at 1 PM on Sunday, September 23rd, 2007 or two minutes following the last bid after that time.
- Bids must be placed with Myron Hanson (651-454-3984) or with the person in charge of bidding if the hammer is on display at an event.
- Minimum increment for bids is \$25.
- Hammer will be on public display at the June Hammer-in at Nowthen (June 9th and 10th) and at the Fall Conference at the Little Log House (Sept. 22nd and 23rd)
- Contact Myron Hanson for additional opportunities to inspect the power hammer
- Winner is responsible for arranging transportation from the Fall Conference site on the final day of the auction. Estimated weight is 900 pounds and the height is approximately 7 feet.

This power hammer was initially designed by Ray Clontz with plans developed by Clay Spencer. Clay appeared at our 2006 Fall Conference and used this style of power hammer as part of his demonstration. The Guild of Metalsmiths held a workshop this spring for members of our group with 21 of these hammers being built over a period of several months. Clay Spencer participated the last weekend of the workshop during the final assembly process to oversee the assembly and approve each hammer. Clay liked the quality of our work and took one of the hammers home with him as part of his fee for the workshop.

The remaining 20 power hammers, including the one being auctioned, remained here in our area along with all of the people that helped build it. There is a lot of expertise available locally from the workshop participants for this power hammer plus a set of drawings and plans will be included with the hammer. This is a blacksmith-built hammer and it was designed to be blacksmith maintained, no special equipment is needed for maintenance and repair.

Design of this hammer is similar to the standard Little Giant power hammer. The hammer operates via a foot treadle with excellent control of the striking speed. The hammer is powered by a 1 hp electric motor operating on standard 110v power. It has a 50 pound head with standard flat tool steel dies and is designed to strike at rates exceeding 200 blows per minute. New dies are simple to make and easy to replace. Additional tooling may be added using standard spring dies with a tool holder system that would be simple to add to the anvil of the hammer.

These hammers were built with extra heavy anvils, the plans called for a 6 inch solid round anvil 36 inches long but the actual anvil used was 6+ inch square stock. Base plates used are approximately 2 foot square steel plates, but we used a three quarter inch plate instead of the standard half inch plate. Construction included a lot of welding and the quality of the welds is very good.

Even if you are not interested in buying this unit, I would suggest that you take a look at it, the work done on these hammers was very well done and all the participants in this group were proud of their efforts.

— *Rich Herman*

2007 schedule for Central Minnesota Blacksmiths

Monday June 4th

Jeff Anshus Studio-7567 Acorn NW, Royalton MN
320-584-0021 - Basic Heat Treating Demo

Saturday July 7th

Ken Zitur's Studio-37634 Cty. Rd. 9, Avon MN
320-746-2557 – Riveting & Collaring Demo

Monday August 6th

Russ Karasch's Studio-640 Chinook Ave. SW, Avon MN
320-356-7125 – Russ always comes up with something
interesting

Monday September 10th

Bill / Kathy Studio- 251 Central Avenue South, Watkins
(320) 764-2315-Bill will be giving a tour of his shop

Monday October 1st

Brian Johnson's Studio-16777 Cty. Rd. 75 NW, Clearwater MN
320-558-6898 Heat Coloring Demo

Monday November 12th

Stewart Schwinghammer's Studio-22601 Fairfield Rd., St.
Cloud MN
320-656-9988 – New Shop Tour

Saturday December 8th

Ken Zitur's Studio-37634 Cty. Rd. 9, Avon MN
320-746-2557 – CMB Christmas Party

Our neighborhood of smiths

Check this page every month to see what's going on with our neighboring colleagues, and read about activities in their smithing groups.

UMBA

Visit <http://www.umbaonline.org/events.html>

UMBA DVD-R library

125 different titles

\$5 each, \$2 shipping per order

Never return them to library - www.umbaonline.org

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths meeting schedule

See page 12 for updated 2007 schedule

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Paul Branch

715-248-7788

715-222-9239

pbranch@frontiernet.net

Jon Gooding

(715)-688-2067

hdriderjr@baldwin-telecom.net

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month at noon from October through April. The meetings are potluck at noon at Dave Hanson's house, 5873 Taft Road, Duluth, Minnesota, 218-721-4572.

Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

The NMM meetings are the first Monday of the month, often, but not always, at Keith Johnson's shop in Bemidji. Contact Keith for monthly specifics at keith@greatriverforge.com. The Northern Minn. Metalsmith's website is up again, different name, www.nmmetalsmiths.org

Central Texas Blacksmiths

To read their online newsletter, go to

<http://balconesforge.org/newsletters/feb07/feb07.pdf>

If that does not work, then just head to www.balconesforge.org.

Goings on...



Events in June

- June 8, 9, 10, hammer-in at Nowthen show grounds. Featured event: Power Hammer Seminar
- June 13, Guild membership meeting at North Oaks Blacksmith Shop. (Guild-sponsored event)
- June 16, Nathan Robertson teaching hammer-making workshop at Tunnel Mill (not Guild-sponsored)
- June 23 & 24, Roger Degner teaching Basic Roycroft Style Copper Vessel Class (not Guild-sponsored)
- June 20-July 2, CanIron VI, Victoria B.C. Canada. Sponsored by Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association.

Events in July

- July 11, Guild Board meeting at Myron Hanson's
- July 27, 28, 29, Little Log House Power Show

Events in August

- Aug. 8, Guild meeting at Dave Olin's shop in Mendota Heights

Events in September

- Sept. 21, 22, 23, Guild of Metalsmiths annual Fall Conference.

Events in October

- Oct. 6 & 7, Tunnel Mill Annual Fall Gathering
- Oct. 10, Guild meeting TBA

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Jefferson Spilman 763-694-7789 jspilman@threeriversparkdistrict.org
Roland Sigurdson 651-674-2408 rolandsigurdson@yahoo.com
Gordon Barr 952-894-4821 agbarr@aol.com