

The Forum

July 2007



Vol. 9, No. 7

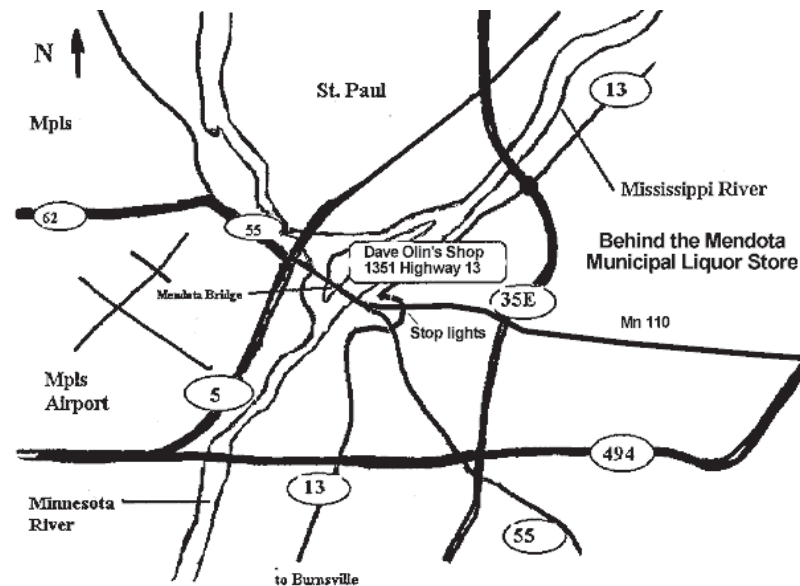
August 8: Annual Corn Feed and Guild Membership Meeting!

Olin Wrought Iron, Mendota MN

The next general meeting is the big annual Corn Feed. This year we are again meeting at the Olin Wrought Iron shop in Mendota, overlooking the scenic Mississippi River. The Corn Feed is one of our bigger events, so come early to be part of the Pot Luck dinner starting at 6:30 and bring an appetite. We have yet to run out of corn!

The demonstration for this meeting will be by Bob Walsh and Chris Rand. The topic will be using air hammer guns and how they can be used for blacksmithing. If you have never seen what these tools can do, you are in for a major surprise. They can really get a lot of work done fast!

This demonstration will require the use of ear protection. All people watching will need to use ear protection and safety glasses. Please bring your own if you can.



Forum deadline for August: Monday, July 16, 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, July 16, 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

413 W 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.

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

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

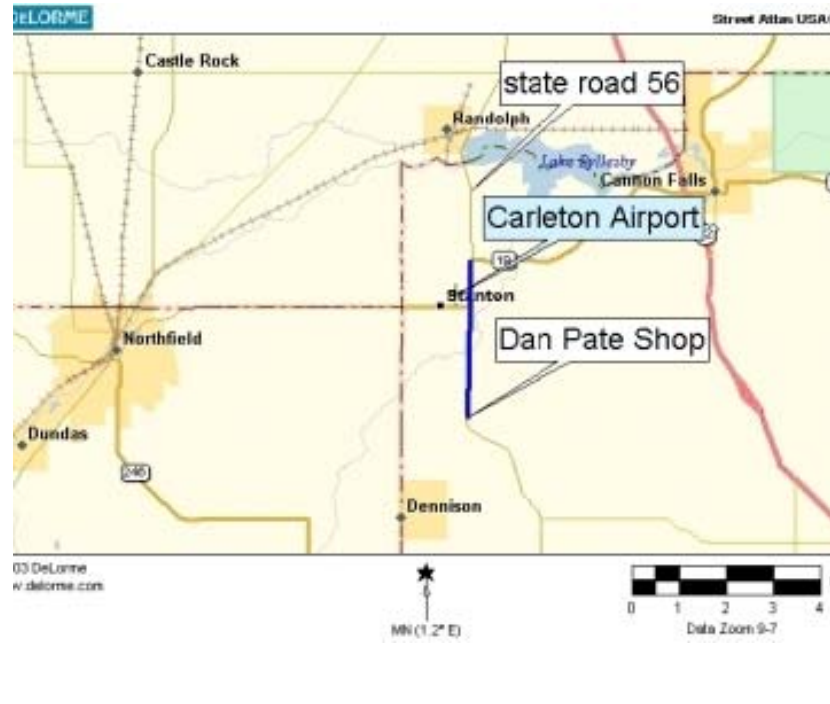
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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



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.

New Members

Ray Carpenter
6181 – 238th Ave NE
Stacy, MN 55079
651-408-0054
rdcarpenter@landolakes.com

Edward Karn
306 – 1st S
Montgomery, MN 56069
edwayrd@gmail.com

Dian Magie
PO Box 1127
Hendersonville, NC 28793

Changes

Connie Barnier
cmbarrier@yahoo.com

Rick Wessling
612-824-4880
wesslingrg@teamtsp.com

William Allshouse
28328 State Hwy 47
Aitkin, MN 56431
320-684-2018
allshwr0@aol.com

Jesse Gavin
W5440 Harvey Rd S
Poynette, WI 53955

Gary & Georgia Myers
413 W Dakota St
Lake City MN 55041-1869
651-345-2719
gmyers@rconnect.com

Madness teaser!

Even though summer has a long way to go until fall, 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>

Demonstrators Wanted

During the summer there are a large number of events that take place where there is a request for people to demonstrate various arts, crafts, and old-time skills. Blacksmithing falls very well into these categories and there are numerous opportunities to demonstrate around the area, primarily at Threshing Shows and County Fairs. There are a few things that you need to know in order to be able to participate in a demonstration, and being an expert in blacksmithing is not necessarily one of them.

The first thing that you should understand is what the general format of the demonstration will be, is it just a general group of smiths getting together to show off in front of a bunch of people or are you expected to fulfill a role like a reenactor and play a blacksmith character. The first type of show is much more common and is easy to meet the requirements for participating. The latter type of event may require more experience in order to be able to answer questions plus you may be more likely to be operating alone and may have to be in costume

The second thing you need to find out is what will be provided. This includes whether the site will have a forge, post vise and anvil for you to use - other tools such as safety glasses, proper clothing, hearing protection, hammers, tongs, punches, etc. you should plan on bringing. Is coal going to be provided? Will there be a lunch and liquids to drink or do you need to bring your own? Is there stock available and a planned project or should you come up with your own ideas and steel?

Finally, get the details on the date, the start and end times and when you can have access to the site for setup (if needed).

Assuming this is a general demonstration type of event and you have all the above information, the next question is who should consider participating. I always tell people that are just starting out that they should participate in a demonstration and almost always the response is that they do not feel capable of being able to perform in front of other people. The truth is that if you can get iron hot and draw a taper, you have more than enough skill to be able to demonstrate. The vast majority of people (90%+) have never seen hot iron before, so just getting a piece of steel up to a bright yellow and starting to hammer on it is enough to keep their attention. As far as answering questions, do a little homework and find out what the temperatures are of the various hot colors of steel, the temperature of a coal fire, how to do simple heat treating, and know of a few items that blacksmiths are able to make (other than horseshoes!) will cover the majority of the questions. If you can bring a few items with you and set them on the table to show them what you make, it is even better. The best part is that most of the time you get to work beside an experienced smith that is in charge of the event. This can be a great opportunity to ask questions of them and have them show you a few new tricks. I still pick up some new ideas every time I do a demonstration.

One thing you need to keep in mind when you are demonstrating is SAFETY! Always make sure that the audience is as safe as possible while you are demonstrating. The first thing is to make sure everyone stays back,

“Demonstrators wanted” continued on page 11

Demonstrators wanted

(continued from page 10)

especially from the anvil. Make sure that safety ropes are up and that no one - especially children - sneak under them. Notice how the height of the anvil is perfectly in line with the eyes of the children, make sure they are far enough back. Forge welding is a common question, but it is an extremely dangerous thing to demonstrate, sparks WILL fly in all directions and can easily cause injuries - especially to eyes, I strongly recommend against forge welding for demonstrations.

You may participate in a large group project, you may assist one of the other demonstrators in a medium sized project, do a big project of your own, or do a bunch of small projects. It is usually a good idea to have several projects in mind and bring materials to do them. S hooks and steak turners are always good items to demonstrate.

To get involved in a demonstration, contact the coordinator for the event and find out the exact details for that event.

Upcoming opportunities to help with demonstrations

July 17-22

Rice County Fair, contacts Don Hammer

July 21-22

Minnesota Zoo John Deere Days, contact Rich Herman 651-322-1623

July 28-29

Little Log House Antique Power Show, Hastings, MN, contact Dick Carlson, 651-437-3329

August 10, 11, 12

Almelund Threshing Show, Almelund, MN, contact Bob Fredell, 863-389-5119

August 17, 18, 19

Nowthen Threshing Show, Nowthen, MN, contact Carl Nordquist, 715-866-8807

Weekends-Memorial Day through Labor Day

Historic Murphy's Landing, Shakopee, MN, contact Gordon Barr, 952-894-4821 or Roland Sigurdson 651-674-2408

Fall Conference Schedule Preview

Friday, September 21

10 am	General conference setup
11 am	Gallery setup
Late afternoon	Tailgate corral opens
5 pm	Putluck supper, view slide shows by demonstrators
7 pm	Gala party around gallery

Saturday, September 22

7:30 am	Registration/sales desk opens
9 am	Silent auction opens
9-12	Demonstrations
9-12	Family activities
12-1	Lunch break
1-4	Demonstrations
4:30	Silent auction ends, items paid by 5
5	Dinner
6:30	Live auction begins

Sunday, September 23

7:30 am	Registration opens
7:30 am	Breakfast
8:30-12	Demonstrations
8:30-12	Family activities
12-1	Lunch
1 pm	End of auction for spare tire power hammer
1-3 pm	Demonstrations
3:15	Closing ceremony/clean-up

Family Activities

- Broom Making Class Saturday with Mark Jackson and Sheri Stanaitis, \$15 material fee paid at registration
- Hoola Hoop or Rectangle Rugs Saturday morning with Sheri Stanaitis. Call 715-698-2895 for details.
- Found Art Saturday with Herb Fick, Don Hammer, and Dillon Allen
- Altoid Tin Repousse Saturday & Sunday with Jesse Gavin and Jim Breczinski
- Magnetic Art Saturday & Sunday with Corky Kittelson
- Blacksmithing Outreach, Intro to Blacksmithing for “newbies” with Don Hammer

Conference brochures will be mailed soon. If you don't receive one, please contact: Myron Hanson at 651-454-3984 or Rich Herman at 651-322-1623 or email Rich at racherman@frontiernet.net

Fall Conference demonstrators at a glance

Jay Close, Charlotte, North Carolina

Jay Close is currently professor of Architectural Metal, and chairman of the Department of Architectural Metal at the American College of Building Arts, Charlotte, NC.

From 1985-1999 Jay studied under Peter Ross and worked at Colonial Williamsburg, where he learned traditional blacksmithing. From 1999-2005 Jay operated his own shop in Charlotte, NC where he specialized in restoration and recreating traditional ironwork.

At the Fall Conference, Jay will teach us what can be made with a hammer, anvil, and only a few additional tools. He will demonstrate and explain the basic processes of blacksmithing and demonstrate items that can be made using each of those processes.

L. Japheth Howard, Salisbury, Missouri

Japheth began his career as a blacksmith at age 15, when his interest in history and archeology led him to try forging replicas of antique iron tools he had excavated.

He served as apprentice to a blacksmith in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he was able to turn his full attention to the vocation he's been with for the past 18 years.

Japheth worked as a journeyman blacksmith, including a two-year internship at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. He also spent a year in the workshop of Richard Quinnell in Surrey, England.

Japheth has gained a reputation for high quality work and fine craftsmanship. He and his wife, metalsmith Alice A. James, have been invited to teach many blacksmithing classes at craft schools throughout the country each year.

Conference hosts

The Guild of Metalsmiths extends its thanks and gratitude to Steve and Sylvia Bauer for the opportunity to hold our event at the Little Log House Antique Power Show grounds just outside of Hastings, Minnesota.

The Bauers have rules on dogs being on the grounds, so the following rules will apply to those attending the conference. Dogs may be brought to the conference, but the following rules must be observed:

1. No dogs allowed in any of the buildings.
2. All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
3. Owners are expected to clean up after their dogs.



Power hammer for silent auction- see page 15 for details



Invitation to try 'found art' at the Madness

You are invited to try found art at the Madness. The photo at right illustrates just one of the original works created last year.

We now have four highly trained found art folk who specialize in helping found art enthusiasts construct found art pieces of their liking. We will have available a variety of welding processes and tech folk willing and able.

Please think casually about what to bring to put on the source pile. Your staff will also do a bit of dumpster diving on behalf of those who participate.

Think like last year. But mostly consider yourselves invited to take part in what has become a fun part of the Madness. We expect to do all work on Saturday in time to include found art pieces in the Gallery for all to enjoy.

— *Herb Fick*



"Found art" masterpiece "Bygd Bug" created in 2006 by Monty Bygd

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

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 July

- July 11, Guild Board meeting at Myron Hanson's
- July 17-22, Rice County Fair, demonstrators needed
- July 21-22, MN Zoo John Deere Days
- July 27, 28, 29, Little Log House Power Show

Events in August

- Aug. 8, Guild meeting at Dave Olin's shop in Mendota Heights
- Aug. 11 & 12, Aug. 18 & 19, Vintage Automobile Sheet Metal Repair Workshop
- Aug. 10, 11, 12, Almelund Threshing Show
- Aug. 17, 18, 19, Nowthen Threshing Show

Events in September

- Sept. 12, Guild board meeting at Myron Hanson's
- Sept. 21, 22, 23, Guild of Metalsmiths annual Fall Conference.

Events in October

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

Note from the Guild president:

I just found out that Dave Feterl had a fire in his barn last night. He recently moved from the Twin cities area out to South Dakota where he found a great new job and a nice house with a barn. He had been renovating the barn and fixing it up as a workshop when it burned last night. Most of the tools he had already brought from the Twin Cities were stored in the barn and are considered a total loss, including six welders, drill press, and lots of other miscellaneous tools. He will be talking with the insurance adjuster on Monday to see how much will be covered.

Rich Herman