

# Guild of Metalsmiths. Monthly discussion FORUM

March 2000 Vol 2 Issue 3

Please!

Here we are again. Pull up a chair, get your coffee, reading glasses, and writing tools. It is time to discuss the news. The Guild currently has 346 members. Your renewal date is on the mailing label as 20YY.Q (year.quarter). There are 134 people who still need to renew. (Last year we had 318 members at this point)

## Attention Please!

If your label says. 2000.1 your membership is up for renewal and must be received by the end of March if you wish to receive the April notice. Please send your \$30 dues to:

**The Guild of Metalsmiths**

PO Box 11423

St. Paul MN 55111

Gene Olson, editor

The **GoM Forum** is published monthly by the Guild of Metalsmiths, St. Paul, MN. It is intended as a community bulletin board, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, debate policy, propose projects & workshops. In short, to help us run our organization.

Your comments can be mailed to The GoM Forum, c/o Gene Olson, 8600 NE O'Dean Ave. Elk River, MN 55330-7167, Faxed to 763-441-5846, or emailed to: [forum@metalsmith.org](mailto:forum@metalsmith.org).

### This month in the **Forum**

- ▶ February meeting notes
- ▶ Class Space Update
- ▶ UWLaCrosse/Skiles Chasing Class
- ▶ ABANA 2000
- ▶ Hogy's Sawmill Days
- ▶ Directory Updates
- ▶ More Committee members
- ▶ Letters
- ▶ A March 24th Hammerin at Marquette's
- ▶ The hinge making workshop
- ▶ April meeting at Dave Olin's
- ▶ The Bemidji Spring Conference

### Metalsmith articles:

Those of you working on those informative articles for our quarterly magazine. The copy deadline for the issue 2 of 2000 is May 1. Send them to: Marcia McEachron, editor, 451 Taft St. NE RM 8 Door 35, Minneapolis, MN, 55413, Fax: 612-781-8435

### The February Meeting:

#### (an informal report)

The meeting was held at Oxygen Service Company in St. Paul. We were blessed with great attendance, a full treasury and a busy schedule. President Feterl went over the 1999 Financial report which was in last months forum. This year's committees are gearing up to organize this years programs, classes and conferences.

For the program, our hosts had representatives from four of the companies whose products they handle. They demonstrated new torches, tig machines, plasma cutters, even a robot, let us play with some of the toys, and gave a 25% discount special on any purchase that evening. Our thanks to Oxygen Service for providing us with space, service and an interesting program.

Gosh have things ever gotten small. In 1980 I bought a 300 amp tig welder. It is 4 ft tall 3 ft wide, 3 1/2 ft deep, weighs 1200# and draws 100 Amps of 220 volt current at full load.

It's modern counterpart is a foot wide two feet long and eighteen inches tall, weighs in at 47# and draws 56 Amps at 208 volts but will run on 220, 440 and 660 V, single or three phase. It has bells and whistles that one barely dreamt about back in 1980.

The rep said that at the very top end of the rated range my huge old Hobart would produce a stabler arc than his machine but that it is doing so by drawing twice the amps and wasting a lot of energy in hot copper transformers.

The stuff was pretty amazing.

### Class Space Update:

"The report of my death has been greatly exaggerated."

So said Mark Twain upon finding his obituary in the paper.

(and fortunately for us)

The Report of Duggan's retirement has been greatly exaggerated, as well.

He talked about it alright, to several of us at different times, but none of us were around him

enough to recognize that dreamy far off look in his eye when he talked about it..

Richard just called me and said, "Retire? Yeah, sometimes I wish, but I'm only 59 and this school of mine has years to go before I call it quits. "

So, those of you planning to be farriers, sign up for classes, and come on in and get your shoes and supplies.

Please note that US West has changed the area code so BE SURE TO TELL EVERYONE

Richard Duggan's

Minnesota School of Horseshoeing

6250 Riverdale Drive

Ramsey MN 55303

Phone at school: 763-427-5850

^^^

### NEW PHONE AREA CODE

And yes, we still do need to think about where we will go someday . . .

but Duggan is still going strong, and The School will be there for years yet.

Thanks Richard for your support and your patience.

### HIGH RELIEF CHASING CLASS

During this five-day (30 instruction hours) hands-on May 20 workshop with Kirsten Skiles, you will complete all of the steps involved in creating your own unique chasing on steel or bronze. You will practice basic but important skills, such as extreme elevation shifts, depth, foldovers, undercuts, and sensitively textured surfaces. You will also have the opportunity to make ten chasing tools and prepare your own pitch pot. The skills learned in this workshop will be suitable for both jewelers and blacksmiths. Class size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

Kirsten was trained as a jeweler and metalsmith in non-ferrous metals. Finding a passion for blacksmithing and steel as a medium, she combines her interests in using the techniques of Repousse and chasing on sheet steel. Nature and the combination of



romantic and formal design aspects found in nineteenth century ironwork provide strong visual inspiration for her artwork. Kirsten earned her Master of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metalsmithing from San Diego State University in 1996, and has exhibited her work at numerous exhibitions, including London, England, various other exhibits in California, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. Kirsten has taught the Repoussé and Chasing workshop at such institutions as the Campbell Folk Art School, the Alberta College of Art and Design and Appalachian Center for Crafts to name but a few.

#### TIME & DATES

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, May 21

9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday, May 22

9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, May 23 - 25

#### LOCATION

Koka Metalsmiths Blacksmithing Studio, and Studio Fine Arts Bldg, UW-La Crosse, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

University of Wisconsin La-Crosse Continuing Education and Extension, (608) 785-6500 <http://www.uwlax.edu/colleges/conted/index.html>

Instructor: Kirsten Skiles, M.F.A.  
[www.kokametalsmiths.com](http://www.kokametalsmiths.com)

Program number: 63-01

Fee: \$240, Studio time and basic materials. Each workshop participant will have additional material cost, between \$50 - \$75, payable during workshop.

Meal package and residence hall accommodations, based on double occupancy are available for an additional \$240 per person.

#### CLASS SCHEDULE

May 20

-Open House at Koka Metalsmiths Blacksmithing Studio, in Dakota, Minn., from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

-Meet for dinner at Ebenezers (downtown Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites) at 6 p.m.

May 21: The five days of instruction begins and includes:

Preparation of pitch pot

Demos on making of chasing tools

Work on chasing tools

Personalize the provided design

The early stages of the chasing- the strategy of moving the metal so that you can achieve higher elevations and deep foldover/undercuts textures and surface detailing

Final surface detailing and final finishing work, such as buffing, highlighting, and surface coating

A "show and tell" session

### **ABANA 2000**

From: Bill Callaway, chairman  
ABANA Conference 2000 Committee  
2816 E Sherran Ln, Phoenix AZ  
(602)667-3693

The ABANA Conference is just a few short months away and we are very excited about the program. We have received several requests from Chapter members asking what they can do to help make the conference a memorable event. There are a number of things members and Chapters can do to help.

1. You can publish information regarding the conference in your newsletter.
2. You can make chain links and send them to the Salt Fork Chapter.
3. Members can make balusters for the bridge project.
4. Members can make and donate items for the auction and the Iron in The Hat Scholarship program.
5. Get your IITH ticket sales in so you can receive the scholarship certificate and help fund one of our members who otherwise could not afford to attend.
6. Make an item for the gallery, we want this gallery to make a statement as to who ABANA is. Regardless of your skill level, send a piece of your best work.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2000 Conference.

#### **Announcement!**

Mark your calendar. June 3, Sat 2000.

#### **Hogy's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sawmill Day and Blacksmithing Demonstration.**

You are invited to come blacksmith or watch lumber sawing as long as you wish.

More info in the May Forum.

Sincerely,

Don Hogenson, Hogy's Anvil,  
Glenwood City, WI 715-265-4701

#### **Directory Updates:**

We left space . Get out your pen.

#### **Address Changes:**

BRUCE, HEIDI AND HARVEY  
1217 HATHAWAY LN NE  
FRIDLEY MN 55432-5720

STRALEY, JOE

Email: [jobrostraley@hotmail.com](mailto:jobrostraley@hotmail.com)

HEER, BERNARD

Home Phone: 715-234-7881

email: [heer54@chibardun.net](mailto:heer54@chibardun.net)

LYNCH, HEATHER

2809 35<sup>TH</sup> AVE S

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55406-1709

MORIARTY, JOHN

email: [john.moriarty@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:john.moriarty@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
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#### **Corrections:**

BILL BUESSELER house number is 8957  
(Sometimes faxes come thru poorly and are kinda open to interpretation and ya pick the wrong one.)

#### **Additions to Committee Members List**

#### **Education Committee:**

FASULA, ED

ADDRESS CHANGING

612-442-7098 >>>320-864-5642

PATON, GUY

939 PARIS AVE CL NO

STILLWATER MN 55082-2024

651-436-1520

#### **Letters:**

To have your letter printed here, Address it Dear Forum: and mail it to The GoM Forum, c/o Gene Olson, 8600 NE O'Dean Ave. Elk River, MN 55330-7167 ; email it to: [forum@metalsmith.org](mailto:forum@metalsmith.org) or FAX to 763-441-5846

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Subject: Smoke in the blacksmith shop  
(in February, The Forum)

I am answering as though you were just beginning the design/construction of an indoor forge, even though you already have some experience. I hope you don't mind, but this way we can cover the whole setup:

Your chimney should be at LEAST 10" in diameter and should not have any bends in it. If you can't get by without a bend, make it no tighter than 45 degrees at a time.



Even then, it would be better to make the chimney 12" in diameter. Also realize that you need to follow the rules for a Class A chimney, that is; for a wood burning stove.

You need some sort of a hood over or beside the forge. If you have a good draft, then the hood doesn't need to be very big and vice versa. My hood is only about 16" in diameter and doesn't come any closer to the fire than about 18" from it. I have seen some hoods that are as much 4 or 5 feet square. There are some very good designs around for a side draft forge hood that sits toward the back of the forge and draws the smoke sideways from the fire into the chimney. But you need a really good draft to make it work. This sort of a setup is worth pursuing if you have the room because there's no overhead hood to bump your noggin on.

Your chimney needs to extend at least 2 feet above the peak of the roof that it is coming out of and there can't be anything in the way above the roof that would cause a downdraft.

You need to supply incoming air to the room in which the forge is located for a natural draft to be created. You can obtain this by propping open a door 4 or 5 inches.

Of course, the amount of smoke that gets into the room depends to some extent upon how quickly you get your fire going hot enough to "eat its own smoke". As soon as the fire is started "for sure", poke a hole in the center of the mound of coke to let the fire escape. This will "eat" a lot of smoke.

Finally, some chimneys need to be "primed" (my choice of words) to get the draft going. To do this, you loosely wad up a couple of pieces of newspaper, light it and stick it up into the hood. This heats the air in the chimney and the walls enough to get the draft started.

Hope this helps,

Pete Stanaitis <spaco@win.bright.net>

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Dear Forum:

I agree with Tom Latané's comments in the February Forum. A silent auction at the meetings would be less time consuming. alternatively auction of only 2 to 3 special items ( like the old raffle ticket draw). And do it as quickly as you can. The useful show and tell has subsided.

"Visiting" has great value. It builds

relationships within the guild and that increased interest and loyalty; and it's a form of education. I've learned a lot from hearing about projects planned, problems needing solving, people bringing together skills, or from "How's's business?" chats.

The December meeting in particular should not be about fund raising agendas. It's already a busy meeting and the time left should be for sharing of all kinds.

Although the Guild seems in fine shape, you could "earn" a bit of Money by saving on postage for the Forum. Consider taking up the idea of the Louisiana Guilds Dave Mudge. Email the forum to those willing and able to receive it that way.

Barbara Bradley

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Barbara,

You will note Dave's lament at the beginning of the quote. "I don't want to have to do two whole newsletters, one for print and one for web. I don't get paid enough for that."

That is a factor (I don't get paid, period.) The post office forwards mail when you move, email just bounces or worse, just sits on the server, another is that if the regular mail version goes below 200 copies, we have to put stamps on them by hand. The bulk mail won't take them.

We also use the monthly mailing as a way to update our mailing list. You may have noticed the ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED under the return address. That means they forward the mail to you and also send us a card with your new address.

It would mean another step in the process, sorting out those who get email sending them I show 95 members with email addresses. If all the email addresses I have are correct and all those with email wanted the text that way it would be about \$30 per month savings.

Not all those addresses are good however, and some of them don't accept attachments, so you couldn't send maps, others have email only, no web access so if you sent a URL (web address) for a map or other graphic they couldn't get to it. Obviously people in those situations would like to get the hard copy. Some like Tom Latané have hookups that accept text email only no attachments and no web access.

Then again some people just like having the hard copy.

A final reason, and perhaps the most telling one, is that if the workshop notices go out electronically, those with email may have a

leg up on the process (and boy did I get my ears burnt on that one). Workshops are now posted to the web several days after the print version goes out., and then only if there is still room in the class.

Ed.

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#### Want Ads:

Any notice MUST be in my hands by the end of the month.

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#### The Column filler:

C. MacLaughlin

BadIvan@aol.com

This is from a manuscript now at the British Museum, written about 1425-1450.

#### The Blacksmiths

Swarte smekyd sme(th)es smateryd wyth smoke

Dryve me to deth wyth den of here dyntes Swech noys on nyghtes ne herd men neur: What knaune cry and clateryng of knockes! (Th)e cammede kongons cryen after 'col, col!'

And blowen here bellewys, (th)at al here brayn brestes;

'Huf, puf!' seith (th)at on; 'haf, paf' (th)at o(th)er.

(th)ei spyttyyn and spraulyn and spellyn many spelles;

(th)ei gnauen and gnaccen, (th)ei gronys togydere,

And holdyn hem hote wyth here hard hamers.

Of a bole-hyde ben here barm-fellys;

Here schankes ben schakeled for the fere-flunderys;

Hevy hamerys (th)ei han, (th)at hard ben handled,

Stark strokes (th)ei stryken on a stelyd stokke:

Lus, bus! las, dad! rowtyn be rowe.

Swech dolful a dreme (th)e deuy! it dodryue!

(Th)e mayster longith a lityl, and lascheth a lesse,

Twyneth hem tweyn, and towchith a treble; Tic, tak! hic, hac! tiket, taket! tyk, tak!

Lus, bus! lus, das! swych lyf thei ledyn

Alle clo(th)emerys; Cryst hem gyue sorwe!

May no man for brenwaterys on night han hys rest!

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Got that?



# Guild of Metalsmiths

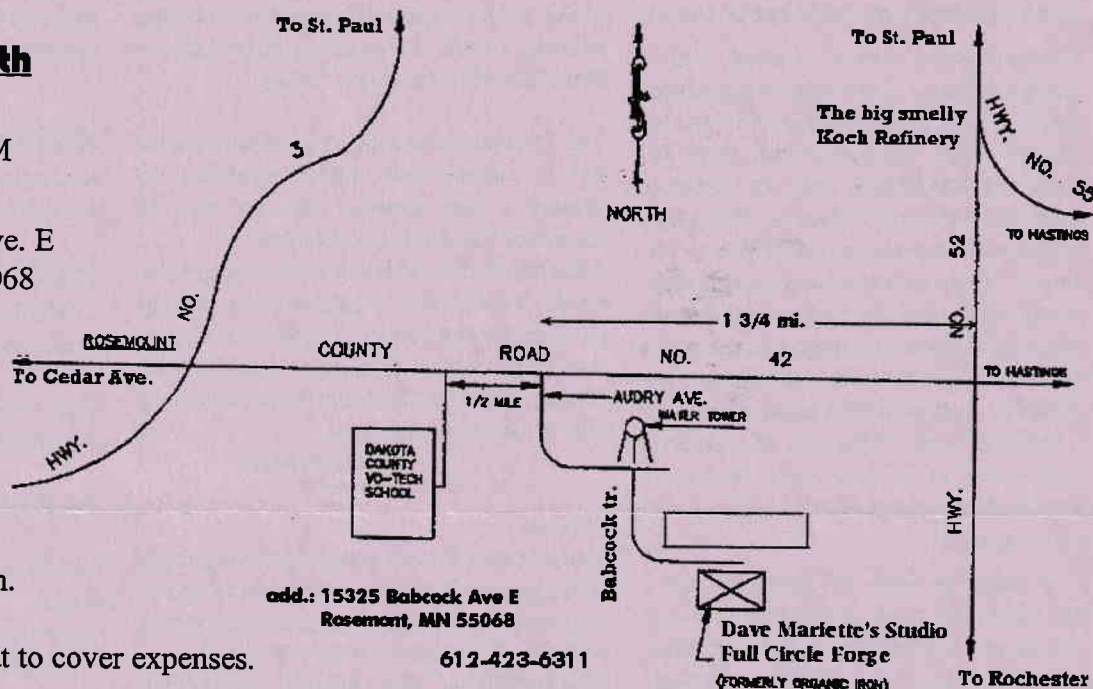
## March 24<sup>th</sup> Hammer-in

### Yes, that's THIS month

When: Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Where: Dave Mariette's  
15325 Babcock Ave. E  
Rosemont MN 55068

(the above mailing  
address is the front of  
the building complex  
Dave's studio is a  
building in the rear)



There is no pre-registration.

Cost: We will pass the hat to cover expenses.

Will Hightower, wife Monti and daughter Gail, will be in Minneapolis in the end of March. The Hightowers are members of The Guild of Metalsmiths, Will is a member of the ABANA board of directors and they live in Sterling, Alaska. During their last trip through this area they participated in the 1999 Tunnel Mill Outing and had a wonderful time. As a special treat for the Hightowers we are holding a hammer-in in their honor.

We will complete the assembly and apply the finish on the gate that was started at the two day gate building workshop. Meanwhile, Monty will make a pair of tongs and Gail will make animal heads with our supervision and assistance. Other Guild members will present informal demonstrations and hands on opportunities as we have done during past hammer-in sessions.

You are on your own for lunch.

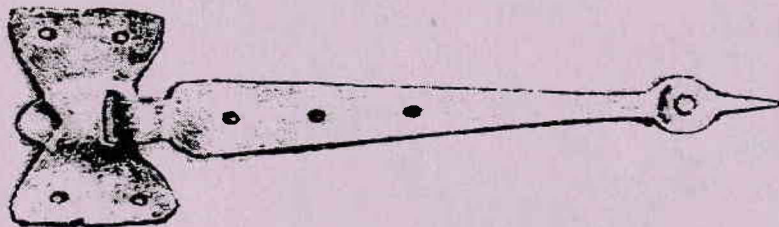
Come and join us at this informal get-together.

# Guild of Metalsmiths Educational Workshops

## Butterfly wrapped joint hinges

**When:** Saturday April 1, 2000  
9:00 AM till 4:00 PM

**Where:** Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, Ramsey MN



**Instructors:** Curt Engstrom and Don Welsh

**Cost:** Members of the guild, \$20 Includes materials. Due to insurance policy restrictions nonmembers must join(\$30dues) to take the class. Check payable to: The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send to: Curtis Engstrom  
22435 Murray Street  
Excelsior MN 55331

**Class size:** 8 intermediate smiths. Students are expected to know: fire control, slitting, drawing- out, and basic forge welding.

**Class description:** We will make a pair of wrapped joint butterfly strap hinges. Drawings of these hinges are found in, Albert H. Sonn, Early American Wrought Iron, Three Volumes in One, 1989. They were made in the American colonial period in many sizes and shapes for many uses. Ours will be suitable for a tool box or smaller door. Ted Tucker, Practical Projects for the Blacksmith, 1980, also shows these hinges, but without slitting of the butterfly part. And several pair of these hinges were seen in the antique iron display at Asheville 1998.

**You will need to bring:** Safety equipment- safety glasses, ear protection, gloves. Cotton, wool or leather work clothes, work shoes. 1. A good hammer not too heavy (this is fairly light work); 2. a slitting chisel straight hot cut chisel, as described on page iv, Iron Menagerie; 3. a ball nose punch -3/4, also on page iv of the Iron Menagerie; 4. Tongs to hold 3/16 x 1 flat stock; 5. a good 6 mill file (3/4 wide); and your favorite pail of blacksmith tools such as measure, soapstone, center punch, flux spoon.

**This is an Intermediate level workshop - you must have completed the basic skills classes or otherwise demonstrated that you have reached this level of competency.**

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### Butterfly wrapped joint hinges April 1, 2000

SEND TO: Curtis Engstrom, 22435 Murray Street,  
Excelsior MN 55331

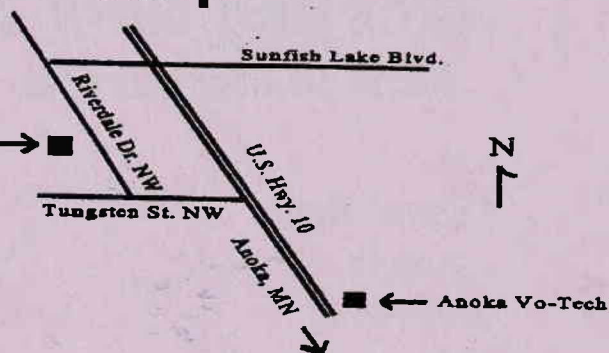
\$30 members - Check payable to: The Guild of  
Metalsmiths

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





# Meeting April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000

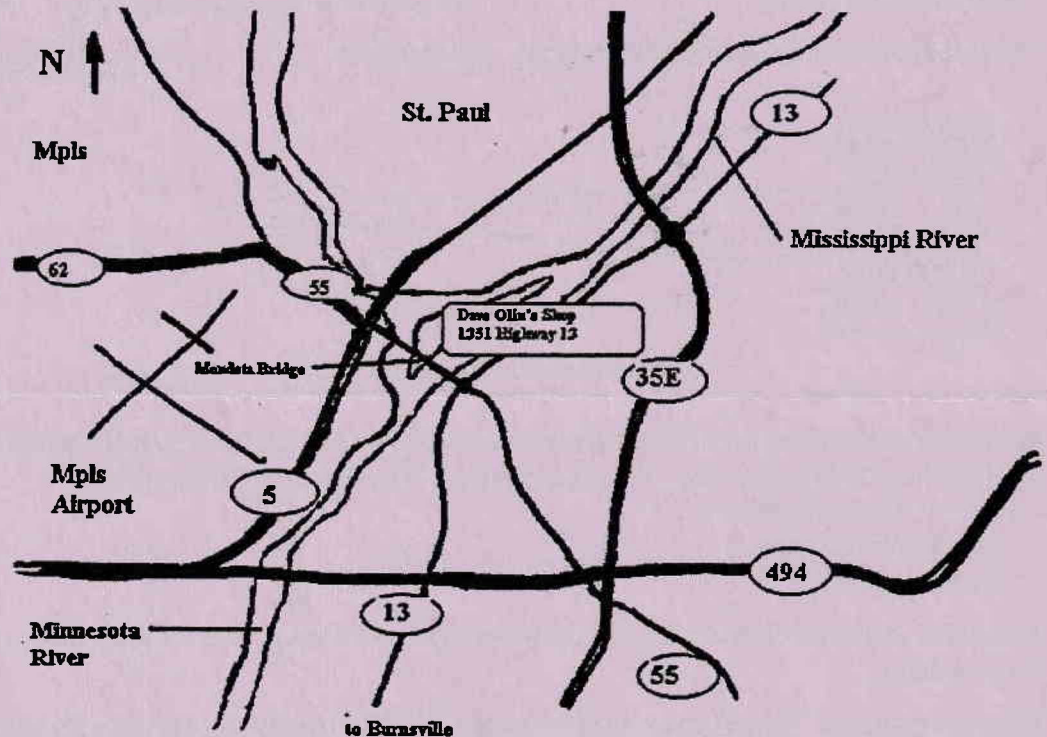
## Guild of Metalsmiths

Dave Olin's  
shop in  
Mendota,  
Minnesota

1351 Highway 13  
Entrance on the  
Right side behind  
the Liquor store.

The evening's order:  
6:30 Pot luck  
7:00 Meeting:  
7:30 Program:

Dick Carlson will demonstrate making a rose from a single piece of 3/16 bar stock.



Oh yeah, from the bleachers Bob STILL says,

**"DON'T FORGET SHOW AND TELL"**

# 7th Annual Northern Minnesota Blacksmith Conference

Beltrami County Fairgrounds

Bemidji, Minnesota

April 29th and 30th, 2000

Sponsored by the Bemidji Metalsmiths  
and the Guild of Metalsmiths

## Demonstrators:

- Mike Boone, Dolores, Co.
- Howard Clark, Runnels, Ia.
- Joel Miller, Roseau, Mn
- Sue Seuss, Roseau, Mn

## Also Featuring:

- In memory of Paul H., bring your best animal head to compete for the Hubler Award. .
- Bring Samples of Your work and/or Portfolio for our Gallery
- Open Forges for the beginner etc.
- Tailgate Sales Welcome
- Donations to the Saturday evening auction will be appreciated.

## Registration:

- Friday eve.  
Potluck get together
- Sat. 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
- Sun. 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

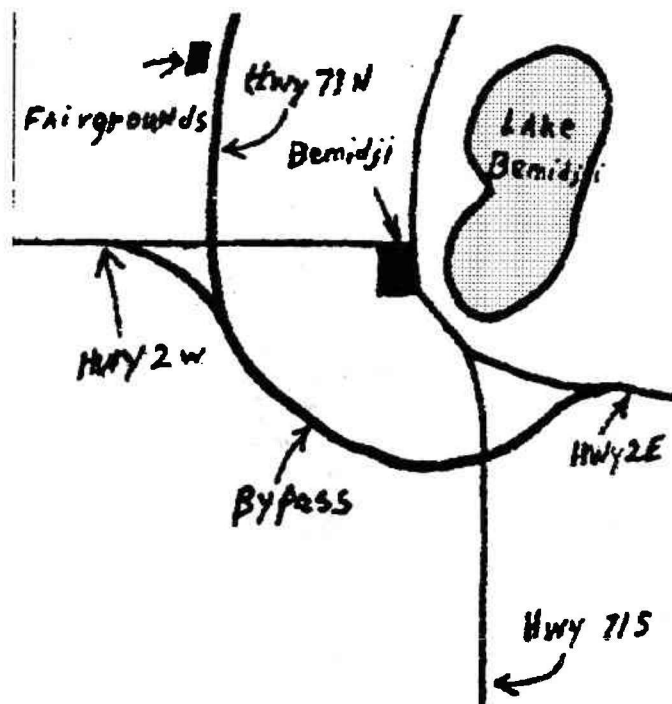
## Fees:

Pre registration Fees (Deadline April 15th)

1 Day \$20 Family  
2 Days \$35 Family

At the Door

1 Day \$25 Family  
2 Days \$40 Family



## Enjoy the ever incredible Saturday night Walleye Feed - Meal Ticket - \$25.00

Lunch Saturday  
Dinner Saturday - The WALLEYES  
Breakfast Sunday  
Lunch Sunday

Registrations with meal tickets must be received by  
April 11th 1997

Send Checks and a note saying which  
seminars, days you are paying for to:

Bemidji Metalsmiths  
Rt. 2 Box 213C  
Bemidji, MN 56601

For more information call:  
Keith Johnson 218-751-9433

Camping available free on the fairgrounds.

Accommodations:

Super 8 Motel: 1-800-800-8000  
Americinn Motel: 1-800-634-3444  
Best Western: 1-800-528-1234  
Comfort Inn: 1-800-228-5150  
Holiday Inn Exp: 1-800-617-4379  
Northern Inn: 1-800-667-8485