

Guild of Metalsmiths. Monthly discussion FORUM

September 2000 Vol 2 Issue 9

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 321 members. Your renewal date is on the mailing label as 20XX.Q (year.quarter).

Attention Please!

If your label says. 2000.3 your membership is up for renewal. Please send your \$30 dues to:

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

How to Join

Send \$30 dues with your name, address, (and if you would) phone numbers -home -shop -fax, email address, web page to the above address.

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 612-441-5846, or emailed to: forum@metalsmith.org.

Metalsmith articles:

Those of you working on those informative articles for our quarterly magazine. The copy deadline for the issue 4 of 2000 is Nov 1. Send them to: Marcia McEachron, editor, 451 Taft St. NE RM 8 Door 35, Minneapolis, MN, 55413, Fax: 612-781-8435

Please!

!!!Metalsmith Back Issues ARE Available!!!!

The Guild of Metalsmiths will provide back issues of "The Metalsmith" to members for \$5.00 each at least until the September board meeting when I will report on our one year plus test of this service.

One of the main reasons for doing this is to make the "how-to" articles that are listed in the Metalsmith index available to all members.

To order a back issue, just contact me, Pete Stanaitis anyway you can telling me the volume and the issue number(s) that you want. Send a check made out to "Guild of Metalsmiths" for \$5.00 for each issue requested to me at 2476 10th Av, Baldwin, WI, 54002.

Some of the back issues will come from our Guild inventory and others will be reproduced in full by me.

In this Month's forum:

- ▶ Fall Conference (The Madness)
- ▶ The August corn feed, er . . . meeting
- ▶ Shop Crawl Update
- ▶ Pete's little tidbit
- ▶ Directory Updates
- ▶ Letters
- ▶ Want Ads
- ▶ Tunnel Mill Hammer In
- ▶ Dave Marriette forge welding class

The Madness? Need Cookies

Dick says he forgot to ask people to bring a few cookies to set out by the coffee urn at the conference. Could ya, would ya, please. (Isn't it great when the major crisis of the day reaches this magnitude? <grin> ed)

Stands for the Gallery

If you have any sculpture stands or pedestals that we could use in the Gallery at the conference, please bring them along. We want to display everybody's work in the nicest way.

We still need help putting the bleachers together

contact Dick Carlson. Please, they are almost ready, and a few hands would make short work.

The August Meeting:

The meeting at the threshing show was a lot of fun. Dick Carlson cooked up 10 dozen ears of succulent sweet corn and we all probably ate a little more than we should have, but it was soooo good, as were the dishes and deserts on the potluck buffet table.

President Dave Feterl called the meeting to

order.

Committee reports:

Financial: \$17,000 in the treasury, 4000 of which is earmarked for educational grants, several thousand dollars will go into the fall conference, and we are still looking for a nice double axle enclosed trailer. (Budget is about \$3500, call Dave if you know of one) 306 members.

Education:

The year's classes are almost all laid out. Volunteers are needed to help supervise the open forge at the fall conference. Contact Bob Johnson, or Dick Carlson, if you can help. (1-2 hr shifts)

Program:

Dick Carlson reported that the October Meeting will be in the Auditorium of the Fort Snelling Historical Site. John Hanks will be demonstrating making a metal flower.

We still need volunteers to help set up the conference and manage the information and sales booth. Contact Dick Carlson.

Publicity: The August Forum is at the printer's.

We need more directories. (Volunteers to help were called for and Curt and Erna Engstrom, Sue Brockman, and Mary Fredell signed on. Thanks!!!)

Other Business:

Mary Fredell, presented ABANA's "Joe Humble Newsletter of the Year Award" to Marcia McEachron. Mary had accepted it in Flagstaff on Marcia's behalf.



Sheri Stanaitis, showed us the Quilt she and Barb Hanson, Carol Adams, and Mary Fredell have made to be raffled off at the December Banquet. (Beautiful intricate work) and allowed that we could buy raffle tickets on it or on the Fall Conference Forging Station from her.

Dave Mariette reported on the progress of the 501C3 Committee. They are trying to firm up the Guild's mission statement and define a plan for the next five years which will include finding an alternative educational venue. The application is good for us whether we are granted the tax exemption or not because we really need to plan ahead if we are going to solve the problem of finding a new space for classes. (Call him if you have suggestions.)

Gene Olson told of how another ABANA chapter had offered a High School Scholarship to their Basic Blacksmithing program, and suggested that reserving one of the seats for the spring session for such a scholarship might be a good way of increasing our visibility amongst a new generation and help recruit young members.

Show and tell was wonderful.

Jim Moenk told a great story about a friend's encounter with a mountain lion while out bird hunting and his subsequent request for substantial hunting knife to carry next time out. Then Jim showed us the knife he had made for him.

Bill Krawczeski showed us some incredible orchids. He had forged full scale replicas of the three varieties of the Yellow Lady Slipper. The detail was phenomenal.

Jack Rowe showed us some center finding gauges that he was making for the fall auction.

Pete Stanaitis showed us the list of 26 Journeyman blacksmithing skills developed and published by the Appalachian Area Blacksmiths. He distributed copies to those interested in rating themselves and finding suggestions for areas to improve their skills.

Myron showed us a couple bells he was delivering to another member at the meeting.

Bob Fredell was the evening's demonstrator. He showed how to make a small spring loaded, mini vise to hold small parts for filing and also demonstrated making a rose.

Shop Crawl Update

Thanks to the 10 people who have already offered their shops for the "Metalsmith Crawl" I described in the last "Forum". These shop locations are scattered all over our area, so this makes a great start for future "Crawls". But we still need more folks to "sign up" so we can get at least 5 or so shops in one 20 or 30 mile radius location.

Some folks have expressed concern that their shop might not be "good enough". This is NOT an issue! Just this weekend I talked to a number of people who have no shop at all and when they do start to put one together, they will be looking for simple ways to get started. We need all kinds and sizes of shops. So please let me know if you would let other members into your shop some Saturday.

Thanks,

Pete Stanaitis

"Blacksmithing" isn't only "Forging", as some of you learned at the Nowthen meeting on August 9th. I showed a list of 26 skill sets that you need to "own" in order to become a journeyman blacksmith. One of those skill sets is being able to drill and tap holes and to thread shafts. So here's a little tidbit on tapping holes:

Ever need to drill and tap a hole, but you didn't know what size tap drill to use and you didn't have access to a set of tap drill tables? All you have to do is to subtract one over the thread pitch from the maximum diameter of the tapped hole to get the drill size.

Example: $3/8 - 1/16$ tap. One over $16 = 1/16$ th. $3/8 - 1/16 = 5/16$ ths.

That's the size of tap drill to use.

A second example: $1/4 - 20$ tap. One over $20 = 1/20 = .050$ ". $1/4 = 0.250$ ".

So, $0.250 - 0.050 = 0.200$ ". That's the size of tap drill to use.

Since a lot of people don't have a complete set of number drills, multiplying 0.200 by 64 gives you the closest drill size in 64ths of an inch ($12.8/64$ ths, round up to $13/64$ ths.).

Pete Stanaitis

Directory Updates:

We left space . Get out your pen.

A hearty welcome to our New Members:

BEHNKE, WILLIAM
11036 WHITE LAKE RD
FENTON MI 48430-2476
Home Phone: 810-750-3732
Email: wbehnke@tir.com

DIMMEN, GERALD
7750 235TH ST N
FOREST LAKE MN 55025
Home Phone: 651-464-2210

HILSGEN, JAMIE
PO BOX 242
HASTINGS MN 55033-0242
Home Phone: 651-437-2761

KORBET, KROUGH
2602 3RD AVE S
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55444
Home Phone: 612-879-6996

LOSCHIEDER, STEVEN R
315 NE 9TH ST
GRAND RAPIDS MN 55744
Home Phone 218-327-9650
Work Phone: 218-327-5569
Email: sloscheider@yahoo.com
Website: www.loscheider.org

MARTIN, DENNIS
3885 140TH AVE
PRINCETON MN 55371
Home Phone: 763-389-4191

MASTER, DAVID
1901 96TH AVE N
BROOKLYN PARK MN 55444
Home Phone: 763-425-4367
Email: echo@mn.uswest.net

PARKER, THOMAS
1125 W RIVER ST
MONTICELLO MN 55362
Home Phone: 763-295-8435

PORTER, WILLIAM
310 NE 4TH AVE
CAMBRIDGE MN 55008
Home Phone: 763-689-2471

SLAMA, DAVID R
7635 EDGEWOOD DR NE
MOUNDS VIEW MN 55112
Home Phone: 612-786-3518

SUPER, MARTY & KAREN
908 229TH AVE NE
BETHEL MN 55005
Home Phone: 763-434-7761
Work Phone: 612-520-3692
Email: super@pro-ns.net

Welcome Back:

BESKY, LAWRENCE
1892 E MARYLAND AVE
ST PAUL MN 55119
Home Phone: 651-774-9779

Address Changes:

ADAMS, JOHN & CAROL
Email: aluminum@uswest.net

BARNETT, TOM
1619 EDMUND AVE
ST PAUL MN 55104-2235

BATEMAN, CHARLIE
Email: charlie.bateman@prodigy.net

COULENGA-HERNANDEZ, MANUEL &
NAN
New Phone: 218-659-2621

HAVELIN, LISA AND MICHAEL
254 COLBORN ST
ST PAUL MN 55102
Home Phone: 651-290-9345

JENSEN, MIKE
4221 DUPONT AVE
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55407-1503

KRETCHMAR, DANIEL
19739 EAST BETHEL BLVD
CEDAR MN 55011

PARK, TIMOTHY
3001 OAKLAND AVE
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55011

RAND, CHRIS
2417 HARRIET AVE #2
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55405-3452

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 or FAX to 612-
441-5846

For The Forum:

: Is there an ABANA website?

I hadn't visited the ABANA website for
some time. I tried today, but it looks to be
not much more than a shell. I tried logging
on in the member area and got gibberish.

Does it work for you?

Pete Stanaitis

thats: www.abana.org

Our website is www.metalsmith.org

Hi,

I am currently a full time farrier out of
Cook, Minnesota. I have been shoeing for six
years and have recently built a small shop.
Though my goal is to become the best farrier
possible, I also have a love of working with
metal. Unfortunately, due to my location I
have little chance of meeting other
blacksmiths who can teach me some of what
they know. My interest lies in artistic,
wrought iron, and knife, swords, etc. I will
be sending of dues to join your organization
as soon as possible, Thank very much! for the
info on your web page.

Shawn A. Cave

Dear Forum,

I am writing this letter as I am concerned
about the Guilds non profit status change as
proposed at the June general membership
meeting.

I can see on paper how this looks like a good
move, but in reality I feel it will be a mistake..
My position on this issue revolves around the
subject of SPIRIT.

A sense of spirit is not a tangible item like
steel or money. Spirit can not be directly seen.
It is however this non-tangible element of
spirit that is at the very core of the Guild's
success. The Guild's sense of spirit is and
always been that of giving, sharing and
volunteerism.

If we change our non-profit status and allow
money to become part of the equation, pretty
soon greed resentment and a reluctance to
volunteer will also become part of the
equation. There is no free lunch.

I believe our shared sense of SPIRIT, that of
giving, sharing and volunteerism is our most
precious resource.

I vote we don't do anything to jeopardize this.

Sincerely, Bob Walsh

response: by Gene Olson

As a member of the board and editor of this
little rag (and a volunteer I might add) I will
try to explain what I see happening.

Spirit, is what Bob Walsh and I talked about
last week after we finally won the game of
telephone tag, Spirit and money and just what
was being discussed last June.

There seems to be some confusion about what

was said at the June meeting.

The purpose of the committee formed was
not to study 501C3 tax status but to fill out
the forms for our re-application. The board
had already discussed the change for over
year.

Our bylaws are already those of a 501C3
organization. They have been at least since
1980 and from what I can see, they
probably have been since 1976.

The way we do things, the way we manage,
have classes, won't change. What will
change is what is taxable income.

Now, we pay corporate income taxes on
money from:

Dues paid, the auction, the raffle, the
madness fees, class fees, donations, T-shirt
sales and coal sales.

Once the 501C3 status is established we
will still have to pay corporate income tax
on any profit made on:

T-shirt sales and coal sales.

And since we sell those items at near cost,
there will be little profit and less taxes.

If an individual or corporation wants to
donate something to a 501C3 organization.
they can deduct the value from their taxable
income. The value they declare is a matter
betwixt the IRS and them. The Guild has no
part of it other than to say, the item has
been received. (Unless the claimed
donation is HUGE, then the IRS demands
that the organization work with them to
verify that the value was actually received.)

Money - greed, resentment.

Money is part of the equation, has been
ever since day one, even back when Bob
Walsh was president. Dues were collected,
newsletters were written, bills were paid.

Members weren't paid for demonstrating.
Over the years members came to be paid
for some things however. Material costs
were reimbursed, Rent was paid for space
for workshops, the Metalsmith editor was
awarded a \$200 fee per issue for putting it
together. There hasn't been a falling off of
volunteers on those counts. There were
volunteers that made the decision that
certain services ought to be paid for.

What services do we pay for, and what is
the standard.

These are the problems that I think Bob is
worried about.

I know they are the ones that all of us on the board think about.

Careful management of funds is important
Careful handling of people matters is even more so.

Current Policy means we can't hire Tom Latané to spend two days showing us how he makes a lock, but the Bemidji group can and we can go there to watch him. It means that we hired Bill Fiorini and Kirsten to demonstrate last year but we couldn't again because they joined after they signed their contracts. Walsh is right. This is a can of worms.

It is a different problem than 501C3 however, that is about paying or not paying taxes.

I said RE-application. In about 1980 records show that an application was made and rejected. The advisors we have talked to in the past year have said that such rejection is standard operating procedure. The inspector looks for something that s/he can portray as being against the rules, highlights it in the worst light and denies your request. You have to file an appeal and explain how the inspector has misunderstood that portion of the application.

Last time, we didn't respond.

The reviewing officer said that it appeared to him that we were not an educational and charitable organization but rather a marketing organization, because some members then had booths and sold things at the annual conference, it was a trade show and not an educational exchange.

Nobody stood up and said, "HEY!, you misunderstand, you are wrong because ..."

The above example highlights why we need the committee to write the application. The smoother we can get the wording the better our chances on getting it through without need for appeal.

One of the most important portions of the application is that the section that says "What is your plan for the next 5 years?"

Darn Good Question!!!

If you have any suggestions. Please share them.

Dave Mariette's committee is working on

the statement which will be reviewed before we send it in. Contact him. Contact Dave Feterl. Send it to the Forum if you want it published.

The sharing spirit argument is one that worries us a lot, especially as we collect money in the pot to cover the cost of the changes that are creeping up on us.

We are trying to act carefully and provide a place for our organization to meet, to teach, to learn.

Gene, who just spent two hours of volunteer time trying to write the right letter, Olson

Want Ads:

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

Tailgate area of the Madness

Blacksmith related machine embroidery.
bring your shirts, hats, windbreakers for custom embroidery application.

Roger R Degner Franklin, Minn, USA

For Sale

6 1/2 x 10 Metal Cutting Band Saw,
2 yrs old, 3 speed, 3/4 hp, hydraulic feed control, power cool pump 110 single phase as is, \$250 or best offer

(needs new motor est cost \$85)

Allen or Kathy Belt, North Country
Ornamental Iron, 54980 State Highway 34,
Osage, MN 56570 - (218) 573-3998

Wanted

I just bought an older vertical mill and would like to find a set of used set of No. 9 Brown & Sharpe taper collets with a 1/2' internal thread. Thanks, Keith Johnson

Great River Blacksmith Shop
RR 2 BOX 213C, Bemidji, MN
56601-8233 Phone: 218-751-9433

The Column filler:

My ABANA board ballot arrived in the mail today. I opened it and who should I see smiling back at me from page 1 of the candidates list, but Guild members, Bob Fredell and Montaine Hightower.
Best of luck to you two too.

Some were lucky enough to make it out to Flagstaff while the rest of us held the fort. Here is the report a Dakota smith shared on the Blacksmith editors list. Sit back and enjoy the ride, he's driving.

What I learned going to Flagstaff

By Jack Parks, Dakota Artist
Blacksmith Assoc. jkhammer@enetis.net

It was my second conference and my wife's first. Neither one of us had ever been to that part of the country. Denver is the furthest South either one of us had ever been. We were looking forward to the trip and to the conference so it was a good trip all around.

I had talked to a fellow Blacksmith who resided in Colorado who recommended a route through the mountains and coming out near the Four Corners area so we decided to take that. That was a good choice. We never knew the extent of the Rocky Mountains. Just when we thought we were through with them, we would come up on another range of them. The route we followed went through Fairplay, Buena Vista, Poncha Springs, Monarch Pass, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, Silverton, Durango, and Cortez in Colorado. We recommend that route anytime.

Then we hit Four Corners where four states all meet, the only place in the US where that happens. That in itself was nice but a little on the arid side. It was arid all the rest of the way until we hit the San Francisco Mountains. How fast things can change is an understatement. There were people living out there but I don't know how or why. Now I know why blacksmith tools are so scarce down there, no people- no tools! Flagstaff is nice though, what an oasis! It was just like home to us, pine trees, upper elevations, cool air. We felt right at home there. We found the NAU campus and got familiar with the grounds. The road construction nearby didn't help the attendees much though. The interchanges there were confusing to say the least. We next found our Motel and got checked in. Since we had arrived one day early, we didn't have reservations for that day. Just because you have reservations doesn't mean that that room will be vacant the day before I guess. Oh well. We got situated

just the same.

We went back to the campus and got set up at the Tailgate area. That area seemed a little small after seeing what Asheville was like. It did suffice but was still a little small. What a nice selection of tools though. Everything from Trip Hammers to Cone Mandrels to tongs, and everything in-between. What a nice bunch of people also. I don't know of anyone who had trouble with shoplifting. It is nice to be able to go to the Demo's and leave your stuff behind for the others to look at. I saw some familiar faces from the Asheville Conference also, which was comforting.

The commercial exhibits and that area were nice. I saw what I think was a plasma cutter following a paper pattern with black lines on it. It must have had an optical eye of some kind. Something from the future to look forward to. Anvils of all kinds were there, tongs; hammers, power hammers, books and more were also there. The layout was nice and the closeness to everything else was nice too.

There were fewer demo tents than at Asheville but there were three sessions per day as opposed to two at Asheville. I guess I don't have any feelings about which I liked better but this worked just fine. There wasn't much time to get back to the tailgate area though and it made it harder to catch some grub. The grub was good by the way, and it didn't take long to get through the chow line. The kinks have been worked out of that bottleneck.

The opening night demo was good. The hydraulic press was powerful but a little like watching paint dry. To those that know though, it was impressive. Fred Borchardt and Dimitri Gerakaris made a Buffalo scull out of some big pipe. The heat radiating off that pipe would turn your apron into a potato chip in a hurry. They talked about (what they called) "Orchestrated Happenstance". "Like climbing a mountain, the route is determined on the way. What is to be done next becomes evident as the project progresses." The other value this statement tells me is that; don't be intimidated by the complexity or enormity of a project. Break it down into smaller pieces and the steps will become evident.

There were eight dedicated sites, that is,

sites that had ongoing demos in them for the full conference. One site was the teaching station. I wanted to visit this site but never had time. In the future, I would like to see this site right next door to the tailgate area. That way we tailgaters could be pounding on some iron while watching our tailgates. New or different tools could be tried out and new techniques could be tried while still fresh in our minds. Another site had the Punzo family making very nice copper vessels. It did my heart good to see the whole family helping in that endeavor although there was undertones of forced child labor. I don't think that is the case though. When those kids are a little older, they will appreciate being taught those skills by their father. And what valuable skills those are, I think they sold every one of their pots. They used a campfire blown with a electric blower (but could have been a hand crank) to anneal their blanks. Just simple hammers and stake anvils were used for the entire process.

The Bridge project was another ongoing site that was quite impressive. Donated spindles for the railing were gathered and installed into the premade railing and steps. Lots of creative talent was in evidence there. That project had good participation, as well, it was popular.

The antique power hammer and junkyard hammer displays were of interest to me and I believe to most others. I didn't know that there were that big of a variety of old hammers. The junkyard hammers were a little more professional than was expected. The builders went all out in their research and execution of their designs. You will hear the name Mark Krause a lot in the upcoming months. His rendition of a Nazel self-contained air hammer will interest lots of people.

I must admit that I didn't get around to any of the other dedicated sites so I can't comment on them. I did hear that the Italian, Angelo Bartolucci, was worth watching.

Robert Kurz, an industrial smith from Youngstown Ohio, made a sculptural Bow and Arrow to be mounted in a stone. He used the big power hammer in the super site. The use of a movable jawed porter bar was new to me and will find a place amongst my other new tools soon. It had a clamping system made up of angle irons and wingnuts welded onto the end of a pipe for a handle. The

wingnuts were big enough to be tightened with a hammer. A very straightforward commonsense demo.

Lorelei Sims did an interesting demo using hollow pipe and square tubing. It wasn't much for trick gizmos, it was all technique. There is no substitute for experience I guess. This has much value for that massive look without the weight. She suggested plugging the tubing with newspaper or something to prevent the hot gasses from heating the handle end of the project piece, which I never would have thought of. There isn't much else I can say; you just had to be there. She did say that she was burned once -----but got over him.

Dorothy and Ty Steigler showed their floral forms and enameling, another parent sibling combo that does my heart good. Dorothy's approach to developing a pattern for flowers is a good one. She goes to the dried flower store and buys three flowers all the same. One stays untouched, one gets taken apart, and the third gets taken apart and ironed out flat. That third one becomes the pattern for cutting out the metal. She also told about stacking up the pieces using the square peg, round hole technique to prevent turning of the pieces. Ty showed her method of enameling the finished flowers for that more complete lifelike look. It was a method using a torch (Henrob) to heat the enamel and fuse it to the metal. It is too detailed to go into here but not above anybody being able to do it. Nice demo!

Chad Gunter did a nice demo showing his Decorative Ornamentation. He does a nice scroll with leaves attached. An article could be done on Chad alone and perhaps will be at a later date. The main thing that I learned was to rivet the two pieces together before forge welding. That is not cheating. Exact placement is possible and it all blends in. For a flux he uses equal parts EZ Weld, Sure Weld, and Borax. Chad builds two scrolls actually; one is the pattern to be followed by the one with the leaves welded on. The naked scroll is easier to follow. More later.

Steve Yusko did a program on texturing metal. This is all new to me but will probably find a place in my repertoire.

Steve used various bits of rusty metal, rebar, diamond plate and such to create texture on his sculpture. These were hammered over the metal pieces to impart the texture until the desired result is obtained. One is only limited by his own imagination here.

Next I went to see Leigh and Justin Morrel in their Production Forging program. Too much information was offered to include it all here. This is another parent-sibling combo that really works. His basic message is that everything should be on wheels so that the shop can be set up for each job. Eliminate unnecessary steps as much as possible. They do catalog sales of Patio Furniture and do many pieces of the same thing. Careful attention and elimination of wasted movement can offer competitive prices offered to the client. They used a nice little pipe-bending jig that had a levered arm on it to hold the work piece up tight to the form. They also set up a stool in front of the trip hammer with the gas forge within easy reach on one side and the vise on the other side. Several operations could be accomplished without getting up. Nice if that's the kind of work you do.

The following day I went to see Robb Gunter, the father of Chad seen the day before. It was evident that those two had spent much time together in the shop. Yet another example of that passing on of skill and knowledge that I think is so important.

Robb talked about junkyard steel and its use for tools. He made a cross peen hammer during the demo, all by hand, using junk steel and with junk steel tools. His program was chocked full of info, too much to include it all here. The main gist of what he was offering was I believe that you can get started and go along way using junk steel and not be bogged down by high priced steel. By learning to spark test your finds, the type of steel can be determined fairly well. By knowing what the steel was used for before will tell you what it would be good for now. For example lug wrenches resist bending well so would be well suited for bending forks. Jackhammer bits stand shock well so would make good chisels or punches. Robb plugged his Super Quench again and proved its performance by making a chisel out of half square (A36),

cutting it off, quenching in Super Quench after getting it to critical temp and then cutting through the parent stock with it. Very good demo Robb. Robb mentioned a good book that goes along with what he teaches. It is *Edge of the Anvil* by Jack Andrews. It tells about various tool steels.

The final demo I saw was put on by Tai Goo. He does primitive blade forging using charcoal. No, not briquettes but regular charcoal made from hardwood. His forge was made from an old wash tub, filled with wood ashes, scooped out into a valley, and an air pipe inserted into the bottom of the valley. He used a hand crank blower as well as some other primitive looking hammers and such. I had heard of Tai Goo before and had seen some of his fantasy knives. They were very much High tech but his demo was just the opposite. I asked him why the turn around and he answered that he was getting too far away from why he got into Blacksmithing in the first place. It made sense to me. Tai's demo covered basic knife making steps to make a chopping knife. Again, too many things to cover here, but the main message is (I think); one doesn't need a lot of fancy tools to do good work. Fancy tools and gizmos will never substitute for experience. Learn the basics well and they will take you far. This message as heard by the beginner would further the art better than if he thinks he needs all kinds of paraphernalia beforehand. Anyway I would highly recommend Tai Goo's demos.

For nighttime entertainment they had a new feature called the gong show. Well, an old concept with a new twist anyway. I think this concept has great potential as a learning tool. Various people got up in front of the audience and demonstrated a helpful hint, with the fear of great humiliation I might add. I think this feature should be incorporated in future events.

The junkyard hammers were also demo'ed so that everyone could see how good they worked. Very nice!

Another nighttime display was the Rockridge Bloomery iron pour. A bloom was made out of iron ore using charcoal as the heat source. It took all afternoon and into the night to get it done. The spectacular part was when they opened it up to get the bloom out of the furnace. Sparks were flying and made for

some good night time photos. The bloom still had lots of refining to be done to it before it was useable though and made one appreciate what the forefathers had to put up with to survive.

The conference in two words.....Information overload. There was so much to see and so little time to do it in. So many good people to meet and talk to and then suddenly it's time to go. I can understand why they only do this every two years. The amount of effort that goes into pulling this off is tremendous. Hats off to The Arizona group and to ABANA for their efforts. I hope they made a ton of money.

Well good-byes were said and final deals made on the remaining tailgate goodies and it was time to hit the road. We headed east out of Flagstaff over to Winslow and Holbrook, then on to New Mexico. Once in New Mexico, we hit Gallup then Albuquerque. It is still too arid for my tastes up till now. Santa Fe is where it started changing for the better. We spent the night in Las Vegas (NM). It wasn't quite the same as what I hear Las Vegas Nevada is. On to Raton and Raton Pass. This is nice country.

Once over the pass, we were in Colorado. This is all good country. Soon we were in Denver again and back to familiar territory. A very nice trip and made nicer by being able to attend the conference in Flagstaff. Now I'm already looking forward to the next conference, hopefully in Lacrosse Wis. See you there.

Wowser, a nice report that Jack has shared with us.

It sounds like there was so much to see that one person couldn't possibly see it all.

It sure would be nice to hear about the other things that went on, even some of the things Jack talked about but seen from a different angle. I'll bet if those who went to the conference sent in a report, Marcia would be happy to put it in the *Metalsmith*, or we could print it here.

Editor

THE TUNNEL MILL FALL GATHERING

SEPTEMBER 30 –OCTOBER 1, 2000

Tunnel Mill

THIS YEAR OUR METALWORKING GUESTS COME FROM THE FAR NORTH

Keith Johnson and Nathan

Robertson will show techniques

on power hammer forging on

the 500# Little Gaint. Demos

will include making

hammerheads with a power

hammer. Roger Cook will

do a flower demo using

the 25# Little Gaint and a

coal forge. Roger will also

share information and

photos on historic

blacksmithing.



Food and camping are

available. You might want

to bring a lawn chair. Bring

safety glasses, ear protection and appropriate attire if you want to be around the demonstrations.

There will also be an open forge time for other blacksmith projects. We hope to be able to add a gate closure to our grapevine gate this year. We have hung the Paul Hubler chandelier and are doing some final touches in the wiring.

We are open to other projects of interest.

**PLEASE REGISTER BY
SEPTEMBER 25TH.**

Terry Dennis will return to the Mill this year with his Raku demonstration and we hope to have a wood fired kiln in operation.

We have scheduled a couple projects in the fiber area; book making and rag rug braiding.

Saturday, September 30, 2-4 PM

For a cost of \$18.00 you will learn how to make a braided rag rug, receive instructions, do hands on and leave with a started rug or completed rug depending on your speed, and a rug frame for future projects on your own. Preregistration is necessary, we have a class size of 10. Here are some measurements to cut material for weaving or braiding, (cut fabric 1-3 inches wide by 3-5 feet long, variable widths are ok.) Pam Hansen from Rochester will be the instructor. She will also furnish our warp for the braiding.

Sunday, October 1, 10-12 AM and 1-2 PM

We shall complete a hard cover hand bound book $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$. Karen Peters from Minneapolis who was with us last year will instruct us on creating the cover and body and sewing the book together. Cost of this class \$12. Preregister please.

Directions: TUNNEL MILL located 20 miles south of Rochester, follow Hwy 63 south to Stewartville, turn east on Hwy 30 to County Rd # 1 prox. 4.5 miles turn south on County Rd #1. Follow County Rd #1 6.5 miles to Tunnel Mill.

Lodging: Shady Rest 507-346-2625, Motel 66 507-346-9993,
Super 8 507-346-7788, all in Spring Valley(5 miles south of the mill on County Rd 1
In Stewartville AmericInn 507-533-4747

Please register by September 25th.

Send Preregistration to Carol Adams, 4505 Hwy 63 N. Rochester, Mn 55906
Checks payable to: **Tunnel Mill weekend.**

Admission/weekend fee (outhouse and overhead)

_____ persons @ \$ 2.00 ea _____

Workshops

Meals

Saturday morning _____ persons @ 3.00 ea _____
(donuts, fruit, juice & coffee)

Saturday lunch _____ persons @ \$ 5.00 ea _____

Saturday night _____ persons @ 10.00 ea _____

Sunday morning _____ persons @ 4.00 ea _____

Sunday noon _____ persons @ 5.00 ea _____

Rag Rug _____ \$18.00 ea _____

Book Making _____ \$12.00 ea _____

TOTALS _____

Thanks, hope to see you there.

Guild of Metalsmiths, educational workshops

Forge Welding Workshop

Date: October 21st & 22nd

Two day workshop

Pl 1923/00

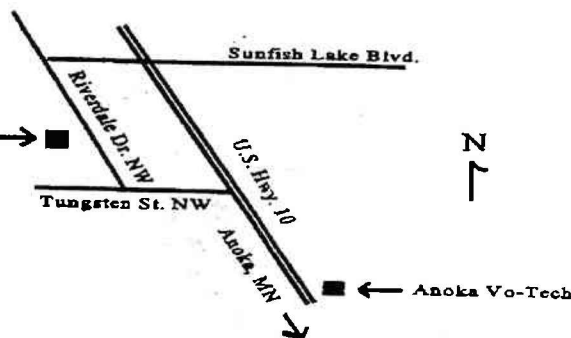
School of Horseshoeing →

Where? Minnesota School of Horseshoeing

6250 Riverdale Drive

Ramsey MN 55303

Phone at school: 763-427-5850 (not a Guild info number)



Time: Have forges going by 8:30; instruction to start at 8:45

This is an aggressive workshop for the intermediate to advanced smith that wants to learn forge welding. This workshop will be 16 hours of intense education that will give you many of the basics you will need, to learn how to weld. Participants will go home on Sunday evening enlightened and tired.

Practice is the key to learning to weld. This workshop will give you a jump start that will enable you to successfully develop your own technique.

The class is open to seven students at a cost of sixty five dollars \$65 for the two day class.

Tools necessary: You need to bring all necessary safety equipment; to include eye protection, fire resistant clothing, (cotton) and a pair of gloves would not be a bad idea either, though you will likely only be wearing one., a good forging hammer, (two or three pounds recommended), tongs for forging 3/8 round stock two directions. If any other gear is required you will be notified prior to class.

I look forward to seeing you there. - Dave Mariette, instructor

Send registration to David Mariette at 15325 Babcock Ave East, Rosemount, Minnesota, 55068

Phone number: 612 889-3291 Fax: 612-789-7386 Email: anvildancr@aol.com

Forge Welding workshop

October 21st & 22nd Two day workshop

Send registration to David Mariette at

15325 Babcock Ave East, Rosemount, Minnesota, 55068

Phone number: 612 889-3291

\$65 members - Check payable to: The Guild of Metalsmiths

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____