



January 2005

Contributors:

Patty Draper
Bill Robertson
Steve Bloom

The Florida Clinker Breaker

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION - CHAPTER OF ABANA, INC.

Established May 18, 1985

President's Corner

Bill Robertson

A new year has started and there are lots of things to look forward to. In addition to our monthly regional meetings, FABA will have two statewide meetings. The first one is next month in Ft. Myers (you can learn more about it in this issue) and the other one will be in April in NW Florida. Our annual conference will be back at Barberville in the NE region this October.

The Southern Blacksmith Association will host the Madison bi-annual blacksmith conference on the third weekend in May at Madison, Georgia. The SBA consists of seven southern blacksmith guilds (FABA being one of them) pooling their resources and sharing the responsibilities to put on the event. This year FABA elected to be in charge of registration, tailgate sales and the special project. Karen Wheeler has volunteered to oversee registration, Clyde Payton has taken on the tool sales responsibility and I have volunteered to take the special project.



At the 2003 Madison conference you may remember the tree that Jeff Mohr designed for the special project that included all those wonderful leaves everyone forged. It was a great success. The picture here shows what I have developed for this year's Madison conference. It is a forged relief of a medieval anvil with Chaucer's famous quote about blacksmithing, "The lyfe so short the craft so long to lerne". The idea is to rivet fifty forged donations to the outer ring. But this time instead of leaves there will be things forged from the end of bar stock such as animal heads, architectural techniques, knife blades etc. With all the bars attached, it will represent the diversity of the craft. Each chapter of the seven participating in the SBA Madison conference is being asked to bring at least seven pieces to the conference where they will be attached. In this issue is a page with detailed instructions for anyone who would like to participate

I am looking forward to the New Year and excited about the upcoming events. And let us remember to put safety at the top of this year's list and as the first objective to a successful day in the shop.

Bill

Upcoming Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) sponsored events are highlighted in bold typeface. The regions have no boundaries - everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can. We hold regular monthly meetings in each region (except that we all try to get together at one Statewide Meeting each quarter) on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, SW-last. The actual dates may vary from month to month; check the schedule below. Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools, or just watch. Most meetings run from 9AM to 4PM, and you'll need to bring a lunch if you stay all day, unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings please contact the Regional Coordinators listed below:

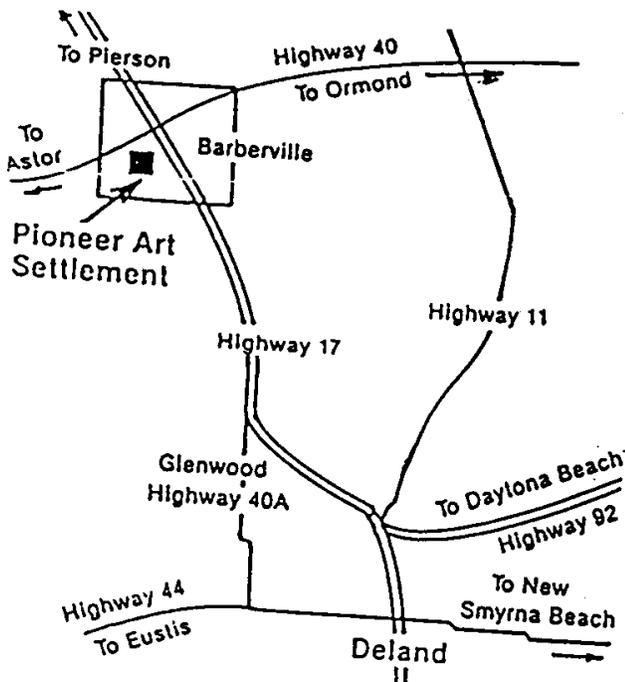
Northeast Region:	Kent & Melanie Owen	(352) 307-2033	Oak1954@aol.com
Northwest Region:	Dr. Ed Crane	(850) 893-3212	NCrane8364@aol.com
	Billie Christie	(850) 421-1386	chriswood@talweb.com
Southeast Region:	Ed Aaron	(561) 748-9824	EdandMickieAaron@aol.com
Southwest Region:	Erik Flett	(941) 437-3844	--unknown--

January, 2005

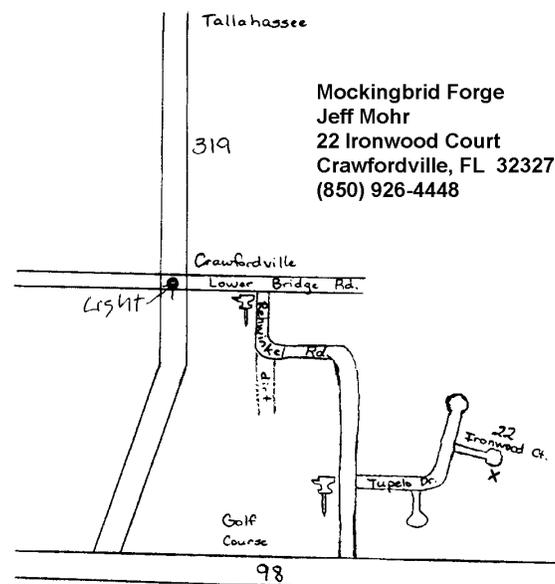
- NE** Jan 01 Barberville (OPEN FORGES); Pioneer Settlement
- NW** Jan 08 Mockingbird Forge - Jeff Mohr's shop. Amanda (an FSU art student who has been working with Jeff in his shop for the past year) will be demonstrating. Jeff will also be dedicating his new "blacksmith school" that he has built.
- SE** Jan 15 Ed and Mickie Aaron; 10875 - 159th Court North; Jupiter, FL., 33478; (561) 748-9824; West off I-95 about 11/2 miles on Indiantown Road to Jupiter Farms Road - South about 2 miles to I 59th Court. - West 1 mile - 10875 on Right.
- SW** Jan 22 not scheduled

Extended Forecast

- NE** Feb 05 Ben Rogers Shop
- NW** Feb 12 Gainesville - Juan Holbrook's house. Our Prez will be demonstrating surface textures, finishes and how to oxy-acetylene welds
- SW** Feb 26 Quarterly Meeting at Erik Flett's shop at 2547 Katherine Street in Fort Myers Florida.
- NE** Mar 05 Barberville (OPEN FORGES)
- SE** Mar 19 Spinelli's shop
- NE** Apr 02 Barberville (OPEN FORGES)
- NE** May 07 Steve Bloom's - near Williston, FL.



NE Region - Jan 01



NW Region - Jan 08

SoapBox & Announcements

Steve Bloom, Editor

I want to start my tenure as Editor by acknowledging and thanking our outgoing Editor, Kim Wendt. The life blood of an organization like FABAs are the folks who step forward (even against their better judgement) and volunteer. And on the same note, I would like to recognize the critical contribution made by the coordinators. Without them, there would be no meetings and no FABAs.

I intend to go to press on the 12th of the month proceeding the issue's nominal date, i.e., for the February issue, I will take the copy to the printer on the January 12 and absolutely need all materials by the 10th. If I can adhere to this schedule, you should get the *Clinker Breaker* by approximately the 25th, so there is a fighting chance that you'll find out about the NE Region's meetings before they are over. The implications are that the coordinators not only need to get me the information on the meetings but it would be wise to give me whatever you have for the next couple of months down the road. I'll publish that information under 'Extended Forecast', so if the schedule should slip (kind of like this months!), you can still be aware of a meeting that you might like to get to.

I also want to encourage – okay, beg – for contributions. I want to publish "How-to-do-it" articles and I need material. Don't let graphical or composition problems slow you down. It's a whole lot easier for me to clean up text and/or make some drawings than it is to do everything from scratch. If you've run across a good book or website or whatever that would be of interest to your fellow smiths, please share the info!

In the last issue I produced (Dec. 2004), I printed an announcement for The Annual Bill Gichner Annual Hammer In. Unfortunately, that won't be needed this year.

Bill Gichner 1913-2004

Patty Draper

On December 8, 2004, blacksmith and tool collector/trader extraordinaire Bill Gichner passed away. Known throughout the blacksmith world, and the recipient of the Alex W. Bealer Award in 1987, Gichner holds a unique place in FABAs history. Back when FABAs was just getting established, Gichner made an extraordinarily generous gift of blacksmith tools and equipment to FABAs, which was then used to outfit the shops at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville, the Steven Foster Memorial State Park at White Springs, the "Junior Museum" in Panama City and the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. For his support of FABAs, he was made a lifetime (nondues paying) member of FABAs by the Board of Directors. Bill Gichner was a friend of every one of us, and he will be missed.

There were no reports on meetings available to me but this is where they would normally appear if I had any (hint, hint)....

By next issue, I will have some "How-to-do-it" articles...and that's a promise!

FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.
Chapter of ABANA, Inc.

Date _____ NewG Renewal G

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work: _____

E-Mail _____

Spouse's Name: _____

If you do not wish to be listed me in the printed FABAs directory, please check the box to the right G

Send this application and a membership fee of \$25.00 to

Juan Holbrook, FABAs Treasurer
6418 NW 97 Court
Gainesville, FL 32653

Make check out to FABAs. Your FABAs membership begins when we receive your payment and lasts one year. Membership is for a family. You don't have to be an ABANA member to join FABAs, but many FABAs members are, and we encourage membership in both organizations.

**Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2004
Jupiter (Tanah Keeta), Florida**

Board members in attendance: Charlie Stemmann, Bill Robertson, Jeff Mohr, Juan Holbrook, John Butler, Tom Kennedy, Steve Kalb, Anne Reynolds

Board members absent: Kim Wendt, Bob Jacoby

Guests: Billy Christie, Clyde Payton, Patty Draper, Rick Jay

Meeting was called to order by Bill Robertson at 5:50 p.m. John Butler made a motion to approve the minutes from July, 2004, with the caveat of investigating the cost difference stated in the minutes for printing the Clinker Breaker. Motion was seconded by Charlie Stemmann and passed unanimously. Steve Kalb wanted to add a new agenda item under new business with regard to statewide meeting date.

Bill Robertson announced that Jerry Grice was the recipient of the newest Ph.D. to be awarded by FABA prior to this year's auction. A special breakfast would be held later in the Tallahassee area as celebration. Alabama Forge Council made gift donations to FABA's auction. A motion was made by Anne Reynolds and seconded by Charlie Stemmann to donate two tee shirts to SERBC. Motion passed unanimously. FABA's responsibilities at SERBC for 2005 include registration, tool sales and special project. Karen Wheeler has graciously offered to handle registration, and Clyde Payton will handle tool sales.

ELECTION RESULTS: Anne Reynolds certified the top vote recipients for the 2004 election with more than 100 ballots cast. New officers and trustees are as follows:

Treasurer – Juan Holbrook
Program Chair – Kent Owen
Newsletter Editor – Steve Bloom
Trustee #2 – Clyde Payton
Trustee #4 – John Butler

Juan Holbrook presented the Treasurer's Report. He was still having difficulty receiving monthly reports from several regions regarding iron-in-the-hat money raised. It is important to report all money to the Treasurer even if none is raised. Juan reported that approximately \$400 in pledges for the Owen's has been received. It was suggested that the Treasurer's Report be published at least once a year in the Clinker Breaker.

CONFERENCE: Anne Reynolds gave a brief update on the conference. Things were on track and starting smoothly. Attendance is a concern. A board member brought up the Art Exhibit with the monetary prize. A

motion was made by Charlie Stemmann and seconded by Juan Holbrook that for future conferences, eligibility for the monetary prize would be limited to FABA members. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion of bi-monthly newsletters would be brought up at the next meeting due to newsletter editor's absence.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS: Billy Christie reported that a new location was needed for the April Statewide meeting in the NW region along with the December meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Tom Kennedy reported on the power hammer issue at Barberville. They are still working on the assessment of repairs needed. Clyde Payton suggested selling one and investing in a new air hammer. Tom Kennedy will keep the board apprised of the situation.

Tom Kennedy made a motion to donate 6 old versions of tee shirts to the iron-in-the-hat for this conference. Steve Kalb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jeff Mohr made a motion to send 3 new tee shirts and 3 old tee shirts to the Ocmulgee Guild. Motion was seconded by John Butler and passed unanimously. A suggestion was made to hold a tee shirt design competition from members that would be our standard FABA tee shirt. That issue was tabled for the next meeting.

Discussion occurred regarding changing the annual statewide meeting from October to another month to avoid hurricane related issues. A decision was made to get feedback from the general membership before making a decision.

The next meeting would be in the SW region in either January or February, 2005 and would be a regional statewide meeting due to the SE region just hosting the annual conference.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Reynolds





Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
PO Box 816
Farmington, GA 30638 USA
706-310-1030 te 1 , 706-769-7147 fax
abana@abana.org www.abana.org

ABANA Affiliate Liaison Letter
December 2004

Hello! The Holidays are upon us once again and things are hectic. Be sure to take an extra moment to be extra careful in your shop or forging area. Check for flammable things like rags, wrapping paper or lawn mower gas in your area. Be very careful about ventilation. Gas forges put out huge amounts of CO2 and other nasty stuff that has no smell and is invisible, but can kill you just the same.

We received a nice note from Arron Holding. He is the winner of the VIP prize for simply sending in his Board Election ballot. He won \$350 worth of Tom Tongs and he is busy putting them to good use as he forges some Christmas presents.

Chris Holt of PAABA sent in her addition to the "Must See Ironwork" project. If you visit the Affiliate Locator image map here: http://magichammer.freeservers.com/abana_image_map.htm and click on PA, then scroll down to the Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmiths Association you will find the link to the pictures of 'must see ironwork' in that area. Other participants are, West Virginia (WV) and Capital District Blacksmiths (NY). I want to encourage all of the Affiliates to take part in this project. Simply send me pictures and location information about public ironwork or sculpture or anything metal related that your area is proud of and would like to show off to the world.

The ABANA web site <http://www.abana.org> is your web site and you can provide better content than anyone else. We have areas for galleries, classified ads, events calendar, links of all sorts, discussion forums and news. Remember that LeeAnn and I are both on a dial-up connection so please save your images with titles, descriptions and stories to a CD and mail it to the PO Box listed above. Also, please provide day time contact information in case we need to clarify something within your submission.

Last but far from least, start making your plans NOW to attend the 2006 ABANA Conference in Seattle, Washington <http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/index.shtml> or www.abanaseattle2006.com check back often for updates. Have a great Holiday season!

Dave Mudge
Affiliate Liaison
Member Services Division
Chairman Internet Committee
985.735.0049
davemudge@abana.org

**Madison Conference 2005:
WANTED: ART**

Bill Robertson

THE PROJECT: Fifty pieces of iron art, each forged on a bar of stock will be riveted to a ring of iron inside of which is a medieval anvil and hammer with the 13th century quote from Chaucer "The lyfe so short, The craft so long to lerne"

THE PARTICIPANTS: Each Chapter that is a member of the Southern Blacksmith Association is asked to submit approximately seven pieces.

THE SPECS: Any bar-stock - square, round or flat - not to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ inch square or its equivalent. Eight to 10 inches in length.

The bottom $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch should be flattened to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to allow it to be riveted to the ring.

The top should not exceed 4 inches in width..

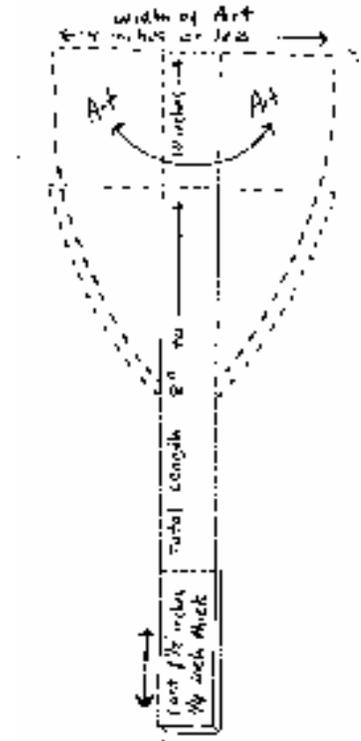
THE ART: Anything that can be forged from a bar of iron, such as animal heads, flowers, iron motifs, knife blades etc. Please put your touch marks on your contribution. And please let Bill Robertson know you have made one so we can keep a count.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR PIECES: Bring them
to the Madison Conference in May 2005

THE PURPOSE: To demonstrate the diversity of the blacksmith craft. The project will be auctioned at the conference.

Your contact for questions: Bill Robertson, FABA President
5079 Sundance Ln
Tallahassee Fl 32309
850-668-2876
applecrossforge@nettally.com

(Note from Editor – the graphic will be redone and reprinted ASAP)



As a courtesy to the fine folks who make our tools, I'll be printing advertisements when the space permits. No recommendation is intended from FABA, just passing along the info - Steve

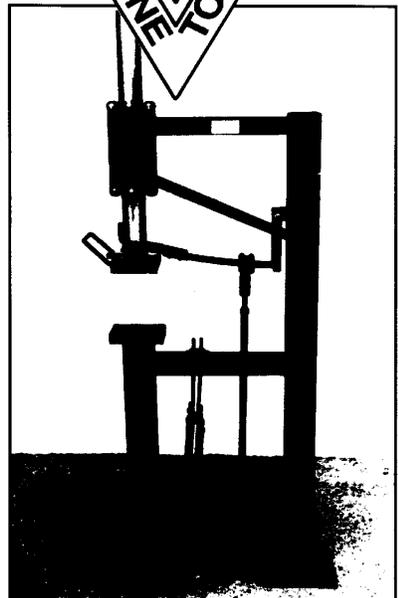
Pieh Tool Company, Inc.

437 W. Hwy 260, #D Camp Verde, AZ; 86322; 888-743-4866
Amy L. Pieh, President

You may remember my family who had Centaur Forge for many years until my parents died. I opened up my own store called Pieh Tool Co. in Arizona 18 months ago. It is a source for supplies for blacksmiths & we sell a variety of blacksmithing tools, equipment, and books. Our site is www.piehtoolco.com



“THE MARK”

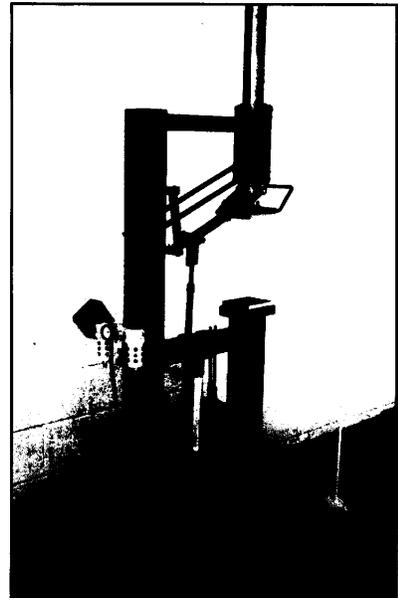


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- Head Weight: 65-Lbs.
- Price: \$1,500.00 Delivery Included



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Trustee #1	Tom Kennedy	407-469-3899	burninghandforge@hotmail.com
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Trustee #3	Steve Kalb	239-489-2396	scpfdkalb@firehousemail.com
Trustee #4	John Butler	561-964-8834	jgbutler@sprintmail.com

The Florida Clinker Breaker

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

Steve Bloom, Editor

P.O. Box 760

Archer, FL 32618-0760

(352) 528-6508 or smith@blacksmithing.org

<http://www.blacksmithing.org>

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1st Class
Postage

The Florida Artist Blacksmith Association(FABA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization whose purposes are to teach, promote, and preserve the art of blacksmithing. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly, and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA's purposes. ABANA chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher's permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.