



The Florida

January 2008

Clinker Breaker

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - Established May 18, 1985

President's Corner

Rex Anderson

I have been badgered by Bill Robertson for years to run for the FABA presidency. During a weak moment, I relented and said to throw my name in the hat, thinking that I would not be elected and would get Bill off my back. I didn't know I was the only person dumb enough to say, "Yes." All joking aside, I do take this position seriously and will endeavor to do my best. I will desperately need input from all members to understand the wants, needs and desires of the organization.

I received a letter recently from a member stating his opinions on several topics being kicked around at this time. His statements were well thought out and valid. I definitely appreciate the input and it does help. Sometimes a slightly different slant on a topic makes the big picture clear. I know at times it appears the Board is reluctant to implement suggestions that seem so simple. But, due to our nonprofit status, bylaws and liability, simple actions can be complicated. I urge every member to attend board meetings at least occasionally so that you can understand all the factors involved when making decisions. Our next meeting is at Eric Velleca's shop on January 19 at noon.

Our declining membership is disturbing to me. I'm working on strategies to recruit new members and, hopefully, bring some old members back into the group. I will detail them in the future. Let me say this, if you like the organization, the fellowship, shared knowledge and help, remember that it is made possible by participation at the Annual Conferences and monthly meetings, along with the fund raising efforts at these meetings.

As you can see, I wasn't blessed with the gift of gab as some past Presidents. Don't expect long letters from me! I am looking forward to working with each of you and hope to see you at Eric's shop in January.



Editorial Musings

Steve Bloom

Things have been happening. Since the December issue, FABA has been offered a large equipment trailer and a large shop coal forge and a set of wheels for it. Tentative plans have been drawn up (see diagrams in this issue), and (count them!), two people even responded in writing. A number of folks got into discussions at Allen Hardwick's meeting and I urge you all to talk over anything that is bothering you and/or anything you would like to see FABA do. Tell your coordinator but better, jot something down and send it to me. If your coordinator is like me, details and exactly who said what about what gets lost pretty quickly.

The **coal forge workshop** has had several folks volunteer to help teach/fabricate but there has been a dearth of folks who might one to build a coal forge for themselves. We're getting price quotes on the steel and expect the total for a 3/8" thick fabricated pot in a 24" x 18" table to be under \$100 (approximately 2/3 the price of a commercial pot alone). FABA will build the forges for the teaching trailer, but if you've been wanting a decent coal forge and/or want to be checked out on arc welding, the workshop is a great opportunity that you shouldn't miss. We need some form of commitment before March.

Feedback on the idea of **one day admissions** to the conference have, so far, been uniformly negative. The general consensus is that such an admission will drain attendance rather than increase it. If you are passionate about this issue, talk to a Board member - if you don't tell us what you want, you can't grouse if it goes against you.

Based on feedback (and my own inclinations), there will be **mini-demonstrations** at the next conference. Your coordinators will be asked to line up enough talent to fill a session (Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning - approximately 4 hours each). Since I opened my mouth (surprise!) and have been talking about this idea for the last few years, I'll coordinate and insure that we have a minimum setup. I'll also demo either dishing of non-ferric materials with lead and ball pein hammers or fabricating, fitting, and soldering guards on a stick-tang knife

(continued Pg.3)

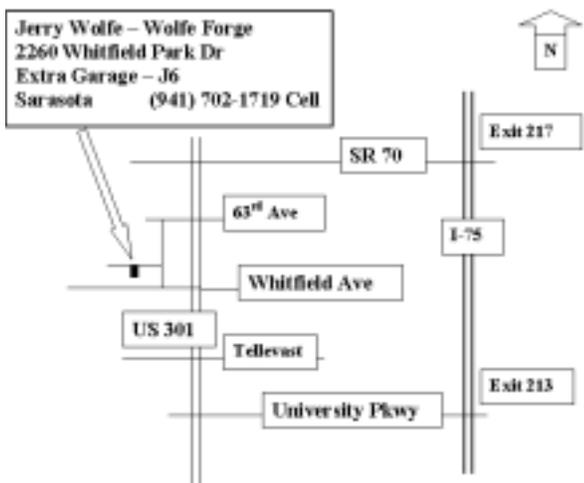
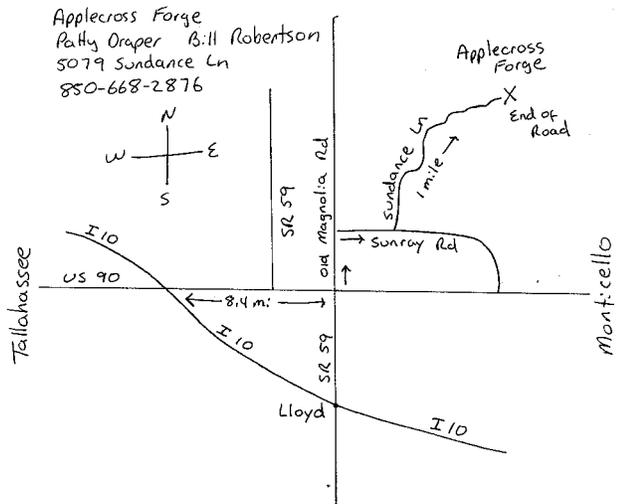
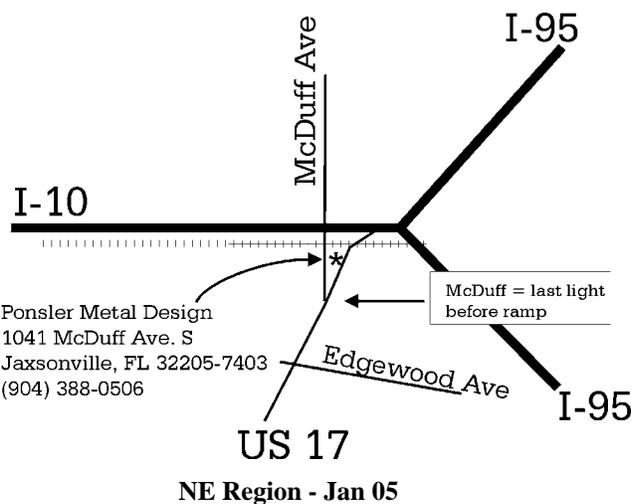
Upcoming Events

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:

Northeast Region:	Ken Knight	(352)-339-0629	Ironken@aol.com
Northwest Region:	Billy Christie	(850) 421-1386	chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com
Southeast Region:	Ed Aaron	(561) 748-9824	EdandMickieAaron@aol.com
Southwest Region:	Jerry Wolfe	(941) 355-5615	wolfeforge@juno.com

January 2008

- NE 05** David Ponsler's shop - Ponsler Metal Design, 1041 McDuff Ave, Jax (see Current Events)
- NW 12** Bill and Patty's Applecross Forge. Susan Dunsmoor demonstrating. Please bring a covered dish and warm clothes.(see NW report)
- SE 19** Eric Velleca's for the Quarterly Meeting -see Pg.3.
- SW 26** Wolfe Forge - Making a Russian Rose and other flowers to brighten up your "metal garden".



SW Region - Jan 26



SE Region - Jan 19

(tell me which you prefer). The idea is basically a show-and-tell session with no one working for more than an hour. Show off your favorite jig - show how you fit a collar on a scroll - etc. We've got the talent, so let's share it!

I'll keep posting notices, comments, etc. here as they come in. So far, no requests for classes. Remember, we're not mind readers, so talk to us!

Current Events

NE - Jan 05 Ponsler Metal Design 1041 McDuff Ave, Jax 32205; 904-388-0506 (shop); 904-629-9986 (cell). David will be forging steel and silicon bronze using a unique temperature controlled gas forge and a 300 lb Chambersberg utility forging hammer to show its unique characteristics. Chili will be served, bring condiments.

Future Events

NE - Feb 02 - Barberville workshop
NW - Feb 09 - Juan & Linda Holbrook; Gainesville, FL
SE - Feb 16 - Greg Ross's Home. Bring lunch.
NE - Mar 01 - Barberville
NW - Mar 08 - Clyde and Vi Payton; Monticello, FL
SE - Mar 15 - possibly at Art Ballard's with Susan Dunsmoor Demonstrating.
NW - Apr 12 - Panhandle Pioneer Settlement; Blountstown, FL
NE - May 03 - Steve Bloom's shop, near Archer FL

Report from the Northeast

Ken Knight

Dec 1st was a beautiful day at the Hardwicke's home in Altoona. The meeting was attended by 40 members, spouse, and guest. All had a great time and were well fed. Thanks to Ben Rogers for demonstrating forge welding. I would like to also thank Juan Holbrook for demonstrating the drawbacks of forging rebar. I know that this is not what he had intended to do, but he took a bad situation and turned it into a great teaching opportunity. Those who stayed around saw Ben forge weld a roller chain. Now for those who have never tried to forge weld a roller chain you really missed a great demo.

On a missed note, we had the largest turnout ever in Nov, at the Jamboree at Barberville. Thanks so much to all our members for volunteering for the many tasks for that two day event.

On Jan. 5th we will descend upon David Ponsler's shop in Jacksonville. David will be forging silica bronze under a 300 pound utility hammer. To get a preview of this you can go to youtube.com on the Internet. Once there type Ponsler in the search block, when David Ponsler Sculpture appears click on it. This will bring up a short film on David's work. David will provide chili please bring a covered dish.

Report from the Southeast

Ed Aarons

October was sort of busy, loading, hauling, setting up, re-loading and unloading equipment for the conference. Then the next weekend, we had our monthly meeting at Matty Spinelli's. Matty is still recovering from the hurricanes.

Our Nov 17th meeting was actually a teaching session for the Scouts to earn a Metal Work Merit Badge. Eight of us did our best to instruct approx. 30 Scouts. Don and his son got things ready the Sunday before, since I just unloaded everything from the conference and didn't put the forges back together.

The only thing that I see wrong with the Boy Scout Camp is the fact that we are limited to Scouts, their family and counselors which is good to expose kids their age to blacksmithing. Also the seemingly remote location may keep some people away. Since reading the Nov Clinker Breaker, I guess that this should be a great location since there are lots of young men there. We need to work on getting Scouts and others to come to our other meetings when we don't have to instruct. Then have someone give demonstrations that would hook them. If Nathan could make a tomahawk or other sharp object, that would get the attention of a lot of them.

Since there was talk of having good equipment to teach new people, we need a few things. I think that our forges are good, but the blowers are in need to repair or replacement. Anvils are the Harbor Freight ones- but we need 1 or 2 more anvils and forges. We also need some fair forging hammers. OK where is Santa when you need him?

As I have written before, if anyone has any ideas of a workshop for tools or a demonstration, let me know and we will try to get it together.

Quarterly Meeting - Eric Velleca's Shop

Southeast Quarterly Meeting will be held at Velleca Metal Design Inc. as a three day event on January 18 - 20. Friday night will be open forges. Saturday will be a demonstration by Toby Hickman starting at 9:30 AM. He will show his technique for drawing long tapers of various cross sections efficiently, as well as upsetting, spreading and hand held top tool work. Saturday late afternoon will be open forges. Sunday with crowd size permitting, Toby will teach the motor skills he taught his employees, and possibly showing how to forge wrought frames for the lighting industry and give a demo on coloring and highlighting techniques. A Google search will turn up many great things on Toby Hickman. He is well respected for his tooling skills and powerhammer workshops. An opportunity to see him in such an intimate environment for over three days for free is a must see! Camping is

welcome. Bonfire pit on site.

Toby Hickman owned and operated Waylan Smithy from 1973 till 2002 when he sold it to T.J. Marrone, he now operates Lost Coast Forge on the Mendocino coast in California. Toby set up his first Nazel 2b pneumatic hammer in 1981 by the time he sold his first shop he had 2 2b Nazles and an 88 pound Chinese hammer. He learned many of his power hammer licks from Don Hawley, an industrial smith, and Art Jones blacksmith and superintendent of the forge shop at Mare Island Navel Ship Yard. Waylan Smithy was and still is at least 50% a production shop, this means that the forging styles developed by Toby for his shop were aggressive and direct. It also means that accuracy and repeatability were essential. In his "retirement" Toby takes a little more relaxed attitude but he still has no patience for inefficient technique when using the hammer.

The NW Region of FABA met on November 10th at Phillip & Elaine Holley's "Black Dog Forge" in Cottondale, Florida. It was a beautiful fall day just perfect for blacksmithing. When I arrived Phillip had a big pot of stew cooking over an open fire and a big pot of coffee going. Ron Childers was our feature demonstrator and he started the day off showing how to make a coal rake with a braided twisted handle with a hook on the end. It looked great. We had 20 people sign in at the meeting and the "Iron In The Hat" brought in \$80.00. Thanks to Mark Stone for taking care of the "Iron In The Hat" drawing and to Taylor Stone for drawing the winning tickets. Lunch was delicious thanks to Phillip's great stew and thanks to Richard Clark & Carlton Padgett who cooked homemade biscuits and 3 different flavors of cobblers, all cooked in Dutch Ovens. The covered dishes that were brought by individuals were appetizing, man if you missed this meal you missed a treat!!

Report from the Southwest
Jerry Wolfe

The December 8th meeting was held at Wolfe Forge with 10 attending. The demonstrations of the day were:



Dennis Stiffler



Phil Pauley



Lisa Anne Conner

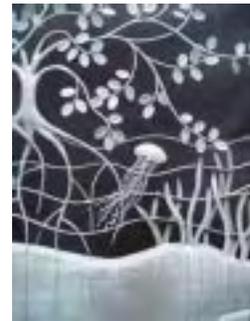
a courting candle demo by Dennis Stiffler, a Calla Lily candle holder demo by Phil Pauley and a demo by Lisa Anne Conner on chain maille jewelry. After the "iron in the hat" raffle, a new attendee created a candle holder with some

assistance from Trez Cole. The group was encouraged to help plan the new years activities and meetings. Several suggestions were made.

After lunch Ron & Billy Whitefox made a RR spike tomahawk and then went on to make a snake out of a farrier's rasp. Thanks Ron Childers for all your hard work and Phillip Holley for hosting this fun & educational meeting. I think that Phillip has one of the most interesting blacksmithing shops around.

Don't forget the January 12, 2008 meeting at Bill & Patty's "Applecross Forge" in Tallahassee, with Susan Dunsmoor demonstrating. Please bring your "Iron In The Hat" items and a covered dish.

Susan Dunsmoor is an artist blacksmith from Ft. Lauderdale, who works at ArtsWork Unlimited in south Miami. She spent seven years at New Castle Iron in Ft. Lauderdale learning from the ground up and has spent three years designing, fabricating and installing with the guys at ArtsWork. Susan majored in art in college, and now is applying that education to work in metal. Most of her pieces are made of aluminum, which is popular in South Florida. She will be demonstrating how she designs gates, rails and other jobs, fabricates in plate, forges aluminum and will also show different finishing techniques.



STAYING THE COURSE - By Clyde Payton

FABA's New Vice President, Charles "Hippie" Pate and new Secretary, Rev. Jim Labolito, are off to a good start in being

Report from the Northwest
Billy Christie

responsive FABA Board members - On December 5th and 6th they demonstrated blacksmithing at the Museum of History and Natural Science in Tallahassee. This is a Museum depicting early Florida history with programs designed especially for children. Once a year this "pioneer" museum has a program called FALL FARM DAYS - a program designed especially for school children.

So, Jim and Charles demonstrated old time blacksmithing for groups of 3rd and 4th graders. I've never seen a more excited and eager group of kids who asked pertinent questions so fast it was hard to keep up! This was a very gratifying experience and we thank Charles and Jim for taking time to volunteer for such a worthy activity. It's hard to say who enjoyed this the most - the kids or the demonstrators!

Notices, For Sales & Want-Ads

BLACKSMITH COAL NOW AVAILABLE!

\$22 per 100 lb bag (Pickup only) - Pioneer Settlement, Barberville, FL - Call for details: 386-749-2959 - www.PioneerSettlement.org

Hammers & Tongs with Feet

If you've found some strange tools in your bucket / tool box after the conference (like hammers and tongs), the shop at the Settlement would appreciate it if they came home. The missing items were from the brick forge station.

Power Hammer Workshops

LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR LITTLE GIANT POWER HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN EVER!

Please join us March 28-30, 2008 for the 16th annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar! This class was first taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana. We carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 ½ day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 17 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants. An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!

No experience is required to attend this class. Past students

have ranged from age 15 to 90, and from all walks of life. Anyone who wants to learn will benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and usually ends by Saturday evening. The schedule runs Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

Safety tip

Steve Kalb (www.kalbironworks.com)

While watching a mechanic work on my car, I noticed that they put on nitrile gloves like Doctors wear during surgery. I thought 'How crazy, who do they think they are?' So I had to rush to Harbor Freight and try them out. I now do my cold work and grinding in these gloves. Most art schools frown on the use of gloves when grinding because you use thick cotton gloves that can get caught in the moving parts, causing a serious injury. These gloves fit snug on the hand and you have better control over oily parts because your hands do not sweat on the metal giving it a chance to slip on you and flying across the shop. They also offer a layer of cut protection and I have lessened the needs for bandages and down time from wounds (which you all know I am famous for). I DO NOT use these when doing any hot work. I use more appropriate safety protection for that. Finally Nitrile is not an allergen like latex and it is resistant to solvents. I apply spray paint and Gilders paste with them on!

Try them out and email me if you have extra comments. Happy Safe Hammering!

I-Tunes and Smiths

Tom Kennedy

I just ran across a really cool thing on the I-Tunes website. Apparently they have something called "I-Tunes U" which is a collection of lectures and interviews from numerous colleges around the country, all of them FREE for the downloading. Ivy-league colleges such as Yale and Vanderbilt are included

and there is a very interesting link to the Tampa Library via the University of Southern Florida. The Tampa Library tab has numerous lectures on local history and culture, and one of them is a series featuring Edgar Chaitin discussing his life and the craft of bladesmithing.

- Go to the I-Tunes website
- find the tab or use site-search for "I-Tunes U"
- On the left-hand side is a listing of the colleges, USF is toward the bottom of the list
- A list of topics will pop up, choose the "Tampa Library" heading.
- on the opening page you should see another set of tabs just above the list of lectures, look for the one labeled "Oral Histories", it contains the videos of Edgar.

Directories

From time to time, FABAs publishes a directory of members but I need some guidance from you folks - the people who pay the tab. If the directory is printed with anything but tiny type, it will run to approximately 10 pages. With postage, the

damages will be near \$500. Our options are:

- (1) We print a mega issue of the newsletter;
- (2) We print up a limited number of directories and send a bunch to the coordinators to hand out at meetings and have a stack at the conference. For those who want one and cannot make a meeting, they send me postage and I mail them the directory;
- (3) We post it on-line. There are security problems with this if we want to not feed spammers and phone solicitors, i.e., a password locked folder and we publish the password in the newsletter.
- (4) Anyone who wants one sends me an e-mail and I e-mail back a PDF of the directory

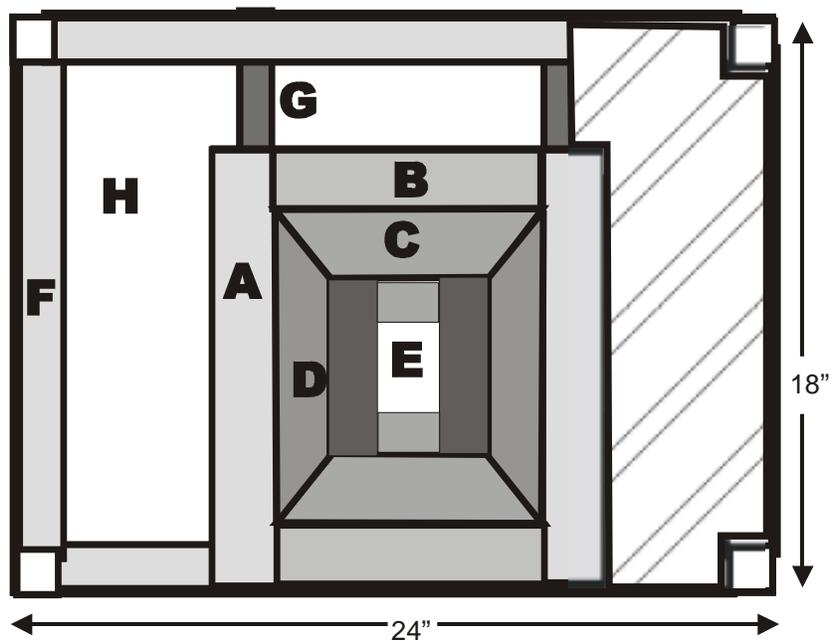
#1 is the most expensive but the least hassle and #4 is the least expensive but the most hassle (besides not helping folks who are not on line).

What do you want? Let me or your coordinator know ASAP

Mark I Coal Forge (Dec 2007)

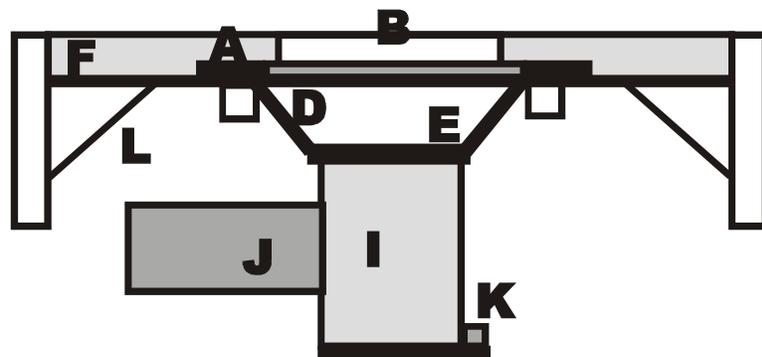
Forge Body

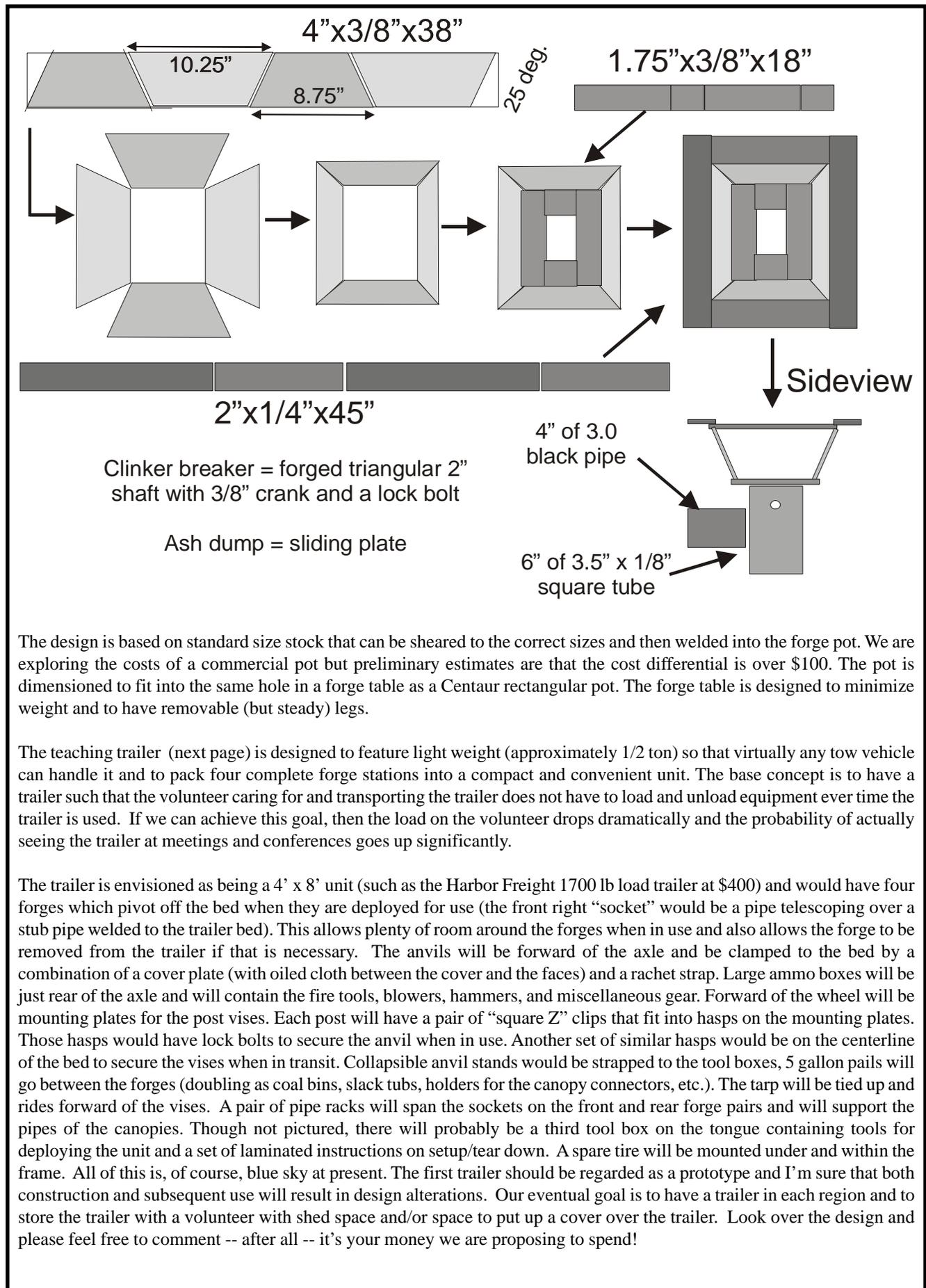
- F = 1/8" x 1.5 x 1.5" angle iron
2 @ 22" with cut-aways;
2 @ 16", 2 @ 8.5" (under B)
(tie rear & support front cut)
- G = 1" square tubing -
2 @ 18" (support pot)
4 @ 6" (corner & leg sockets)
- H = 16 gauge deck
2 @ 7.25"x17.5", 1 @ 6"x8.5"
- L = brace (1"x8"x1/4" bar)@8
- Legs = 12' of whatever
telescopes into G



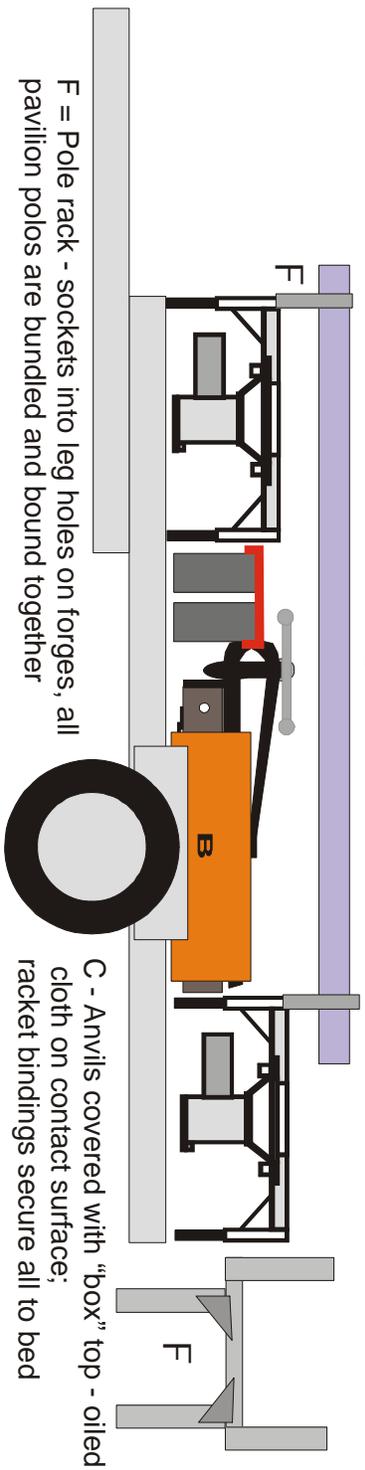
Forge Pot:

- A & B = 2x1/4x48
1/2x1/4x18
- C & D = 4x3/8x38 (25 deg)
- E = 1 3/4 x 3/8 x 18 (4 pcs)
- I = Air upright = 6" of 4" square
- J = air input = 4" of 3" round
- K = 6x1/8x4 ash dump plate
~30lb overall

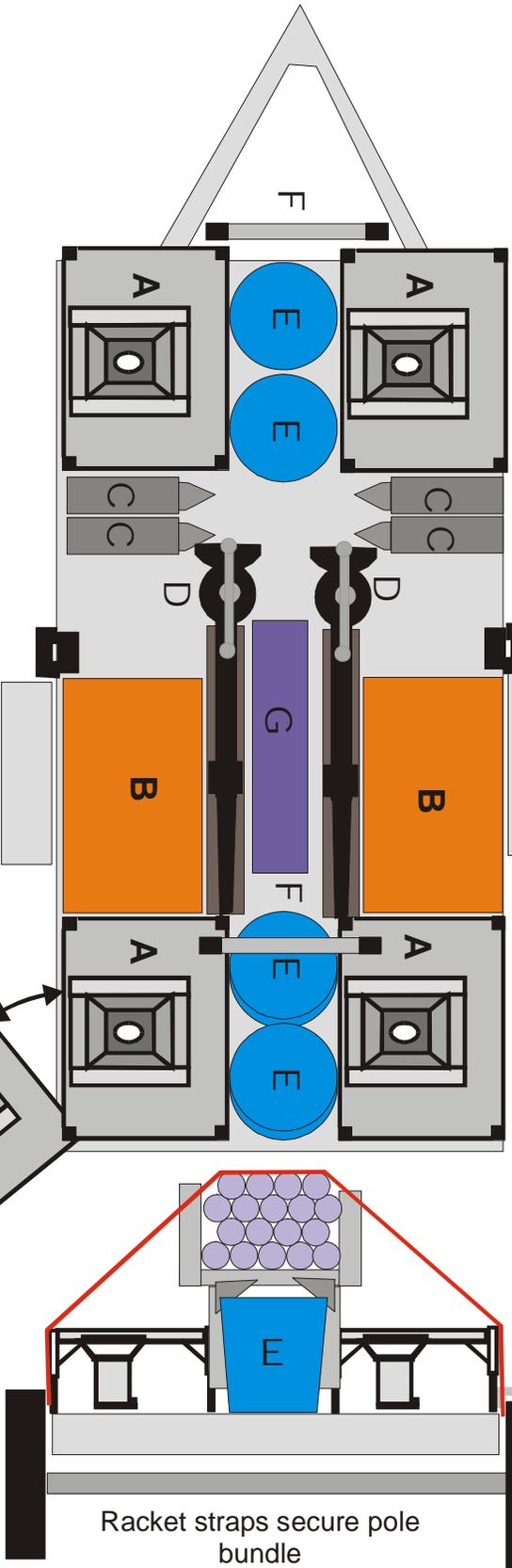




Mark I Teaching Trailer - Dec 2007



Post vises: 2 flat hooks on rear - matching sockets on plate near wheels and on bed. Sockets have lock bolts



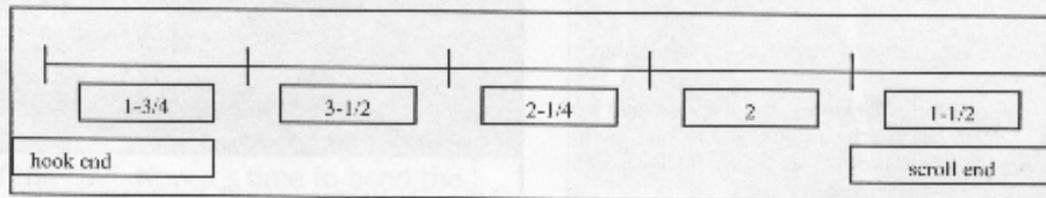
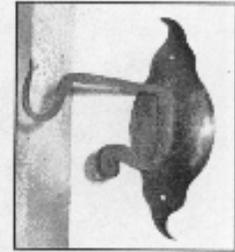
- A = Forge ~ 50lb
- B = Ammo Can; 81mm :25 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 8" x19 lbs. \$20
- C = Anvil (110 lbs)
- D = Post vise w post (30 lbs)
- E = Plastic 5-gal pail (6 - wt ~ 0) - 2 w pavilion parts
- G = bundled tarp & forge legs (16 @ 3')
- H = anvil stands on top of chests (not shown)

Total load ~ 950 lbs
 Use 1700 lb Harbor Freight trailer @ \$400

A CUTE LITTLE WALL HOOK

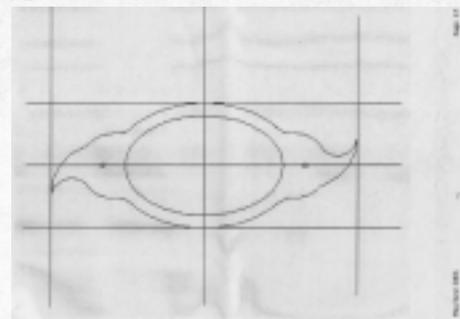
By: George Epperson

I found this cool little wall hook hanging in the smithy at the Sandy Spring Museum. I thought it would be an easy item to make for a beginner like me. I first made a pattern for the original wall hook and then made a shop drawing. The hook is made from $\frac{1}{4}$ " square stock and the back plate is made from 20 gauge sheet metal. To make the hook, I started with an 11 inch piece of stock and marked it with a punch at the transition points. I then broke the sharp corners for a more soft appearance. The hook end was drawn out to a square taper from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I drew the scroll end out to a flat taper from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The scroll was made, then the hook, and last the bends. At this point I remember it was a bit of a trick to drill holes so you might want to do this before you make the bends. DONE.



The back plate was cut with aviation snips, quite crudely, and then cleaned using a grinder and some files. I found that holding the metal close to the edge, between two pieces of wood worked quite well. The two mounting holes were then drilled. These holes will be used to register the back plate on the form. I used the shop drawing as a template and just glued it to the metal. The back plate has a little belly, so I had to make a form to create it. I cut the center oval out of a piece of hard maple and installed registration pins. I didn't drill the holes large enough for the pins, and split the thing. So it got glued and screwed to a piece of plywood, which worked well as reinforcement against the pounding. The back plate was set over registration pins and a repousse hammer with a low ellipse was used starting around the outside edge of the oval form and then working to the center.

Work until there is a nice little belly, but not a potbelly. Attach the two pieces with rivets. I used 10 gauge copper wire for rivets. DONE



I've been told this is a Moravian design. I just like the looks of it. Enjoy

The Florida Clinker Breaker

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION
Juan Holbrook, Membership Records
6418 NW 97 Court
Gainesville, FL 32653

January 2008

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.

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Steve Bloom, Editor; P.O. Box 760; Archer, FL 32618; (352) 528-6508 or smith@blacksmithing.org; <http://www.blacksmithing.org>

FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.
Founding member Southern Blacksmith Association.

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work: _____

E-Mail _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Send application & a membership fee of \$25.00 to

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

Make check out to FABA. Your FABA membership begins when we receive your payment and lasts one year. Membership is for a family.

Don't list me in the directory []