

August 2020

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Conference plans for 2020 and 2021

Happy August, everyone! I hope everyone had a great 4th of July celebration and came away with all of your digits still attached.

This year seems to be flying by. I can't believe we can already see Autumn around the corner next month. But, for now, the temperatures are high, and I hope the flames from your forges are, as well.

Some of our members are sharing their work virtually, and we had a couple meeting demonstrations take place in late June/early July that were available for your viewing pleasure through Facebook. Unfortunately, I was unable to watch any of the live events as I had to work, but they are available after the fact as well.

As of now, we are still planning to hold our Annual Conference. It is looking like the best dates are October 30th through November 1st. We are planning to use our great local talent to put on demonstrations and classes. We will setup and request social distancing practices as recommended.

We will also be looking into holding virtual demonstrations during the conference for those who cannot attend due to being high-risk for Covid-19. We have some ideas on how to make this a great conference, but would also like input from you, so if you have ideas, contact your Regional Coordinator or any Board member. Our e-mail addresses are available on our website, blacksmithing.org. Stay tuned for more information in the near future.

Those of you who are renewing your memberships and may be getting reminders to renew after you have

already done so, our Treasurer, Doug Hayes, is trying to stay on top of this issue, as our two interfaces are unable to communicate at this time. We are looking into resolutions to this problem and hope to have one in place before too long. Thanks, Doug, for your work on this and thanks to our membership for your patience.

Also, we are looking to possibly contracting out our Webmaster. Since this is a specialized position, and we have had issues keeping this position filled, we may have to make changes to our By-Laws to make this happen, but we need to keep our website up-to-date and available.

Progress is being made on the Southeastern Blacksmith Association Conference being held May 13-15, 2021. We are the lead conference this go-around. We have a demonstrator that has accepted, via e-mail, our offer to demonstrate. Matt Jenkins of Cloverdale Forge is penciled in, and you can check out his website at www.cloverdaleforge.com.

We have a couple of bladesmiths in mind, and we will be reaching out to them probably before you read this. Stay tuned for more information!

Reach out to your Regional Coordinators for information on upcoming meetings and also look to your monthly Clinker Breaker for your regional reports and forecasts, as things can change in a matter of days due to potential local restrictions on gatherings, etc., due to Covid19.

I hope everyone is well, and I hope you have a great August. Keep yourself hydrated during the summer heat and keep your forges glowing and hammers swinging.

I hope you and your families are all well and be safe!

Mark Stone



Mark Stone

Calendar of Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can.

We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, Far West and SW-4th.

The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

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 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Ben Thompson	617-388-5695	thompsoncrafted@gmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com

Note: The COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak is a constantly changing situation. Please check with a regional coordinator before attending any FABA events.

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft. FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc. contained in this newsletter, our website, <http://www.blacksmithing.org>, our Facebook Page or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

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Table of Contents

1	President's Message
2	Calendar of Events
2	Regional Coordinators
3-9	Regional Reports
9	For Sale
10-11	Project Report
12	FABA Officers/ Membership Application

North NE Region Report

On June 27th, we had a great online meeting courtesy of Jordan Borstelmann (<http://crookedpathforge.org/>) who conducted a demo via Facebook Live. Jordan demonstrated how to make a folded Viking Age axe using a method taught to him by Elmer Roush. The meeting consistently had about 15 viewers at any given point but has received over 426 views since then and is still posted in the NE Facebook group.

Spike Robinson gets the award for “traveling” the greatest distance to attend, he joined the meeting at 3 a.m. from Sydney, Australia.

Please monitor the NE Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE/ for the most up-to-date meeting information.

Stay safe, everyone!

**— Ben Thompson,
North NE Coordinator**



North NE Meeting, Sept. 19

We hope you can join us on Sept. 19th from 9-12 p.m. on Facebook Live or in person as Doug Hayes (FABA Treasurer) provides a demo from Iron Osprey Designs (@IronOspreyForge), his new shop in St. Augustine. Doug welcomes visitors at the event, for those who are comfortable with social distancing. He has seating available for social distancing, and masks and sanitizer stations available. Doug will demonstrate tips and tricks for simple tooling and go over heat treating for 10-20 lb stump anvils.

About our host: “Iron Osprey Forge blends the historic art of blacksmithing with modern technology to create products combining artistry and function. In addition to creating artistic ironwork we provide instruction in blacksmithing, bladesmithing and hobby welding.” The shop is at 102 Marshall Circle, St. Augustine, FL 32086 off of Dobbs Road.

To tune in on the 19th to RSVP or if you have questions visit the events page of the NE Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE/ or email Doug or myself at djhayes29@hotmail.com or thompsoncrafted@gmail.com.

Hope you can join us virtually for our next meeting!

— Ben Thompson, North NE Coordinator



SW Region Report

Southwest Region members have been keeping busy in their own shops with projects they have been meaning to get to for a while.

Tony Fenn has been catching up on some sculptures he has promised to friends and made a form-folded copper piece mounted on a granite base.



Marcus Wise has added a hood to his forge (left) and hammered out a closet bar and hangers.

Jill Muzzy sent in a picture of her dad, Tim Harding, working on a Cargo Bike as he needed a project to keep him busy while he can't get to his forge.



SW Region Meeting, July 25

We had a great turnout for our online demonstration and meeting hosted by Trez Cole in June.

Trez demonstrated how to make a mortise by drifting the hole and then forging the tenon. The tenon was then drifted with a slot and a pin made to finish the joint.

For those who attended, Trez walked us through all of the steps with detailed descriptions of every step.

If you didn't attend, I encourage you to go to the FABA SW Facebook page and find the meeting's recorded video. Trez did an amazing job of completing all of the work in an hour.

Big thanks to Trez's wife Kyle who again handled the videoing and the online questions.

The SW July meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 25, online with Trez Cole. Trez will again be our demonstrator via a Live Facebook meeting. Trez is going to surprise us this month with a demonstration from one of his past projects.

Please go to the FABA SW Facebook page at 9 a.m. and click on the meeting post when Trez starts the Live meeting. You can also watch the video after the meeting has ended by clicking on the videos tab on the Facebook page. (You can find the page on Facebook by searching for FABA SW).

Our SW meeting for August is yet to be scheduled.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Regional Coordinator**



SE Region Meeting, Aug. 15

In South Florida, we are still experiencing problems with Covid-19. Consequently, we had only 3 members at our June meeting. We worked on things for the trailer, as we are still getting it organized. We hope to have a few more members at the July meeting on Saturday the 18th, where we will be working on the journeyman requirements or do additional work on the trailer. The August meeting is planned for

Saturday, Aug. 15. Please let us know if you plan to attend by signing up for our event on Facebook @“FABA-SE Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Southeast Region.”

I hope everyone stays safe, and I hope to have more news in the next few months, as this virus is really putting a damper on things. Happy forging!

— **Peter Hill, SE Regional Coordinator**

Far West Region Report

Christopher Mallet provided us with an excellent presentation on using tools to accomplish stock removal and polishing your work to a fine shine. A couple of gems that “Mr. Mallet” dropped included:

The grinding room is a place where you really do need to wear a mask – breathing metal dust is decidedly unhealthy for you.

Hand grinder safety issues – the guards and the second handle are there for a reason! Don’t remove them.

Handling knives when sharpening – use a harbor freight magnet as a handle to hold the blade, the heavy duty welding version holds 90 pounds and the lower cost pull retrieving version holds 150 pounds.

Don’t quench to harden blades that have been ground/sanded with less than 220 grit – the scratches will cause stress fractures.

During his presentation Christopher also covered the waterfront with the types of grinders and sanders available. On hand we had a 1x30, a 2x36, a 2x72, an 8 inch grinding wheel, 6 inch wire wheel/buffing wheel, and a couple of angle grinders with various attachments. All told this was a well thought out discussion that ended with one very highly polished blade.

Following Mallet’s in-depth presentation our members went to work on their own projects. One hammer was started, a couple of railroad spike knives and a “cowboy” knife were attempted, a custom plant hanger was forged and fabricated, a few nails were made and spoon (from a railroad spike) was started.

We had nine people in attendance, two who were new members that joined FABA only the night before. Throughout the day we had an additional five visitors who came by for a look-see but unfortunately did not sign our log. There were no guests this time around.

An all-beef hotdog lunch with beans and potato salad was donated by Traditions Workshop.

– **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Christopher Mallet knife



Christopher Mallet, “Man, Myth, Legend”

Far West Meeting, July 25

The next Far West meeting will be held at Butler's Farm on July 25th, 9am-2pm or maybe later. John promises to host us a great lunch since the meeting under the cool shade of the pecan trees is being held on his birthday.

Billy Hay has stepped up to the plate to provide the educational material for this meeting, covering what you need to know about taps, dies and threading. More excellent educational material and some hands-on experience for those members working on their Journeyman handbook.

Following Billy's presentation, open forges will be fired up, and you are welcome to work your own projects for the rest of the day. Please let us know if you plan to attend by signing

up for our event on Facebook @ "FABA Far West - the Panhandle Blacksmiths."

Our August meeting location is still TBD, but we are hoping to hold it in conjunction with a museum or library close to Panama City. Topics are also still in discussion but you can plan on something that will help our members reach for their journeyman certificates.

September will focus on preparation for the annual pilgrimage to Ocala in October and of course the Far West hopes to be in force for our annual conference!

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Chris is making a hot cut hardy I.e. a tool for the anvil



Lots of nail making today.

It is a great way to get started and practice

Northwest Region Report

Hello everyone from the Northwest Region. I'd like to start with a recap of what's been happening lately. Our April and May meetings were canceled.

We retried the May meeting in June and had great success with it. We set up in the shade behind Mike Luck's shop.

I brought my first prototype, "4x4 forge". I call it that because it has four burners, all in one big forge, with four variable speed blowers, each isolated to its own burner.

This is only the second time we've used it for a meeting and the first time with a hood, but I'm really pleased with it, so far. It seems to be enough to keep a fairly large group working without needing any more forges. We will be using it again for our August meeting at Aunt Louise's Farm.

As I'm writing this, I'm looking at the pictures from the meeting in the July Clinker Breaker. I had asked everyone to make a pair of tongs from basic metal stock by the time we stopped for lunch. I'm not sure how others came out, because I got caught up in making a pair of "no tong tongs" and forgot to notice what others were doing!

Roger Bell was right next to me making a pair of his own, and we both ended up getting distracted and burning off one of our handles before we could finish. Stopping for a break is called for after burning a part, so we fired up a smaller forge with charcoal and cooked hotdogs and burgers on it. About 17 or 18 attended, and a good time was had by all.

There is a young man in the picture in a black sleeveless shirt. I don't know his name, but sometime during the meeting he asked me to suggest something for him to do. I was thrilled! I introduced him to my "special projects box," which I bring to meetings and I boast has something new to try to make for everyone, at any skill level.

He choose to make a dice. I gave him a rough cut cube of metal, a pair of tongs that fit and a round punch, and he made a dice before we had to stop. I think they are working on it in the picture. I wish I had a picture of him with it when he finished. It was great!

Thank you, Mike and Marilyn, for hosting us! The July meeting was at Roger Bell's, and we decided to cancel it about a week before the meeting. We thought we could make a video of a demonstration in place of the meeting, but I'm afraid we failed in the attempt. About a dozen people showed up to help or didn't know the meeting was canceled, and Roger provided us with a fish fry for lunch. When I say provided, I mean he, caught, cleaned and cooked them. Yay, Roger!

Others brought sides and desserts, of course, and a good time was had by all, again.

— John Pfund, NW Coordinator



NW Region Meeting, Aug. 8

Our August meeting will be held at Aunt Louise's Farm on Aug. 8th. The address is 8101 Waukeenah Highway, Monticello, FL 32344. For entertainment, I'm asking for tongs. This is the same contest I planned for April, and we got canceled.

Start with basic metal stock and complete a pair of tongs by lunch. Coal forge, anvils and vices provided; bring your own hand tools and metal stock, if you want to be sure we have it. Teams and partners encouraged, I want to see some tongs completed!

Entries go in the Iron in the Hat raffle, and the one with the most tickets wins. A picture of the winning tongs and tong makers will be put in the Clinker Breaker!

We will cook something on the grill, and we should bring sides and desserts. Bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle and things to show and tell. Tailgate sales are invited. Open forges for those who don't want to be in the contest, and I will have the "special projects box". Hope to see you there!

— John Pfund, NW Coordinator

Central NE Region Meeting, Aug. 1

Hello, my fellow lovers of the craft. We sure had a nice treat in July. Thank you, Mr. Timmy Boyle, for your demonstration and for hosting the whole meeting AND paying for the entirety of the meetings expenses. Talk about help at the right time.

The demo was great and filled with loads of practical, down-to-earth advice that we all need. Book knowledge has its place, but it is different than being shown in person where the hardships will be and how to get around them.

I love watching someone explain the learning process they had to go through to get to a fully functioning item. It is never as simple as it appears. This is another reason the meetings are so important to growth as a blacksmith. Exposure is necessary, so please come on out and let's feed off each other's knowledge and grow together.

The next meeting for the Central Northeast Region will be Aug. 1st at 9 a.m. at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement. It is a time when many are in need, and right now this includes our home base at the settlement.

We have an opportunity to help out in August by making some items for their store. I'm going to demonstrate some common sellable items that anyone will be capable of making, and then we'll break up among the forge stations to produce more.

Please do not feel like you have to be a master Smith to participate. Rugged, rustic, character, these are words that customers like to apply to beginner-made items, and they sell very well. So please come on out and help, even if you've barely started swinging a hammer.

If you have some cool things you personally like to make and would like to donate to the settlement, then that is also welcome. Materials will be provided if you choose to make one of the demonstrated objects. It's time to jump in the fire



and play. We will once again be in the outside student forges to maximize on our ability to spread out. Cya there.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

For Sale

Wolfe Forge Downsize Sale

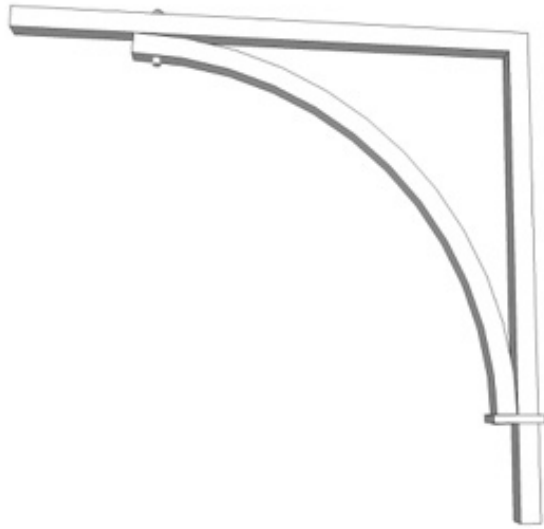
25# Little Giant;
Coal Forge -Stainless Steel Side draft;
In-Line Treadle Hammer;
Fisher Anvil 350#;
plus much more
Call Jerry @ 941-702-1719 for
appointment to see.



A deeper look into the Journeyman Standards

FABA Journeyman Standard #7 Collaring: Make an assembly from at least two separate pieces using this technique.

Information extracted from many sources, including “Christ Centered Iron Works,” “Black Bear Forge” YouTube videos and a September 2000 article in posted to AnvilFire.com, with drawings by Jock Dempsey.



Collaring is a technique that takes advantage of a basic physics principal, heat expands and cold contracts. Like hot riveting, which we looked at last time, collars are put on hot to form a tight joint.

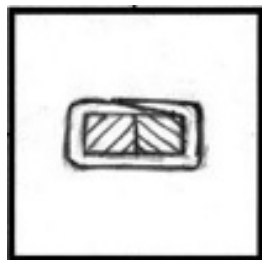
Using the formula found in the “Blacksmiths Cookbook” to make a seamless collar, you measure the length to collar then add 2 and ½ times thickness of the collar material to the length.

In the case pictured above, we are building a riveted and collared shelf bracket out of ½ inch square stock.

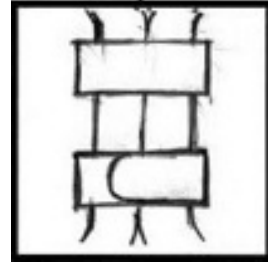
Since the bars are ½ inch square, the length of the collar needs to be ½+1+1+½ PLUS 2.5 times the thickness of the collar material.

Let’s assume the collar material is 3/16 thick, this results in 15/32 being added to the 3-inch bar length for the collar. The bar is then scarfed with a file to a distance of twice the thickness of the bar, or for our example, 3/8 inches on each end so they will overlap.

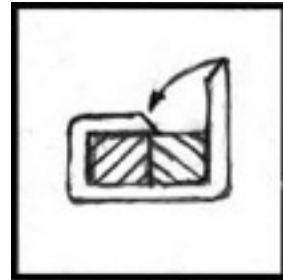
Scarfig the joint makes it less susceptible to opening under high stress. The cross section of the collar would look like this:



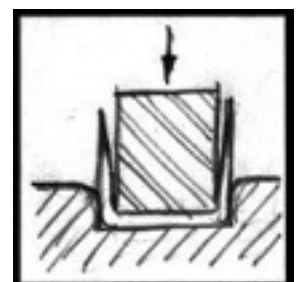
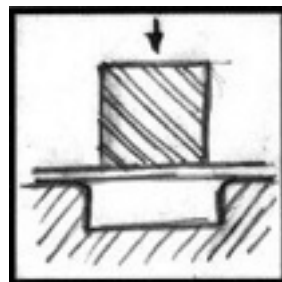
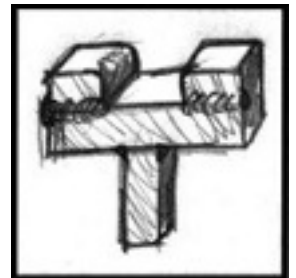
To make the joint, you forge the first bend, then clamp and bend the opposite side to fit. Granted there is a “front” and “back” to this, but the joint is almost invisible.



A butt joint collar can also be improved by cutting the ends at a 45° angle. These require a trial fit and have a little of the overlapping advantage but are better used with decorative or incised collars.



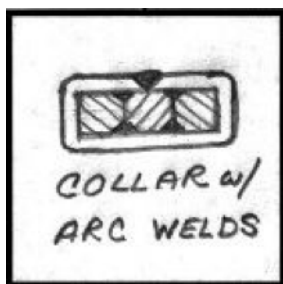
You may want to prebend collars, especially for a big job. Simple hot bending dies can be made as shown below. The dies can be forged or welded using rounds, or squares on the edges. Once the master is built, then heat a piece of steel that is cut to length and place the future collar between the shoulders. Finally, using a bar that is the size of your finished joint, sink this die to make yourself a collar that is ready to attach. For low production numbers, mild steel works, but if you plan on making 500 or more, it would be best to use some type of tool steel.



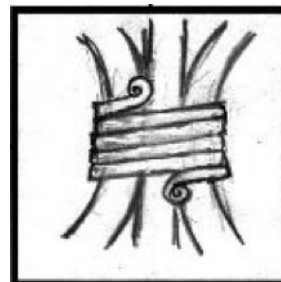
Important recommendation! Not that it's ever happened to me, but you probably want tack weld your jig together for a test fit to be sure the shoulders are not too tight or too loose.



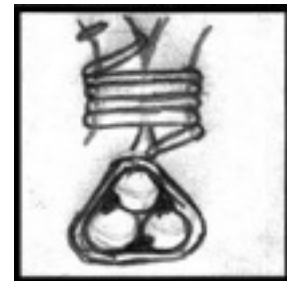
The above is probably common sense, but something you should think about when designing a piece to be collared. For example if the side parts are scrolls on a pickett then the scrolls are commonly smaller material than the main pickett. However, the material on the sides need to be either the same width material as the pickett OR the material can be flattened and widened in a gentle taper to where it meets the pickett so the collar will go on squarely. Depending on the scope of your project this can be expensive in time/effort so spend some time thinking about how you will stack the steel together before you commit. Occasionally the correct size of rectangular stock can be obtained but double check on your local availability. At my steel yard the $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ is hot rolled but the $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4}$ is cold rolled and they don't nest very nicely.



Above depicts a not so traditional method that can be used to dress up welds by putting them under a collar. The collar can also be arc welded in place. In this case you need to leave a $\frac{1}{16}$ " gap at the butt joint. If welded when clamped tight it gets a LOT tighter when it shrinks and the joint will probably crack open.



One final method of collaring is to make "wrapped" collars. A wrapped collar can be done with square or round bar. The ends should be tapered to blend in OR made into a decorative element (like a leaf). The above drawing is using $\frac{3}{16}$ square stock with little scrolls on the ends. Wrapped collars are made by guessing at the length but you can make your guess a little more accurate by taking a cord that is the same thickness/diameter of your wrap stock and testing the look. Once cut to length begin by forging the ends, next clamp one end in place with a set of vice grips and then begin heating the wrap with a torch as you pull/hammer the steel around the joint to make the wrap. If done right, this type of joint is VERY tight.



Round stock is generally used when wrapping round work and square stock is most often used with square work. Round wrapping almost begs for something with a "vine" motif so put a few extra little curls on the ends or let the ends hang like vine tendrils to really set your work off. Because rounds always have a place for welds when bundled you can arc weld the joint and then use a wrapped collar to hide the weld and strengthen the piece.

So, what are you waiting for? Time to try a new technique.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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FABA Membership Application: Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via Paypal by going to blacksmithing.org/membership/join and clicking through the Paypal button. You do not need to have a Paypal account to use this feature. OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to:

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