



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plans continue despite uncertainty

It's almost February already and I'm looking forward to some warmer weather.

We had our January NW Regional meeting at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, and I think the mercury topped 40, but not by much. My toes were unhappy and talking to me in my tennis shoes, asking for thicker socks. Being away from home, I could not honor their request. I do remember thinking I should have worn my boots with wool socks, but hindsight is always 20/20. I'm sure the low temps had a direct impact on the low turnout, as we only had six show up.



Mark Stone

Though a vaccine is out and is now being administered for Covid, the numbers of infected continue to rise, as expected, as well as a new strain of the virus being reported. We may have ordinances or orders shutting down gatherings, which, if implemented, will dictate our holding of our monthly meetings.

Our Regional Coordinators are continuing to plan our monthly meetings knowing they may be pushed out or cancelled until things settle down.

As of this writing, we have yet to swear in our new President, so we don't know what he may try to implement for combating the spread of Covid. We will continue to keep an eye on things at all levels of government here in Florida and nationally.

If you are high risk, I'm sure you are staying home. You can wear masks and practice social distancing to further protect yourself during meetings if you feel the need.

As of now, the SBA conference is still on for May 13-15 of this year. Last month we started working on the conference project at Jeff Mohr's shop.

FABA will be contributing a rocking bench with the

other chapters contributing two individual rocking chairs and a couple of side tables. The furniture will be adorned with leaves, etc. forged by chapter members and affixed to the pieces of furniture.

We will be holding workshops in the future to continue work on the bench, and we will let you know when as you will be welcomed to attend and assist. As with our regional meetings, this conference is not guaranteed to take place, but we are continuing to plan for it.

It will be discussed in our monthly SBA meeting two days from this writing and I will keep you informed on any decisions we make.

Our Clinker Breaker has gone to monthly e-mail delivery with a quarterly printed version. The Clinker Breakers are also available on our website upon completion. The expenses of printing and mailing the Clinker Breaker every month has forced us to make this call but it also gives our Editor more freedom to add more instructional material, pictures of our meetings, links to other web pages, etc.

Hopefully, you received your January Clinker Breaker via e-mail so please remember to keep your e-mail address up to date with us. We have a few other changes being implemented in the very near future which you may read about in reports in this Clinker Breaker concerning our website and membership program with options for paying your dues, purchasing merchandise, registering for future events, etc. I ordered a Conference T-shirt and sticker through our website and urge you to do the same.

I hope you have a great February.

Stay well, stay safe and keep your forges glowing and your hammers pounding!

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	vacant	for questions, please email	djhayes29@hotmail.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

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.

Contributions to FABA 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. Send to editor@blacksmithing.org. Materials submitted must be your own work, and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting materials, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA's website. 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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Central NE Region Meeting, Feb. 6

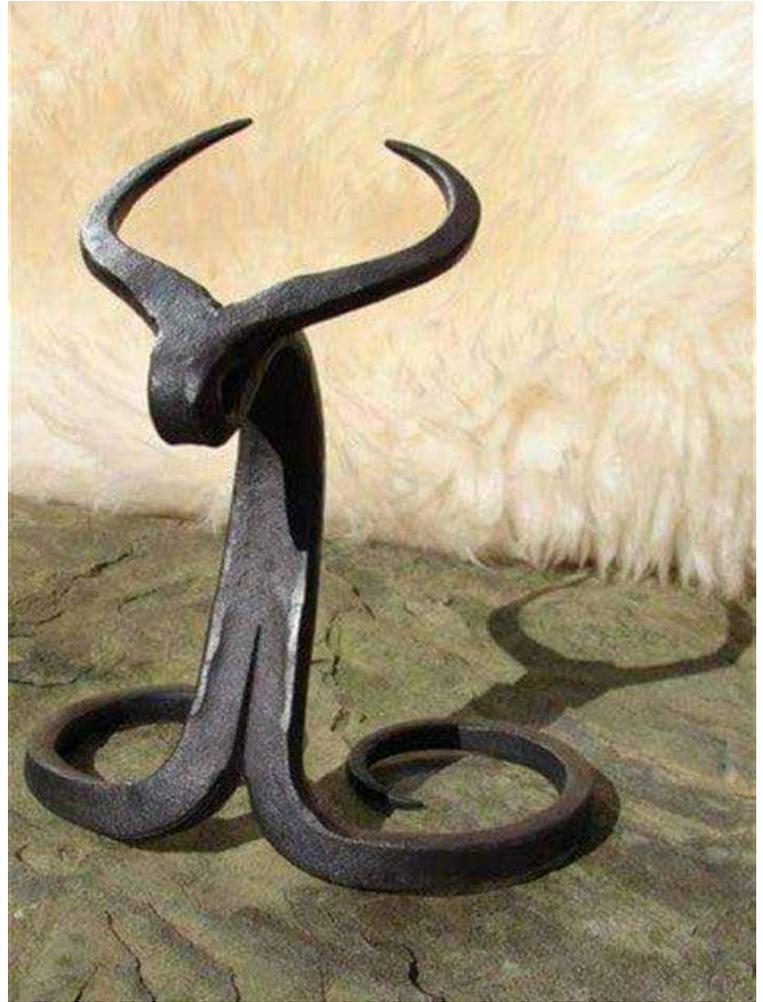
The January meeting exceeded expectations! Under Kirk Sullens' patient guidance, we forged several hot cut hardy tools sized to the NE trailer's anvils. Kirk manned the power hammer while the rest took hammer and tongs and beat the barstock to shape. We had fantastic participation with everyone wielding a hammer, tongs, or finishing tools. Several first-time participants also attended and tried their hand at smithing.

Several items were brought to be sold, including a lovely 250-lb Southern Crescent in remarkable condition. The "Iron in the Hat" was filled with a variety of tools, metal, and odds and ends that found new homes to clutter and helped fund more activities in the region! Lunch and snacks were brought by our members, including a delicious coffee cake by Jesse Allan's wife.

The next meeting will be on Feb 6th @ 9 a.m. at the Barberville [Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Barberville.](#)

After last month's tool making project, where we hammered out several hot cuts for the anvils, we are moving toward the art side of the craft! This month's demonstration and project will be a ram's head finial. It's an intermediate project that will incorporate splitting, drawing, folding and scrolling. Animal head finials can be used in any number of ways as decorative elements, and the techniques are easily adaptable to a variety of different creatures. The inspiration for this comes from the book "The Everyday Blacksmith," by Nicholas Wicks. In this meeting we will be focusing on an interesting part of every Smith's life. We will be going through the process of learning to do a new thing. The book will be our guide.

— FABA member Albert Rasch and Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator



Far West Region Report

The Far West region did not have a December meeting due to conflict with Christmas.

However we were active early in the year supporting Rocky Bayou Christian School's "Jan-term," a period when the 9-12 grade students get to go out into the community and learn a bit about the trades and the professional world.

Four of the Rocky students spent a week with us at Traditions Workshop learning about blacksmithing. The five-day program is titled "nails to knives" and the students completed a minimum of seven blacksmithing projects in 5 days along with learning a bit of history, math, physics and business practices.

Although we don't expect to see any of these young men as the next blacksmithing YouTube heroes, the program is designed to help them become better engineers – having had the opportunity to make something will keep them from designing products that cannot be easily built or repaired.

Several expressed interest in continuing their blacksmithing experience and we expect to see them become members at our Jan. 23 "hammer in."



Day 4. Making bottle openers, heavy rain in the morning gave way to a pleasant afternoon. Although the primary exercise for this day was punching and drifting the guys came up with some interesting designs. We were able to promote FABA throughout the week of study. Team work was emphasized continually.

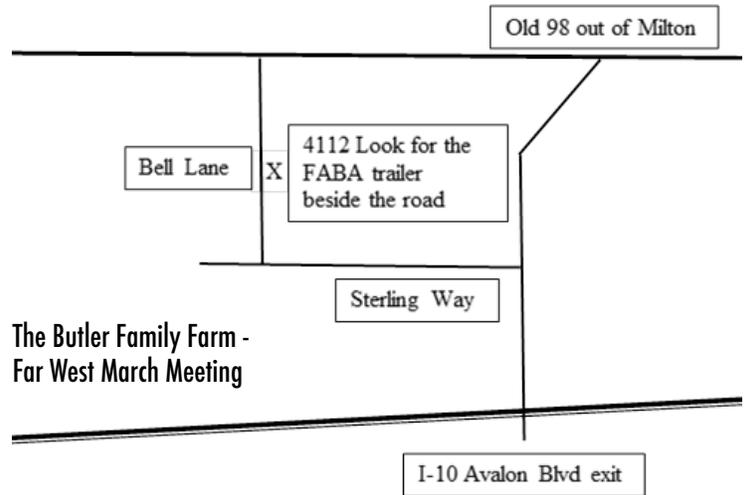
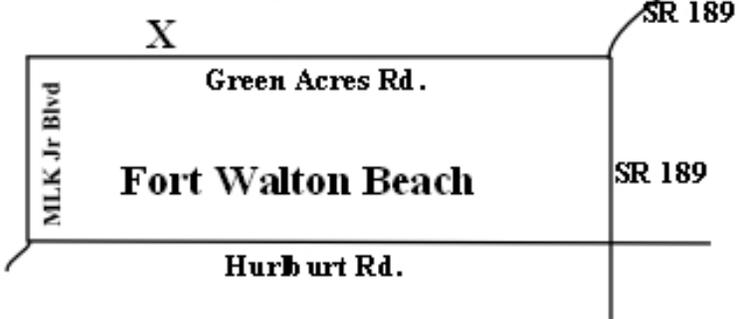
Regional Reports

Day 5. Railroad spike knives were the “graduation” exercise. The day was cold with a bitter north wind so we pulled out a couple of theater back drops we have stored in the workshop to block the wind and provide everyone with an interesting “selfie” station.

The team got to try setting the bevels with a hammer and with a setting iron (more team work).



TRADITIONS WORKSHOP
418 Green Acres Rd, Suite 4,
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547



Far West Region Events

Far West January and February meetings will focus on the Journeyman standards. These two meetings will cover joinery techniques – rivets, collars, mortise & tenon. These meetings will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at [Traditions Workshop](#), at [418 Green Acres Road, Suite 4, in Fort Walton Beach](#), so we have shelter from the cold if necessary.

Our March meeting will be held at [Butler’s Family Farm](#) in Milton, FL, and is intended to be a fundraiser with a “make and take” class on medieval knife making that will be open to the public.

– **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



The March meeting includes a fundraiser class on medieval knife making

SW Region Report

There was no SW meeting during the holiday period. Trez Cole will be busy with his yearly set of beginning blacksmithing meetings in January and February and will not be hosting an online meeting in this period. I'm looking for anyone in the SW region who has a project or demo that they can do online in the coming weeks. Feel free to contact me via email at antony.fenn@gmail.com or private message me via Facebook.

I encourage you to go to the [FABA SW Facebook page](#) for the any meeting announcements and to find recorded video from past meetings.

In the meantime, SW members have been busy working in their own shops on creative projects this month. Check them out below!

— Tony Fenn, SW Regional Coordinator



Tony Fenn - has been playing with artistic ideas using Octopus tentacles. Bottle openers were a great gift for Christmas and also a simple candle holder was well received for the Christmas dinner table. The latest fun piece started with a 14" long piece of 3/4" round stock which was tapered with the tire hammer and then twisted to fit an ammonite with the aid of a simple jig made to fit the leg vice. The suckers were made with silicon bronze mig wire and then punched.



Robert Graber - has a new addition to his workshop. An old coal forge. All components are present and in great working order. With some minor tweaking and Robert has it ready for coal. He thanks Albert Rasch for helping pick it up.



Regional Reports



Marcus Wise – has been making some spectacular knives. He finished up this low layer double ladder pattern with a touch of rain drop Damascus chefs knife. He added 2 brass pins and a mosaic pin in the handle.



Low layer double ladder pattern raindrop chefs knife

NW Region Meeting, Feb. 13

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest Region. Our February meeting will be held at Juan Holbrook's house on Saturday, Feb. 13th. Juan's address is [6418 NW 97th Court in Gainesville, FL 32653](#).

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. Juan will be giving us a demonstration in his shop until we break for the Iron in the Hat raffle at 11:45 and lunch at noon. A main dish will be provided, and we should bring sides and desserts.

Don't forget to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle and I hope to see you there!

Our January meeting was held at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. It was a cold morning and only 7 people signed in. Craig Hines did a demonstration for us and at one point he had a crowd of about 20 when some of the people who were working on rebuilding the site came to see what we were doing. Speaking of rebuilding, the whole place is really looking good. The Blacksmith Shop and museum are completely rebuilt and ready for use, as are most, if not all, of the buildings onsite! This was the smallest attendance of any meeting in the about 70 meetings we've had since I've been Regional Coordinator, and it was still enjoyed by those who attended, especially me. Some of us went to a local restaurant for lunch before heading home.

— **John Pfund,**
NW Coordinator



Wade Chappell – made a wonderful piece for his son's wedding using mild steel with brass and a wax finish. The base is spalted laurel oak oil finish.



FABA's 2021 Financial Update



Hello from the deep dark dungeon of financial fun and games (actually, you've probably guessed it isn't at all like fun and games). Well, we have left 2020 behind us for the most part – I still have to deal with all the books, taxes and so on, but we have made some progress in many areas.

First, for the program that many of us have come to the 'love to hate' stage – Wild Apricot, our membership management program will soon be history. We will be discontinuing that account in about 2 weeks and managing membership in another way.

The Webmaster, Jessica Sandlin, and I have a plan to phase in a new (and much less expensive) program soon, with a transition period where I get the joy of manually keeping up with stuff. So, for a brief while you will be able to legitimately get upset with me for any glitches. I shall try to minimize your opportunities for that, though.

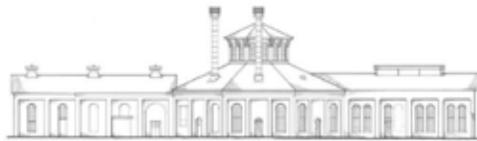
Our FABA website is being reconstructed from the foundation up. And actually, that is true in a very real sense as Jessica is having to correct and update issues from several years ago, with the foundation web language/programming. Since it is such a profound rebuild, we will have a placeholder website for several weeks that will offer renewals and new membership link, but not much else. The new website will integrate the new membership management, future conference and event registration and payments, along with an online store for FABA merchandise (can you say 'Belt Buckles', John Boy?), links to previous Clinker Breakers and eventually photo galleries, a members section, possibly with chat features, and more.

We have identified and resolved several issues with PayPal and have been successful in having PayPal update our account so that the current board is recognized and readily able to manage it. We have also added a SQUARE payment platform payment system as an additional online payment option for those not as comfortable with PayPal.

For those not directly affected, we had an issue with PayPal that I mentioned back in October, where payments made for membership or the conference (membership, conf registration, class registration, coal sales and so on) between Oct 4 through Oct 16 were not actually credited to FABA but were refunded to the purchasers in November of 2020. This totaled approximately \$2000+ in revenues that FABA did not in fact ever receive. I sent an email to the roughly 3 dozen folks who made payments during that time and have received a reply and subsequent payments from many. However, a good number have not responded in any way, so if you did make payment or register during that time, please check your SPAM folder or old messages to see if you find my message from FABA. If you did make a payment then, and cannot find the message, I will be sending a follow up in the near future.

Folks – things are coming together and although we still have COVID and related issues as ongoing concerns, FABA is still functioning and is improving our processes and procedures. I hope you have been honing your skills and knowledge and look forward to a new year of shared experiences and fellowship.

— **Doug Hayes, Treasurer**



Center for Metal Arts

2021 Scholarship Opportunities



**Intermediate Tool
Making & Design with
John Williams**



**Fabricating & Forging
Utensils with Erica
Moody**



**Fearless Forge Welding
with Addison de Lisle**

The Center for Metal Arts is in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Apply at <https://centerformetalarts.org/week-long-workshop-scholarship-application/>

Scholarship Application Deadline February 1st

Intermediate Tool Making & Design with John Williams

Fabricating & Forging Utensils with Erica Moody

Fearless Forge Welding with Addison de Lisle

At Center for Metal Arts, we work hard to make our workshops available to the widest possible audience. Part of how we do this is offering a limited number of scholarships each year for our extended workshops. Currently scholarship applications are open with the deadline approaching quickly. This year we have three exciting workshops with scholarship availability. These workshops are new for 2021 and represent a broad variety of how versatile and valuable the craft of forging can be.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

February 2021

Note From The Editor

As FABA President Mark Stone noted in his president's message on page 1, FABA has decided to move to electronic delivery of the Clinker Breaker, which gives us greater flexibility to grow or shrink according to our content, as well as saving the organization printing and mailing costs. For those who enjoy getting a paper copy of the newsletter, we will still be printing on a quarterly basis and mailing those to members.

In the meantime, please enjoy this enhanced electronic copy of the newsletter! If you see a link in blue, underlined text ([FABA](#)), click on it to visit that website. If an address is hyperlinked, it will pull up Google maps, where you can get directions and travel times to the destination. If a group name is hyperlinked, it will take you to the group's website or Facebook page.

We hope you enjoy the new functionality this format can deliver. Any questions or comments are welcome at editor@blacksmithing.org. Please enjoy your new Clinker Breaker!

— **Jennifer Jhon, Clinker Breaker editor**

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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:

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) _____ OR Color Newsletter by Email _____

FABA

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