

# Dedicated to Francis Whitaker, 1906-1999



## ***2011 ROCKY MOUNTAIN BLACKSMITHING CONFERENCE XXI***

**August 3—August 7, 2011 Carbondale Colorado**

Rocky Mountain Smiths is pleased to announce the Rocky Mountain Blacksmithing Conference XXI, held at the Francis Whitaker Blacksmith School on the campus of the Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale, Colorado. Check-in begins Wednesday, August 3 at 1:00 P.M., with dinner at 5:30. Demonstrations begin Thursday, August 4, at 8:00 A.M. and run through Saturday, July 6. Featured are demonstrations by well-known smiths, hands on forging clinics, a forging competition, a gallery and silent auction. The conference promises to be a sharing and inspirational experience, and we invite you to participate. Lodging and meals are available at the conference site and motels and camping are nearby. The Carbondale area boasts some of the finest summer activities in the state. There's ample time to socialize and enjoy the Colorado summer. Come early and stay late!

### **ABOUT THE WHITAKER BLACKSMITH SCHOOL**

The Francis Whitaker Blacksmith School was established in 1989 following Francis's closing of the Mountain Forge in Aspen. The school is an excellent teaching facility. There are six forges, set in pairs under common hoods, located in the center of the shop. Each is fully equipped with the necessary hand tools and post vise. Work tables, layout table and other equipment line the perimeter of the large and well-lit shop. Specialized jigs, fixtures and study pieces hang on the walls. Evening open forging sessions will be held at which you may practice what you have learned.

### **DEMONSTRATORS**

It is a pleasure to introduce our demonstrators, all masters of their craft. On the next five pages you will find brief bios of this years five demonstrators. Phil Cox and Pete Renzetti will do three 3/4 hour demos and a 2 hour Demo each. Caleb Kullman, Craig May and David Norrie will be doing one 3 our demo each. The demonstrators will be available in the evenings during Open Forge.

## Demonstrator Phil Cox



After graduation from high school in 1967, I started serving an apprenticeship as a machinist. Part way through that, I went to Vietnam and was a machine gun mechanic. On my completion of my tour of duty with the Army, I went back in the machinist trade as an automotive machinist. During that period of time I built engines and chassis for racecars in the Grand National Late Model Sportsman cars which became NASCAR. During that time I honed my welding and machinist skills in Alabama during the mid 1970's. In the late 1970's I returned to my home in Missouri and resumed my life long association with horses. I started doing my own farrier work and that transitioned into blacksmith work in 1989.

I made a few knives and decided I needed a power hammer and found a 50 pound Little Giant and rebuilt it. I really enjoyed working on hammers and rebuilding them. Currently I am a welding instructor with the Department of Corrections and have been doing this for the past 14 years.

I demonstrated in 1998 at the ABANA Conference in Ashville, North Carolina using a 25-pound Little Giant hammer and again in 2010 in Memphis, Tennessee. I have also taught some power hammer classes at the Ozark School of Blacksmithing. I have demonstrated at a few BAM meetings and conferences. I had the honor of being asked to demonstrate on at 25 lb Little Giant hammer at the 100th birthday party for Little Giant held in February 2008.

I have continued to repair hammers and that is the main focus of my blacksmithing. I enjoy all phases of forging, but I love power hammer work. I began with Little Giant hammers and really appreciate mechanical hammers. With Tom's passing, I'm becoming more involved with air hammers. I still enjoy repairing, using and learning about them as I go along.

Phil's demonstration will include the following: evaluation of Little Giant power hammers, repair, adjustment and proper use of Little Giant power hammers, I will enjoy and invite participation and questions from the audience, through my demo I hope to make people aware of the possibilities of these hammers, on the short session, I plan to have an open discussion (question and answer) about the use and rebuilding of power hammers.

## Demonstrator Caleb Kullman, Kullman Ironworks LLC, Montrose, CO



I was first exposed to blacksmithing while in college. An art student had set up a primitive forging station behind the art building and I stopped in one day after hearing the sound of the hammer and anvil. He let me have a go with the hammer and I ruined a perfectly good piece of steel – but my interest was sparked. After graduation, having realized that a BA in anthropology was not particularly marketable, I decided to pursue my interest in blacksmithing and attended horseshoeing school in Tucumcari, NM. At the time, I really didn't think that horseshoeing or blacksmithing would be a long term career choice for me but I was curious nonetheless. I enjoyed learning the craft of farriery and liked working with horses. What I really enjoyed, however, was forging – making horseshoes and other things from steel. After finishing the four-month-long horseshoeing program, I began apprenticing with a farrier and family friend in Santa Fe, NM, where I had grown up. At his recommendation, I attended Frank Turley's basic blacksmithing class in the spring of 1994. As part of the class, Frank routinely took his students out to visit the studio of Tom Joyce. When I saw Tom's beautiful work and meticulously organized studio, I knew that I wanted to pursue blacksmithing more seriously. Seeing a long road ahead, I moved to Fort Collins, CO in the fall of 1994 to begin a horseshoeing practice. Horseshoeing allowed me to earn a living with plenty of free time to practice my forging technique, take on small commissions, and travel to work with other blacksmiths. I made two or three trips per year to Santa Fe to work with Tom during the period 1995-2002. I also became a member of the Rocky Mountain Smiths, attended workshops and conferences, and took classes at craft schools such as Peters Valley Craft Education Center, Penland School of Crafts and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. I decided to go back to school in the late 90's to pursue a Master's Degree in anthropology. The need to conduct field research and the desire to combine my professional career and academic background led me to apply for and receive a Fulbright Scholarship to travel to Nigeria in 2002. I spent eight months there, working with Yoruba blacksmiths, studying traditional Yoruba forging techniques, religion, and culture. Upon returning to the US, I decided not to continue shoeing horses and committed to blacksmithing full-time, pursuing commission work from my shop in Fort Collins. In 2004 my wife Rachel and I were married. We decided to leave the crowds of the Front Range behind and moved to the Western Slope of Colorado in March of 2006. We settled in Montrose, where I operate my shop in a 2500 sq. ft. building in the downtown area. I primarily service the Telluride area, but I also work in Santa Fe, Aspen, Breckenridge, Vail, and other resort communities.

I use traditional blacksmithing techniques because they allow me to produce a wide variety of work. I attempt to be true to the traditional methods while not being bound by traditional designs and motifs. The primary source of ornamentation in my work stems from the methods used to join elements together and my designs are fundamentally tied to the production processes of mortise and tenon joinery, collars, punched holes and rivets.

### Demo Outline

During my demonstration I will explore how to utilize fundamental forging techniques to create simple elements that add visual interest to our work. The demo will be a mix of forging technique and design theory.

## Demonstrator Craig May



Craig grew up as a horseshoers son and through this craft I was introduced to the art of the fire and hand forging. SWABA was in its infancy in 1981 when I attended a work shop hosted by Russ Swider at his shop in Rowe N.M. That was when the lightening struck, I could not have been more amazed if I had seen a magician pull an elephant out of a tea cup! I was hooked! My early education was through this organization and I learned by monkey see and monkey do process. After moving to Colorado I worked periodically in Will Perrys shop in Carbonedale and did a 10 month stint at Myers and Co After moving to Pine Co I opened Dragon Forge and for the next 24 years have executed high end Architectural iron work in private residences and hotels in the ski areas in Colorado. While I do not consider myself a traditional smith I try to work in that style as much as possible, with the addition of using air and power hammer tooling. (as inspired by Russ more than 30 years ago. With the addition of my youngest son Rory to the studio I hope to do this another 30 years.

t has been the most rewarding thing that I have ever tried to master. My earliest influences were by Russ Swider and Tom Joyce. (I hope I have done them justice.)

Craig's demonstration will be a small candle stand forged in a traditional manner using hand, air and power hammer tooling.



## Demonstrator David Norrie



In 1973, I quit high school in grade 12. Good or bad, I was one of those kids that just did not fit in. The high school I went to was an art oriented school, we even had nude models in grade 11 for life drawing, but I had no inspiration of where I was going with my life. That summer, I had a job lined up at Black Creek pioneer villager in Toronto, Canada, where I grew up. My job was to cut firewood and give the craftsmen the daily breaks. I had to learn Harness making, run an 1810 loom, demo an 1824 Washington press to print and do many other trades of the time. The blacksmith was the only one who said, “don’t touch the tools, just talk to the public.”

Hey, I was 18 and did not care. One day, 4 month’s later he said to me, “you got to make something” and he showed me how to make a small hook they sold in the gift shop. As soon as the hammer hit the hot metal, something clicked in my head and I knew it was going to be a part of my life. That was the beginning of my life as a blacksmith. My first shop was an 8’X16’ converted peacock pen; no lighting or electricity. I used a coal oil lamp for light and heated with wood. I was out there every night trying figure out this thing called blacksmithing. At 20 I went into business for my self and have been there ever since, 35 years last Jan. At that time I was a purest in forging, the first interior railing I made was 180 – foot long and had 960 forge welds, 120 punched holes, and it was all riveted together. I was bending 1 1/2” square bars and forging them into right angle corners. Because of my experiences at the historical village, blacksmithing was in its true form for me. I even drilled holes with a huge post drill. With having a background in art, forging alone had it’s limitations, so I added fabrication skills to achieve the designs I wanted to create.

15 years ago, I moved from Toronto to Jackson WY, lived there for 5 years, and then moved to Colorado. The visa I received from the government was an artist visa, called an O1. So far, I am the only one to ever receive this type of visa for blacksmithing. It is extremely rare and hard to get and for me it is an honor to have it. I now have a studio with 2 to 4 employees, the projects we do range from large-scale architectural work, public art, and personal sculpting, to furniture and now we are introducing lighting. We have 3 forging hammers, a 110lb, 300lb, and a 700lb. These give us the option for many new design possibilities.

For 30 years I have taught blacksmithing for fun and now have opened a school teaching weekend classes and full immersion one-week classes. These classes are for anyone, who wants to learn and I am in the process of teaching at risk kids, or kids that just don’t fit in, like me at that age. I enjoy sharing what I have done and giving back, hopefully to inspire those that it might help.

In his demonstration David will be showing some details and elements of a current, on going project presently he has going on in his studio.

## Peter Renzetti



Peter A. Renzetti was raised in the arts and crafts community of Arden, Delaware. At 16 years old he started blacksmithing as a hobby. In 1968 he opened his own forge in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania and called it The Arden Forge Company. In 1973, Peter was part of the founding of the Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America (ABANA). He was then moved the shop to a larger location in Dilworthtown Pennsylvania in 1975. In 1992, the Arden Forge became the new home for the Samuel Yellin Metalworkers (SYM) when the Philadelphia location was forced to close. For the next 12 years, Peter was the master smith for the SYM in addition to maintaining his own business. After 38 successful years, the Arden Forge Co closed and Peter retired in December of 2007. Now living in his family home in Arden with his wife, he is able to devote time to his multitude of hobbies; steam boating, model engineering, stringed instruments.... The list goes on.

Peter's demonstration will include; traditional blacksmithing techniques, including joinery, forge welding, jigs and fixtures, punching and drifting, etc.

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### 2011 Conference Schedule (subject to change)

	Thursday		Friday		Saturday	Sunday
7:00-8:00am	Breakfast	7:00-8:00am	Breakfast	7:00-8:00am	Breakfast	7:00-8:00 Breakfast
8:00-11:45	Pete	8:00-11:45	Phil	8:00-10:00	Phil	<b>Forge Clean Up</b>
	Pete		Phil	10:15-11:45	Craig	
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch	Sift coal For open forge anytime!
1:30-4:30pm	David	1:30-4:30pm	Caleb	1:15-2:45pm	Craig	
4:30-5:15pm	Old RMS video	4:30-5:30pm	<b>Ice Breaker Party</b> On the Lawn	3:00-5:00pm	Pete	WEAR SAFETY GLASSES!
5:30-6:30pm	Dinner	5:30-6:30pm	Dinner	5:15-6:00pm	<b>Iron in the Hat/ Silent Auction</b>	
7:00-8:30pm	<b>Forging Competition</b>	7:00-9:00pm	<b>Demonstrators Slide Show</b>	6:00-7:30pm	<b>EBC!</b>	
				7:30-8:30pm	<b>Membership Meeting</b>	
8:30-10:00	Open Forge	8:00-10:00	Open Forge	8:00-10:00	Open Forge	

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Colorado Rocky Mountain School will provide reasonably priced lodging in double occupancy, shared bath, dorm style rooms for the evenings of August 3, 4, 5 & 6 and ten meals beginning with dinner on Wednesday the 3rd through breakfast and sack lunch on Sunday August 7<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$260 per person, double occupancy. There are limited rooms available and they are given out on a first come first serve basis. Pre-registration and pre-payment is strongly encouraged. Facilities can accommodate couples, families and singles. Meals for persons with other accommodations are \$130 for the 10 meals provided, or \$35 for 3 breakfasts, or 3 lunches, and \$40 for 3 dinners only. Again, it is strongly encouraged that you pre-register and prepay for meals. All registrants are invited to the Saturday night BBQ - it's included in your registration fee.

**Camping:** there will be *no camping or sleeping in cars allowed on the school grounds*. There are local camp grounds in the area. Info will be provided at the registration desk. **The BrB Crystal River Campground is highly recommended.** Clean, with good bathrooms and hot running showers, fire rings right on the crystal river, it's one of the best bets in the area, only five miles from the conference. They have cabins and tent sites. It's quite popular so advanced reservations are highly recommended (970-963-2341). Please visit their web site at [www.cabinscolorado.com](http://www.cabinscolorado.com).

**Motels:** hotels, bed and breakfasts and camping facilities are located within a 15-mile radius of Carbondale.

## GETTING TO CARBONDALE

**By Car:** Carbondale is approximately 3½ hours (172 miles) from Denver via I-70. Aspen and Vail are each an hour's drive away. Grand Junction is 1-½ hours (89 miles) via I-70. From Denver, take I-70 west to Glenwood Springs, Exit 116. Take Highway 82 south approximately 13 miles to Highway 133. Turn right onto Highway 133 to Carbondale and continue to Main St. (First traffic light) Turn right onto Main St. and continue as the road bears to right and becomes 106 Rd. Continue on the road until you reach the Colorado Rocky Mountain School. Turn right on Whitaker Road. Registration will be at the blacksmith shop.

**By Bus:** Greyhound provides service to Glenwood Springs. Roaring Fork Transit Authority provides hourly service to Carbondale from Glenwood Springs and from the Aspen airport. [www.rfta.com](http://www.rfta.com)

**By Train:** Passenger train service is available to Glenwood Springs via Amtrak (passenger service, 1-800-872-7245) with daily stops both east and westbound.

**By Air:** Denver International Airport, Sardy Field in Aspen, Grand Junction's Walker Field, The Avon/Eagle airport.

### **Questions or problems? Conference Questions Contact:**

Conference Chairperson: Robin Boone  
Phone: 970-261-0493 or e-mail at: [robin\\_alexandra@yahoo.com](mailto:robin_alexandra@yahoo.com)

### **Conference Registration or Conference Registration Questions/Problems Contact:**

John and Janet Switzer  
P.O. Box 4, Beulah, CO 81023-0004  
Phone: 719-485-2327 Cell Phone: 303-589-1767 e-mail: [switz@mindspring.com](mailto:switz@mindspring.com)

## **MOUNTAIN SMITHS CONFERENCE GALLERY**

Mountain Smiths Conference Gallery is for displaying blacksmiths' works. All conference participants are encouraged to bring one or more pieces to show. Smiths of all skill levels are encouraged to exhibit. Please label all items with your name, and a brief description of the piece. If the piece is for sale please list the price and if not for sale please mark "NFS". RMS requests a donation of 10% of all sales. RMS is not able to provide any shipping or receiving services for gallery items. In addition to the general gallery there will be a special gallery area for 'New Smiths.'

## **SILENT AUCTION and IRON-IN-THE-HAT**

Everyone is encouraged to contribute blacksmithing works, tools, books and other items of interest to blacksmiths.

Auction pieces will be on display during conference daylight hours and in the evening. Bid on an item by writing your name and offer on the item's bid sheet. Minimum bids and increments will be set for each auction item. Auction items will be sold to the highest proper bidder. Bidding will close at 5:30pm Saturday evening. All winning bids are to be paid for and picked up at that time.

Iron-in-the-Hat is a drawing for items donated and tickets will be sold during the conference. Drawing will be held just before the silent auction.

Proceeds of the gallery, silent auction and Iron-in-the-Hat will benefit Rocky Mountain Smiths and other blacksmithing organizations as determined by the RMS Board.

## **FORGING COMPETITION**

The forging competition always produces something VERY interesting! New smiths and old are encouraged to participate. It's very light hearted and a lot of fun. The forging competition takes place after dinner on Thursday evening.

## **VENDERS and TAILGATERS**

If you are interested in being a vendor (i.e.: setting inside the gallery with a table, etc., please contact Robin Boone, Conference Chair, for availability. Due to the smaller, more intimate size of both our gallery space and our conference in general, we limit the number of professional vendors. Tailgaters may show up as they like. Anyone is open to be a tailgater and sell tools, equipment, etc., in our parking lot area. RMS asks that all tailgaters please donate something to either Iron and the Hat and/or Silent Auction.

## **Notes about the 2010 Rocky Mountain Blacksmithing Conference:**

- Conference check-in will begin at 1:00 p.m. on August 3rd and will continue through August 6th.
- Registration fee includes RMS membership thru the next fiscal year (Sept. 30, 2012).
- Confirmation will be sent only if an e-mail address or a SASE is provided.
- Eye protection required in forging areas. Ear protection is strongly recommended.

**THESE ARE NO SMOKING ANYWHERE ON THE CRMS CAMPUS**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN BLACKSMITHING CONFERENCE XXI, August 3 - August 7, 2011**  
REGISTRATION FORM (Please type or print legibly all information)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ RMS Member (  ) Yes (  ) No  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home:( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work:( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ) In case of emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone  
 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Accompanying spouse/significant other and/or children: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE FEES	Postmarked July 10 or Before	Postmarked after July 10	Amount Paid
Registration (includes RMS membership for FY 2012)	\$215	\$240	\$
Spouse/significant other/child age 12 or older each	\$50	\$60	\$
Child under 12, each	\$ n/c	\$ n/c	\$

**Lodging and meals** (double occupancy) at school including Wednesday evening

Participant lodging and all meals	\$260	\$270	\$
Spouse/significant other/child age 12 or older each	\$260	\$270	\$
Child under 12, each (staying with parent)	\$ 50	\$ 60	\$

**Meals Only**

All meals, Wednesday dinner through Sunday snack lunch	\$130	\$140	\$
Breakfasts only, Thursday through Saturday	\$35	\$40	\$
Lunches only, Thursday, Friday, Saturday	\$35	\$40	\$
Dinners only, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	\$ 40	\$ 45	\$

**T-Shirts:** 100% cotton, \$14 advance, \$15 at conference (small & medium by advanced order only)

Conference Logo	S_	M_	L_	XL_	XXL_	XXXL_	Qty_ x \$14 =	\$
RMS Logo	S_	M_	L_	XL_	XXL_	XXXL_	Qty_ x \$14 =	\$
Women's	S_	M_	L_	n/a	n/a	n/a	Qty_ x \$14 =	\$

Advance Purchase Conference DVD of all 4 demonstrators (12 DVDs total) \$90/set \$

Extra BBQ tickets (see box below) \$

**TOTAL ENCLOSE \$**

Can't make it to the whole conference but want to visit with your blacksmith buddies?  
 Someone wants to join you for the BBQ? Come late Saturday afternoon for Iron-in-the-Hat, the Silent Auction, BBQ and membership meeting. \$15 for the BBQ, advance registration and payment required. We have to let the kitchen know how many to expect. \_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Rocky Mountain Smiths and return along with this form to:**

**Conference Registrar  
 c/o John Switzer  
 P.O. Box 4  
 Beulah, CO 81023**

# Rocky Mountain Smiths

## Liability Waiver

I am signing this waiver so that I may attend a conference, workshop, demonstration or other event sponsored by Rocky Mountain Smiths, a nonprofit corporation (RMS). I understand that blacksmithing and related activities involve inherent risks and dangers for both participants and spectators which can cause serious injury or death. I hereby unconditionally waive any right that I might otherwise have to recover damages or other relief from RMS, it's officers, directors, members, employees, agents or other representatives, any demonstrators or other participant in the event and the owner or operator of any facility at which the event occurs, as a result of any personal injury or property damage that I may suffer in the course of or in connection with the event, including, without limitation, injury or damage arising out of acts or omissions constituting negligence or gross negligence or facts or conditions that would give rise to premises liability. I further agree not to bring any suit based in whole or in part on any claim covered by this waiver. I understand that RMS would not admit me to the event in absence of this waiver and confirm that my admission constitutes adequate consideration for this waiver.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

If the Person attending the event is a minor, this waiver must also be signed on the minor's behalf by a parent or legal guardian. The signature of a person as parent or legal guardian constitutes a warranty that such a person has authority to sign on behalf of the minor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or print name of parent or legal guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)



## Rocky Mountain Smiths membership application

Return this form with your check made payable to **Rocky Mountain Smiths**.

Mail to:

Wayne W. Frame, Editor  
425 NE Columbine Ct.  
Cedaredge, CO 81413

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Blacksmith Skill Level:  Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced

Student  Hobbyist  Artist  Business Owner/Practicing Smith

Metal Smithing Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level:  \$25 Student\*  \$40 Individual  \$45 Family

\$50+ Contributory

New Member  Renewal  Address Change  ABANA Member

\* A student is defined as an individual of less than 18 years of age. A parent or legal guardian must sign and date on the line below, in so doing giving permission for the applicant named above to participate in RMS activities.

Signature of parent or legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_



Rocky Mountain Smiths  
Wayne W. Frame, Editor  
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Return Service Requested

