

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

ABANA Information

All ABANA Affiliates, we are pleased to announce that the things you all have been expecting, are getting done! First, the abana.org website is getting updates completed, new content will follow and as of today, focus on you, the backbone of ABANA, has a new face. Please check out this link: <http://www.abana.org/affiliates/>

More is on the way, but please, please.....keep in mind that we are all Volunteers, and as such, that means what we do is strictly "For the Love of the Craft"

If any of you are asking, "What can I do to help", well here it is. We need your support, plain and simple. If ABANA is to deliver better services, in a timely manner, we need the membership to support the effort. Most of you know that membership in down, and what we need is for those of you out there who have not renewed your membership, or who have not seen the value in supporting ABANA, to step up and join or renew.

And, here is something you can do. Give a gift membership! Here is the offer, if you are a new membership or let your membership expire and renew via the offer (Mail In Membership Form only) you will receive the Hammer's Blow CD. The CD contains 26 issues of the Hammer's Blow in PDF format, Vol. 8, No. 1 thru Vol. 14, No. 2.

Giving a Gift Membership, joining as a new member or renewing your expired membership can make a difference in the level of services you expect.

So in closing, please consider this great offer today.

Rome H. Hutchings, Chair
ABANA Membership Services
The Prairie Forge
13633 Ferman Ave NW
Clearwater, MN 55320
(763) 878-1694

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To:
ABANA members and friends of blacksmithing

The 2008 ABANA Board of Directors sends greetings.

Chris Winterstein, ABANA's new President, reported on the November 15-17, 2007 Board meeting as follows:

"I wish you could all have been at the meeting to see how your new board is working. There are many different opinions among us, but we recognize that we share a common goal, and have shown a remarkable willingness to listen and create consensus about where we need to start to make ABANA into an organization that serves the whole of the blacksmithing community. As board members, we support ABANA's mission to promote and preserve blacksmithing. We are not here to promote and preserve ABANA except as a vehicle for that mission. ABANA can't, and really shouldn't survive unless it can provide real benefits to members. Those benefits need to compliment, rather than compete with the services of affiliates, and we want your input!"

Look for the complete President's Letter in the next Hammer's Blow.

We are committed to bringing new vitality into ABANA and there is much to do. First, we are initiating a survey to better understand who we are and how to set priorities. The survey is about 30 questions so it shouldn't take much of your time to complete. It is open to members and non-members. Please click on the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tY9bZ9u_2f5IIPBVLM041k7w_3d_3d

Thanks for your participation!

ABANA Board of Directors

Paul Boulay, Elizabeth Brim, Wayne Coe, Maegan Crowley, Will Hightower, Rome Huchings, Don Kemper, Jim Masterson, Eric Ryser, Kim Saliba, Dorothy Stiegler, Linda Tanner, Jill Turman and Chris Winterstein

There is a link to the survey through the njba web site

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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).

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Joseph Fazzio - Wall, LLC

by Bruce Freeman

Our favorite "candy store" has opened a branch in Wall Township, NJ, right on the Collingwood Circle. I'd heard first of this new location for "Fazzio's" from Marshall Bienstock. Since I pass the spot five days a week, I was keeping an eye on it. As Andy Vida and I were leaving the Collingwood Auction, the other day, I noticed the "closed" sign had finally come down, so we pulled in. The yard has some stacks of plates and other metal, but doesn't (yet) compare to the Glassboro yard, so we went straight into the store itself.

There we met Frank Gonnello, the manager of this store. After looking around the modest store area, full of tools, welding and grinding supplies, hardware, pulleys, cable, small pre-cut plates and shims, etc., we shot the bull with Frank for a while, and told him about NJBA and our occasional pilgrimages to Fazzio's, Glassboro. Frank then gave Andy and I a guided tour of the warehouse. This is quite an impressive facility, about as different from the Glassboro store and yard as it could get.

The main room of the warehouse is filled with round, square, and flat stocks, tubes and pipes of all sizes and descriptions, as well as angle-iron, channel, and I-beams, all neatly stacked on custom-built racks, from floor to ceiling. These stock racks were constructed at the Glassboro facility for use with a small, German-made, side-loading fork lift, with extra-high capability. The floor, which had been domed when Fazzio bought the existing building, had been topped with fiber-reinforced concrete to a perfect level. The stock racks are spaced exactly to permit access by the fork lift.

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The smaller room had at one point had been a loading dock to the original building, but over changes in ownership had been extended and closed in. Frank had done additional work to bring it up to par with the main room. This room is filled with plate of all description. Frank showed us the computer link to the front desk. As an order is written up in the front, it is assembled in the warehouse for efficient loading.

Be sure to stop by Fazzio's new location at your earliest convenience. It's not as much fun to explore as the Glassboro yard and buildings, but it looks to be a good place to get stock of all sorts. Quantity discounts are available, so be sure to ask. When you visit, let them know you're with NJBA!

The store address is 5001 Highway 33-34, Farmingdale, NJ 07727. Phone: 732-938-5501. Website: www.jfiwall.com.

Directions: Take NJ Route 33, or 34 or County Route 547 to the Collingwood Circle. Proceed around the circle until you can exit onto Route 34 southbound. Immediately turn right into the parking lot.

NJBA member Erik Von Arx

Erik has had some of his pieces in the Housatonic Museum of Art's "Lineal Investigations" show. Nov. 9 -Dec. 21 2007. Museum is in Bridgeport, Ct. Check out this web site for pictures of the pieces. <http://www.suburbanartists.com/photos>
Eric Von Arx (evonarx@hotmail.com)

FOR SALE

B Arnold has some items for sale; Champion No#0 power hammer, swage block stand, 18" swage block, foot pedal vice and other tools. Robert Arnold 631-744-1650

From the forge list;

From: Andrew Vida <osan@netlabs.net> To: Sponsored by ABANA <theforge@mailman.qth.net> Subject: [TheForge] Learn something new every day...

I was speaking with an old railroad retiree the other day. When he started out, the method for cutting rails was to score them all the way around with a large helved chisel and then smack the rail on the side, resulting in a <poink>... one rail becomes two.

Thought that was pretty cool.

-Andy

The guys at the scrapyard where I get my sections of rail use a torch and cut both sides of the bottom flange, then put it on top of something and whack it with a sledge hammer. The pieces break right off. It's where I get my stash of RR track pieces, to have available for beginning smiths. Part of their scrapping involves getting piles of old rail and breaking it up into more convenient hunks- they go through a pile of track pretty quickly.
"Saint Philip"

Ornamental Tidbit on Youtube

If you have the capability to watch video on your computer, then check this out. Documentary in Yellin's shop in 1986. Francis is there, Jack Andrews, Fred Christ, Tom Latane, Pete Renzetti, and others. This link is to the first video. I think there are 5 more if you look to the left of the video, you will see the links.

Enjoy.
Cuper Studios LLC
Eric Cuper
2436 Birch Street Easton, PA 18042
www.cuperstudiosllc.com
ericcuper@msn.com Studio: 610-438-8694

"Documentary filmed during April 1986 showing blacksmiths forging a fancy wrought iron gate using traditional forging techniques."

Just click on this link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_IUu0t9su0



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Business Members

We would like to thank those who joined with our new Business Membership category .

Business dues are \$40

Please show them our support

John Chobrda, Pine Barrens Forge

231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown, NJ 08520

609-443-3106 JChob@earthlink.net

Grant Clark, GWC Forge

PO Box 158 Perrineville NJ08535

732 446-2638, 732 446-2638

Eric Cuper Artist Blacksmith

109 Lehman Lane, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853

908 642-6420 ericuper@msn.com

Bruce Hay, Jr.

50 Pine St., Lincroft, NJ 07738

Jayesh Shah, Architectural Iron Design

950 S. 2nd St., Plainfield, NJ 07063

jay@archirondesign.com

Louise Pezzi, Blacksmith

1241 Carpenter St

Philadelphia, PA 19147

215 336 6023 pezziandjr@gmail.com

Blacksmithing Workshops and Classes:

Peters Valley Craft Education Center

19 Kuhn Rd., Layton, NJ 07851 (973)948-5200

pv@warwick.net www.pvcrafts.org

Academy of Traditional Arts

Carrol County Farm Museum

500 South Center St. Westminster, MD 21157

(410)848-7775 (410)876-2667

Touchstone Center for Crafts

R.D.#1, Box 60, Farmington, PA 15437

(724)329-1370 Fax: (724)329-1371

John C Campbell Folk School

One Folk School Rd.

Brasstown, NC 28902

1-800-365-5724 www.folkschool.com

Brookfield Craft Center

286 Whisconier Road

P. O. Box 122

Brookfield, CT 06804-0122 203.775.4526

Open Forges

We are looking for members who are interested in opening their forges up to members as a open forge. This does not have to be a weekly forge as is Marshall's the others can meet once or twice a month. Please contact, Larry Brown, Editor.

We want to encourage all to join us at:

Monday Night Open Forge in N.J.

Marshall Bienstock is hosting an open forge in his shop at 7 pm almost every Monday night (Please call ahead on holidays to make sure , (732)780-0871)

Open Forge in Long Island

Sunday from 10:00 am to 6pm.

Starting the 1st Sunday in November until the end of April. Please call ahead to confirm and get directions. Ron Grabowski, 110 Burlington Blvd. Smithtown, NY (631) 265-1564 Ronsforge@aol.com

If any members have a forge at home and work in the evenings or weekends and want to open it up to help a few local guys, let me know, Larry Brown, editor, as we get requests from members who have a hard time traveling to some of the open forge locations.

Search

I am looking for a #250 fisher anvil in good shape. If you have one for sale or run across one, contact me; Larry Brown, NJBA Editor. (718) 967-4776

BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda

Has a large selection of tools for sale.
Anvils – Forges - Leg Vices—Blowers
Tongs – Hammers

Will also repair and/or resurface Anvils
Call John for prices and availability
Evening 609-610-3501

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Forge Welding Basics with Charley Orlando

Or

What I did at my Class at John C. Campbell Folk School

By Tom Kennedy, From the FABBA Newsletter

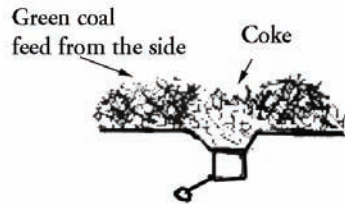
Five Steps to Consider:

1) Clean, hot fire

Step 1: The Fire:

Holes and empty spots will form here and will rob you of heat. "Clinkers" will also form, restricting air flow and reducing the heat

Resting the work piece in a "cave" only warms it & will not get it to the proper welding temperature



2) Upset and scarf

3) Rehearsal

4) Flux

5) Weld

Shove the work piece into the fire using a "sawing" motion almost as if trying to cut the fire in half. This pushes coke beneath the piece making the fire compacted so that it maintains heat during welding.

Instead, pack the coke green coal closely around the work piece. Direct contact transfer more heat. But you also run the risk of clinker &

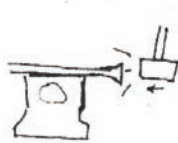


green coal sticking to it, so keep your fire well tended.

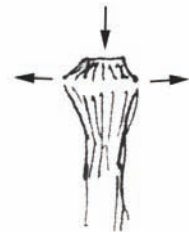
Note -- We used a gas forge and got excellent results. When working in a coal fire you can work with larger, more awkward pieces but you also spend much of your time building and cleaning the fire. The propane forge we tried produced consistent, clean welds. The only limitation was the size of the workpiece that you could fit into the firebox. The gas forge was a ForgeMaster two-burner aspirated forge. Charley says they are comparable to a Swan Forge and are available through Kayne & Sons as well as others.

Step 2: The Scarf:

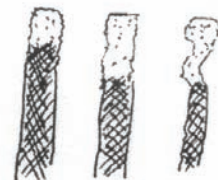
First, upset the piece over the edge of the anvil, in the vise, or by using an upsetting plate on the floor.



Remember, a lighter hammer and more blows usually work better. If you need to enlarge the upset, taper the end in between upsets to get it to spread out more.



Keep your heat as localized as possible to avoid warping the rest of the piece. If you have a torch, clamp the piece in your vise, heat the tip, then hit it with your hammer. Remember - shorter more localized heat will work better and the more you heat the piece, the greater chance you will have for warping.



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Step 3: The Rehearsal:

Just as you lay out your tools and prepare the fire before starting, you need to rehearse your weld. Practice heating, fluxing, and transferring to the anvil so you can get the "muscle memory" of which hand holds what tool / work piece when. Those of us that failed our first welds (which was all of us) determined that we had missed one or more simple things. Perhaps our fire wasn't clean, or it didn't get enough air, or we waited too long to hit the piece because we were looking for our hammer or flux. Rehearsal & preparation is the way to go. It may seem silly at first, but by your third successful drop-the-tongs weld, it will make all the sense in the world.

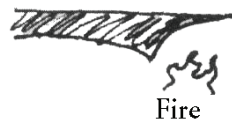
Step 4: Fluxing:

Once you have the pieces scarfed, heat them up to a bright red or orange and sprinkle or shake the flux on. Using a long spoon allows fluxing in the fire so you don't lose heat. Most of us fluxed ours out of the fire and were still successful. When properly fluxed, the piece will look shiny and bubble a little. Or, as my friend Bill Stapleton says: "It'll look like a glazed donut". Flux is essential, as it coats the metal and helps prevent it from burning and forming scale through oxidation. It also reduces the melting point of any scale that does form, making it easier to slough off when the weld is created.

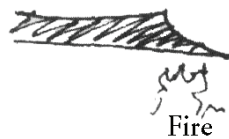
Step 5: The Weld:

This is where the rehearsal comes in for a "drop-the-tongs" weld.

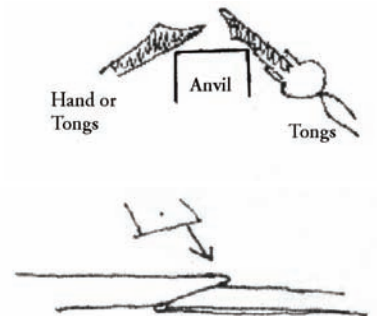
1) Heat both scarfs "up" after they have been fluxed



2) Flip them both "down" for about 30 sec, being careful not to burn the thin tips - a little sparking is ok, though.

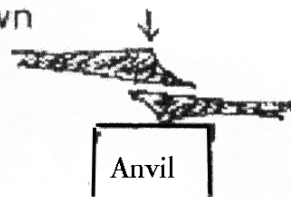


3) Choreograph the pieces quickly - avoid laying them directly on the face of the anvil so you don't lose heat. The anvil will suck heat out quick.



4) Lightly tap with a light hammer. If it doesn't stick, you need to start it over. As Charley told us: "the best way to learn how to weld is to try it". After you get it to stick, STOP HITTING! REFLUX and heat it up again before hitting.

This one holds the other down



Drop the tongs



When it feels more solid, you can begin to hit a little harder, or even switch to a heavier hammer to refine the joint. However, removing any seam lines should still be done with your lightweight hammer.

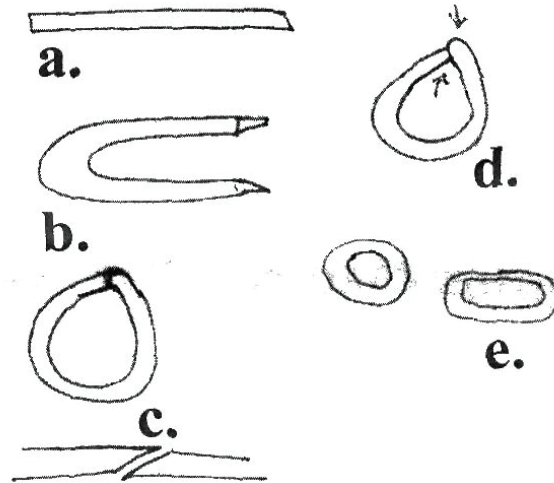
Small lips can be peened at an angle to get them to blend in better. Remember to do this at a hot heat to avoid knocking the weld apart.

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Types of Welds:

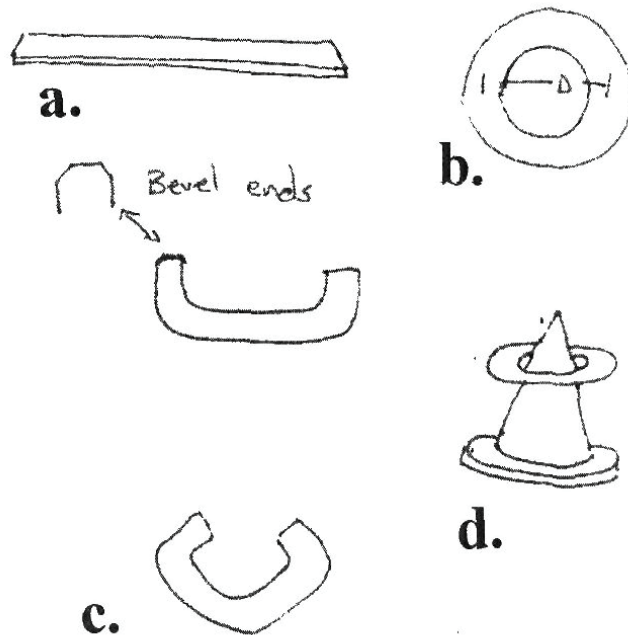
Chain Weld:

- a. Start off with straight stock;
- b. Bend into a "U" and scarf the ends - you do not need to upset.
- c. Finish bending into a "teardrop" shape and overlap the scarfs face to face
- d. Flux between the scarfs, press together, heat and weld
- e. Once the weld is good, you can finish shaping the ring or link.



Flat Rings:

- a. Start with flat stock. The periphery of the ring is 3.1416 times the diameter;
- b. where the diameter is measured across the middle of the stock width Add 2x the thickness of the stock to allow for the weld joint
- c. Begin by bending the bar into a "U" shape after you scarf the ends. Bend both ends together so that the scarfs overlap. Don't worry about making it a round ring - you can finish shaping it after it's welded. Flux the scarfs before taking it to a welding heat. Flux then close the ends when you put it back into the fire.
- d. Final shaping can be done on the anvil horn or on a mandrel cone.



The preceding was not meant to be the only, or even a better way, to do forge welding. Merely, it was sharing some of the tips that I picked up in Charley Orlando's class at the Folk School. All I can say is that after trying some of this stuff on my own, Charley's methods made a lot of sense, especially to a novice forge-welder like me. My only other intention is to help other members succeed with the help of the information I gained in the class. You could make a career out of forge welding but the basics remain the same. I hope this helps.

From the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Newsletter

* re-worked by the FABBA Editor, then the NJBA Editor

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 STATE/PRO V. _____
 COUNTRY _____
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 PHONE # _____
 EMAIL _____



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_____-_____-_____
 EXPIRATION DATE _____

Join ABANA or Check out other area chapters!

Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Northeast Blacksmiths holds its meets twice a year at the Ashokan Field Campus in New York State.

The Ashokan campus is located in Olivebridge, N.Y., several miles west of Kingston, N.Y. The meets are held the first weekend in May and in the first weekend in October every year. The main demonstration is in the blacksmith shop and there is a "Hands On" workshop for beginners. A main demonstrator is brought in for each meet, food and bunk-house style lodging are provided as part of the cost of the weekend long meet.

Contact : Tim Neu
 to register for hammer-ins
 or subscribe to the newsletter;
Tim Neu, Ashokan Field Campus,
447 Beaverkill Rd.
Olivebridge, N.Y. 12461 [914]657-8333
 For more information check out the web site; <<http://nba.abana-chapter.com/>>

Join The Pennsylvania Blacksmiths Association!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip code _____

Home / work Phone # _____ E-mail (optional) _____

New Member ___ Renewal ___

Do you have any particular skills (welder, accountant, carpenter, doctor) that may be helpful to the group or membership?

Suggestions for PABA demonstrations

What is your skill level?
 Beginner Intermediate Advanced Professional

Membership paid by ___ Cash ___ Check # _____

Send your completed application with \$ 20 (one year dues) to:
 PABA Treasurer, Buzz Glahn
 1667 Wyomissing Rd.
 Mohnton, PA 19540
 (make Checks payable to PABA)

PABA Membership Application
 Membership is from Jan. 1 — Dec. 31

New Jersey
Blacksmiths Association
90 William Avenue
Staten Island, New York



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How to Join or Renew your Membership in NJBA:

NJBA Dues are \$20 per year.

NJBA Business Dues are \$40 per year

Please make your check out to: “NJBA”

Please mail checks to:

NJBA, P.O. Box 224, Farmingdale, NJ 07727-9998

Please include payment with the information listed below. You will receive a postcard confirmation of your membership, and will receive a newsletter within a month.

NJBA's "year" runs from June to June. If you join mid-year, the postcard will offer a prorated dues option which will then allow you to extend your membership till the following June. The following information will be listed in a roster available to other members.

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Day Phone _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Skill Level (optional) _____

Comments _____