



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 18, Issue 1 11/10/13
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

Editors Soapbox

News letter is late, so I apologize , I need to get myself back on the old schedule. But its only by a few weeks this time.

We are working on setting up meets with opportunities to learn, forge or teach others what you know. Come out and chat or get your hands dirty! Let's boost the attendance at the upcoming meets. If you are interested in helping please contact one of the board members listed on page 2.

Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2013

Get you calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for updated meet information. Remember most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something. Meet information starts on this page and continues on page 3.

December 7th—Damascus Workshop, Marshall's farm information this page

December 8th—Annual Holiday Party, Marshall and Jan's house. Information on page 3



Damascus Workshop Saturday December 7th,

This will be a basic damascus steel class for knives or specialty tools led by Mark Morrow (<http://www.swordsmith.net/>). This will be a beginner level class. We will be making a simple pattern bar of folded steel in both gas and coal , coke forges, tools and forges will be provided. Attendees will need to bring leather gloves and safety glasses. The patterns will be twist , ladder and random , also covering types of steel to use , grinding methods and heat treat of finished blades and how to bring out the pattern in the steel.

Charge to be \$125 per person. (Open to members only, but anyone may join NJBA on the day of the event.) To be held at Marshall's shop. Mark's email address is; swordsmith201@verizon.net and also the shop phone 7324585823 , we need a at least a \$20 deposit and balance at the door. There is a minimum of 4 participants and a maximum of 8.

Directions:

Marshall's farm is at 663 Casino Drive, Howell (Monmouth Co.). NJ. which is about 1/4 mile east of Route 9. Casino Dr. is a few miles north of 1-195. and a few miles south of Rte. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways. including the Garden State Parkway. the NJ Turnpike. 1-195. Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. Marshall can be reached at his shop at (732) 780-0871.

**Renewals, Now is the time! Send in the renewal soon!
If you have not renewed, this is probably your last newsletter!**

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The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is:

<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

The Newsletter is at:

<http://www.lightningforge.com/njba/index.htm>

or use the link on the NJBA web site
for the newsletter.

Official NJBA Address

NJBA

P.O. Box 224

Farmingdale, NJ

07727-9998

**Rather than use room in the newsletter,
All correspondence between
ABANA and NJBA can be found on the
ABANA web site.**

**If you cannot access it there, contact me
and I will send you copies.**

NJBA Board of Directors

Directors are not listed on line

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Sunday December 15th Annual Holiday Party Marshall and Jan's house.

The holiday party is to be held on December 15th, 3PM at Jan and Marshall's house. Many thanks again, to Marshall and Jan for opening their home to us in the holiday season. Members are asked to also bring various trivets, candle holders, or other holiday items they are making to the party. Despite the emphasis on blacksmithing, members are encouraged to bring their families. Bring a dish, beverage or dessert. Contact Jan or Marshall for advice on what to bring.

Directions to Marshalls' Home:

Marshall and Jan's "cabin" is not on Marshall's farm, but about 3 miles east of it on the same road. Casino Drive is just off Rt. 9, about 3.5 miles north of interstate I. 195 (exit 28). and about 4 miles south of Rt. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways including the Garden State Parkway, the NJ Turnpike. 1-295, Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. From Rt. 9 northbound. make a right onto Casino Dr.; southbound. take the jug handle to make a left onto Casino Dr. Continue past Marshalls' Farm to #301 Casino Dr., Howell, N.J.
(ph# 732-938-6577) jlfmib@optonline.net

Report on the Middlesex County Fair

Report by Bruce Freeman

David Macauley ran the show. Marshall and I helped with the set-up, at a very nice location in the fairgrounds, near both water and power. I also made a point of showing up for the first three days, for which we were being paid. I don't recall demonstrating anything unusual, just trying to keep the attention of those who stopped by to watch.

Report by Larry Brown

I was able to make it to the Fair twice during the week. We had three forges set up around a nice tent and we were in a great location. We had to be moved from our previous spot as they built a building there, but we were close to the old spot and this one was even better. The weather was good on the days I went down and the public was interested in the demonstrations. I made a few test pieces, more to have something to do than have a definite planned item. A handful of members of the public got to try forging and hopefully they want to continue. This is a great event and I hope to see more of you next time.

Report by David Macauley

This will be a quick report on the fair. We had at least two people at the fair every day and night it was open. A big thank you to all who demonstrated at the fair:

Marshall Bienstock
Bruce Freeman
Larry Brown
Joel Weiner
Dan O'Sullivan

A big thank you to Pat and Brody Halpin who helped break down on Sunday afternoon and brought the trailer back to Marshall's on Monday night.

I think the fair was very successful in bringing out some members Joel who was there at least 5 nights and days and Pat. Pat works for PSE&G at one of their power plants along the Delaware. His plant is/was a coal fired plant that also uses natural gas. The plant has quite a supply of metallurgical coal that is not being used. He will be investigating our ability to buy some of the coal in bulk.

We had several folks take our cards. Some were metal workers and farriers. I would expect getting some memberships from the fair. I

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personally worked with four scouts - a tradition for myself. We had another Iron worker who tried blacksmithing. Dan might soon have his own sub chapter.

The weather was quite cooperative. We had rain on only one night and then only briefly. For most of the fair the temperatures were at worse in the low 80s - very pleasant change. We were provided a tent by the fair association which really helped. We were located across from the new pole barn housing the tractor collection. We had water and power very close by. We were also able to keep the trailer at our site. Really could not do better in terms of a locations.

I will submit a financial statement later. We earned \$300 in fees, but most was spent on coal, steel and fuel for trucks pulling the trailer. We have plenty of stock and fuel for the rest of the year. I brought 6 bags of coal and we only used 2

Report on the Weekends at Historic Cold Spring Village

Report by David Macauley

NJBA participated in two weekends at HCSV in August - Seafarer's weekend and Fun Fest Weekend. For both weekends we did demonstrations to the public and helped some young folks try blacksmithing. The big news was Jerry Goldman showing up. He brought along his nephew who did some blacksmithing over two days. Jerry has to use a walker but he is vertical. You could see the utter delight in his eye being around blacksmithing again.

Helping at the events were Jose Torres and Joel Weiner



Report on the Red Mill Hammer-in and Tool Swap

Report by Larry Brown

The Red Mill Museum Village hosted the annual Hammer-In on Sunday, September 15th from 10am-4pm.

The Red Mill Museum Village resident blacksmiths Robert Bozzay and Dave Ennis did a lot of work to make this a nice event. We had a beautiful day weather-wise and there was a lot of tailgating and haggling going on as usual. The demonstrators in the shop were a young woman who I'm sorry to say I never got her name, Leonid Karelshayn, a Ukrainian smith who demonstrated for us several times in the last few years and Jonathan Nedbor of High Falls, NY. I didn't get to see much of what was demonstrated in the shop as I try to let the public and other members get a good look as the shop is small, so I really can't say what was made other than Leonid's rose and my pictures were not good. Susan Dunsmoor demonstrated forging aluminum using a gas forge, outside under the trees, and had a nice display of her work.

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Jonathan Nedbor

Report by Bruce Freeman

The credit for this event goes to Dave Ennis and Bob Bozzay. Dave, in particular, handled all the arrangements, and much of the work, of the picnic lunch. I don't know what he did to arrange it, but the weather was beautiful for this picnic.

Dave brought a vise and a 75# anvil on a stump. Sue Dunsmoor brought her anvil, as did Kevin Weber his small anvil and a gas forge used by Sue for her demonstration of forging aluminum. As usual, a number of folks showed up with stuff for tailgating, and much equipment changed hands. The IITH put this event into the black by perhaps \$100, after the picnic expenses were paid.



Susan Dunsmoor



Leonid Karelshtayn

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Days of the Past Engine Show

by Larry Brown

I only managed to get out there for a few hours on Saturday which was my wedding anniversary so I didn't get to spend the time I wanted to. John Chobrda brought his trailer up from Delaware and while I was there Mike Erdie was demonstrating and teaching a few people. There is a good interest in the forging from the crowd and more people should try to get to this meet.



Log splitter

There is a tool/truck/auto flea market with displays of antique trucks, cars tractors and old engines. There are working steam traction engines, a sawmill, and other examples of old tractors and engines running equipment, even belt powered washing machines. I always enjoy this meet and recommend it to all.

by Bruce Freeman

I stopped by the show on Sunday and found John Chobrda at work at the forge, with Mike Erdie and Larry Fogg also present. They told me that the crowds were less on Sunday, but

there were people stopping by to watch the show. John tells me that he's been going to this show for a decade, now.



Belt driven washer

Report on Walnford Day

By Bruce Freeman

We had lovely weather this year for Walnford Day -- cool and overcast, but without rain. I rode down in Marshall's truck, pulling the NJBA trailer, while David came in his own pickup truck with some of his own equipment.

We were greeted by the rangers, particularly Sarah Bent whom we have long known, and were given a volunteer to help us set up. This lad, whose name, alas, I forget, was enormous and quite strong. He said he was a regular volunteer at the park, but expected to spend the day handing out brochures or something, so was not expecting to work with dirty forges and blowers, etc. Fortunately, he lived locally and phoned his mother to bring a couple spare shirts, instead of the white one he was wearing, so we got some work out of him and later put him to work at the forge.

Set-up seemed unusually slow this year, but eventually we had the site ready. Attendance

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was adequate, but the "blue" weather apparently had dissuaded many folks from attending. Bill Ker stopped by with a lady friend, and we had a number of families stop by and watch for a while.

I attempted to make a sort of a hasp, like the one on the Walnford ice house door, but belatedly discovered I should have made scale drawings and thought through my approach. I did manage to make the main piece, more or less, but got hung up on the hook. I don't recall what the others were working on, but no doubt David made a leaf and probably a candlestick holder.



Princeton: Man of Steel

by David Macauley and Bruce Freeman

The announcement to the University students read, "Princeton Materials Research Society presents: Man of Steel, a Blacksmith and Metallurgy Event. The Princeton Materials Research Society Club (PUMRS) is hosting a metallurgy event Want to participate and hammer some steel? Please join us for this fun and cool event! ... " They report the event on their website (<http://www.princeton.edu/prism/blacksmith2013/photos/>), "On Saturday, October 19, ... [PUMRS] hosted the second annual blacksmithing event Three professional [sic] blacksmiths were on hand to demonstrate the techniques of ironwork with their forges and anvil. More than 80 students participated in this popular event and each student got to hammer out a keepsake!"

We had a great great time. We had a total of four forges: David brought 2 coal forges. Matt Vallon who is graduate student in chemistry leads a blacksmithing club at Princeton. He brought a gas forge that I have long term load to their club. Tamara Pico brought a coal forge that was sitting in a lab. She also

brought a small anvil that we had to rig a stand for with a pail and milk crate. Tamara and Nigel are the current leaders of the materials club at Princeton. The event was supported by the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials (PRISM). This is quickly becoming a strong relationship. They really love us coming to the University and support the demonstrations.



The NJBA members participating are Bruce Freeman, Jose Torres, David Macauley and Matt Vallon. The four of us split up into 4 groups supporting students who wanted to try blacksmithing. I estimate we had at least 10 -

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15 students going through each station. I am pretty sure all of the students had a wonderful time. We arrived around 9:30, Set up was a solid hour in the middle of the patio area in front of 87 Prospect St which in turn is just behind the rows of Eating Clubs at Princeton. We finally shutdown the forges around 5PM, packed up and were out by 6PM.

PRISM even provided a nice barbecue lunch. Towards the end of the day Bruce lead a few folks to tour some of the Yellin ironwork. Bruce was disappointed that we couldn't get into (old) Frick Hall, due to an ongoing renovation project. In that hall are a couple magnificent iron gates, and what with the renovations, I was concerned what might happen to these gates. Magnificent ironwork has too often been sent out for scrap, so I wrote to Princeton U. administration and cc'd it to the head of the Princeton U. art museum. "... Visiting your campus today, I noticed that extensive renovations of the old Frick Hall are under way. I am writing out of concern for two pairs of gates that are (were?) inside the foyer of that hall, through which one passed immediately after entering the main entrance on Washington Ave. These gates were made by Samuel Yellin, a preeminent artist-blacksmith of the early 20th century. They are

literally priceless. I hope these gates will remain in place, unmolested, but if that is not to be, I hope the University will appreciate their true value and see to it that they get an appropriate new home. (Your own art museum would be a very appropriate place for them.) ... " -- Bruce Freeman, New Jersey Blacksmith Association."

To which, I got the following reply: "Many thanks for your email. Certainly I join you in appreciating the tremendous historic value of Yellin's ironwork, both for Princeton and elsewhere. Indeed, our curator of American art, Karl Kusserow, has done some work on the artist and this is an area in which we would be pleased to build up our holdings. I am not, however, familiar with the intentions for the gates you name in the old Frick Lab, but will look into this. Again, thanks for reaching out, and for advocating for one of the great masters of the Arts & Crafts movement." -- James Christen Steward, D. Phil., Director, Princeton University Art Museum. Subsequently, he wrote me, "I've ... heard from several colleagues who assure me that all the Yellin fixtures (there are light fixtures as well) are being protected and preserved as part of the heritage element of the Frick project. Following construction they will be in place once again." -- James Christen Steward

