



# N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 19, Issue 1 11/05/14  
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

## Editors Soapbox

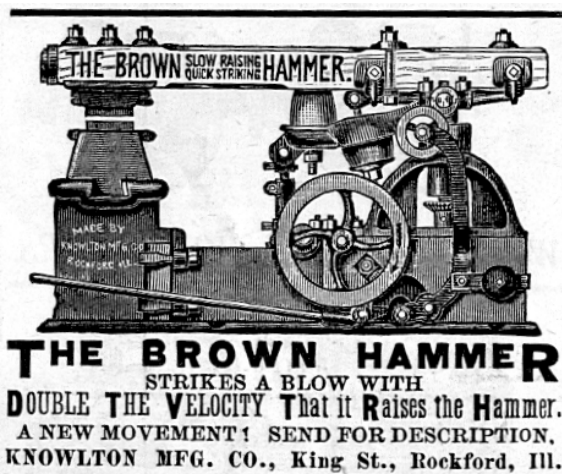
News letter is late, so I apologize , I need to get myself back on the old schedule. But its still only by a few weeks this time.

I would like to welcome some new members to the board and one returning member back.

Ben Suhaka and Ron Jani are our new board members and Doug Learn has returned to the board. Remember anyone who wants to become more involved in NJBA can, you only need to ask and offer your services, it's our group, the more people that are active the better and stronger we are.

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



Larry Brown, Editor

Volume 19, Number 1

Page 1

## Upcoming events for 2015

We have yet to finalize the events for 2015. We should have this done by the next newsletter and they will be on the web site as soon as we know them

## Final event for 2014 Sunday December 7th Annual Holiday Party Marshall and Jan's house.

The holiday party is to be held on December 7th, 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 Sate 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.

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# New Jersey Blacksmiths 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**

NJBA Directors information  
is not available online

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## Report on Eric Cuper's Meet, June 7, 2014

by Bruce Freeman (with notes from Eric Cuper)

We had gorgeous weather for the joint meeting of NJBA, PABA and NOMMA at Cuper Studios, Easton, PA. I arrived about a half-hour late, and PABA members already had the IITH table, so I made my contributions to that (after grabbing a donut and coffee).

The demonstrators were Jason Roberts, Tomáš Holíček, Jan Straka, Andrew Molinaro, Dan O'Sullivan, and Eric Cuper. Jason Roberts repousse'd a squirrel out of sheet (a very LOUD process, calling for good ear protection). Dan forged scrolls, going into detail about how to determine the length and mass needed for snub end scrolls. Tomas forged a fish tong sculpture. Andrew and Jan forged an "L" scroll similar to what Andrew has been forging for the gates he just installed at Longwood Gardens. Eric demonstrated the forging of tapers, discussing the difference in forging solid and tube of the same diameters and why you would choose one or another.

I watched some of the demonstrations and parts of others, but spent a lot of my time talking to other smiths, from whom I learned a lot. I also bought a small Champion blower, which I expect to use with a portable forge I am planning to make. Eric sent out for pizza for lunch, and provided sodas, water, and ice cream. After lunch, I helped out with the Iron-in-the-Hat drawing. As last year, the PABA officers handled the money from the IITH, then divvied it up. NJBA's share was \$132 (witnessed by Doug Learn, and since deposited in the NJBA account). My apologies to Eric for my leaving this out of the last newsletter, L Brown

## Report on the Middlesex Co. Fair, 2014

by Bruce Freeman, with contributions by Dave Ennis and Marshall Bienstock

NJBA has really felt the loss of David Maccauley recently, in that we have not had anyone at all to demonstrate at Historic Cold Spring Village, and we could provide only reduced coverage at the Middlesex County Fair this year. As in previous years, the Fair paid us to be there on three days and left the choice of which days to us. One complication was that the change in the closing time to 11 PM on Sunday, August 10, completely prevented us from demonstrating that day, as we would be unable to remove the trailer. As the date approached, it became obvious that we weren't going to be able to cover Saturday either, and I zeroed in on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as the three days we'd cover for sure.

On Sunday, August 3, Marshall and I drove up in his truck, towing the NJBA trailer. We met Jose Torres and Damian Toryak at the fairgrounds to set up the site. With four of us working, the work was soon done, except that we'd failed to bring the second EZ-Up fly with us. I picked that up from Marshall when we got back to his farm and brought it up on Monday.

Monday I got caught in heavy traffic on Cranbury Road, a mere five miles from the fairgrounds, so arrived a bit late to find that Jose had already arrived and had one forge going. Damian was also there and soon had a second one going as well. We soon had the second EZ-up fly in place, and I gave Damian another lesson in some basic blacksmithing techniques. Partway into the evening, Jose took a break from forging and also started giving Damian some instruction, so I started working on the free forge.

About this time I got an interesting request from a Boy Scout (from Troup 10) for a holder

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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for the lid of a Dutch oven, pivoting in the center to collapse for packing. I started work on this and made some progress, but it became clear that I wouldn't be able to finish it, if only because we don't have a stock of rivets in the trailer. So I took the project home and finished it at my forge on Tuesday. Unfortunately, when I brought it to the fair on Wednesday, Boy Scout Troup 10 was no longer there -- so I added the item to our pail of examples of our work.

Dave Ennis had volunteered to open the site on Tuesday at about 5:30 PM, where he met Damian, who had come after work from Morristown because he wanted to get in as much forging time as possible. They had a steady crowd, larger just before or after the wrestling matches (next door), with questions from 'watcha burnin', and 'how much is that (part of the forged display)' to sophisticated discussions.

Dave demonstrated forging a hook, and Damian forged another - his with various surface decorations, then Dave forged a blacksmith's knife. Several people took NJBA cards, a few thinking of repair/restoration, others for future reference. Some were interested in joining NJBA, so having the NJBA business cards available was very helpful. They made it an early night, being broken down and put away about 9:45.

Wednesday, I opened the site and was soon joined by Damian and Jose. The bracket to locate the anvil on one of our anvil stands was completely loose and needed a couple nails, but I lacked a nail-header, so I started forging one from an old wrench, with Damian as striker. It hadn't come out quite to my liking by the time I was ready for a break.

Marshall arrived at the fair shortly after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, and since Damian and I were busy on projects at their forges, he took a walk around the fair grounds, sampling some

of the food and the 4H display of various animals from alpacas to chickens, rabbits, exotic hamsters, goats, lizards and snakes, and, of course, the farm tractor display.

When he returned to our forge, Marshall took over finishing the nail-header, turning it into a useful tool, and proceeded to make a large nail. He then instructed Damian on nail-making. Marshall then worked on some simple things like wall hooks and nails, which make quick demonstrations for the onlookers.

There was a fairly steady trickle of onlookers; the numbers usually increase when hot iron is being worked at the anvil in a manner (fast and furious) that attracts attention.

Later Wednesday evening, Owen Kelsey arrived, having made the trek to meet us at the fair in East Brunswick from Cape May, where he is the newly hired blacksmithing interpreter at Historic Cold Spring Village. Owen has had some training at the New England School of Blacksmithing, but considers himself a novice.

We discussed collaborative events between NJBA and HCSV, but agreed that it was too late in the season to get one organized this year and that we'd shoot for next season instead. As night fell, I included Owen in a welding lesson for Damian, and the three of us in succession tried our hands at a simple faggot weld -- bending over the end of a bar and welding it to itself -- with reasonable success in all cases.

Friday, I opened the site and was soon joined by Jose, and by Damian and his wife, Heather. I made a trowel to remove plants from pots. Damian made heart hooks. Marshall showed up soon after.

Partway through the evening, the Troup 10 Boy Scout leader showed up, and I gave him the pot-lid holder I'd finished earlier in the week. A couple weeks later, we received a thank-you card from Troup 10 of the Boy Scouts, "Thank you so much for the Dutch oven lid holder. We appreciate it very much.

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

We can't wait to use it on our next campout. It will make stirring the contents so much easier. Enclosed is our 50th anniversary patch. We turned 50 last year and accomplished our 50th eagle scout. Thank you again. Troup 10." (I was amused to see a "Made in China" sticker on the back of the enclosed patch.)

Since the new fair schedule precluded us from breaking down the site on Sunday evening, as we have done in past years, and since we had got no volunteers to work the site on Saturday, we broke down Friday evening, after having had the site open four evenings. I, Jose, Damian & Heather, Marshall, Pat Halpin and his two sons, Owen and Brody, did the job reasonably expeditiously.

Special thanks are due Damian Toryak, who had only started blacksmithing the Monday before the fair, at Marshall's open forge meeting. I had encouraged him to come to the fair, which is closer to his home in Old Bridge, so we could continue teaching him the basics.

Damian exceeded expectations by coming on Sunday to help set up, showing up four days to demonstrate, bringing his wife on Friday (who tried her hand as well) and remaining to help break down.

## Red Mill Hammer-in September 14th

NJBA's annual *Red Mill Hammer – In* on Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> in Clinton was a lovely



Larry Brown, Editor

early fall day with a good turnout of both blacksmiths and the general public. In addition to activities in the blacksmith shop there were several portable forging stations set up along the river, including a propane gas forge and a portable Army cavalry 'suitcase' coal one.



Because of both the variety and number of stations a number of smiths were able to hammer with both the participants and the general public enjoying the demos.



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Tailgaters were spread out along the riverside with a steady stream of visitors, hopefully many of them buyers too.



The customary cookout lunch was a success, with grilling done by Bob Bozzay, one of the Mill's resident blacksmiths, and Damian Toryak.

Iron In The Hat tickets sold well, with a all donated items finding new homes. A new addition this year were guided tours led by the Historic Museum's docents of the Red Mill, various outbuildings and the museum grounds.

All in all, a nice day with a good turnout of old and new friends. Photos are courtesy of Wendy Brown



## Princeton Hammer-In

by Bruce Freeman

We had an excellent turn-out of blacksmiths at this event this year, despite the morning rain. Jerry Dornbach, Doug Learn, Matt Vallon (a grad student at Princeton U.) and I all brought equipment, totaling three coal forges, one gas forge, two leg vises and at least seven anvils, plus steel stock and hand tools to choose from.



I brought three collapsible canopies, which we soon put up to ward off the drizzle. Hayden Lapiska, Jose Torres, Larry Brown, and Eric Von Arx showed up to help coach the participants in blacksmithing.



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Don Schoorman, the technician who runs the metallurgy lab and other labs, Mike Wang, president of the Metallurgy Club (?), and Sandra Lam were there to provide assistance and/or to take photographs.



Princeton professor Craig Arnold gave a talk to the metallurgy club (PRISM?), while we fired up the forges. Then Doug gave an initial demonstration to orient newcomers, while the rest of us smiths cut stock down to manageable lengths.



Then the students got their chance at the forge. I made an effort to encourage the women, who otherwise tend to hold back, and several of them had tried their hands before the end of the day. Mostly, we had them put a

point at the end of a bar, and then maybe something a bit more interesting like a twist or a bend. Some tried more elaborate forgings, with mixed results.

I handed out quite a number of NJBA business cards / application forms to those who showed an interest in joining. The official end time for the event was 3 PM, but we didn't start cooling down any forges till nearly 4 PM -- the demand was so great. I would judge the event a success, and there was talk of holding another in the spring.

## Report on the Set-Up for the Auction

By Bruce Freeman

There was an excellent turn-out on Saturday, 15 Nov., to help set up the auction of the late David Macauley's equipment at Marshall's Farm.

Five NJBA Board members, Larry Brown, Marshall Bienstock, Ben Suhaka, Tom Majewski, and Bruce Freeman, as well as four NJBA members Eric Fox, April Coughlin, Ken Smith, and Patty Miller-Pittman, as well as Kathy Macauley and her brother-in-law Craig Macauley, showed up to help load the equipment from the trailer out into a field, in three rows for the auction.

Work began around 9 AM and had largely been finished by 4 PM, except for the auctioneers and his helpers sorting equipment into lots. The blacksmiths assisted the auctioneers by helping to identify the less obvious of the equipment and matching legs to tables, forges, blowers, etc. Craig donated \$200 to NJBA as a thank-you for the help we provided his family today.