

# Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 5

March, 1997

## April Membership Meeting The Heavy Hitters are Here!

Come see team striking at our **next meeting**, to be held on **Sunday, April 20 at Historic Allaire Village** (Part of Allaire State Park) in Howell, NJ. Fires will be started at 9:00 AM, and we will continue until around 4:00.

I hope everyone has survived the winter, and that all of you are ready to start the new season with a bang. Well, shooting the anvil is not allowed, so we'll have to settle for the musical sounds of hammers on hot iron.

Our April meeting will be held once again at the forge at Historic Allaire Village, thanks to the generous invitation of Allaire Village, Inc. and the New Jersey State Park System. Three teams of smiths will be demonstrating traditional blacksmithing techniques of splitting, drifting, drawing, bending and welding on heavy stock. This is an opportunity to come out and see how smiths of yore forged large pieces for equipment and machinery through teamwork and careful control of heat. The parts being fabricated will be typical of industrial equipment that was used in the 19th century. A short business meeting will be held during the lunch break. A food vendor is generally present at the park for those who would like to purchase their lunch. Please note that because of park regulations, no iron-in-the-hat will be held.

To get to Historic Allaire Village, take the Garden State Parkway to exit 98 and pick up I-195 toward Trenton. Or take any other route to I-195 and head east to the shore. Exit I-195 at exit 31B. Make a right turn onto NJ 524, and go about 1 mile east to the entrance of Allaire State Park. Signs will be posted in the main parking lot, or just head into the village and listen for the anvil's ring.

## Don't Miss our Annual Elections and our First Meeting at Peter's Valley!

Thanks to the generous invitation of Dan Radven, NJBA member and resident artist-blacksmith at Peters Valley Craft Education Center, we will be holding our **May meeting** at the **Peters Valley** forge on **Saturday, May 10th**. For those of you who aren't familiar with the location, Peters Valley Craft Education Center is a world renowned craft school with a topnotch iron program, currently directed by Dan Radven. Festivities begin at 9 am and continue until everyone goes home. Bring your own lunch and an item for the iron-in-the-hat.

The program will be a "fundamentals of design" workshop, with Dan as the demonstrator. Dan is just back from the Midwest where he has spent 4 months making giant iron vegetables at the Medwedeff forge, on a commission from a John Deere factory. He will be explaining the process of taking a

design idea from your head to layout and a form usable to execute an original work. He will also have some fragments on display to show the benefits of "drawing in iron" to develop design concepts. The afternoon session will move on to

more concrete expression of the design with some hands-on opportunities for those who are interested. Of course an iron-in-the-hat will be held and everyone is encouraged to contribute something.

This is also our **annual business meeting** where we elect new **Board members** or reaffirm current ones, where we discuss major business events of the past and where we plan to go for the future. This is the *only* meeting of the year where attendance is mandatory. [I.e., only those present get to vote. - Ed.] Please come out and get involved. We have planned an exciting program at an outstanding facility, so help us make it a success. Those interested in **carpooling** should contact Bruce Freeman, Pete Engle, or any other director.

**Directions:** Peters Valley Craft Education is located at 19 Kuhn Road, in Layton (Sussex Co.), NJ 07851. (Phone: 201-948-5200) Since this meeting is early Saturday morning, those of you in south New Jersey may find it feasible to take US Route 206 all the way up. Otherwise choose the highways you prefer. Peter's Valley provides the directions, below.

**From Interstate Route 80 West:** Take Exit 34B to NJ Route 15 North, to US Route 206 North, left onto NJ Route 560 West, through the blinking light in the center of Layton, onto NJ Route 640; go about 2 miles and turn right onto NJ Route 615. Go approximately one mile.

**From US Route 209** (on the west bank of the Delaware River, in Pennsylvania): Take PA Route 739 South across the Dingmans Ferry Bridge. Take the first right at sign to Peters Valley. Go two miles.

## 1997 NJBA Membership Meetings

If you would like to host one of these membership meeting at your forge, please contact the editor.

**Sunday, April 20. Allaire Village Blacksmith Shop, Wall Twp, Monmouth Co., NJ.** Demo of forging of 19th-century industrial hardware: parts for millstone crane. For directions, see page 1.

**Saturday, May 10. ELECTIONS MEETING. Peters Valley Blacksmith Shop, Layton, Sussex Co., NJ.** Carpooling available. For directions, see column 1.

**Sunday, June 22.** (Tentatively scheduled for the forge of Marshall Bienstock. Continuation of forging of parts for millstone crane, and/or anvil repair workshop.)

**Saturday, July 19.** (Tentatively scheduled for the forge of Bruce Freeman.)

**Sunday, August 17.** (Location to be determined.)

**Saturday, September 20.** (Location to be determined.)

**Sunday, October 19.** (Location to be determined.)

**Saturday, November 15.** (Location to be determined.)

**Sunday, December 21.** Holiday Party and Meeting (Location to be determined.)

## Editorial

Dues and Newsletters. As you are aware, I am an NJBA director as well as newsletter editor. I also serve as membership honcho. (there's no committee, so I can't be a "chairman.") I was a dissenting vote on the motion at a recent board meeting to make all membership dues due on a single date, namely June 1. The motion passed by a large majority, so there's nothing I can do to change that.

However, as Editor, I feel that those of you who have joined NJBA recently should have an opportunity to obtain the issues of the newsletter that you've missed. I therefore moved (the board take votes by email) that any member who renews his membership on June 1, should receive all back issues he missed from the previous year, free of charge. Unfortunately, this motion has as yet not even been seconded.

As a last resort, I am taking it on myself to make the following offer: Any member may purchase single copies of any issue desired. To do so, send me a check made out to me, Bruce Freeman, for \$1.25 *per issue requested* at my address (see the roster). Please understand that this is a service that I am personally offering, and the monies involved are only sufficient to cover printing and mailing -- there is no profit. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Calendar. Please take note of the calendar section of this newsletter. I'm making an effort to inform the membership of events of other chapters of ABANA. I would particularly like to call your attention to the events on March 22 in Snow Hill, MD, and on April 5 in Exton, PA. Our members are welcome to attend these events and we encourage you to do so. This list cannot be exhaustive, and I'm relying heavily on electronic copies of these announcements made to: Franklyn Garland's web site, which I encourage you all to visit. If you visit, you'll find I've pruned some of the announcements quite a bit, for reasons of space.

<http://www.mcs.net/~frnklyn/elektric/events.html>

Bylaws and Participation. The bylaws are reproduced in this issue for the benefit of all members. Please take the time to read through them. Note that any member showing enough interest to be active can quickly have a vote on the board. We encourage you to take advantage of this. Become active. Your level of activity is your own choice, but any activity is better than none. What would *you* like to see NJBA doing? Help with it, and it will happen. Please attend the elections meeting in May and put your *own* name in for nomination. But even if you miss that, be active and the other board members will elect you. Members are always welcome to attend the board meetings. Contact any director for information on the date, time and place of the next board meeting. We will make an effort to ask you personally, but if we miss you, please contact us with your interest.

Bruce Freeman, NJBA Newsletter Editor



## Chairman's Soapbox

One more installment in the continuing saga of Pete trying to come up with decent subjects for this column. Fortunately, there have been quite a few happenings in the Association, so I've got plenty to talk about.

We are now a non profit corporation, incorporated in NJ. We also have good coverage under a liability insurance policy. By the time you read this, we should also have a bank account. Sure sounds like we're serious about this thing, doesn't it? Many thanks to Andy Vida-Szucs whose generous contribution of time and money has made many of these achievements possible. (Of course, don't forget the other directors who also contributed to this effort)

On the outreach front, NJBA is well on its way (thanks to Bruce Freeman and a number of others), with active discussions taking place in a number of areas. The April meeting at Allaire Village will hopefully result in new parts for a millstone crane for La Tourette mill. If this works, they want three more. Any volunteers? We are also well into discussions for an Iron and Fine Metals craft show to be held at Hunterdon Historic Museum (cosponsored by us and them) at some date in the future (probably Spring '98). Of course, we are engaging Allaire Village with many supporting activities and events, chief of which is a brand new Apprentice Program which is almost ready for publication. This program may be endorsed by NJBA and opened to outside smiths who are unaffiliated with Allaire so that they may earn some kind of credentials to present at other historic sites that they may wish to work or volunteer at. Watch for future announcements.

Sounds like we've been busy, no? Too busy actually. This is where I get on the soapbox (*Warning, Warning!*) We need more members to get active with running this organization. Our original core of directors has been at it for over a year now (counting startup time), and there has been some attrition as people's time and schedules change. This is expected. When we wrote the Bylaws, we designed it so that anyone who had an interest could easily move into an active position at any time during the year. [The bylaws are reprinted later in this issue.-Ed.] Active members may also be nominated (*drafted*) to the board of directors at any time. Members are always welcome at board meetings, so give us a call to find out when the next one is scheduled. We need more help with running this organization. If we want to be successful and grow, we need enough hands to keep the momentum going. We have several large events coming up on the horizon, and we will need lots of extra hands.

There are lots of jobs to do, so if you have any interest at all, please contact a board member and volunteer. Organizations such as ours survive and grow only through the active participation of their members. Please be generous with your time and help us out.

Keep those hammers safely swinging.  
Pete Engle, (Current) Chairman, NJBA

# New Jersey Blacksmith Association

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## A Tale from TheForge by Morgan Hall

I was swapping information with other blacksmiths on TheForge [ABANA's news group, available by electronic mail-Ed.] recently, when, after a discussion about starting fires, I unwittingly compared the smell of burning sulphur to that of the devil. Dr. Mark E. Williams [of the Furnace Town Blacksmith Guild, MD.-Ed.] wrote, "I hate to be nosy, but how do you know what the Devil smells like?" Well, I was glad he asked that question! It finally gave me a chance to relate a recent happening that I've not told anyone about before now!

As you probably know, here in Oregon it tends to get a little damp at times. My forge is attached to the side of a barn out back, and, although the building is sturdy, when the ground (about 80 feet of clay according to the well driller's logs) gets soggy, the whole place shudders and wiggles when I hit the anvil a little too hard. Not only that, the leak in the roof always manages to move around and drip right over the fire. Not that it's all bad, mind you -- don't have to use the sprinkler much when the seasons turn from dry to wet -- but the fire can get a little hard to light at these times. And my power hammer (25 lb Canadian Giant) runs on a flat belt that had decided to fray a bit and the frayed end whipped around and lashed the side of my face, knocked my glasses off, and they got coated with mud. Hard to see, as they were a bit smeared when I found them and put them on again. The fire had gone out and there I was trying to get it going again. My language had become a bit ... well, let's just say the air had taken on a bit of a blue tinge and not from smoke. That was the whole problem!

There I was, trying to get some cedar kindling to catch, and just about the time a little flame would look like it was going to really get another piece started, a gust of wind would whip the door open and a spray of water would put it out. I'd get madder, the air would get bluer, and the wind would whistle harder. Of course it doesn't help that my forge only has three side walls and the door only covers half the opening when it does work!

Just about then, a voice called out "Morgan? Need a hand?!"

I didn't recognize the voice, but was getting desperate. "Yep," was all I could say. My glasses were smeared so all I could see was a dim form that stood to break the force of the wind. I could feel the heat from

the hands that cupped around the kindling, though. They seemed almost up to forging temperature -- kind of a dark red, and the raindrops hissed pretty loud when they hit them. Worked though. The extra heat helped the kindling catch and I started piling on the wood. Someday I'm gonna really have to find a place to keep that stuff dry!

About that time I caught a whiff of this stranger. Ever got any *really* bad coal? The kind that has iron pyrites in it? This guy had a case of BO that would get a billy goat blushing. About this time, I began to suspect that I was about to find out just how deep the *Kim Chee* was!

I piled on the coal and turned up the blast and watched it start to catch. As the flames started to leap up I turned to him and said, "Stranger, I thank you for your help. Can I do anything for you?" I pulled my glasses off and smeared them a bit more with the tail of my shirt. It didn't do much good, as I'd rolled around a bit when the glasses came off!

"Well," he replied, "I was just passing by and was struck by the beauty of your language and precision of your expression. I was in this area coming to have a bit of a chat with you, and was surprised to find that you were out here. I'd expected to find you in front of the TV on a day like today. After all, that's why I invented it!"

Now let me tell you folks, I had begun to suspect just who this was that I was talking to, and getting a bit more than a little nervous. Thinking quick, I noticed that the three-tined barbed pitchfork he was carrying had one tine badly bent. Stalling for time, I took it from him and started heating it up around the bent part. !

"How'd it get bent so bad?" I asked!

"Oh, the damned preachers on the 700 Club are moving a lot quicker these days. Luckily the camera was covered by insurance, and we won't have to pay for it from our collections," he replied. "You can always get another TV preacher, but the cameras are expensive!"

The tine was up to a nice red by this time and I started tapping it straight on the anvil. I put a round bottom swage in the hardy hole and used it to keep from messing up the rounded part of the tine. Just had to work the barb straight on the face though. Some of the hardest steel I've ever tried to move, though!

"H-99" he explained. "You have to use something that holds an edge when the heat is up!"

# New Jersey Blacksmith Association

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About this time I looked down and noticed his feet. Yep, hooves. An idea! "How're the shoes doing?" I asked!

"Pretty bad," he answered. "They keep getting loose. Aren't many farriers who work metal hot any more!"

Now I've been reading TheForge for quite a while now, and without all the great information you folks have been supplying, I doubt that I would have had the courage to try what I did then. But, after the great discussion on horseshoes, I felt fully qualified to try what I thought was my only chance! "How about I whack you out a fresh pair?" I asked. "We can hot fit them and they should last pretty good!"

I don't know if you folks realize it, but the devil has cloven hooves. This means that each hoof is not a single piece, like a horse's hoof, but two pieces like a cow's hoof. That means that I'd be making not two 'U' shaped pieces, but four pieces shaped more like shallow C's. It was upon this fact that my plan depended!

I pulled off the old nails from his shoes and laid them on the anvil for patterns. They'd really been through the mill. (Read some of Dante' to find out some of the places they'd been.) I used a piece of 5/8 by 5/16 stock for the shoe body, turned the four pieces, knocked up some caulks and improvised a creaser to start with. Punched 5 holes in each side and smoothed off the bulges just like it was described in TheForge. Had to knock up a quick heading die and hammer out the nails, as I had no horseshoe nails on hand. I rasped off the bottom of his hooves, and was ready for the big chance! "OK, let's hot fit them," I said! I looked at the fire and saw that it was getting a bit low. "How about a little extra heat?"!

"Sure" he said, and started blowing into the fire. Now I can tell you folks that the old boy sure could blow! Didn't take hardly any time at all before the fire was so hot that little sparkles were dancing over the top and I was afraid the grate was about to melt off!

"That's fine," I said, and put the shoes in the fire. I arraigned them so that they'd come up to critical temperature one at a time. As the first one came up, I took it out of the fire, held it in the tongs and held it facing magnetic north (21° east of true north here). I tapped on it until it got below critical temperature, then held it on the sole of the hoof and let it burn itself a good, secure bed before I quenched it. I set it down against the stump where my anvil is mounted and pulled the other half of that shoe out of the fire and

repeated the process. I then nailed both halves of the shoe to his hoof, clipped and rasped the nails, and trimmed the hoof wall so the fit was perfect!

I repeated the actions on the other shoe halves, but this time turned them towards magnetic south. Nailed and finished them up right and proper, then suggested he try walking on them to try them out!

With the first step, my plan worked. Hammering the shoes had magnetized them and as he took that first step, his hooves clung together and he crashed down to the floor of my shop. He hit so hard that the pitchfork he was carrying cut a deep hole and he was totally upside down. Boy, howdy, was I glad that I had a dirt floor in that shop! !

Now you never heard such a sniveling and whining as was coming out of that hole! It was almost worse than what you read on TheForge when somebody posts something that isn't as dry as dust! Enough to make a body's blood run cold (so to speak). I grabbed my biggest hand hammer and swung it harder than I've ever swung a hammer before or since!

It connected right on the bottoms of his feet and drove the old devil right down into that thick Oregon clay. That clay was so soft that it just oozed in and filled in the hole after him, and didn't even leave a trip hazard around the shop. Another benefit of a dirt floor!!

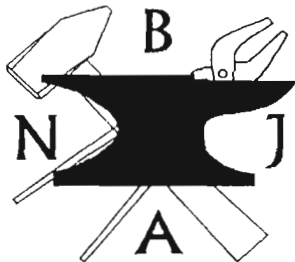
Well, I don't know if I sent him home, but there's been quite a bit of underground seismic activity around the base of Mt. Hood. When he fell, he ripped a strip of skin off on the horn of my anvil. And, my arm swelled up to about twice it's normal size from the force of the blow. And, the fire was out, choked up with the biggest clinker I'd ever seen!

Once again, reading TheForge came to the rescue. I didn't have any of those little barbecue spark thingies, but I figured if sparks did the trick, then I needed to spark that arm good! Remembering the old blacksmith's adage that "if a little is good, a whole lot is a whole lot better," I pulled the 220 volt line off the power hammer motor, jabbed the bare wires onto the sore arm and pulled the switch. Boy, howdy! When I quit jumping I decided that the arm didn't hurt near as much as I'd thought it did!!

I took the strip of skin hanging off the horn of the anvil and braided it into a band to brace the sore arm (just as described on TheForge), dug the clinker out of the forge and shut it down for the day!

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Now there may be some among you who would doubt the strict veracity of my tale. For those, and those who might think that I would indulge in even the slightest bit of exaggeration, I extend this invitation to examine the incontrovertible evidence. Any time you are in Oregon, please come over for a cup of coffee and I'll be happy to show you the frayed belt on the power hammer, the clinker from the forge, the leather brace on my arm, and the dirt floor of the shop! Oh, and if you insist, you can even look and see Mt. Hood on a clear day!



## Calendar of Events

**Sat., Mar. 22, 1997, Furnace Town, Snow Hill, MD** The Furnace Town Blacksmiths Guild is hosting the annual joint meeting of BGCM, BGOP, MASA, and FTBG. The demonstrator will be Bob Patrick from Everton, Arkansas who will be making several traditional pieces that involve forge welding in various ways. There is no cost and lunch is provided, however, anyone that attends is asked to bring something for Iron in the Hat. For more details drop an email to [williams@color.wff.nasa.gov](mailto:williams@color.wff.nasa.gov).

**Sat. -Sun., March 22-23, 1997. FORGING ON THE RIVER IV.** For further information, contact Marrin T. Fleet, phone: 901-678-3604, email: [MFleet@cc.memphis.edu](mailto:MFleet@cc.memphis.edu)

**Sat., April 5, 1977, Exton, PA** The Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmith Association is sponsoring a demonstration by artist-blacksmith Elizabeth Brim. She will be demonstrating basic air forming and vacuum forming of hot steel. **Everyone MUST wear safety glasses.** Ball and Ball, 463 W. Lincoln Highway, Exton, PA 19341-2594 (25 miles west of Philadelphia on U.S. Rt. 30, 6 miles north of West Chester, 2 miles east of Downingtown). Program is from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Coffee and donuts provided. A food service will be on site. Other eating places close to site. There is no charge, but bring a few dollars for the iron-in-the-hat, which may be expected to be very worthwhile. For more information, call Al Stephens at 717-687-8905

**Sun., April 20, 1977, Monmouth Co., NJ. NJBA MEMBERSHIP MEETING** at the blacksmith shop of **Historic Allaire Village** in Allaire State Park, NJ. Fires will be started at 9:00 AM, and will continue until around 4:00. Take the Garden State Parkway to exit 98 and pick up I-95 toward Trenton. Or

take any other route to I-95 and head east to the shore. Exit I-95 at exit 31B. After crossing I-95, make a right turn onto NJ 524, and go about 1 mile east to the entrance of Allaire State Park. Signs will be posted in the main parking lot, or just head into the village and listen for the anvils' ring. For more information, see page 1.

**Sat.-Sun., April 19-20, 1997, Warrenton VA** The BLACKSMITHS' GUILD of the POTOMAC - Fifth Annual SPRING FLING. Registration, including Saturday and Sunday meals, is \$20 before April 1 and \$25 afterwards. For registration information, contact Tom Coker: 12611 Bluhill Road, Wheaton MD 20906-4102. Phone: 301-942-8573, E-mail: [coker\\_thomas\\_a@hq.navy.mil](mailto:coker_thomas_a@hq.navy.mil) Demonstrators include Tal Harris, Waxhaw NC; Randy McDaniel, Fleetwood PA; Bill Wojcik, The Plains VA; and the Colonial Williamsburg Smiths.

**Sat.-Sun., April 26-27, 1997, Bemidji, MN.** The 4th Annual Northern Minnesota Blacksmith Conference. For more information contact Keith Johnson, 218-751-9433.

**Sat.-Sun., May 3-4, 1997. Potosi, MO.** The Blacksmith Association of Missouri will once again host the Ozark Conference in Potosi Missouri May 3 and 4. Featured demonstrator will be Mike Boone plus several of BAM's finest. Large tailgate area, Centaur Forge, ABANA stuff for sale, *anvil shoot* [Emphasis, mine.-Ed.], family activities and Tim Ryan auction. More details will follow but mark you calendar now.

**Sat., May 10. NJBA ELECTIONS MEETING.** Peters Valley Blacksmith Shop, Layton, Sussex Co., NJ. Demo by resident artist-blacksmith Daniel Radven. Carpooling available. For directions and more information, see page 1.

**Thur-Fri-Sat, May 15-16-17, 1997, Madison, GA** The Southeastern Regional Blacksmiths Conference will be held. Featured demonstrators will be Bob Becker, Roberta Elliott, Tal Harris, and Bob Patrick, plus blacksmithing classes, family programs, and an auction. For more information contact: Bill Pate, 1611 Oakley Road, Castle Hayne, NC 28429, 910-763-7326 or [PATE@UNCWIL.EDU](mailto:PATE@UNCWIL.EDU)

**Sat., May, 17, 1997, Rochester, IN** The Indiana Blacksmithing Association will meet at the Fulton County Historical Society in the Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop. For further information contact IBA President Paul Moffett, 317-253-0843, or e-mail Jeff Sallot at [jjsall@most.fw.hac.com](mailto:jjsall@most.fw.hac.com)

**Sat & Sun, June 7-8, 1997, Tipton, IN** The Indiana Blacksmithing Association is having it's Annual June Conference at the Tipton 4-H Fairgrounds. Tailgate Sales. Auction. Demonstrators. More details will be listed when available. For further information contact IBA President Paul Moffett, 317-253-0843, or e-mail Jeff Sallot at [jjsall@most.fw.hac.com](mailto:jjsall@most.fw.hac.com)

**Sat.-Mon, June 28-30, 1997, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. Caniron 1.** First Canadian National Blacksmithing

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Conference. Historic O'Keefe Ranch. Features: Six professional U.S. and Canadian Demonstrators: Dorothy Stiegler, Jerry Culberson, Darryl Nelson, Joe Delisimunovic, John Adolph and Berkley Tack, and others. Two teaching stations. Three public demonstration stations. Watch a wagon built in three days. Monster auction. Blacksmith's competitions. Programs for spouses and non-participants. Wonderful location in the Okanagan Valley. For registration forms and more details, contact Derry Cook, P.O. Box 136, 444 Highway 3 East, Erickson, B.C., Canada V0B 1K0. Tel/Fax: 250-428-8462. Note: Camping and RV sites are available locally. For hotel or motel accomodations, book early.

(Date to be announced), Monmouth Co., NJ. The NJBA will hold an anvil-repair workshop. [We are still trying to determine the best material to use.-Ed.]



## New Sweden Farmstead Museum

NJBA member Steven Rhoades reports that he has contacted the New Sweden Farmstead Museum in Bridgeton, NJ (Salem ? Co.), "a reproduction of 17th-century buildings typical of the area's early Swedish settlement." (NJ-PA TourBook, American Automobile Ass'n, c. 1995.) He reports that they have a blacksmith shop about 10" x 12", which, in the fashion of the original settlement, has a head-bumping doorway, only four feet high. They also have a small portable forge. Calling the number the AAA TourBook gives for the museum got me the City of Bridgeton switchboard (closed on this occasion). I conclude that the museum is publicly owned. Steven says that it is run by a private (nonprofit?) corporation, so perhaps the arrangement is similar to that of Allaire Village, owned by the state and run by the nonprofit corporation, Allaire Village, Inc.

The editor invites members to contribute information about other blacksmith shops in the this area. Don't restrict yourself to New Jersey. Any place we can reach within a day trip would be of interest.

## LaTourette Mill Update by Bruce Freeman

In previous issues I have described how NJBA has become involve with the LaTourette Mill in making hardware for their millstone crane. They have the screw for the crane and needed a nut, wrench, bales and pins. The nut was a stumbling block, but, thanks to the efforts of director Andy Vida-Szucs, the nut has been made and we are ready to make the rest of the hardware.

We're going to start work on this hardware at the April membership meeting at Allaire Village. At this venue, only volunteers in the Allaire Village Blacksmith Guild will be allowed to work (in period costume, no less). At future meetings we will continue this work until we finish it, and, as long as we're at a private forge, all NJBA members will be able to participate.

Jim Pavone and Walter Hollien, active volunteers on the reconstruction of the LaTourette Mill, tell us they are writing a paper for presentation before the International Molinological

Society, in Hungary. He plans to note this contribution by NJBA of authentic hardware for their mill.

The LaTourette Mill has need for other hardware as well. We have asked them to forward a list and descriptions of this hardware. We intend to write a grant application for support of this work. Members interested in participating in any part of this project should contact me.

## Blacksmithing Classes in Cape May

Anne Salvatore, the Executive Director of Historic Cold Spring Village, announces that two blacksmithing classes will be held at the smithy at Cold Spring Village on May 3rd and May 10th from 10 am to 3 pm. Classes will be limited to four people per session; the fee for each Saturday will be \$16. Participants are encouraged to bring their own brown bag lunches. Coffee and dessert will be provided by Village personnel.

Historic Cold Spring Village (720 Route 9, Cape May, NJ 08204) is a 19th century open-air living history museum located three miles north of Cape May City and four miles south of Rio Grande, exit 4A southbound from the Garden State Parkway. Rural craftspeople portray rural South Jersey life of the 1800's using the backdrop of over twenty restored antique buildings situated on 22 wooded acres. Demonstrations are held daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day and include blacksmithing, broommaking, pottery, leatherwork, tinsmithing, basketry, spinning, weaving, woodworking, printing and bookbinding. Weekend events are held throughout the season and vary from fairs and festivals, antique and craft shows to railroad days with a small engine show.

For further information or to enroll in the workshop please contact Cold Springs Village by phone (609) 898-2300 or FAX (609) 884-5926.

## Update on Anvil-Repair Workshop

The NJBA is planning an anvil repair workshop, to be held at Marshall Bienstock's forge sometime this spring. We will be repairing anvils in a production line setup with prep, preheating, welding, and grinding stages set up around the facility. The heart of the operation is Marshall himself, operating his MIG welder. This event is not yet scheduled because we are still attempting to identify the best MIG wire for the job.

The practice anvil came out looking beautiful, but the surface showed a number of hairline cracks in the weld. These were ground out before testing, and the anvil has stood up well to the beating it's received at the Allaire Village smithy, with the exception of one nick imparted by a missed hammer blow delivered by the anvil's owner.

We want to continue planning for this event. We will need volunteers to staff the various stages and training will be provided as necessary. We also need anvils for repair. There will be a charge for this. Consult the previous issue of this newsletter for more details. If you are interested in staffing the production line, or if you have an anvil in need of repair, please contact Pete Engle at (908) 219-6560 to let us know.



[I have italicized passages that are no longer operative, due to objectives having been achieved. -Ed.]

## BY-LAWS

To act as the point of contact in the State of New Jersey concerning the art and craft of blacksmithing.

### Preamble

The New Jersey Blacksmith Association (NJBA) is an independent forum and voice for blacksmiths in the State of New Jersey. Its founders have interests in diverse aspects of blacksmithing, including the art, the craft, and the history of blacksmiths and blacksmithing and related crafts. Among those interested in the artistic aspect are members of the Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America (ABANA). Among those interested in the historical aspect are people involved in historical interpretation and in historical research, usually in cooperation with historical sites in New Jersey. Among the founders are blacksmiths of considerable experience, as well as novices. It is the intention of the founders that NJBA bring together and represent the interests of all such people, and to increase their number and skills.

*It is the specific intention of the founders that NJBA become the New Jersey chapter of ABANA, and it will be the initial goal of the board of NJBA to achieve such status. Incorporation and achieving tax-free status under the law are also early goals of NJBA. To achieve these goals it may be necessary to amend these bylaws, therefore, in addition to the usual amendment procedures, these bylaws include simplified amendment procedures to achieve these specific goals.*

NJBA is structured to be a vital group in which the most active, interested persons rise quickly to positions of responsibility. Accordingly, there are no elected offices, but only elected directors who divide all responsibility between themselves at every board meeting. To rapidly involve new people in the activities of NJBA, the board is authorized to add to its own membership. To keep the board beholden to the membership, directors are reelected annually by the membership. To provide stability and continuity of the board, a board member may serve up to two years between reelection by the membership.

In any case where there is apparent conflict between a statement in this preamble and a statement in an article, below, the article shall take precedence.

### Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the New Jersey Blacksmiths Association.

### Article II. Purposes and Objectives

The NJBA is organized exclusively for educational purposes including the following:

- To actively promote the art, craft and historical significance of blacksmithing.
- To increase public awareness and understanding of the history and contributions of blacksmithing and blacksmiths, as well as of the vitality and potential of modern blacksmithing.

- To disseminate information in printed and other media, including public or commercial media.
- To sponsor blacksmithing events and exhibits throughout the state of New Jersey.
- To support the activities of outside organizations whose objectives or facilities enable promotion of NJBA objectives.
- To provide a forum and meeting ground for members.
- To sponsor or conduct educational conferences, programs, demonstrations, workshops or training.
- To disseminate information concerning sources of blacksmithing related literature, material and equipment to the blacksmithing community.
- To advocate the art and craft of blacksmithing.

NJBA is not to act in the capacity of a trade union, commercial guild or business-advocacy group. None of these objectives shall be construed to promote lobbying or commercial activity by this organization for its own or its members' financial gain.

### Article III. Formational Goals and Objectives

**Formation.** *These bylaws contain special provisions for the formation of NJBA. These provisions shall be effective only during the formation of the organization. Thereafter, the normal provisions of the bylaws will become and remain operational.*

**Achieving ABANA Chapter Status.** *Upon formation, the board will apply for status as the New Jersey chapter of the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America (ABANA).*

**Incorporation.** *At some time after ABANA chapter status and a membership of at least twenty-five has been achieved, the board will be expected to initiate action to incorporate this organization under the laws of New Jersey. To facilitate the process of incorporation, these bylaws may be amended according to special, one-time procedures provided for that circumstance.*

### Article IV. Tax-Exempt Status

The board shall ensure that NJBA achieves and maintains tax-exempt status under state and federal law. The organization and directors shall refrain from any activity which would jeopardize that status:

- The directors shall not be compensated for services in that capacity.
- NJBA shall not endorse candidates, lobby elected officials or participate in the political process.
- NJBA is not and shall not act as a trade union or in any other commercial capacity.

### Article V. Membership

**Founders.** *The founders of NJBA must include at least five ABANA members in good standing, and will consist of all interested persons who*

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- *Contribute \$5, applicable to the first year's membership dues.*
- *Agree to abide by these bylaws throughout the formation of the organization, and forgo rights to amend them until after a board has been elected.*
- *Elect the initial board.*

**Regular Membership Status.** Any person engaged or interested in the art, craft or history of blacksmithing and accepting the purposes and bylaws of NJBA may become a member. A member in good standing shall be current in dues payment, except where the directors decide that a grace period, applicable to all members, is in the interest of the NJBA. In special cases, the board may waive dues for a regular member, but such waivers must be renewed annually. A member in good standing shall have the right to vote and to participate in any NJBA activity, except where excluded by skill level. In no case shall one person be allowed more than one vote in this organization.

**Honorary Memberships.** The board may bestow honorary memberships of an emeritus or ex-officio nature on a retired or practicing blacksmith. An emeritus membership would be one bestowed upon a person whose life experience and contributions as a blacksmith is considerable and worthy of recognition. An ex-officio membership would be one bestowed upon a blacksmith during his tenure in some office or capacity, such as the blacksmith at an art community or historical site. An ex-officio membership would not be automatically bestowed to each successive office-holder, but each successor has the right to petition the board for ex-officio membership. An honorary membership may be bestowed only when it will serve to enhance the NJBA. Honorary members will not have a vote in the organization. Honorary members may be elected as non-voting members of the board. An honorary member may also hold regular membership, in which capacity he will have a vote as member or director.

**Terminating Membership.** Any member may withdraw from this association upon written notice of such intention to the secretary. A lack of payment of dues thirty days beyond the annual renewal (plus any grace period) will be considered a request for resignation and the member will be dropped from the organization. An ex-officio honorary membership will be terminated when the person leaves the office which entitled him to that membership.

## **Article VI. The Board of Directors**

**Authority of the Board.** The organization shall be governed in all aspects by the board of directors.

**The Initial Board.** The initial board of directors of NJBA shall be elected by the founders, and may include all the founders.

**Size of the Board.** The board must maintain its size at no fewer than five directors. There is no upper limit to the number of directors. The board of directors may increase its size at any time by electing as a director any active, participating member in good standing of NJBA. It must do so if the number of directors ever drops below five

**Quorum.** A quorum shall consist of one-third of the board (rounding any fraction up), or five directors, whichever is greater. In the event that the number of directors drops below five, the remaining directors form a quorum; however their first item of business must be to elect additional directors to bring the number to at least five.

**Qualifications of Directors.** Any member showing leadership in or working on behalf of NJBA shall be considered by the board for election as a director, and may petition the board on his own behalf for such consideration.

**Disqualification by Defeat in Election by Membership.** A person who was defeated in election to the board at a membership meeting may not be reelected by the board, but only by the membership in a subsequent year's election meeting. (This provision assumes no limit to the number of seats on the board, and would not apply to a person defeated only because of limitations to the number of available seats.)

**Election of Directors by the Membership.** An annual meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing directors and announced to the membership by mail at least two weeks in advance. Nominations (with second) of candidates will be accepted from the floor. Any director elected by the board since the last election by the membership must be reelected by the membership in order to remain on the board. Since, as stipulated above, no director may serve more than two years without coming up for reelection, any director last elected by the membership two years previously must be reelected by the membership in the current year in order to remain on the board. The directors shall be elected by majority vote of the membership.

**Term of Service.** A director elected by the board shall come up for reelection by the membership at the next membership meeting that is called for the purpose of reelecting directors. A director may serve no more than two years without coming up for reelection by the membership. There is no limit to the number of terms he may serve.

**Termination of Directors.** The board of directors shall drop from its membership any director who resigns, who moves out of the area, who fails to participate in board meetings for a period of six months, or who fails to maintain his membership in good standing.

**Frequency of Board Meetings.** The board shall meet not fewer than six times per year.

**Division of Responsibilities.** At each board meeting, the directors shall divide among themselves the responsibilities of the organization in any manner they see fit. The manner of division shall be recorded in the minutes, and will be effective only until the subsequent board meeting, except as mandated by law, contract or business requirements of banks or other institutions. The responsibilities of the directors may be identified by the roles of the traditional offices such as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor and Historian or the traditional chairmanships such of Ways and Means, Programs, Membership and Hospitality, but other responsibilities or alternative divisions may be defined at any meeting. Any of these responsibilities may be divided among directors.

**Continuity of Responsibilities.** Certain responsibilities of the board are best held by the same person or persons for



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extended periods of time. These include the duties of Treasurer, Editor and Membership. The board shall take care that these and similar tasks are not arbitrarily reassigned, and that ample overlap time is provided when responsibilities change.

**Delegated Responsibilities.** Clerical duties, such as taking minutes or bookkeeping, may be delegated to any member, or to any nonmember approved by the board.

**Specific Responsibilities of the Board.** The duties will consist of undertaking the daily business of this organization, including the following:

- Keeping a permanent record ("minutes") of all the business conducted at both board meetings and membership meetings, including elections, votes and resolutions. The minutes of board meetings shall record the names of all persons attending board meetings. The minutes of membership meetings shall record the names of all board members in attendance, as well as a count of all persons in attendance.
- Issuing a newsletter not less than quarterly, and for appointing the editor of any periodical publication of the group.
- Maintaining a membership roster that will include the pertinent information for each member and director.
- Maintaining a complete history of NJBA, including all meeting minutes, newsletters and membership rosters, as well as such things as accounts of projects, scrapbooks of clippings, and the like.
- Establishing and maintaining liaison with other organizations where such liaisons are in the interest of NJBA.
- Making the bylaws available to any member upon request.

## Article VII. Dues and Finances

**Dues.** The annual dues shall be set or changed by the board by unanimous consent at a board meeting or by a majority vote at a membership meeting called for the purpose. The board shall have the discretion of setting dues periods, of pro-rating dues, and of creating multiple membership (and dues) categories, and of admitting organizations as non-voting regular members. Receipts shall be given for all membership dues and contributions, and shall be recorded in the NJBA account books.

**Cash.** When a large amount of cash is received at meetings and events, at least two persons designated by the board shall receive and count the money. No such money shall be counted privately. It will be counted at the meeting or event and the amount will be announced publicly and recorded both in the minutes and the account books. Cash shall not be kept longer than overnight or weekends, other than a petty cash fund as allowed by the board.

**Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year shall correspond to the calendar year, unless otherwise defined by the board.

**Account Books and Check Book.** The board shall keep an account of all monies received and expended for the use of the organization and shall make disbursements only upon approval of the board. The funds, check book and account books shall at all times be under the control of the board and subject to their inspection and control. At the expiration of their terms the

directors shall deliver over to their successors all account books, check books and other bank records, monies and other properties of NJBA.

**Financial Reports.** There shall be quarterly and a full annual financial report, and these reports will be kept in both the minutes and the account books. More frequent reports may be ordered by the board at any time.

**Budgets.** NJBA shall develop a budget for all its functions, and no amount over \$25 shall be spent without the approval of the board of directors.

**Audits.** There shall be an annual audit at the end of each fiscal year, with a report back to the board and the membership. The auditors may go over the books with board members, but the full audit must be done privately.

**Banking.** The board shall deposit all funds received in a bank or trust company, approved by the board. Funds may be drawn only upon the signature of one or more directors who have been registered with the financial institution as having signing authority. The bank shall be informed that the policy of the NJBA is that no checks may be withdrawn to "cash."

## Article VIII. Membership Meetings

**Frequency and Preferred Arrangements.** General membership meetings are to be held at least four times per year, and preferably in conjunction with demonstrations at shops volunteered by the membership.

**Compensation to Host.** Those members providing their forge for these meetings will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the production of demonstrations and the meeting. The compensation will be set by majority vote of the board.

**Quorum.** In deciding NJBA business, a quorum of the membership shall consist of those attending the membership meeting.

## Article IX. Conduct of Meetings

**Rules of Order.** Wolfe's Rules of Order (Joan L. Wolfe, Making Things Happen, Brick House Publishing Co., Andover MA, c. 1981) shall be the parliamentary rules employed by NJBA.

**Informal Meeting Conduct.** Where meetings are amiable and self-directing, and as long as participants have no objection, the traditions of parliamentary procedure will be observed only informally. As much as possible, decisions shall be made by unanimous consent.

**Invoking the Rules of Order.** If at any time the chairman of a meeting considers it appropriate, he may conduct the meeting according to the rules of order. If at any time any participant at a board or membership meeting feels the need, he may legitimately interrupt the proceedings ("rise to a point of order") and move to invoke the rules of order. This motion requires a second, but permits no discussion and requires no vote. The chairman continue the meeting under the rules of order.

**Meeting Agendas.** The board is responsible for writing an agenda for each board and membership meeting. The agenda shall be distributed or shall be posted in a form readable by attendees. The chairman of a meeting shall have the discretion to depart from the agenda, but participants may legitimately

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interrupt ("rise to a point of order") to move a return to the agenda. Such a motion, once seconded, is open for discussion and vote.

**Committee Meetings.** Any committee functioning as part of or on behalf of NJBA shall follow the procedures of this article, especially with regard to keeping minutes. Committees need not prepare agendas for their meetings. Committees must report progress and expenditures to the board in person or in writing.

## Article X. Amendments to these Bylaws

**Normal Amendment Process.** These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at any membership meeting, or by a unanimous vote at a board meeting, called for the purpose at least thirty days in advance. The proposed changes shall be mailed to directors (for a board vote) or to the membership (for a membership vote) at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting at which the changes are to be considered. The amended bylaws will not go into effect unless approved by ABANA.

**Special Amendments Provision to Achieve or Maintain ABANA Chapter Status.** These bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the board if necessary to *achieve or maintain* ABANA chapter status.

**Special Amendment Provision to Achieve [Maintain - Ed.] Tax-Exempt Status.** These bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the board at a meeting called for the purpose at least two weeks in advance, if necessary to *achieve or maintain* tax-exempt status under state and federal law. The amended bylaws will not go into effect unless approved by ABANA.

**Special Amendment Provision to Achieve Incorporation.** *These bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the board at a meeting called for the purpose at least thirty days in advance, if necessary to achieve incorporation under New Jersey law. The proposed changes shall be mailed to directors (for a board vote) or to the membership (for a membership vote) at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting at which the changes are to be considered. The amended bylaws will not go into effect unless approved by ABANA.*

## NJBA ROSTER

(Directors' names are *oversize italics*.)

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# New Jersey Blacksmith Association

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## How to Join the NJBA

**NJBA dues are \$15 per year. Please make out your check to William Gerhauser (NJBA Treasurer).** Note on the "memo" line that the check is for NJBA dues. **Please mail checks to Bruce Freeman (NJBA membership), 222 Laurel Place, Neptune, NJ 07753,** along with your completed membership form. You will receive the most recent newsletter as an acknowledgement of your membership. Annual dues are due on June 1. Persons joining after April 1 will not owe renewal dues for fourteen months.

### Required Information

(This information will be listed in a roster available to other members, unless you request otherwise.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Information

List any of additional information that you would like included in the membership roster (use a separate sheet if necessary.)

Other Phone , FAX , E- mail \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience as a professional/amateur (circle one) blacksmith (not required for membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Profession, experience, or other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

What activities would you like to see NJBA sponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in helping to run or organize NJBA Activities? \_\_\_\_\_

# New Jersey Blacksmith Association

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# Newsletter

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222 Laurel Place  
Neptune, NJ 07753

