



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

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

Editors Soapbox

We need some more activity from our members!

As editor I would appreciate some help in writing up events for the newsletter. Recent events in the lives of some of our directors have made it hard for NJBA to be all it can be. We need more people to help out other than the same few doing everything. It would be great if we could have some of you helping scheduling meets that are local to you. You can see we do not have much to list here. Please talk to one of the directors to find out what you can do to help!

We are also looking for members who have a pickup and would be interested in helping bring the NJBA trailer to meets. If you are interested in helping please contact one of the board members listed on page 2. Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2011

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.

November 6th - Antique Tool Collecting Club Meeting at Josh Kavett's. More info on page 3.

November 19th, Anvil Repair Workshop, at Marshall Bienstock's shop. More info on this page.

December 4th, Annual Holiday Party, Marshall and Jan's house.

Saturday November 19th, Anvil Repair Workshop, at Marshall Bienstock's shop

For \$120 and some sweat labor you get your beat-up old anvil repaired with freshly welded, ground and polished edges. This is a workshop. Anvil owners are participants, usually meaning you will be assigned a task such as grinding, etc. Anvils missing chunks of the face badly swayed or otherwise abused can also be repaired, but will require more preparation, labor, and money on your part.

The workshop will take place at Marshall Bienstock's shop in Howell NJ. Prior registration is required so we can have the proper amount of supplies on hand - please provide the approximate size of your anvil. Pictures would help determine the amount of work required. NJBA has run a similar workshop on several occasion with tremendous results. (Open to members only, but anyone may join NJBA on the day of the event.)

The contact persons for this event are:
David Macauley, drmacauley@att.net, 732-206-1568 H or 732-310-1300 C

Directions: Marshall's Farm

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

**If you have not renewed, this maybe your last newsletter!
Send in the renewal soon!**

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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 is now being posted
on the NJBA web site.
If you cannot access it there, contact me
and I will send you copies.
ABANA is communicating again so
check it out**

NJBA Board of Directors

**Directors names only
available by hard copy**

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Sunday November 6th Antique Tool Collecting Club Meeting

The NJ based CRAFTS, (craftsofnj.org), the antique tool collecting club, is having its meeting at the Museum of Anvils, owned by Joshua Kavett. Tailgating starts around 8am, and will continue all day. Coffee and donuts will be available for early arrivals. Around 11, guests will be advised to travel to Rt. 9, just down the road, to find their own lunch. There are many eating establishments within a few miles. Around 12:30, when guests return, the museum will open for viewing. Mr. Joshua Kavett, known as the Fisher anvil expert, will give a talk about Fisher anvils, and will answer any questions.

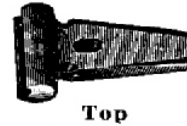
There will be an Iron in the Hat, with the drawings midday.

This is an experience not to be missed. For anyone who has not been to Josh's place, do not miss this opportunity to visit.

Directions: GPS: 471 Casino Drive, Farmingdale, NJ., About 1 1/4 miles East of Marshall's shop on Casino Drive.



Swage



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Sunday December 4th Annual Holiday Party Marshall and Jan's house.

The holiday party is to be held on December 4th, 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

Your Membership paid date is on your address sticker if it is not 2012 you need to renew, We will be stopping unpaid mailings soon due to the cost.

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NJBA Hammer-In at Clintons Red Mill Museum Village

NJBA Hammer-In at Clintons Red Mill Museum Village was held this past September 11th. The rain held off, and meet was well attended by both blacksmiths and the general public, with a variety of tailgaters offering tools, equipment and lots of interesting books.

The shops forge was hot early in the day, with Leonid Karelshtayn, a Ukrainian smith who has recently arrived in the US, demonstrating several art nouveau style scroll elements. Leon forged using both traditional hand techniques and the power hammer.

Leonid Karelshtayn, an artist-blacksmith well known in several countries, opened his workshop in Moscow in 2003. His professional activity started in Kiev, Ukraine, a city with considerable resources of such skills. Be-



ginning in the 1980s, Leonid was trained to work with metal and learned from the best blacksmiths in workshops in this ancient city. He was engaged in the restoration of the old part of the city: Gates, fences, balconies, and many other things bearing Leonid's touch mark, can be seen on Andreevsky Promenad and in other historical places of the city. Later, he worked as a key craftsman of a firm to train many students. In 1992, Leonid was invited to Germany, where for a year he received training and exchanged experience with German blacksmiths. Now his work can be seen not only in Kiev and Moscow, but also in many cities of Europe and the US. He is a regular participant of Russian and international exhibitions. Leonid Karelshtayn is a vice-president of the Union of Blacksmiths of Russia.

Dick Sargent, Director of the Blacksmith Program at Peters Valley Craft Center next demonstrated a folded leaf pattern and made one of his fabled bottle openers, which he gave to Leon.

Jonathan Nedbor then forge welded a part for the shops newly-restored hand bellows. Jonathan's most salient comment "wWhen approaching a project, do the hardest part first". (In this case, the weld, although since portions of the part had been already formed, the weld was more difficult due to the awkwardness of holding and positioning the pieces for a drop-the-tongs weld - which Jonathan nailed!)

Overall, the meet was a mix of getting together with friends, interesting demonstrations, a good lunch, a great opportunity to get that hard-to-find tool or book and the chance to tour the Red Mill exhibits.

Red Mill Hammer-in 2012 scheduled for Sunday September 8th—mark your calendars!

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Old Time Engine Show at Washingtons Crossing Park

September 16—18th

NJBA members demonstrated at Washingtons Crossing Park in Titusville, NJ over this weekend. We want to thank John Chobrda for once again bringing his trailer and forge to the event. I stopped down for the Friday afternoon section of the weekend. It had rained the previous day so the event was off to a slow start. I walked through the flea market section first, but didn't find any bargains this time, got a leg vise last year, and then checked out the antique engines that were set up. If you have never attended the show the whole field is full of antique trucks, heavy equipment, antique cars, tractors and a large area full of early "one lung or hit and miss" engines many of which are set up running other antiques such as log splitters, washers and butter churns to name a few.

I had hoped to make it back over the weekend but I didn't, so I have to plan on attending next year.

Power Hammer Web Pages

I've taken some time to collect and post old info, catalogs and brochures on power hammers. The link of our NEB web page to this information is:

http://www.newenglandblacksmiths.org/power_hammer_info.htm

Hope your readers find it helpful.
Ralph Sproul

**Remember to renew
your membership!**
Membership is what pays for the
newsletter and events and helps
keep NJBA alive

ABANA Conference Iron in Hat Tickets

Dear Affiliates

Since our founding in 1973, ABANA has been committed to the education of our members. The purpose of the ABANA Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance to ABANA members at all skill levels to assist them in the development of their blacksmithing skills and abilities.

Our Iron-in-the-Hat function at our conferences is the main support for this endeavor. By now you should have received ABANA's tickets for our 2012 Conference. Our members appreciate all the continued support your Affiliates have provided for our scholarship and grants program. Without your help, our scholarship and grant opportunities would be severely limited.

We are excited that this year we have to offer a BAM Box, an Anvil, and a Treadle Hammer, graciously donated by our supporting sponsors. Our cover letter sent to the Affiliates erroneously printed "tire", instead of "treadle" hammer. Please accept our apologies for this misprint, and pass along the correct information to your members.

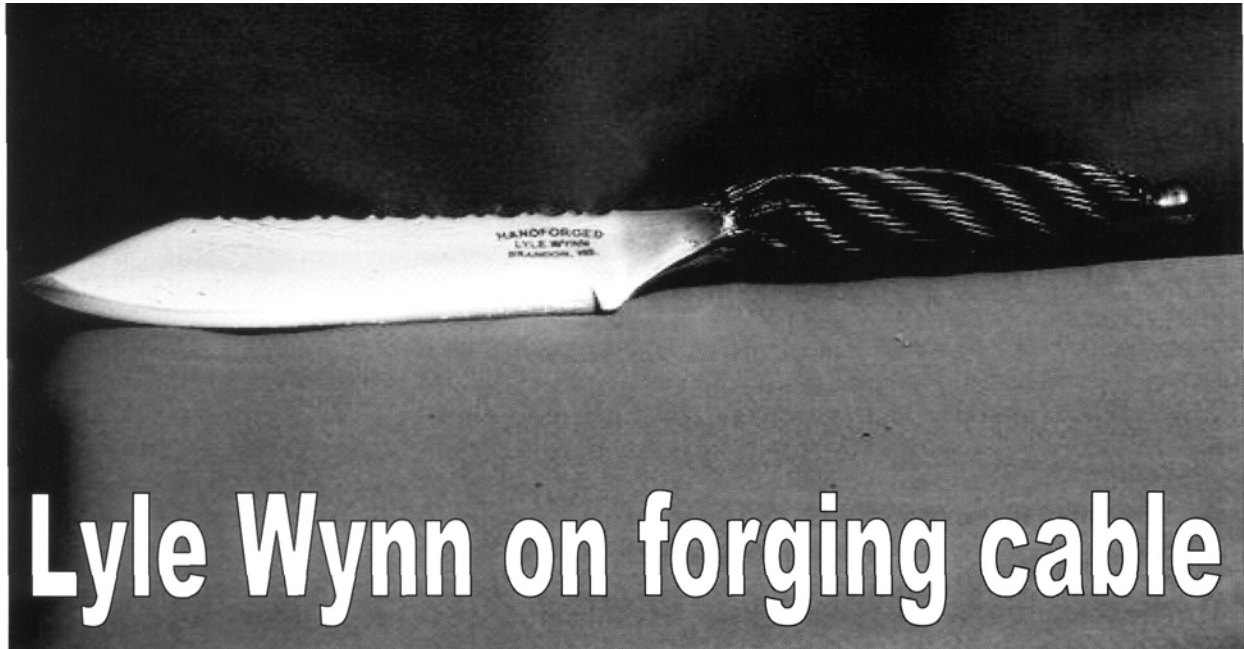
The 2012 Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota, will be an opportunity for your entire family to join our Reunion on the Great Plains! We are all looking forward to meeting new members, supporting our educational goals, and honoring our blacksmithing traditions.

JoAnn
JoaNN BENTLEY
Central Office Administrator
Artist-Blacksmith's Association
of North America, Inc.
259 Muddy Fork Road
Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659
Ph: 423-913-1022, Fax: 423-913-1023
centraloffice@abana.org

Don't forget our 2012 Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota July 18-21, 2012!

If you are interested in the tickets contact Larry Brown, info on page 2.

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MISSISSIPPI FORGE COUNCIL
THE UPSET SEPTEMBER 2007

I have been forge welding cable for about 6 years now. It gets easier each time you do it. Forge welding cable is no different than forge welding anything else other than the fact that the individual pieces are already being held together for you, therefore the only critical element you have to get correct is the fire. People have said you cannot get good cable anymore and in some cases that is true. A lot of cable is imported and does not have the carbon content desired to make a good knife.

Generally the cable I use is new, picked up from a local supplier. According to them, there are two cable manufacturers left in the US, and both of these make a high carbon cable that is sufficient for making a good quality knife. I checked with a technical person at one of the manufacturers and he assured me the cable I was using had at least .7 per cent carbon. I have read articles about cable that say; due to the time it takes to forge it together you will lose a percentage of your carbon in the forge welding process. I do not doubt this but the thicker the cable is the less that percentage is,

and the fewer heats it requires to weld the cable will affect the percentage as well.

The larger cable also has a more appealing pattern. I like to use the mid-sized 3/4" to 1" cable with the larger strand wires. I have read where you have to burn the grease out of it before you start welding it but I have never done this, I figure that by the time it takes to get it to a welding heat, surely the metal has had time to clean itself.

Usually when I weld cable I build a cave type fire in the forge and keep plenty of coke in the bottom of the cave. This allows you to have a window to see the end of the cable and still be able to heat to a forge welding temperature. Heat the end of the cable to a red color then flux, (I have always used 20 Mule Team Borax) You can then heat to an orange color and bring it out to the side of the step on the anvil so you can start tightening the last 1 inch or so of the cable. While you are heating (and hammering) on the cable you have to turn it in the direction as if you were tightening the cable strands. This will keep the heat even and prevent you from burning the individual wires.

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After you have tightened the end of the cable and removed a large portion of the air space within the cable, the last inch or so will reduce in size a noticeable amount. You are now ready to heat the end to a welding heat, the end will be the same color as the bright yellow, hottest part of the fire. The borax will be bubbling, and when you take it out of the fire it will have a white almost clear smoke or vapor rising from it. If it is too hot, and sparking, wait till the sparks stop then start hitting it on the step of the anvil, (by hitting on the step each blow is actually hitting the cable on three sides) turning the cable after each blow until you have it rounded and welded all the way around. As it welds your hammer blows will start bouncing some rather than just making a thud.

Once you have the tip welded you can then put the tip in the vise and twist the cable to open it up. Once opened, remove it from the vise and put borax all the way around for the next three inches or so. You can now tighten the cable back up by putting the tip back in the vise and twisting it in a tightening direction. You are now ready to heat the cable to a good red orange heat and tighten the next three inches or so, on the step of the anvil, to remove the airspace. Once this has been done, I usually re-flux the cable and bring this area up to the bright yellow hottest color in the fire heat, (while turning to keep from burning the wires) and bring to the step of the anvil to hammer on until it welds thoroughly.

It only takes 4 to 6 inches of welded 3/4" or 1" cable to make a decent sized blade if you plan to use the cable as the handle. If you want a cable handle just cut the cable (easiest with an abrasive chop saw) at the back of the handle, be sure to leave an extra inch to allow for the end to be welded. Weld the end the same way as you welded the end when you started on the blade. Once this end is welded, you can dress it up on a belt sander. If you want a full

welded handle you will need more cable welded.

Once you have hammered out your blade and sanded it down you will need to etch the blade to reveal the pattern that made you want to start with cable in the first place. I heard it described by Terry Vandeventer best referring to the pattern as having a dragon fly wing appearance. When you get ready to flatten the rounded welded cable to start shaping the blade be sure and flatten at a welding heat this will help make sure you do not have any flaws in the material, a lot of times when you start this flattening process you will hear the distinct sound of a forge weld taking place.

If you will take the cable blade to a 1000 grit finish then etch with a 60-40 mixture of PCB etchant (ferric chloride) from Radio Shack, and white vinegar, this seems to work best for me. (Because cable is made of the same metal it does not etch the same as true Damascus) Cable requires a deeper etch to get the detailed appearance. I usually submerge the part I want etched for 10 minutes at a time then rinse in water then neutralize in a mixture of baking soda and water. After rinsing, if the etch is the depth you want, you can dry it with a hair dryer then spray it down with WD-40, if it is not as deep as you want, just put it back in the etch again. If the blade does not look as good as I think it should, I will buff it lightly with a fine polishing compound. After you etch the blade it is usually rough along the cutting edge. I talked with Bobby Howard about this because, I almost hate to sharpen it in fear of messing up the finish, but it is a knife and you want it sharp therefore, you can come back and sharpen it with a little less angle to get a good cutting edge and still have a good clean blade finish with only a minimal amount of material being removed and get the desired cutting edge.