

NJBA Newsletter

NJBA Volume 19, Issue 3
June 17, 2015

Temporary Editor's Soapbox

The computer of our Newsletter Editor, Larry Brown, has crashed, probably due to malware. The NJBA website is also down, possibly due to the same malware. In the interim, I'm filling in as temporary Newsletter Editor, which will account for the different format and much reduced content of this issue.

Upcoming Events

June 27 (Saturday),

Lightweight Equipment Workshop, Part 2, Continuation of the fabrication workshops, probably forge tables and firepots, this time.

July date TBD (a Saturday)

Lightweight Equipment Workshop, Part 3 & maybe Part 4. One or two workshops to fabricate remaining equipment: e.g., hoods and vise stands.

July 11-12,

HCSV Hands-on History, RSVP req'd.

July 18 (Saturday),

Meet at Leonid Karelshteyn's shop, Brooklyn

July 25-26,

HCSV Railroad Days, RSVP req'd.

August 3-9 (M-W and probably other days),

Middlesex Co. Fair

August 8-9,

HCSV Hands-on History, RSVP req'd.

August 22-23,

HCSV Seafarers weekend, RSVP req'd.

Sept. 5-6,

HCSV Hands-on History, RSVP req'd.

Sept 19-20,

HCSV Steampunk Weekend, RSVP req'd.

Sep. 20 (Sunday),

Red Mill Hammer-in. Save the date.

Sept. 26-27.,

HCSV Country fair, RSVP req'd.

Dec. 6 (Sunday),

NJBA Holiday Party. Save the date.

Lightweight Forge Project, Part 2

NJBA to Hold Workshops to build Equipment for Demonstrations

by Bruce Freeman (freemab222@gmail.com)

On Saturday, June 27, 2015, NJBA will hold the second of its workshops to build six sets of lightweight, portable blacksmithing equipment for use in demonstrations, etc. Marshall Bienstock is hosting this event, once again, at his shop at 663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ. We will start work around 9 AM and probably quit at 5 PM.

We need the participation of NJBA members to fabricate this equipment. The work will be typical fabrication tasks, including cutting, grinding, drilling and welding. Please bring your own safety glasses as we have only a limited supply in the shop. Questions may be directed to me.

In the first workshop, we fabricated anvil stands. In this second one, we expect to fabricate forge tables and, perhaps, firepots.

Each set of equipment will consist of forge, firepot, hood, flue, blower & stand, anvil & stand, and vise & stand. All the equipment assembles or breaks down without the use of tools, and there are few separate loose pieces to get misplaced. One such set will fit into the trunk of a car, and all six of them will fit into the back of a pickup truck, greatly facilitating getting our equipment to demonstrations.

Cold Spring Village Events

Past and current NJBA Director Adam Howard is now helping in the development and improvement of the blacksmith shop at Historic Cold Spring Village in Cape May, including regularly scheduled periods of instruction. He invites any NJBA member to come down and forge at any of the HCSV event days -- but an RSVP is essential! Phone Adam (609-886-5247) or email him (capeislandforge@gmail.com) a week in advance to let him know you're interested.

Depending upon the event, participants may be able to sell their work (a small fee to the Village may be required), and lunch may be provided to demonstrators at some of the events. The event dates are listed in the "Upcoming Events" Section.

New Jersey Blacksmith Association Newsletter

Meet in Brooklyn

at Leonid Karelshteyn's Shop

Leonid Karelshteyn will host a meet in Brooklyn on July 18, from 9 AM to 3 PM (rain or shine). Leonid, of Art & Anvil Liberty Inc., is a highly accomplished blacksmith trained in the Ukraine. He will be giving a tour of the shop and demonstrating traditional joinery and other techniques.

The shop is at 499 Van Brunt St., Unit 7A, Brooklyn, NY 11231 Carpooling is encouraged! Van Brunt St. will be closed on the day of this event for Red Hook Walks, a celebration of local artisans and businesses.

Additional Information: Red Hook is a hub of cultural activity. In addition to Art & Anvil Liberty, Inc. the area is home to numerous workshops and art studios. Most of these locations will be open for Red Hook Walks, taking place the same day as this event. There are also numerous places to grab lunch - we'll firm up plans the day of the event.

For more information on Art & Anvil Liberty, Inc.: www.olegshyshkin.com For more information on Red Hook Walks:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/weekendwalks>

For Questions, contact Bruce Ringier, 973-534-2739.

Middlesex County Fair

August 3 -9,

4H grounds, East Brunswick

www.middlesexcountyfair.com/

We will again be participating in the Middlesex Co. Fair. We will need help setting up

at least two forges on Monday, Aug. 3 at around 4 PM (but there still may be some set-up work to do if you can't get there that early). This time, we'll be using lightweight equipment, so set-up and break-down will not be as onerous as it was using the NJBA trailer.

If you can participate in this event, please contact Bruce Freeman in advance to arrange to get a free-admission pass (and maybe even a parking

pass for nearby parking). All smiths are encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful fair to attend and is great opportunity for the entire family.

Last year, the fair was not quite so LOUD as in previous years, thanks to the efforts of the volunteer coordinator. Still, if loud music and raucous noise bothers you, you might want to bring ear plugs!

The fair hours are

Monday-Friday: 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Directions: From the north, take New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 9 for Route 18 south. Proceed to Cranbury Road exit. Follow Cranbury Road south to Fern Road. Fairgrounds is on your right. Parking attendants on the grounds will direct you to parking areas in our Fern Road, Cranbury Road, and Dunhams Corner Road parking areas.

From the south, take New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 8A for Cranbury Road. Turn right at Cranbury Road light and follow Cranbury Road. Fairgrounds is on your left. Parking attendants on the grounds will direct you to parking areas in our Fern Road, Cranbury Road, and Dunhams Corner Road parking areas.

Leg Vise Donation

by Ron Jani

A vise has been donated to NJBA by Bob Richardson of Madison N.J. The vise is very old. This is apparent because the parts, spring, box jaw were pinned. The vise was held on to the bench not by a wrap around collar but was through punched and a bar inserted to hold the spring and the vise to the bench. It is readily apparent that the bar was wrought, the fibers can be seen at the break in the rear of the vise.

Stats:

55 lb

39" long

Jaw: 4 and 7/8 wide

Width front to back 15"

Our thanks to Bob Richardson for his generous donation.

New Jersey Blacksmith Association Newsletter

Official NJBA Address:

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

NJBA Board of Directors

William Barrett
7 Brookwood Rd, Stanhope, NJ 07874
973-234-8701
anvilman67@yahoo.com

Larry Brown
90 William Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308
718 967-4776, 917-620-9774,
brownln@hotmail.com

Marshall Bienstock
663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731
732-221-3015
jlfmib@optonline.net

Eric Cuper
2436 Birch St., Easton, PA 18042
908 642-6420
ericuper@hotmail.com

David Ennis
46 Airport Rd., Pittstown, NJ 08867
908-713-1679
davidennis@att.net

Bruce Freeman
222 Laurel Place, Neptune, NJ 07753
732-677-8301
freemab222@gmail.com

Bruce Hay Jr.
50 Pine St., Lincroft, NJ 07738
732 747-4758
Jansson729@verizon.net

Adam Howard
110 Maryland Ave., Villas, NJ 08251
609 886 5247
capeislandforge@gmail.com

Ron Jani
11 McKinley Dr., Rockaway, NJ 07866
973-625-5442, 973-462-3377,
blkpnfrg@aol.com

Doug Learn
121 Pebble Woods Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901
215 489-1742
cjfdlearn@verizon.net

Tom Majewski
165 Robertsville Rd, Freehold, NJ 07728
732-462-2453
v2e4mab9@verizon.net

Mark Morrow
53 Beverly Beach Rd, Brick, NJ 08724
arblademaker@swordsmith.net

Daniel O'Sullivan
110 Midland Ave., Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
973 259-9873
danandbeckyos@netzero.net

Bruce Ringier
512 Macdonough St., Apt. 1, Brooklyn, NY 11233
973-534-2739
bruce.ringier@gmail.com

Ben Suhaka
715 Haran Ave., Manville, NJ 08835
908-722-8197
ben2ceil@gmail.com

Jose Torres
52 Woodside Ave., Hamilton, NJ 08610
609-958-2335
josetorres661@gmail.com

Eric Von Arx
43 Center St, Rumson, NJ 07760
732-842-9355
evonarx@hotmail.com

New Jersey Blacksmith Association Newsletter

Report on Workshop No. 1 of the Lightweight Forge Project

by Bruce Freeman

On March 21, Marshall Bienstock hosted a workshop to build adjustable anvil stands like the prototype that has been in his shop for the past few weeks. I had to dig out from the 5" snowfall that arrived the day before, and which had prevented me from loading the car the night before, so I got there late. With a little input from me by text message, Marshall managed to get the first two arrivals, Ron Jani and Tracy Vannoy, busy, drilling mounting holes in the tables he had cut last Monday.

Ben Suhaka arrived shortly after I did, and started in working on the anvils themselves -- beveling the corners of two of the mounting slots to facilitate mounting them on the stand, and polishing off the paint on the horns and cutting tables. While beveling the slots, Ben discovered a hollow in one of the anvils -- more than 1.5" deep and 1/2" in diameter -- from which little steel BB's poured out! He quit work on that anvil immediately, and I later returned it to Harbor Freight for exchange. This is the second anvil we've had to exchange due to casting defects, which doesn't say much for the foundry they use, but at least Harbor Freight exchanged both without any argument whatsoever. These cheap, lightweight anvils will probably serve us for many years, albeit that we may need to clean up dings in their rather soft faces from time to time.

Ron and Tracy moved on to clamping up sections for Marshall to weld up as the ~98-degree angle irons that are the leg extensions. As Marshall finished up the angle irons, Ron and Tracy alternated between blasting off the paint and clamping the leg extensions onto the bases for welding. Around noon, Damian Toryak arrived and started in saw-cutting some spacers needed for the tables. Since I designed the stands and had drawn up the fabrication drawings and flowchart of operations, I was jumping between tasks, keeping the others busy.

After some discussion, Marshall chose to use an acetylene torch to enlarge the hole on the side of

the base to accept a 3/4" locking bolt. He then

welded the 3/4" nuts over these holes.

We then clamped the trammels to the tables as jigs for welding on the side plates and spacers, which Marshall proceeded to do. He finished all but one of the tables by the time we decided to quit for the day.

So, all in all, we got the five anvil stands maybe 98% finished. We've since finished two anvil stands and four anvils, in addition to the prototype. The others need only a little more work and I will get to those as time permits.

Report on Demo in Allenwood

by Bruce Freeman

On March 28, Bill Ker and I demonstrated blacksmithing at Clayton & Clayton Realtors "new" office in Allenwood, NJ.

Bill lives just up the road from this office and knows it well. In addition to having once been a blacksmith shop, Bill's family once operated a business there. Shawn Clayton approached us to celebrate the reopening, harkening back to its historic roots -- and he made a generous donation to the NJBA treasury.

Unfortunately, the day was cold and blustery so there were few visitors from the general public. This was made up for in part by visitors to the new office, but by far most of the visitors were Bill's friends and relations!

It was a good day and a great test of the prototype lightweight equipment.

Report on Mini MakerFaire at the Newark Museum

Part One, by Bruce Freeman

On Saturday, April 11, the Newark Museum held another Mini MakerFaire, an assemblage of people and organizations that make things. On display were crafts such as woodworking, canoe making, and spinning, as well as high-tech like 3-D printing.

NJBA was present, demonstrating blacksmithing. Billy Barrett arrived early (with his equipment), followed by me (with the lightweight

New Jersey Blacksmith Association Newsletter

equipment), David Ennis, and Damian Toryak. I was able to drive into the yard through the west gate to unload, afterwards parking in the Museum lot. (The MakerFaire validated the parking lot ticket and even gave us a \$10 lunch voucher for the food vendors!) Between us, we had the two forges running all day, and our demonstrations were very well received.

I didn't have time to see all the MakerFaire, but what was viewable in the yard and on the first floor seemed largely directed to children. If it was like last year, there may have been more advanced stuff in the upstairs, but I didn't have time to venture there. I did visit the single "sketch" by Samuel Yellin, on the second floor of the North Wing.

Part Two, by Dave Ennis

On April 11th this spring's first blue-sky warm sunny day graced Newark Museum's Makers Mini-Fair. Bruce Freeman brought a full demo setup - anvil, vice 'n' forge, which was fairly easily set up sheltered by our tent by Bruce, Billy Barrett, Damian Toryak and Dave Ennis in a grassy area within the Museum's enclosed back courtyard. Billy also brought an anvil and forge - we all alternated demonstrating on both forges. There was a good turnout for the event, with a constant inquisitive audience of all ages. The big hit of the demos seemed to be swords, made from scaffold nails, that were wanted by kids from 4 to 74!

Other participants ranged from ham radios, urban gardeners, boat builders, hand woodworkers, glass blowers and 3-d printer examples using both additive and reductive processes. All in all, an enjoyable day at a nice event.

My impressions of the setup Bruce brought - everything seemed to assemble pretty quickly and efficiently and worked well for it's intended purpose. The anvils and stand is fine for this type demo, forge worked well for general work as well as light welding, though an additional tool stand would be helpful. The stability of the [prototype - not final design] vice stand could be improved as it is somewhat wobbly when stock held horizontally but fine when stock held vertical and twisted.

Report on A-Day by Doug Learn

Brent Reeb, one of my friends, and I demonstrated at A-Day at now Delaware Valley University in Doylestown on 24-27 April. A-Day, or Activities Day, is entirely student organized and run, and the primary fund raiser for the campus student groups. There are barn tours, horse, cattle, sheep and hog judging, horticulture, apiary and other club demonstrations, small animal husbandry demonstrations and lectures throughout the weekend. And it is an official Pennsylvania State Fair, so the usual entries for canned goods, art, photography, etc., and I won first place with one of my forged steel bowls. The crowd is a mix of college students, prospective students, alumni, local families and friends from work and the area.

This was the 12th year I have demonstrated, and have had the privilege of seeing several sets of students start from freshman to seniors, moving up in responsibility and confidence. I set up on Friday, had my usual short discussion with the township fire marshal, and was demonstrating by ~1200h. As usual I brought along a tasteful selection of work of mine and others to show the attendees.

While the weather was brisk and windy, the crowd was decent on Friday, and Saturday and Sunday (0900-1700h) were well attended. Brent demonstrated his cat, dog and donkey heads, and various hooks and other small items. I did bottle openers, leaves, duck heads, and other short items that did not tax the attention span of most attendees.

Every year I make bottle openers from one inch washers for the A-Day Executive Committee, with their initials, year and A-DAY stamped in them. Being set up near the bounce and other small child activities ensured we had many small ones in the audience, and either fathers or mothers who were not responsible for watching their children in the activities.

All in all it is a relaxing and fun demonstration to do, and the students enjoy and appreciate what Brent and I do for them. Plan to join us the last full weekend of April next year.

Report on Bevans Day Open House by Dave Ennis

It was a beautiful Spring Sunday for a well attended Peters Valley Bevans Day Open House

New Jersey Blacksmith Association Newsletter

celebration on May 3rd. All the studios were open and numerous tents offering crafts, food and music were set up in the grassy bowl near the Administration Building. Visitors strolled between the nearby studios and were bused to those at Thunder Mountain.

NJBA members demonstrated in the Blacksmith Studio from noon to 5 PM with three forges operating and Billy Barrett set up his portable coal forge and hammered away in the 'bowl'. There was a steady flow of groups of visitors at the Studio throughout the day, perhaps 150 in all. Members working in the Studio included Dave Ennis, Bill Kucharski, Kevin Weber and new member G. Paul Salvati. Other members attended the event including Damian Toryak and Tom Ryan.

Although tailgating was available and publicized, and several people inquired about purchasing tools and equipment, no one took advantage of the tailgating opportunity. NJBA has been invited back next year to be in the Blacksmith Studio, so perhaps then.

Report on Walnford Day, by Bruce Freeman

The prototype equipment was still in my pickup truck from the Newark Mini MakerFaire, so I only

needed to load a bag of coal and one more anvil and stand the Saturday before. Sunday morning, May 17, I drove to Walnford Park and parked my truck behind the area where NJBA sets up. The park had a table, rope, and stanchions ready for me. I found it took me about one hour to set up the equipment, working alone except for the assistance of a park ranger in setting up the canopy.

About this time, a young volunteer named Jack joined me, and I showed him some basic forging techniques. I then had him practice his hammer swing on a piece of wood before setting him loose on the forge and second anvil to imitate what I'd demonstrated.

Patty Miller-Pittman arrived around 1 PM and stayed a couple hours, assisting me to teach Jack the basics of blacksmithing. I spoke to at least two park visitors who expressed serious interest in taking up blacksmithing.

Unfortunately both Jack and Patty had to leave before the event was over, so I had to break down the apparatus by myself, which would have been completely impossible with the old, heavy equipment. The prototype equipment worked well, as usual, except for the vise stand, the first prototype of which is not stable enough (and a second prototype is not yet finished).

New Jersey Blacksmith Association Newsletter

NJBA Membership Renewal and Ballot

Mail completed renewal form and ballot, along with check for dues, to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Numbers:

Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Email address _____

My check is enclosed for \$20 (regular membership dues), or

\$40 (business membership dues).

Ballot

To vote for a nominee, please check the box next to his name.

You may vote for all nominees.

Nominee

Billy Barrett

Larry Brown

Dave Ennis

Bruce Hay

Ron Jani

Tom Majewski

Daniel O'Sullivan

Ben Suhaka

Nominee

Marshall Bienstock

Eric Cuper

Bruce Freeman

Adam Howard

Doug Learn

Mark Morrow

Bruce Ringier

Eric Von Arx.