

N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 23, Issue 3 September, 2019

Upcoming Events

Many of our meets feature an "Iron in the Hat" drawing (fund raiser), so be sure to bring a contribution and cash to buy tickets. Tailgate sales are permitted at many of our events. See p. 2 for Directors' contact information.

Note about workshop fees and participation:

Workshops are open only to NJBA members, but you may pay your dues when you register. All fees are due upon registering. Materials fee is not refundable. Workshop fee is refundable only if your place in the workshop is filled by another person. If you only want to watch, the fee is half the workshop fee.

Special note: Tasks performed at these workshops are limited to the projects being taught and no other.

Sat., Oct. 19, 2019. Princeton U. Open Forge

We expect to set up at least six forging stations set up at Bowen Hall, Princeton University at about 10 am, and host the Princeton students at another open forge meet from then till about 4 PM. We could use some help from NJBA members in maintaining the coal fires and keeping things running smoothly. If interested, contact NJBA Director Ryan Amos.

Sat., Nov. 9, 2019. Damascus Workshop

Similar to previous such workshops. \$150 workshop fee plus \$25 materials fee. Maximum 8 participants. Contact NJBA Director Mark Morrow for further information. and to register. Tailgate sales welcome.

Sun., Dec. 8. Holiday Party

Once again Jan and Marshall will be hosting a **potluck dinner** at their "cabin" at 301 Casino Drive, Farmingdale. (This is 2.1 miles east of Marshall's

Farm.) The party will start at 3 PM, and dinner usually begins an hour or so later.

Guests are asked to bring a covered dish, salad, dessert, etc. If possible, please call Jan at 732-938-6577 a week or so before the party to let her know what you'll be bringing.

The party is BYOB, so bring your favorite beverage. NJBA will provide soft drinks, utensils, etc. All members and their families or "significant others" are welcome.

Spring 2020 Handle Workshop

You will be guided in the making of a knife handle. Some experience required. Fees tentatively: \$75 for the class, \$25 for materials. Contact NJBA Director Mark Morrow for further information.

Spring 2020 (?) Steel Bloom Smelt

Although we still plan to hold a steel smelt demonstration, difficulties obtaining supplies have put it off to some date to be determined. This smelt will be run by Mark Morrow.

Spring 2020 (?) Gas Forge Workshop

We still intend to hold a workshop to construct a gas forge for each participant. We are making some progress on the design for this forge and will make further announcements later.

Reminder

This Newsletter is only printed and mailed to you if you subscribe (for \$10), so please be sure that we have your correct email address!

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

NJBA Board of Directors

Ryan Amos

William Barrett

Marshall Bienstock

Larry Brown

Eric Cuper

David Ennis

Bruce Freeman

Mark Morrow

Bruce Ringier

Thomas Santomauro

Ben Suhaka

Dan Yale

Blacksmith Coal and Coke Available to NJBA Members

NJBA has purchased ten tons of “nut” coal of good analysis. In addition to using this coal for our demonstrations, this coal will be available for purchase by NJBA members at 20¢ per pound, on a bring-your-own-bag and bag-it-yourself, honor-system basis. The coal is located across the drive from the larger door to Marshall’s pole barn, formerly the site of the coke pile. We still have some coke available at the same price, *behind* this same bin. (Walk around by the path to the left of the bin). Plastic bags of at least 3-mil thickness are recommended. (A spring balance, *not legal for trade*, has been mounted beside the bin for your convenience in *estimating only*.) Please inquire of Marshall Bienstock for more information and to make payment.

We like to thank those who joined NJBA as Business Members:
Marshall Bienstock

Official NJBA Address

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

NJBA’s Website:

<http://www.njblacksmiths.org>

NJBA Newsletter:

Will be found on our website (above). Look for “Current Newsletter” and/or “Newsletter Archive.”

NJBA’s Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/njblacksmiths/>

NJBA’s IForgeIron subforum:

Scroll down at <https://www.iforgeiron.com/>.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Open Forge Meets

(See “Rules for Participation in NJBA Hands-On Events”)

Monday Night Open Forge, Howell, NJ

NJBA Director Marshall Bienstock hosts an open forge meet **every Monday evening at 7 PM, except major holidays.** (Please call ahead on holidays to make sure the forge will be open.)

Donations for Marshall’s Open Forge Meet

Those partaking of the open forge meet at Marshall’s shop will find a donation box under the sign-in sheet. This is an attempt by the NJBA Board to offset the costs of running this open forge meet. Contributions will be collected on the honor system, with a suggested donation of \$1-\$2 per person per evening. A limited supply of steel stock is available (behind middle forge, where you’ll also see a list of suggested donations).

Sunday Open Forge, Smithtown, LI, NY

From the beginning of November through the end of April, Ron Grabowski will open his forge in Smithtown, LI, NY, to NJBA members. Please call ahead to confirm and get directions: 631-265-1564. Ronsforge@aol.com

Sunday Open Forge, Lambertville, NJ

The Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead and Museum and Blacksmith Shop will be open on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM starting on the **first Sunday in May until the last Sunday in October.** The shop is located at 1605 Daniel Bray Highway (Re. 29) just north of Lambertville, NJ. (holcombe-jimison.org, 609-397-2752)

Anyone, blacksmith, novice, beginner or anyone wishing to try smithing for the first time is welcome.

(Note: The Museum is not subject to NJBA’s age restriction.) There is an annual fee of \$25.00 due on the first day of your arrival. This is for insurance purposes only. You are welcome to come and work on any Sunday we are open, the only Sunday we are closed is to attend the annual meeting and picnic at the Red Mill Museum.

Rules for Participation in NJBA Hands-On Events

These rules apply to workshops, open forge meets, demonstrations with hands-on components, etc.

1. Participation in NJBA-sponsored hands-on events is limited to adults (i.e., 18 years or older). This rule was effected as of December 4, 2016.

- This policy **does not apply** to open forge meets and similar events that are sponsored or co-sponsored by youth-oriented organizations such as scouts, 4H groups, schools or other venues (including the Holcombe-Jimison Blacksmith Shop).

2. Workshops are intended for the purpose of teaching certain skills and/or completing certain projects, and are subject to the authority of the workshop leader or instructor. Accordingly (as per a vote of the NJBA Board on Jan. 28, 2018.):

- A workshop participant shall work *only* on the project at hand and not on any other projects, *without exception.* (Any NJBA member may attend an NJBA open forge meeting to work on his own project.)

NJBA T-Shirts Available

NJBA T-shirts are still available for purchase. These navy blue heavy-duty pocket T’s bear the anvil logo on the pocket and the vise logo on the back. Prices are \$20 for sizes M, L & XL, or \$25 for sizes 2XL & 3XL. *The NJBA Sweatshirts are still available at \$25 each for all sizes.*

These T-shirts and sweatshirts may be purchased at the above prices at our Monday evening open forge meet at Marshall’s Farm, and we expect to have them available as well at our upcoming workshops and meets.

If you wish to order them by mail, a postage and handling charge of \$10 will be charged for one sweatshirt or up to two T-shirts. For further information, contact NJBA Director Bruce Freeman.

If you send money for T-shirts or sweatshirts, please specify the size(s) desired. It is best to inquire before sending money, as available sizes may be limited.

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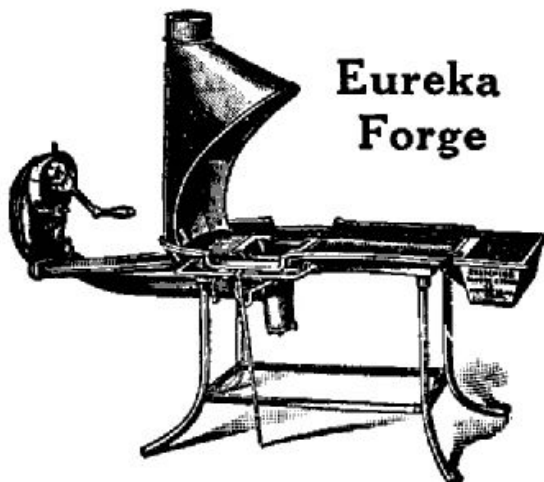
Report on the Middlesex co. Fair

by Bruce Freeman

Monday, Marshall and I drove up to the fairgrounds in his truck. We'd loaded the truck the previous Monday evening with the aid of the attendees of the Monday evening open forge meet. When we arrived we quickly unloaded the truck and Marshall moved it to the nearby parking lot while I set up the first of the two canopies.

About this time, Jerry Potschantek arrived, and soon we had both canopies set up and were proceeding with the equipment. All went well ... except for the stand for the yellow blower. The pipe that forms the stanchion broke at one threaded end. Marshall went to work with a chisel and soon had a fix for it, though it will need attention in the future. Fortunately, the rest of the evening was fairly uneventful. Marshall and Jerry did most of the demonstrating while I took questions from the audience.

Tuesday, I ran up to the Fair with the intention of swapping out the red blower stand for the yellow one. Unfortunately, I hadn't thought to bring the blower itself, so I had to kludge some other fix. I emulated Marshall's fix and removed the stub with a chisel, then cleaned up the threads with a file Ben Suhaka loaned me and managed to screw the assembly together. Fortunately, the yellow blower held up for the rest of the week. I participated on Saturday and Sunday, and Marshall and I packed up the truck. We waited till Monday evening when we again enlisted the aid of the Monday night crew to help put the equipment away.



Report on the Middlesex co. Fair

By Jerry Potschantek

My name is Jerry Potschantek and I'm new to the art of Blacksmithing. I have watched scores of smiting presentations on you tube and nothing compares to first hand instruction. I originally volunteered to be an assistant and did not want to do ant type of presentation work. Bruce asked me to prepare a coal fire and that's were it started. My previous attempts at home starting and maintaining a coal fire were marginal at best. Bruce demonstrated the proper techniques in building and maintained the coal fire. I

I had the opportunely to forge simple "S" hooks with the help of Marshall Beinstock and was able to forge two that night. The following afternoon Ben Schaka instructed me on proper hammering skills and not letting the coal fire hollow out and how to correct these issues. With Ben tutorage I was able to forge two additional "S" hooks with a little more character.

This was truly an excellent learning experience and has help me in my advancement in the art of Blacksmithing and looking forward to similar events.



Blacksmith Workshops at Allaire Village

Allaire Village (in Allaire State Park) which boasts the largest blacksmith shop in New Jersey, with 4 working forges, is offering blacksmith workshops to the public, and mentoring through our guild programs for volunteers. The next public workshop, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 AM-2 PM, "Intermediate Blacksmithing" is \$35 per person. Visit their web site at: www.allairevillage.org under the "Events" tab for additional information or visit them on Eventbrite to enroll in classes.

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Jerry Goldman - in Memorium

Jerome S. Goldman - age 87, died peacefully on June 8, 2019 in his Cape May home. A genuine Renaissance man, he enjoyed a full and active life as a teacher, auto mechanic, machine tool representative, welder, woodworker, sailor, ballet dancer, blacksmith and judo champion. Jerry was a lover of classical music, opera, ballet, literature and poetry. His sense of humor was as insightful as it was entertaining.

Born in Philadelphia, educated at Girard College, Spring Garden Institute and Temple University, Jerry served in Germany during the Korean War, after which he taught auto mechanics at Olney High School in Philadelphia. Always learning and teaching, he moved to Cape May, where, as the blacksmith at Historic Cold Spring Village, he especially loved educating visitors at the Blacksmith Shop on the history of "smithing" while creating beautiful and useful hand-forged works of art. A kind and beautiful soul, Jerry exemplified friendship, wisdom, generosity and was a role model for those who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy Bloom Goldman Stein and Charles Goldman and his sister, Betty Goldman Wilf. Jerry is survived by his nephew, Dr. Charles Wilf (Ellen); nieces, Susan Bowen (Robert) and Nancy Davis (Jeff DeLiberis) and several great-nieces and great-nephews. May his memory be for a blessing.

Jerry's graveside ceremony and interment will take place on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 11am in the Cape May County Veterans Cemetery, 127 Crest Haven Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory can be sent to the Historic Cold Spring Village, 720 U.S. 9, Cape May, NJ 08204 online at <https://hcsv.org>, or FRAXA, 10 Prince Pl #203, Newburyport, MA 01950 online at <https://www.fraxa.org>

Fabricated Bolt Tongs

Version 4

Stock List, per tongs:

38" of 3/8" round stock,
as two 19" pieces
3" of 1"x1/4" flat stock,
as two trapezoids with
parallel 1" and 2" edges
1/4" xy 7/8" rivet,

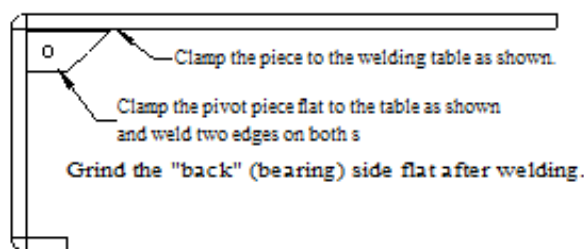
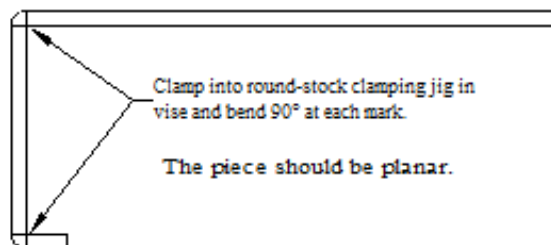
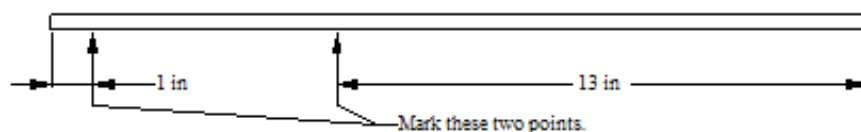
plus stock for desired jaws,
e.g., for bolt tongs:

3" of 1/2" x 1/8" angle iron,
as two 1.5" pieces.

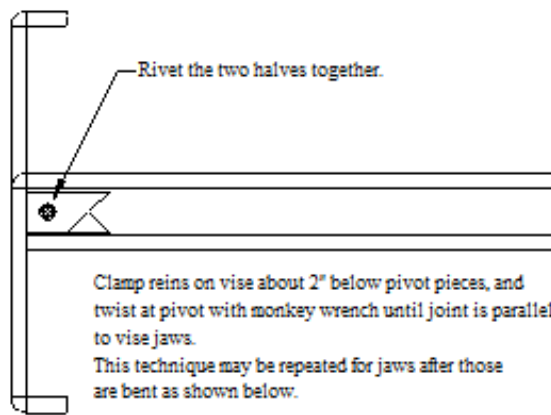
For blade tongs, use 1"x1/8" folded over a
1/4"-thick edge instead of the angle iron,
then offset both jaws to the same side to
allow the workpiece to clear the rivet.

copyright Bruce M. Freeman 2017

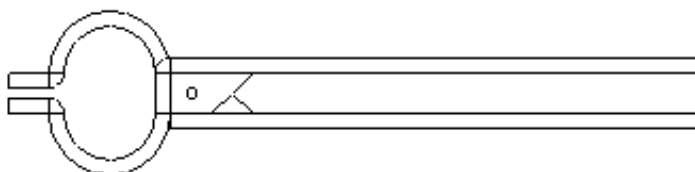
The fabricated tongs on this and the next page were an expedient I came up with when we found ourselves without an adequate supply of tongs for our six lightweight forging stations. These tongs take a few minutes to fabricate and fill a gap till someone has time to forge traditional tongs. - BF



End View



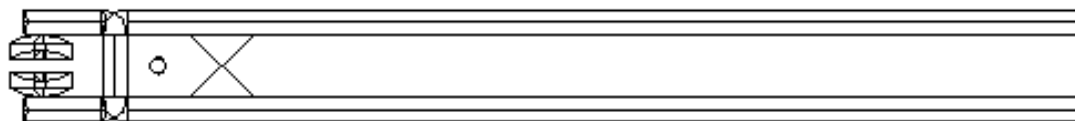
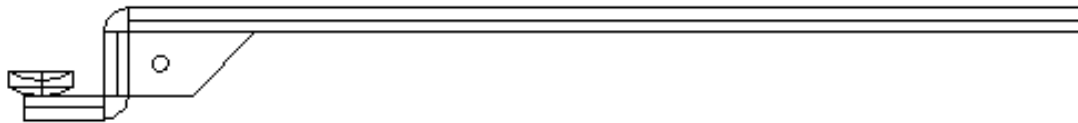
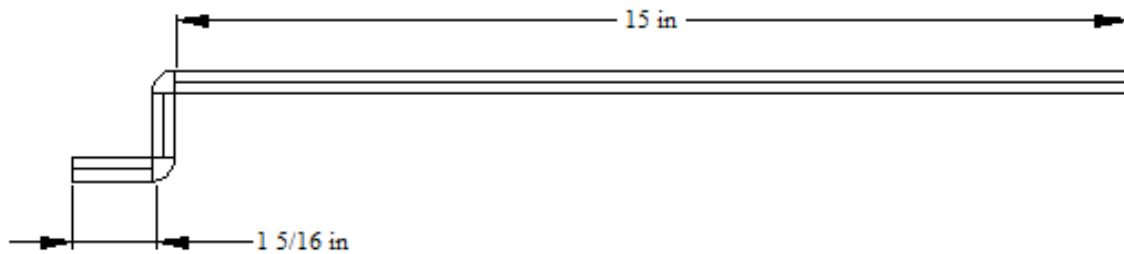
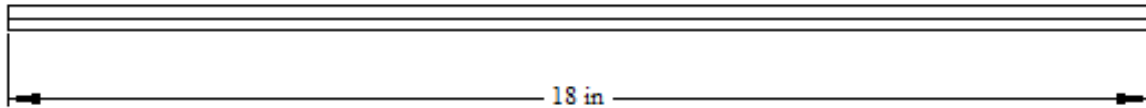
Heat jaw section to red, work the reins to loosen the fit, then bend the jaws around as shown below.



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Fabricated Horseshoers' Tongs

c. Bruce Freeman 2017



New Jersey Blacksmith Association, P.O. Box 224, Farmingdale, NJ 07727-9998

NJBA Membership Renewal, Ballot, and Volunteers' List

Please Renew Now for 2019-2020. Please Vote for the Board of Directors. Please Volunteer.

If you want to continue to receive printed Newsletters by mail, please remit an extra \$10. (See p. 1 Editorial)

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 Number(s): _____

Your correct Email address is essential if you don't care to pay \$10 extra for a mailed Newsletter! Please Print Clearly!

Email address _____

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

\$40 (business membership dues)

For printed Newsletters: **\$10 subscription fee** (for paper copies of Newsletter)

NJBA Volunteers List

"Please put my name on the list of potential volunteers:" (Circle all that apply.)

Availability: Saturdays Sundays Weekdays

Interests: Demonstrating Coaching Novices Assisting at Workshops

Blacksmithing Experience: Novice Intermediate Experienced Professional

Other Experience:

Welder Fabricator Other Metalwork

Writer Editor Photographer Videographer

Facebook Contributor Yahoo Group Mgr. IForgeIron Contributor

Other: