

Pennsylvania Striker



Dedicated to the preservation, sharing and expansion of the Artist-Blacksmith's skills

September 2024

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, October 5

Andrew's New Shop - Clearfield, PA

Fall is coming around and it's time again for an October Hammer in. In my best effort to change things up a bit from the last however many years, I have moved three hours drive west down I-80. It has left me a bit concerned that anyone will show this far away but I do have high hopes. Luckily I am about two miles from the interstate and I have plenty of parking.

As you know I mostly make projects at my hammer-ins and this year is no exception. We are in need of a good fire ring at my house and its time to fix that. I will be pulling in help from my fellow PABA smiths to help forge a nice one. If anyone plans on staying in Clearfield (since it is such a long way from our normal meetings) I will be inviting you all to the house afterward to test it out. I'll have mountain pies stuff ready for the after party at our house on Saturday.

I am looking forward to showing my new shop and having the opportunity to talk smithing with you all. It's been a difficult move and the shop is still disorganized, I am here now and ready to forge. Besides, what better than guests to motivate getting the house cleaned up.

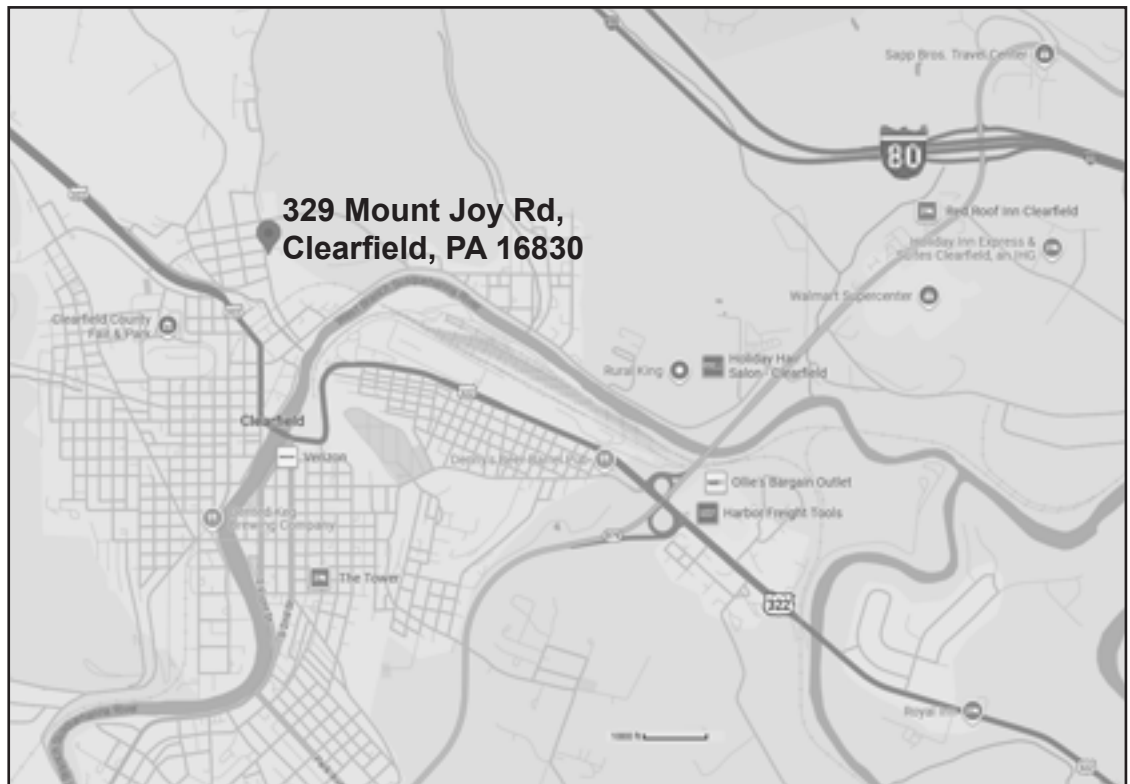
Andrew Molinaro

Bring a chair and a lunch or visit a local eatery.

IMD - Campfire Cooking Item

If you are driving out on Friday, there are couple hotels in town to choose from for the folks who want to stay overnight. Also If anyone is willing to help set up the shop, they are most welcome. We will have beer and some sort of grilled meat available.

Exit 120 from I-80 W or 322 W past State College



PABA Contacts

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- The Pennsylvania Striker is published bimonthly by the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc. (PABA), an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA). Unless otherwise noted all text content is by the editor and all artwork is by Mark Smith.

Membership is open to anyone interested in blacksmithing. Dues are \$25 per calendar year. Contact a board member for an application.

- PABA makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein but assumes no liability in case of error or changing conditions. Any business relations or other activities undertaken as a result of information contained herein or arising therefore are the responsibility of the parties involved and not the Pennsylvania Artist- Blacksmith's Association, Inc.

Committee Leaders

Iron in the Hat Chairperson - Gary Rhoads

HELPER NEEDED

Equipment & Maintenance - *NEEDED*

Publication Contact - Keith Eckman

Safety Equipment - Herb Moyer

ABANA Affiliate Contact - Doug Learn

Library - John Kauffman & Martin Reynolds

Event Hosting - Paul Huf

Facebook Monitor - Luke Shultz

*PABA is in need of several positions.
Please let one of the board know if
you are interested in helping.*

PABA Information

WIN an ANVIL!

Will Smith spoke with to Greg Hagen, owner of Holland Anvil, and he has donated a brand new 50 lb. double horn anvil as a prize. If you are a new member of PABA for 2024 you will automatically have your name entered. Tickets will be on sale at the meetings similar to our Iron in the Hat tickets. We'll collect them all and draw the winner at the December meeting.

Pass the word around and help grow and support our group!

www.hollandanvil.com

PABA GRANT

PABA will be offering an educational grant at the gallery meeting this year. If you are a member you may apply. The grant will go toward paying for a class of the member's choice. Forms will be available at the meetings.

Elections, By-Laws & Volunteers Needed!

Elections - We need to fill four positions. PABA President, Secretary and two Board positions. These positions are necessary for our group to operate.

By-Laws - Doug learn has been updating and revising our groups by-laws. They will be brought to the December Gallery Meeting for members to review and discuss the changes.

Volunteers - If you look at the committee list above, you'll notice several missing spots. Paul Huf has offered to take care of the hosting duties but we need an Iron in the Hat helper and a person to monitor our equipment.

**PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU ARE
ABLE TO HELP!**

PABA CALENDAR 2024

December 14 - PABA Gallery - Paradise, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Holiday Item

2025 *Check back for more info and any changes.*

February 1 - The Newcomer's - Mt Joy, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Valentine's or Easter themed item

April 26 (TBD) - GoggleWorks Iron Fest, Reading, PA
-- LATE START - MORE INFO TO COME--
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Artistic Piece to show off

June 14- Rough & Tumble - Kinzers, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
TBD

August 2 - Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
TBD

October 11- Williams Grove, Mechanicsburg, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
TBD

December 13 - Gallery, Paradise, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Holiday Item

Joanna Furnace

1250 Furnace Rd, Geigertown, PA 19523

Hay Creek Apple Festival – October 12 & 13, 2024
Saturday 7 am to 5 pm and Sunday 7 am to 3 pm.
<https://haycreek.org/>

Judy Berger Memorial Hammer-in

October 11, 10:00 AM - October 13, 1:00 PM

**Blue Moon Farm & Forge 5023 Blue Moon Road,
Huntingdon, PA**

https://www.facebook.com/events/1395400117804989?locale=nn_NO

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLACKSMITH GUILD OF CENTRAL MARYLAND
500 South Center St. Westminster, MD, 21157
<https://www.bgconline.org/events>

BS101 - Beginner Blacksmithing

(Weeknight) Wednesdays in October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2024 - 6 PM - 9 PM

Instructor - Bob Hungerman

Assistant Instructor - TBD

Overall Course Fee: \$200

Description - BS101 Beginner Blacksmithing is a 5 night course designed to teach the basics of blacksmithing. Learn the basics of blacksmithing from forge and fire control to hammer control. You will learn to forge a fish tail scroll, pigtail scroll, tab hook, drive hook, forge poker, water can handle and other student selected projects as time permits. Class time will be from 6pm to 9pm each day.

Registration Options - You can call 410-386-3881, or email Karen Jones at ksjones@carrollcountymd.gov, or you can register in person at the Farm Museum (M – Th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) You must confirm space is available in the class with Karen before payment can be made. Full payment is made to the Carroll County Farm Museum by either cash, check or credit card and is required to confirm your registration and space in the class. All classes are limited to 8 students. There must be a minimum of 4 students registered to hold a class.

Required Essentials - You will need to bring safety glasses, lunch, and wear *non-synthetic clothing. Natural fiber long pants, short or long-sleeved shirt, closed toed shoes (preferably leather) that can get dirty are required. All other tools and equipment are provided.

Rough & Tumble - Kinzers, PA

<https://roughandtumble.org/schedule>

Blacksmith School October 26-27
Saturday is the beginner's class led by John Sturgis and students will be forging three items, a bottle opener, a leaf for your key ring and a wall sconce candle holder. Sunday, the class will be led by Dave Kauffman. Projects will be a towel rack and a toilet paper holder. Participants must be a member of Rough and Tumble. The class size is limited to 10 students and the cost of each class is \$50.

Old Dry Road Farm

Blacksmith Day this year was a bit slower than past. Its possible that the chance of rain and extra humidity kept people away. We did have a good number of younger kids that got to experience making things with Mary Myers and Annette Gray.

Frank O'Brien demonstrated several skulls



John Bangor spent most of the day demonstrating and helping public guest try our smithing.

Stan Newcomer and Kurt Ulrich were set up working with and

demonstrating for visitors. Luke was taking pictures and keeping everyone hydrated!

Note: Stan was featured in ABANA's Hammer's Blow

Magazine. It's always great to have a member of PABA get national attention for their skills and work.



Jeff Rinker Ironmaster of day.



Photo by Carolyn Newcomer



You can always find some nifty projects lying around if you look.



Bronson and Brian Reedy we're setup making several items for the crowd.

Paul Huf also spent some time in the barn helping out some youngsters make different projects



What's inside the box Will? WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOX! Oh, it was a snail... PABA's forging challenge was a mystery item in a box you could feel and then recreate. Jeff Rinker made the one closest to the original.



Photos by Luke Schultz

Jeff Rinker brought a number of items to share with the group and visitors. He was also the Iron Master winner and the Forging contest winner... Great job Jeff!



Thank you everyone that helped out with the day! You are what makes being a member of this group great!



We had three step-by-step “how-to” display boards at Blacksmith Day. I didn’t see a name, so if you brought them, please let PABA know. These are great ways to show people how items are created.



Williamsburg Paraphernalia

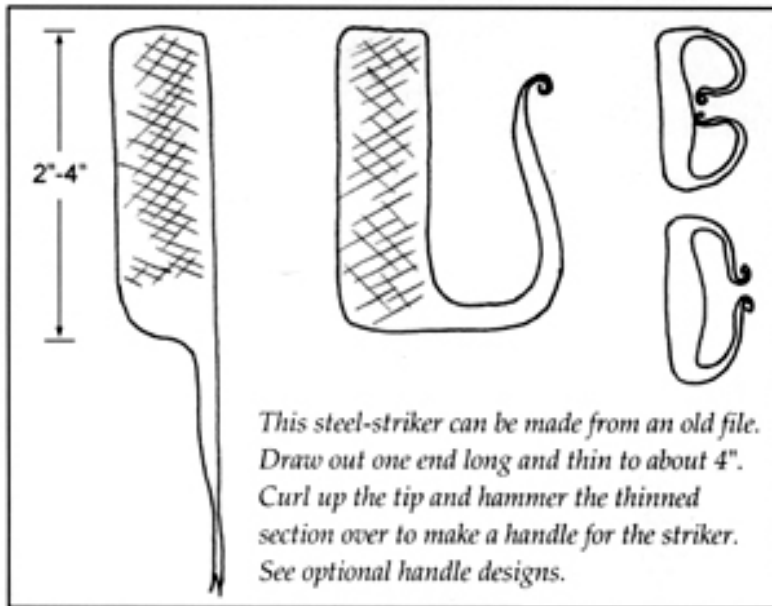
by Jay Close, *The Blacksmith's Guild of the Potomac, Summer 1992*

A tinderbox would usually consist of a small tin box of about 4.5" in diameter that held tinder. Tinder was often charred linen cloth. The tinderbox also contained a steel striker, a piece of flint rock, two covers and a candle holder with candle stub. A small amount of tinder was placed in one cover. The spark caught by the tinder was transferred to the candle. Tinder was quickly

extinguished by the two covers to save as much tinder as possible. The lighted candle stub then supplied the wanted flame.

The teeth of a file will produce a nice spark when struck against a piece of flint. The striker can be made in a range of sizes from 2" to 4" long. Fit it to match the size of your tinderbox or the size of the user's hand.

Harden the striker by heating it in a quiescent fire until a magnet won't stick. Quench the face about 1/4" back, and set it aside to cool. Do not draw a temper. The harder it is, the better it sparks. High carbon steel of about 0.95% carbon becomes nonmagnetic around 1350-1475°F when the steel is a dark to medium red. Quenching the striking face in water at this temperature will harden it. Quenching only 1/4" of the face and allowing it to cool to ambient on its own allows the residual heat in the rest of the striker to draw a partial temper on the face. It will also keep the handle portion in an annealed state. Quenching the entire piece would require tempering the handle to keep it from breaking. ♣



PROJECT IDEAS & HOW TO'S NEEDED

Surprisingly, it was difficult to find any project "how-to's" related to outdoor cooking that I haven't used in the past. I'm requesting ideas for 2025 Iron Master items that people want to try. Also, if anyone is willing to work on an article for the *Striker* about the project... That would be great!

When I was searching around for ideas, I did come upon a lot of video's on campfire cooking items. I personally like Black Bear Forge on youtube.com. I've included some links below of video demonstrations for a frying pan, a pan holder, a squirrel cooker and a cooking tripod. If you view it in the online PDF you should be able to copy and paste the links. There are a lot of ideas available but less and less printed "how-to's". I would love for a number of members to offer to make a project and I will help however in writing it up.

Keith Eckman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XueT1E41Myo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSQUdVKFfRE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OeLE7dgIII>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sT-gacyANxQ>

Green-Mengle Event a Great Success

About 150+ people showed up for this workshop put on by Steve Mengle and Eric Green and sponsored by CABA. By a most fortuitous set of circumstances they were able to have both Rob Hudson and Peter Ross demonstrating. Peter, as most of you are probably aware, is the Master Blacksmith at the James Anderson Blacksmith Shop in Williamsburg and Peter made several hardware pieces. Rob Hudson is one of the finest knife makers in the world and he managed to get a first class knife made by the end of the day.

The weather was a perfect cool and crystal clear. Mike Schermerhorn, the force behind the pure iron now being distributed, had brought down about a half ton of that great stuff from his Art and Metal company. Most of that sold in the first couple hours. There was good food, iron in the hat, neat stuff to bid on in the silent auction, trade items and tail gate sales. All in all a most excellent day.



*Scenes from the
Green-Mengle
event.*



Editor's Notes:

Jeff McComsey sent me the previous page from an early 2000's *Striker*. I think that was possibly my second or third group meeting and just an edition or two before I was offered the newsletter editor job.

Since that meeting a lot of time has passed... Blacksmithing isn't a "dieing trade" anymore in my opinion, but it has changed. Mainstream media has showcased smithing in many ways, both good and bad. Groups like PABA and ABANA and all the other groups around the world have stepped up and brought people in to a hobby or a job that will continue to stand the test of time. I think every group struggles to keep volunteers offering their time and also having meetings that cater to both beginners and professionals. The upcoming Gallery Meeting is a great time to share what you want to see the group doing in the future. Its also a great time to jump in and volunteer for a position in the group to help us keep blacksmithing alive and well.

PABA has lost a number of members and also gained a number of new members since that long ago meeting. Both Steve Mengle and Eric Green have passed away but the meetings they held and their involvement in Blacksmithing will live on for a long time. I have a small swage that they made and I also have items that I've won or bought from members at past meetings. That's how everyone can leave a legacy in something they love to do. Make something, put your mark on it, give it away or sell

it. You may not be the next Sam Yellin, but that item will be around most likely longer then you are. Along those same lines... When you help in a group like PABA you can bring in new members, help educate the general public and pass skills along to future generations.

I'm probably rambling since its late while I'm finishing the newsletter, finally... I think it all comes down to a few simple things. If you enjoy blacksmithing, help out when you are able. Pass your skills or use your expertise to help grow and shape our group. Elections are in a few months. We need a President, Secretary, two Board members plus several committee chairs. I'm always hunting shop tips, project ideas, event information and anything you think could benefit PABA.

Thanks for reading,
Keith Eckman
PABA Editor



Member Offered Blacksmithing Classes

Allen Schaeffer • Furnace Creek Forge • Beginner Blacksmithing Classes • Learn the basics one on one
484.651.9402 • www.FurnaceCreekForge.com

Dave Fisher • Blacksmith Classes • Fisher Forge • 572 Saint Michaels Rd. Hamburg, PA 19526
610-504-8060 • fforge@early.com - **Classes w/Dave Fisher through the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance**
610-562-3106 hamburgarts@verizon.net - \$190 (4 classes)

Derick Kemper • Damsely Forge • Phone - 410-937-4244 • Email - Damselyforge@gmail.com
<https://www.damselyforge.com/blacksmith-classes>

Drunken Smithy • Blacksmithing Classes • 61 W Front Street, Suite C • Palmyra, PA 17078
(717) 833-4105 • forge@drunkensmithy.com

Martha Moore Westbrook • Jewelry & Metalsmithing Classes • caersidi@earthlink.net • 610-730-6216
Goggleworks Center for the Arts, Reading PA: www.goggleworks.org
The Baum School of Art, Allentown, PA: www.baumschool.org

Regional Blacksmithing Classes

Adirondack Folk School - www.adirondackfolkschool.org • P.O. Box 2 • Lake Luzerne • NY 12846 • 518-696-2400

Appalachian Center for Craft - 1560 Craft Center Drive • Smithville, TN 37166 • 931-372-3051 or 615-597-6801
www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/workshops/

Augusta Heritage Center - augustaartsandculture.org • 100 Campus Drive • Elkins, WV 26241 • 304-637-1287

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland - Carroll County Farm Museum • Westminster, MD • 410-386-3881 or Karen -
ksjones@carrollcountymd.gov • <https://www.bgcmonline.org/classes>

Bryn Athyn College - www.brynathyn.edu/departments/building-arts • 2945 College Drive • Bryn Athyn, PA 19009
267-502-6000 • jkline@brynathyn.edu

Cedar Lakes - <http://www.cedarlakes.com/craft-workshops/> • HC 88, Box 21 • Ripley, WV 25271 • 304-372-7873

Center for Metal Arts - www.centerformetalarts.com • 106 Iron St • Johnstown, PA 15906 • 814.418.0409

Clifton Forge School of the Arts - www.cfsota.org • 518 Church Street • Clifton Forge, VA 24422 • 540-862-7275

Floyd Center for the Arts - www.floydartcenter.org • 220 Parkway Lane, South • Floyd, VA. 24091 • 540-745-2784

John C. Campbell Folk School - www.folkschool.org • 1 Folk School Rd • Brasstown, North Carolina 28902
1.800.FOLK.SCH (365.5724)

Ms Caitlin's School - 26 West All Saints St. - Frederick, MD 21701 - www.mscaitlinschool.com
301-246-2248 - to schedule an appointment - Info@mscaitlinschool.com

National Ornamental Metal Museum - www.metalmuseum.org • 374 Metal Museum Drive • Memphis, TN 38106
901-774-6380 or 1-877-881-2326 • info@metalmuseum.org

New England School of Metalwork - www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com • 7 Albiston Way • Auburn, Maine 04210
207-777-6211 Toll Free 888-753-7502 • dglaser@newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com

Peters Valley Craft Center - www.petersvalley.org • 19 Kuhn Road • Layton, NJ 07851 • 973-948-5200

Randy McDaniel, Classes, author of "A Blacksmithing Primer" • 1044 Spielman Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
rams4g@msn.com - www.blacksmithschoolwv.com

Rochester ARC + Flame Center - www.rocafc.com • 125 Fed Ex Way • Rochester, NY 14624 • 585-349-7110

Touchstone Center for Crafts - 1049 Wharton Furnace Rd • Farmington, PA 15437 • 724-329-1370 or 800-721-0177
www.touchstonecrafts.org/workshops • info@touchstonecrafts.org **50th Year Special Events!**

Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing - 200 West Twelfth St. • Waynesboro, VA 22980 • 434-960-9718 • www.vablacksmithing.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Eggerling Damascus - Specializing in Mosaic Blade & Bolster Material
Robert Eggerling 610-682-6836 - www.eggerlingdamascus.com

**Looking to buy or
sell? Please send
the Editor your
listing.**

Andrew Reist - Oak Lawn Blacksmith Shop - Lancaster, Pennsylvania
717-925-9310 - oaklawnblacksmith@gmail.com

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/OakLawnBlacksmithUS> or <https://www.facebook.com/OakLawnBlacksmith/>
Anvils, Swage blocks and other Blacksmith tools.

HOLLAND ANVIL - www.hollandanvil.com - Anvils, Swage Blocks, and Blacksmith Supplies

-- All Holland Anvil products are cast at our foundry in Holland, Michigan. We outsource our grinding and heat treat to local businesses, but everything else is handled in house. We have years of industrial experience with H13 and ductile iron and we are proud to bring our knowledge to you through our castings.

SUPPLIERS

Reese's Coal- Blacksmithing Coal - 53 Church Road - Quarryville, PA 17566 - 717-786-3375 (please call for hours)

Elligson Trucking - Freeland, MD 21053 - Blacksmithing coal - 410-357-5720 - <https://elligsontrucking.com/index.html>

Martin's Ag Service - Blacksmith Coal - 717.354.4996 - 338 Grist Mill Rd, New Holland, Pa -

Coopersburg Bagging - 551 Springfield Street, Coopersburg, PA - 610.282.2376. Normally sells coal by the ton, but sometimes has less than ton lots in 50# bags.

Fisher Coal Co. - English Center, PA - 570-337-5764 - Blacksmith coal sales

Mellinger Elvin E. & Sons - Blacksmith Coal - 117 Long Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603 - 717-464-3822

Reifsnnyder's Ag Center - 7180 Bernville Rd Bernville, PA - 610-488-0667 - Blacksmithing coal

Weaverland Valley Coal - 170 Ranks Church Rd, New Holland, PA 17557 - 717-4454488

Blacksmithing Books - Blue Moon Press - Blue Moon Rd, Huntingdon, PA 16652 - 866-627-6922 - www.bluemoonpress.org

Metalworking Books - The Astragal Press - 5 Cold Hill Road - Mendham, NJ 07945 - 973-543-3045 - www.AstragalPress.com

Kayne & Son Custom Hardware, Inc. - Blacksmiths Depot - 100 Daniel Ridge Rd. Candler NC 28715 -
(828) 667-8868 - www.blacksmithsdepot.com

GTS Gas - Gas & Welding Supplies - gtsgas.com- locations all over PA and the country - 1-800-942-1148

KEEN Compressed Gas Co. - Welding supplies & equipment. - Wilmington, DE - 800-533-6427 - www.keengas.com

SAHD Metal Recycling & Sales - www.recycleyourmetal.com

1045 Lancaster Avenue, Columbia, PA 17512 - 717-684-8506 - dan@recycleyourmetal.com

Steel and Metal Liquidators LLC, - www.shopmetal.com - 407 Old Airport Rd. - New Castle, DE 19720 - 302-322-9960 &
1584 Bunting Street - Pottsville, PA 17901- 570-391-0141

Rivets - Various sizes and metals, also screws and other fasteners. R. J. Leahy Company, 1475 Yosemite Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124 - www.rjleahy.com • Phone 1-800-514-4106

Larry Zoeller - Forge building info and Supplies. Phone: 502 439-0812 - Zoeller Forge, 7509 Geswein Rd., Lanesville, IN 47136
zman59@earthlink.net - <http://zoellerforge.com>

Custom Forge Aprons - FORGE-APRONS.com - (575) 313-4650 - 1373 S. Powell Dr., Kanab, UT 84741

Page Belting Company - 104 High Street - Boscawen, NH 03303 - www.pagebelting.com - leather belting and gaskets

Brown Engineering Co. - 2135 North 13th Street, Reading, PA 19604 - brownengco.com - 610-929-0909 - Distributer of mechanical parts, lubricants and supplies.

Cattail Foundry - 167 W. Cattail Road Gordonville, PA 17529 - Amish owned metal foundry. Produces castings from nearly any pattern or part you supply.

PENNSYLVANIA



1370 New Danville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

Elections and 2025 Dues in Decemeber!

Note: PABA Membership is good for the household you don't need one for each person.

*Thanks to the following for
their contribution or assistance
to the Striker.*

Andrew Molinaro
Jeff McComsey
Lenka Votrubova
Pul Huf
Carolyn Newcomer
Luke Schultz

*I apologize if anyone was missed,
it was not my intention.*

www.paba-site.org



PABA-PA-Artist-
Blacksmiths-Association

PABA Membership Application 2024 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) \$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

Do you have any particular skills (welder, accountant, carpenter, doctor) that may be helpful to the group or membership? _____

Please circle your skill level... Beginner Intermediate Advanced Professional

PayPal option - Pabapaypal@gmail.com

Make Checks payable to PABA. Send completed application and \$25 (one year) to: Lenka Votrubova - 1023 Old Penfield Rd, Clearfield, PA 16830

PABA USE

Cash _____ Check # _____ PayPal _____

New Member \$25 _____ **New Member after June** _____ **Renewal \$25** _____

June-Dec. price \$10 _____ 2024