

Pennsylvania Striker



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

January 2024

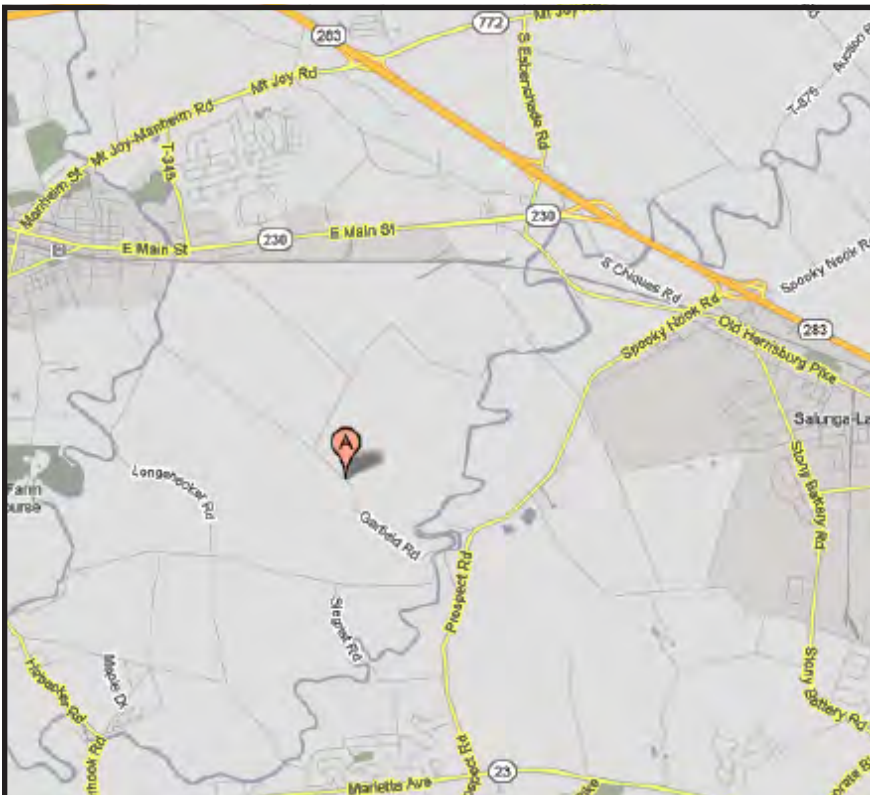
Next Meeting Date: Saturday, February 10

The Newcomer's - Mt. Joy, PA

It's been a few years since our last meeting there but PABA members have been invited back to the Newcomer's for our February meeting. Stan & Carolyn have plenty of room in the shop and garage to setup and enjoy the days events.

The featured demonstrator for the day will be Derick Kemper. Derick's a "classically trained blacksmith specializing in the creation and restoration of architectural ironwork, sculpture, and high-end knives", according to his website www.damselflyforge.com. He also happens to be a forged in fire champion (if you're interested in that sort of thing -S5 E32). According to Stan, Derick will be demonstrating a few different items in addition to a blade. This should be a great meeting!

The meeting will start around 9AM with the usual lunch break and short membership meeting to update everyone about some upcoming PABA happenings. In case of weather issues, please watch our website and Facebook pages for more information closer to the date.



Carolyn & Stanley will provide chicken corn soup & hot dogs for lunch.

Please bring a side dish to share

**Iron Master of the Day Item:
Valentine's Day Item**

Bring your items & money for the **Iron In The Hat**

Stanley Newcomer - 1036 Garfield Rd
Mount Joy, PA 17552 - 717-653-4148

DIRECTIONS

From Lancaster Area - Rt. 283 W - Take the exit toward Salunga - Turn left on Spooky Nook Rd - Continue onto Prospect Rd - Turn right at Garfield Rd, about 1 mile.

From Harrisburg area - Rt 283 E toward Airport/Lancaster - Take the exit toward Salunga - Turn right on Spooky Nook Rd. - Continue onto Prospect Rd - Turn right at Garfield Rd, about 1 mile.

PABA Contacts

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1023 Old Penfield Rd
Clearfield, PA 16830
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Membership is open to anyone interested in blacksmithing. Dues are \$25 per calendar year. Contact a board member for an application.

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Committee Leaders

Iron in the Hat Chairperson - Gary Rhoads

Equipment & Maintenance - Mike Manes

Publication Contact - Keith Eckman

Safety Equipment - Herb Moyer

ABANA Affiliate Contact - Doug Learn

Library - John Kauffman & Martin Reynolds

Event Hosting - NEEDED

Facebook Monitor - Luke Shultz

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

Presidents Message

Hello fellow smiths!

I am finally back on track with my presidential duties.

As some of you may know, I recently moved my shop from Stroudsburg to a little town called Clearfield. There are several and this particular one is north and a little west of State College. Moving all that equipment as well as our personal stuff took quite a bit of effort. I am now set back up in an old industrial building (nothing new there) and look forward to having some or all of you up to visit if you are up to the drive.

I want to thank our secretary Rick Cooper for filling in for me at the Gallery meeting in December. Lenka and I made a slight mistake in our travels and missed the event. Something to do with AM and PM on flight info. I can hear my dad complaining about people not using military time. From all I hear Rick did fantastic job. And from my perspective so did the rest of the board. I truly think we have a great team and add to that Will Smith being elected as our new Vice President.

Looking forward, we will be getting our forges, anvils, and tools ready for use by membership at every meeting from now on. Our long-term goal to provide a means for our membership to get hands on time forging is coming true. Please bring your enthusiasm and a project idea or two to the next meeting. Any one of us on the board and most members will be happy to help get the stations set up for you.

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

*Andrew Molinaro
PABA President"*

PABA CALENDAR 2024

April 27- GoggleWorks Forge Fest, Reading, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:

Table Top Sculpture

- Join GoggleWorks, Albright College, and Pennsylvania Artists Blacksmith Association on Saturday, April 27th, 2024 for the seventh annual Iron Pour, now featuring Forge Fest!

- PABA's Forge Fest will take place from 12-6:30pm, followed by the Iron Pour from 6:30-9pm.
goggleworks.org/event/spring-iron-pour-forge-fest/

June - ABANA(?) - More info to come.

August 3 - Blacksmith Day, Wernersville, PA
Old Dry Road Farm,
Iron Master of the Day Item:
A Lock (choice of what kind)

October- Andrew's New Shop, Clearfield, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Campfire Cooking Item

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

Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac
April 20-21, 2024

Frederick Co. Fairgrounds
250 Fairground Rd, Clearbrook, VA
Demonstrators

KIM THOMAS - Thomas Ironworks - @kimthomasironworks
RICHARD SULLIVAN - Williamsburg Gunsmith
<http://www.bgop.org> - contact info -- the site is not updated.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U0tIQ-J-htl4wU8Az6sE7U--HDzv8y0w/view>

Blacksmith Gathering 5
"Forges n' Fires"
May 16-19

Reynlow Park - Reynoldsville PA

Ready yer hammers the 5th annual 2024 Blacksmith Gathering forging festival will soon be here. This year we forge hotter n' hit harder..

We will have many brand new faces and seasoned grizzled veterans in the forge this year, blacksmiths, bladesmiths, smelters, vendors, tool dealers oh my, what a time it will be. All good folks are welcome.

Visit Blacksmith Gathering USA Facebook group for more information..

www.facebook.com/groups/327758755187201

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 34th annual Blacksmith Days
Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland.
May 18 & 19, 2024

500 South Center Street
Westminster, MD, 21157

This years demonstrators are Mark Sperry of Colonial Williamsburg and Matt Stagmer host and executive producer of the That Works Youtube channel. Activities include contests, tailgating, Iron-in-the-hat drawings, Forging Contests, Live Auction and more! This is a save the date notification. Come back often and check in as we update the event notification

www.bgconline.org/events/blacksmith-days-2024

Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths
2024 Conference May 16-18, 2024
Cannonsburgh Village
312 South Front Street,
Murfreesboro, TN

Demonstrator Roy Adams: Baroque Style Elements Roy Adams resides in Harrisville, Michigan with his wife and three children. Roy's interest in blacksmithing began in childhood when he watched a blacksmith at his work at Carriage Hill Metropark. He began forging in 2008 after receiving an antique coal forge as a gift from his wife. Roy studied under prestigious blacksmiths such as Thomas Latane, Peter Ross, Clay Spencer, Douglas Pryor, and Wayne Apgar.

<https://aacblacksmiths.org>

ABANA
50th Anniversary
Celebration & Conference

Save the date for June 6-9, 2024!
The next ABANA conference will be in
Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
<https://abana.org/50thanniversary/>

Please share upcoming events!
Send info to the editor.

PABA Gallery

PABA had a nice turn-out for the December Gallery meeting. We had several new members and a good amount of show and tell items to enjoy. The pot luck lunch was great. Thank you to all those that brought the excellent dishes.

The PABA membership meeting highlights are covered on page 6. Enjoy a few pictures of some of the items that were on show.



Rick Varner brought a recent fish sculpture commission he finished.

Mary Myers had her eclectic metal art on display as well.

Below are a few of the Holiday Iron Master items. Stan Newcomer was the winner.



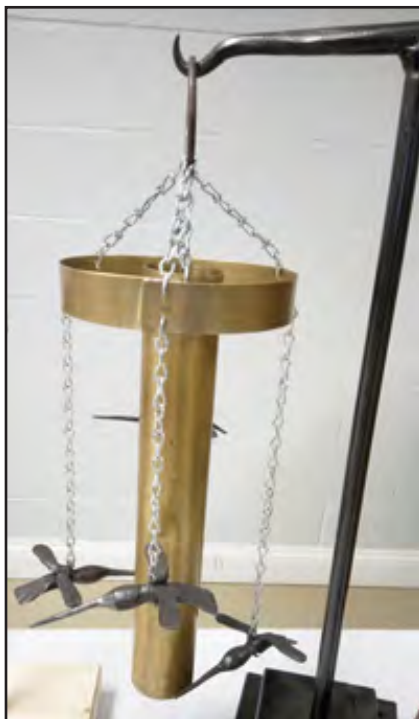
Jeff Rinker brought a table full of items. If you're interested in Moravian Stars... He has a book available.





Above are more items by Jeff Rinker.
Below are a few of the pieces Stan Newcomer brought along.

Bill Pursel brought some of his items plus a number of how-to pages to share.



Will Smith brought some wrought iron items.



Robert Eggerling had a display of his Mosaic Damascus along with a book about the work he is doing with Cabot Guns.



Fold forming items by Curtis Bohn



PABA Updates & Information

The Membership meeting in December brought up several ideas and points for the future of PABA. Some items were fleshed out by the Board after the meeting and are still being looked at. Below is a list of the main items and where they are at as of this newsletter.

- * The Elections were held and we have a new Vice President. Will Smith has take over for Paul and has brought several ideas to the group already. He has spoken with Holland Anvil and received a donation for the group to Raffle off. More information will be in the next newsletter.
- * Brad Gray and Lenka Votrubova are continuing on in their positions.
- * We had an offer from Mike Manes to be the Committee person in charge of the equipment. He wanted a bit more information before he fully commits. The Board will be gather the items lists and locations as well as listing the duties for that position. Hopefully he'll take over!
- * The meeting at the Goggleworks will be similar to last year with the late start at around noon and finishing right before the iron pour. Paul Huf is the liaison and is also checking with the person that does the iron melting to see if its possible to pour ductal iron for a small swage block. Steve Faust presented that idea.
- * The group will now be giving \$150 to the meeting hosts as both a thank you and to help with the cost of opening up a shop for our meetings.
- * Joint members of Rough & Tumble and PABA want us to explorer having a meeting at their location in Kinzers, PA. They have a nice blacksmith shop and grounds similar to Williams Grove.
- * We're still waiting on some information regarding the June meeting and it's overlap with the ABANA conference.
- * Several people want the Treasurer's report published more often. We will have it in the newsletter several times a year now.
- * Would the membership like to have a group forging contest or just a group forging item to make during the meetings? This idea was brought up by Steve Faust and we'd like input on what members would like to do.

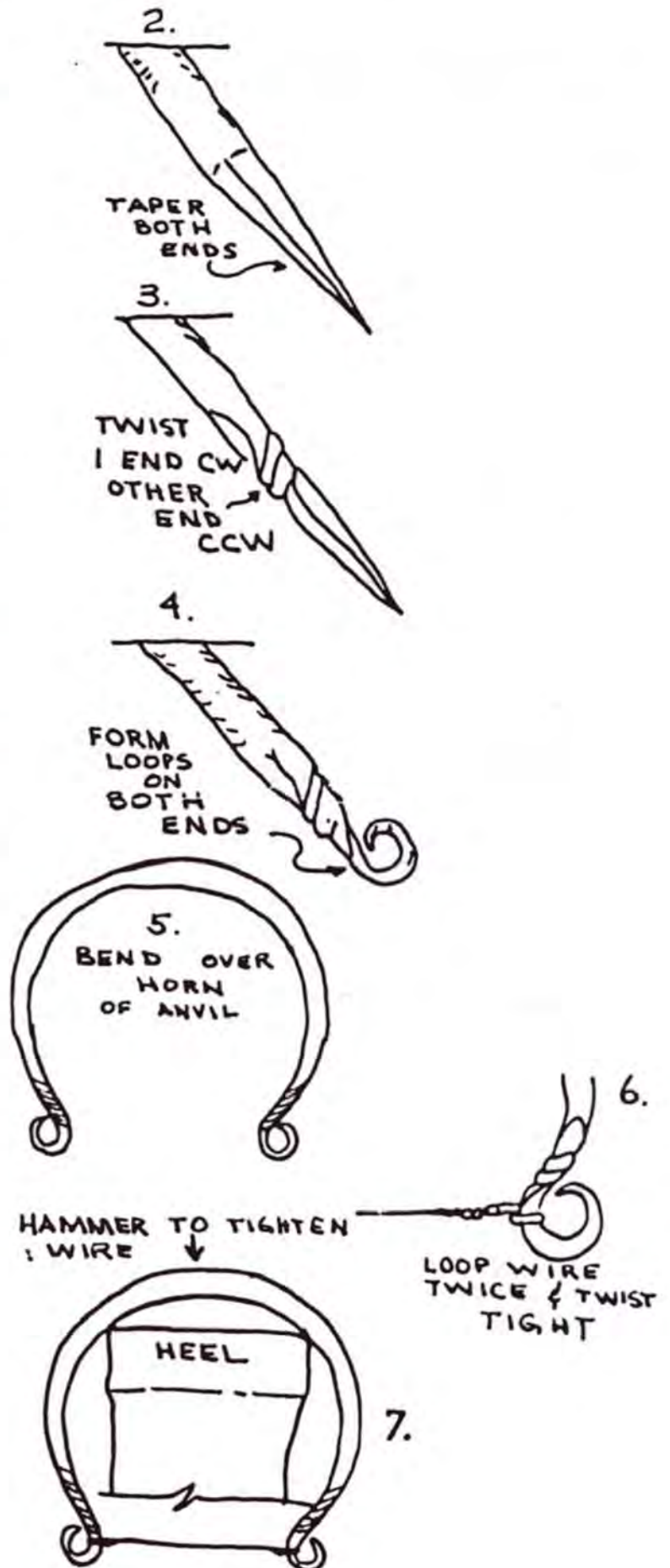
The Board is always glad for new ideas and help with meeting ideas. If you want to share your skills or help with projects... Please let us know!



Making a Cheese Cutter

Here's a nice quickie project that has real customer appeal.

1. Start with a piece of 1/4" or 5/16" stock, either square or round, approximately 9" long.
2. Taper both ends an inch or so, whatever you think you'll need to make a nice loop on the end.
3. Twist the ends. Twist one end clockwise and the other counter-clockwise. You could also make decorative twists in the center of the handle at this time if you care to.
4. Then form loops on each end.
5. Bend into (GOD.....FORBID) a horseshoe shape by using the horn of the anvil.
6. Wrap a wire through one end of the loops twice, stretch to the other loop and wrap twice again. Wire such as .035 MIG wire, solid guitar or banjo strings, or solid piano wire work well.
7. Using the heel of the anvil, hammer the middle of the handle over the heel to tighten the wire.
8. Finish with a little vegetable oil to preserve the look you want.





FRED ZWEIG'S CHASING & REPOUSSE

AABA'S FALL DEMO AT GRIZZ IRON



TIPS from FRED:

Pitch from Northwest Pitch Works
Use thick enough metal... 18 gauge is good.

Bump metal up to highest point of final design.
Not limited to pitch... use sandbags, foam, air, stakes,

Look at contour (sideview) frequently to maintain proportion...
This is easily done w rounded bottom pitch bowls.
Anneal often



Sketch on paper...
Glue to metal...
Scratch in design.



Bump up metal to
highest point of
final design early on!




Blunt tool to
define where you
are working.



illustration by Dale Harvey
digital translation by Bonnie Harvey

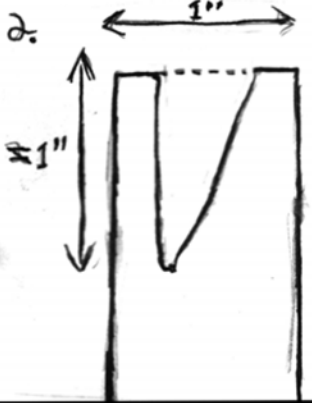
1. mark the fingers on your 1" bar like so.
Tip: cut three equally spaced marks for the four fingers and thumb. Like so.




6. Now from the thumb mark, cut at an angle to the center of the palm.



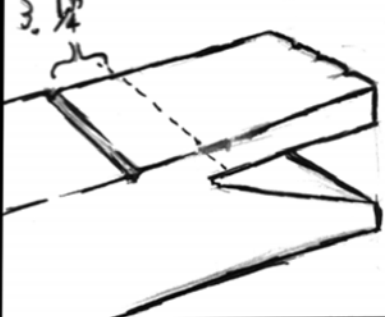
2. Now, cut straight down about the thickness of the bar, in this case cut down 1" or a little more. Then from the thumbs mark, cut at a diagonal angle to the bottom of your first cut.



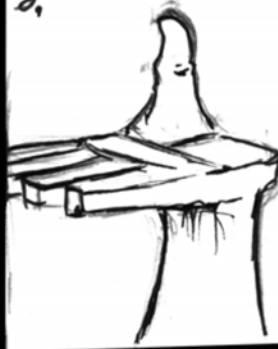
7. Mark and cut the four-fingers to proper length. Use your own hand as a reference.




3. ~Important~ On the back of the hand mark 1/4 on an inch bellow the end of the first cut inside the bar.




8. Now shape and shorten the thumb, it should be around as long as the index finger. Shape with a grinder.




4. Now taper out the wrist on the edge of the anvil. Keep going until proper proportions are met.




9. Lay down the thumb to the side.



5. Now fold the Four-fingers into a horizontal position.



10. And finally round off and detail the fingers and palm, (Use your own hand as reference as much as possible.).
Add in as much detail to the hand as you want and above all else.
Have fun!



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March 2024

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, April 27

Iron Pour & Forge Fest

Join, GoggleWorks, Albright College, and Pennsylvania Artists Blacksmith Association on Saturday, April 27th, 2024 for Iron Pour and Forge Fest! <https://goggleworks.org/event/spring-iron-pour-forge-fest/>

Forge Fest: 12-6:30pm -- Iron Pour: Approx. 6:30-9pm -- Free Admission | Free Parking

PABA will start setting up everything before noon. Everything should be ready to go by 11am.

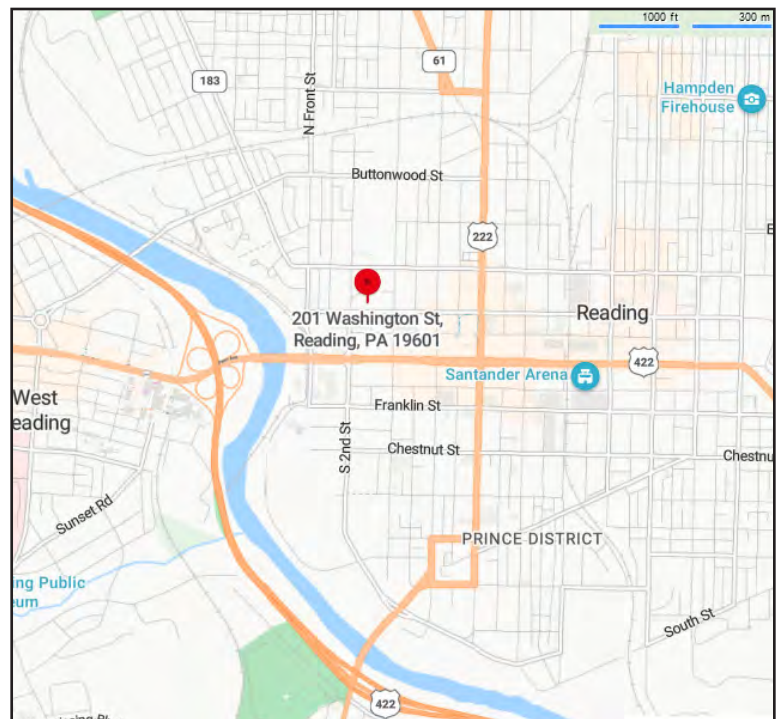
Live Music Demos Workshops Firepits S'mores Stations Food Bar & More

PABA starts off the days events with the Forge Fest. We'll have several forges going so members are able to step in and make items. There will be no Iron in the Hat and no designated area for tailgating. Based on the site layout and the amount of general public that comes, its difficult to maintain. Our *Iron Master of the Day Item* is a **Table Top Sculpture**, so PABA can show off our member's skill to the attendees.

Finally, cap off an amazing evening right, with an exciting display as 2,000 pounds of iron is heated to 3,000 degrees and the molten metal is tapped for pouring. *During the last board meeting the idea of pouring a small swage block was brought up. Paul Huf made inital contact with Brian Glaze from Albright College about this idea and Steve Faust followed up by providing a small swage block of his as a mold. With a little luck, we'll be able to see a small (5lb?) ductile iron swage poured.*

This year's event features even more activities beyond metalworking, including hands-on activities for kids and adults, live music, food trucks from Munchiez and Bapanada, craft beers by Saucony Creek, and desserts from Sugar & Sweets by Ami. The first fifty curious participants will have the opportunity to purchase and prepare their own mold to be later cast in molten iron.

Directions: coming in from business 422 go across the bridge then turn left onto 3rd Street. Turn left again onto Washington Street then turn right onto 2nd street. Immediately turn right into the parking lot.



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Presidents Message

After 24 years in Stroudsburg, I moved back to my hometown of Clearfield PA. What an ordeal moving many tons of equipment, tools, tables, and just plain old metal turned out to be! My previous move was when the shop was growing. I had 5 guys working for me and the move was one block away. This time I had zero guys working for me and 180 miles to move. A few

lessons came along with this move, and I would like to take this time to share them.

Scrap and Drop pieces of metal are your friend and your biggest enemy. In the course of my move, I ended up taking over 10,000lbs of metal to the scrap yard! It took up a lot of time and energy that should have been focused on moving tools and equipment. So big enemy there. On the other hand, it put about \$1800 in cash back in my pocket at a time I really needed it. So big friend there. Lesson here is just to be aware and if I must move again, scrap that stuff ahead of time and put it in a moving fund.

Corners. Corners are bad. When you occupy a shop long term, you get very good at packing things away. You know, the things that are super useful once every ten years. And once they get really packed away you lose track of them. And then you forget you have them. And sometimes, you get another one! And the corners are the worst. They get piled up, stay dark and mysterious, and hoard many things. I thought I was close to done moving and then I started with the corners. This happens when you are tired, ready to be done, and willing to dumpster things just to be done. All of the sudden you are faced with these valuable and somewhat odd items and bad things can happen. Dumpster things! The lesson is, don't leave the corners for last. Hit em early and hit em hard.

Go slow and be careful. I managed to have only one loss in the entire move. It was "the Swede". A Swedish made drill press that has been a workhorse in my shop for many years. It made it to the new shop unscathed, as did everything else. The last ten feet via hand truck and I got too confident. Turned a bit too fast and the table section spun in the post, threw the whole thing off balance, and took me with it. I rolled and managed to not get crushed, but the complicated power switch was obliterated. That is not replaceable so it will be an interesting repair. Now I moved power hammers, top heavy mills, pallets of tooling, and tons (literally) of steel with not even a close call. I went slow and steady and mostly by myself. Helpers are the worst for making you rush things. If they can't slow down, refuse their help. It's always when you rush that you make mistakes.

At the end of the day, I am very happy I moved. Many unused items were purged, and being forced to lay out my space again has resulted in much more efficiency. We love our shops indeed, but rethinking them, even if you don't have to move, is a great way to achieve an even better shop.

Andrew Molinaro, PABA President

PABA CALENDAR 2024

June 15- Old Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item: Tomahawk/Hatchet
This will be a normal meeting. There may be time to organize some of PABA's items for Blacksmith Day and if we're allowed... A hatchet throw?

August 3 - Blacksmith Day, Wernersville, PA
Old Dry Road Farm,
Iron Master of the Day Item:
A Lock (choice of what kind)

October- Andrew's New Shop, Clearfield, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Campfire Cooking Item

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

A-Day 2024 - April 26-28
Delaware Valley University
700 E. Butler Ave.
Doylestown, Pa. 18901

Friday, 12-8pm - Saturday, 10am - 7pm - Sunday, 10am - 6pm
Activities and things to see for the entire family. Food Trucks, Vendors, Tractor Parade, Milkshakes from PA Dairymen's Association Milkshakes Doug Learn will be blacksmithing
<https://delval.edu/community-members/a-day>

Blacksmith Gathering 5
"Forges n' Fires"
May 16-19

Reynlow Park - Reynoldsville PA
Ready yer hammers the 5th annual 2024 Blacksmith Gathering forging festival will soon be here. This year we forge hotter n' hit harder..
We will have many brand new faces and seasoned grizzled veterans in the forge this year, blacksmiths, bladesmiths, smelters, vendors, tool dealers oh my, what a time it will be. All good folks are welcome.
Visit Blacksmith Gathering USA Facebook group for more information.. www.facebook.com/groups/327758755187201

pm; Competition Teams will have access to select and cut their needed materials.

Thursday, June 6th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating.

Friday, June 7th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating, and evening lecture.

Saturday, June 8th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating, and evening auction.

Sunday, June 9th: Tour the Center for Metal Arts at 9 am.

<https://abana.org/conference-registration/#!event-register/2024/6/6/guest-registration>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 34th annual Blacksmith Days
Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland.
May 18 & 19, 2024

500 South Center Street
Westminster, MD, 21157

This years demonstrators are Mark Sperry of Colonial Williamsburg and Matt Stagmer host and executive producer of the That Works Youtube channel. Activities include contests, tailgating, Iron-in-the-hat drawings, Forging Contests, Live Auction and more! This is a save the date notification. Come back often and check in as we update the event notification

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2024 Conference May 16-18, 2024
Cannonsburgh Village
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Demonstrator Roy Adams: Baroque Style Elements Roy Adams resides in Harrisville, Michigan with his wife and three children. Roy's interest in blacksmithing began in childhood when he watched a blacksmith at his work at Carriage Hill Metropark. He began forging in 2008 after receiving an antique coal forge as a gift from his wife. Roy studied under prestigious blacksmiths such as Thomas Latane, Peter Ross, Clay Spencer, Douglas Pryor, and Wayne Apgar.
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ABANA
50th Anniversary
Celebration & Conference

Save the date for June 6-9, 2024!
The next ABANA conference will be
in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
<https://abana.org/50thanniversary/>

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, June 5th: Opening Ceremony at 4

The Newcomer's in February

The February weather at Stan's shop again turned out perfect. PABA had Derick Kemper (forged in fire champion, (s5 e32) www.damselflyforge.com) as our featured demonstrator. He made several styles of hatchet/tomahawks for us and took a few requests for other items as well. His background included, architectural iron, tools and blades, as well as horse shoeing.



Photos by Allen Schaeffer

Unfortunately I didn't get as many notes as I wanted. One of the items was a wrap around style tomahawk made from a used rasp. Another style of hatchet he made used a wrought iron body (approx. 3/8 x 1 x 7) with a high carbon insert for the cutting edge. Each was drifted for different types of handles after the body was forge welded together. Derick noted that you should make sure the heat is even and the metal is clean then use overlapping blows moving from the center toward the edge. He also mentioned that if you use wrought iron, it tends to move more easily than carbon steel



so it will stretch faster than the insert if you don't pay attention.



Photo by Paul Huf



Later in the day Derick attempted to make an ax with a Damascus steel cutting edge but the forge wasn't co-operating. Instead he passed around a version that he had made at his home shop. He also brought a number of examples of African forged iron and an impressive pole ax he created.



PABA had a nice turn out for the Iron Master of the Day, Valentine's theme. We ended up with two loveable winners, Rick Varner and Paul Janusz.



A HUGE thanks to Stan and Carolyn for hosting and providing the wonderful chicken corn soup and hot dogs! We can't forget thank Schelly for being our grill master and a thank you to all those that brought food to share.

PABA Updates & 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 grown 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.

Member Updates

Bill Pursel - Jeff McComsey visited Bill recently and he's doing well. If you want to send a card or possibly call or stop by... He is at Silver Springs Personal Care Home, 125 State Road, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17011. Room 39

Steve Gensheimer - I spoke with Steve a few weeks ago. He's still working on recovering from his stroke but I'm trying to persuade him to come to the April meeting to visit with the group.

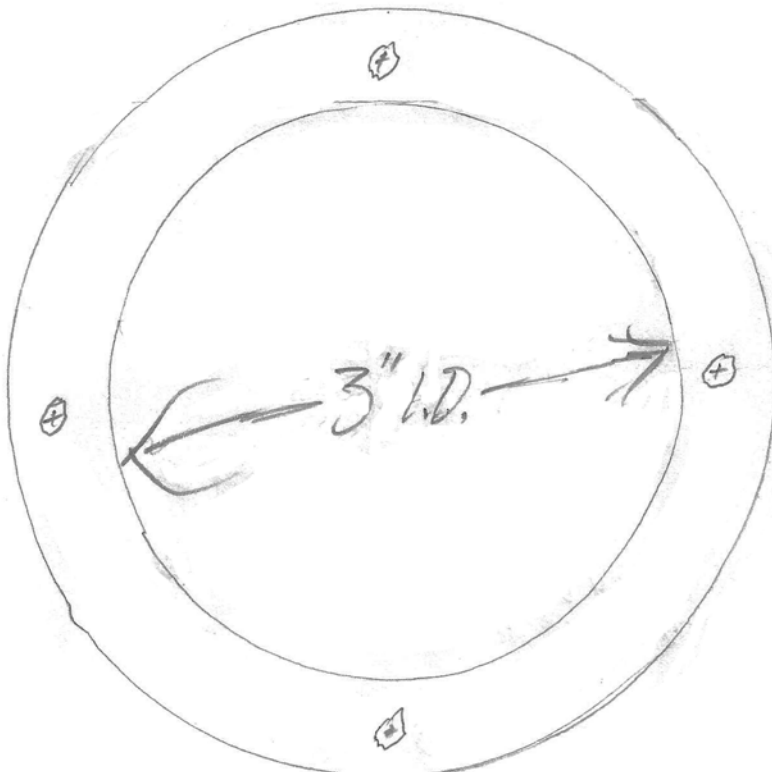
Dave Baver's wife unexpectedly passed away in February.

<https://memorials.kuhnfuneralhomes.com/helen-baver/5375865/>

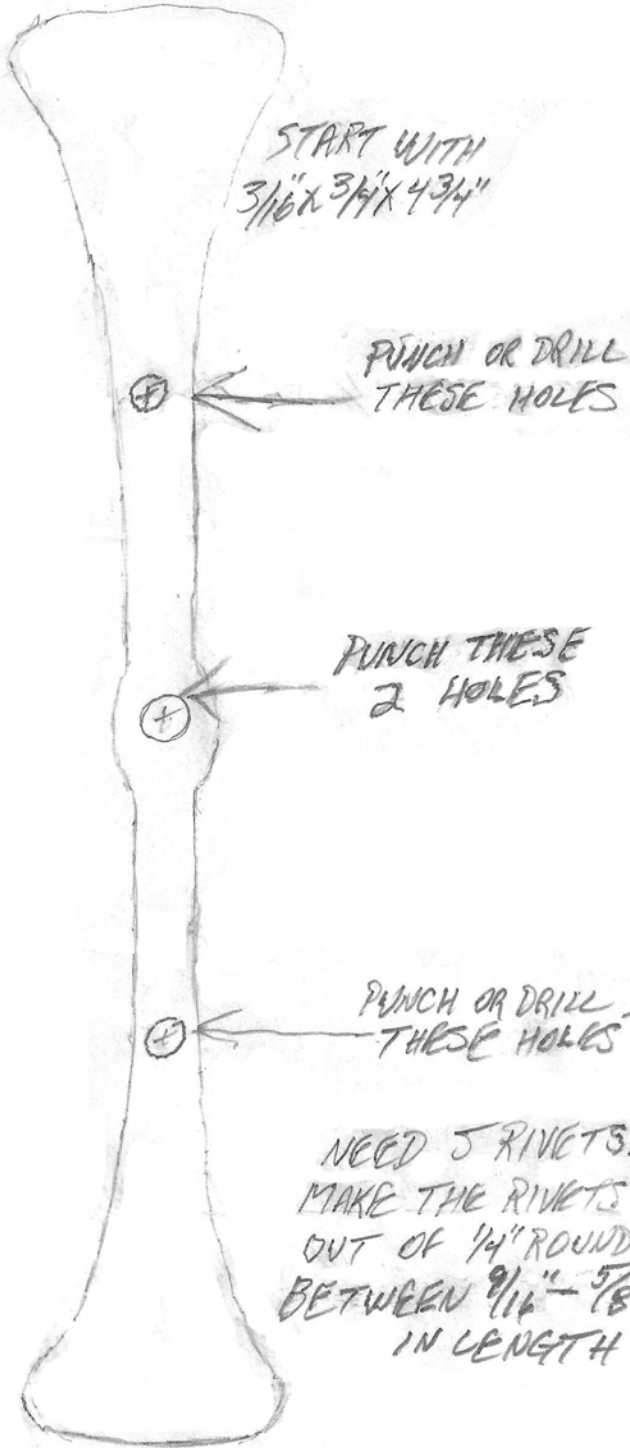
Celtic Cross - Steve Staurowsky

Ring Section - 1/8" x 1/2" x 11"

Chamfer the rivet holes on the backside for flush rivets.

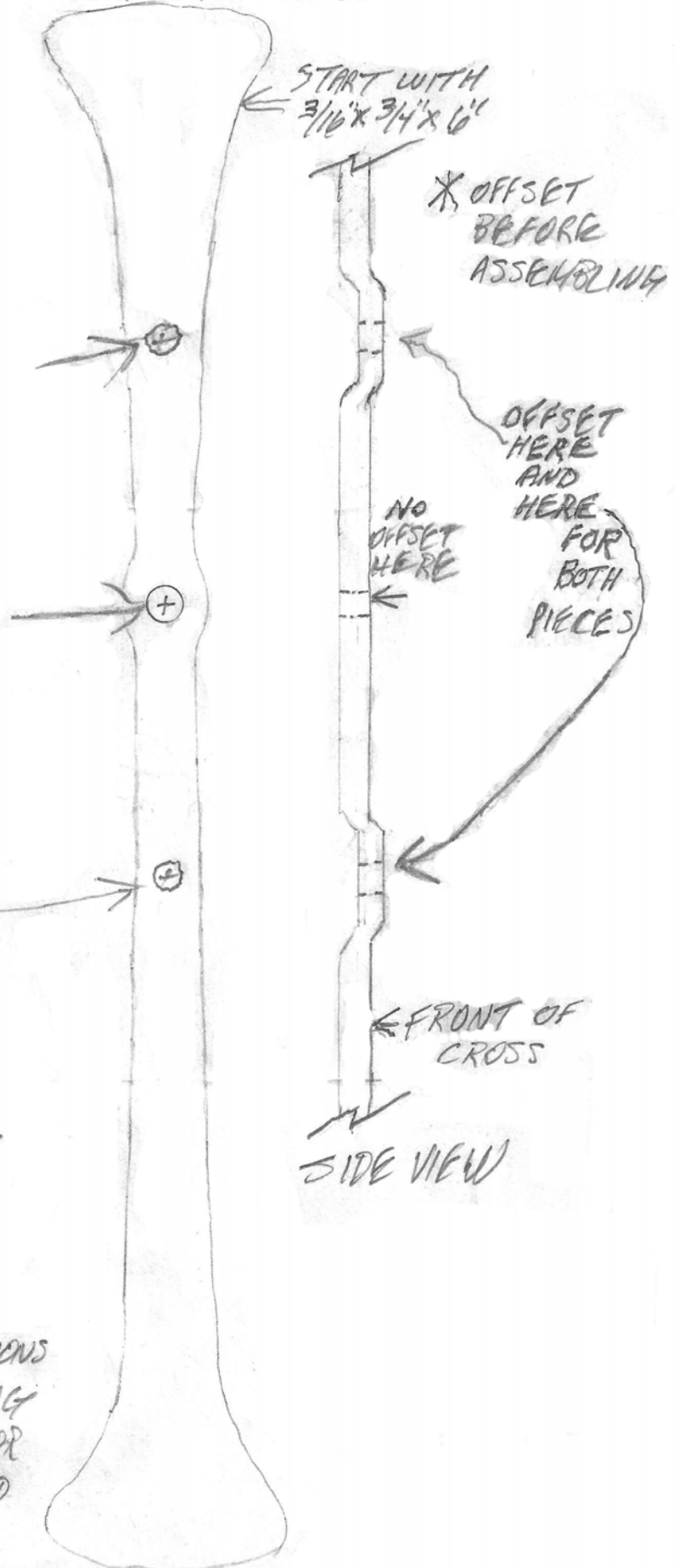


HORIZONTAL SECTION



FRONT VIEW

VERTICAL SECTION



FRONT VIEW

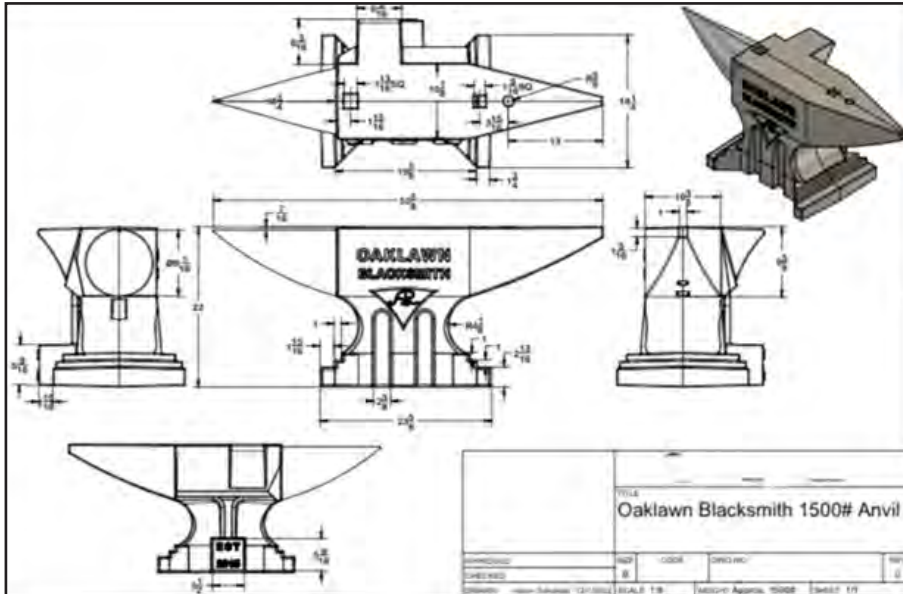
RIVET VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SECTIONS FIRST. THEN CLAMP RING IN PLACE AND DRILL OR PUNCH OUTER HOLES AND RIVET ONE AT A TIME,

1600 Pound Anvil from Oak Lawn Blacksmith - Andrew Reist

On June 26th, 2023, at 10:00 am, the first 1600 pound anvil was poured from H-13 tool steel. I feel honored to be able to make and design quality tools for people around the world. Oak Lawn tools have been sent to over twenty countries and 48 states over the past 10 years. Each tool steel anvil has a unique serial number on the bottom of the anvils, so I can identify the specific area/region to where it was shipped. Every tool produced by Oak Lawn Blacksmith is made either in Pennsylvania or Ohio.



There are many different stages and numerous hours that go into creating an anvil out of tool steel. It typically takes eight to twelve months from placing the order to delivery. The first stage of production



includes creating a computer 3-D model using Autodesk. Once the design is finished, a 3D plastic model is made and sent to a small foundry in Lancaster to cast in bronze. Once the design is approved, the file gets sent to a pattern shop, where they can use either a large 3-D printer, or make the pattern out of wood.

After the pattern is made, it gets sent to the foundry where anvils are cast using a sand mold. The mold for the 1600 lb. anvil was approximately four foot wide by eight foot long by five foot high. The actual dimensions are as follows: 54 inches long, 22 inches tall, 10 3/8" wide face (16" with side shelf). The hardy hole is 2" and the pritchel hole is 1 inch in diameter.

The foundry that I use is a large scale company that does industrial castings for the tool and die industry as well as the automotive industry.



I was fortunate to be able to go out to Ohio to see it poured and visit their facilities. It is amazing how much knowledge and science there is behind casting tool steel. I was surprised that they had a scientist on hand that took samples of each pour. When the first 1,600 pound anvil was poured, it weighted around 2,200 pounds including the gating. They poured the gating on side of the anvil where the OLBS is located. The gating that was attached to side of the anvil was about the diameter of a five gallon bucket.

Two weeks after the anvil was cast, the sand mould was opened and the gating was cut off. From the foundry, it is sent to another nearby company in Ohio that specializes in heat treating. The heat treater mentioned that these anvils were close to the maximum size that could fit in their oven. They use a conventional endothermic hardening system to harden the anvils to 54-56 Rockwell. After hardening, the anvils are delivered back to Pennsylvania to a machinist for grinding. The anvil is first Blanchard ground on



the top and bottom of the anvil, and then surface ground on the top face. After machining, the anvil was shipped to its new home and now resides in Iowa. The second anvil weights 1,611 pounds and was cast on September 21, 2023 and is now in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.



Oak Lawn Blacksmith Shop

Tool List



45 Pound Double Horn Anvil
(H-13) 54-65 Rockwell
\$425



25 Pound Single Horn Anvil
(H-13) 54-65 Rockwell
\$285



500 Pound Double Horn Anvil
(H-13) 54-65 Rockwell
-\$4200 (Made to Order)



6 inch (11 Pound) Swage Block, Ductile iron.
\$95



5 inch (6 Pound) Swage Block, Ductile iron.
\$65



16 inch Ductile Iron Cone Mandrel
\$125



Pennsylvania Striker



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

May 2024

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, June 15

Old Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA

PABA will be at Old Dry Road Farm for the next two meetings. Our next meeting will be a regular meeting. With luck we will be able to sort out some of the equipment we have in the trailer and stored at ODRF and get it organized for future use.

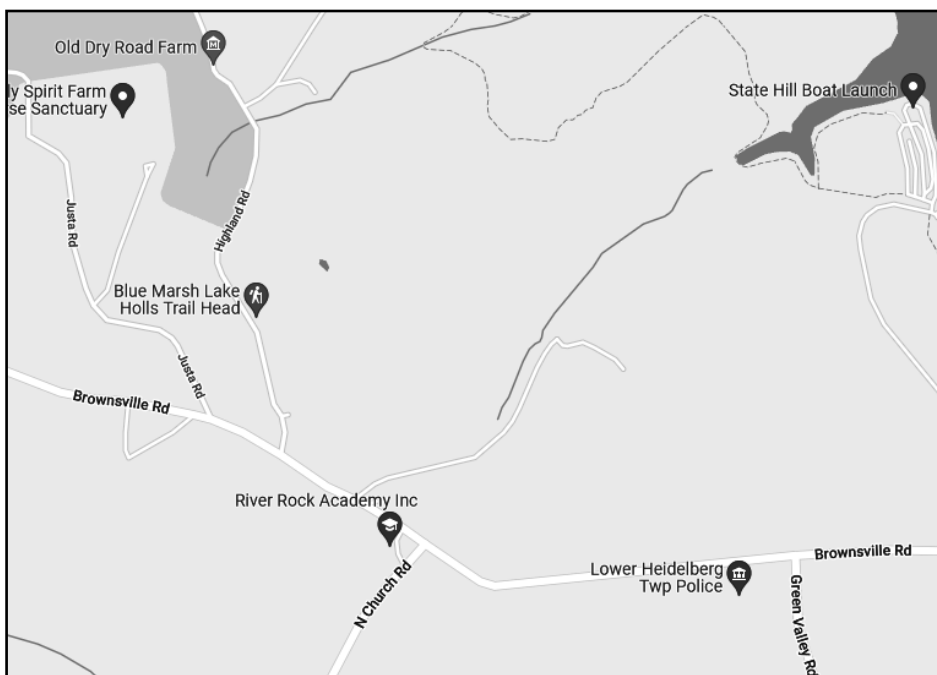
Forges will be hot and members will have a chance to demonstrate or work on projects. The Iron Master of the Day item is a Tomahawk/Hatchet. If we're able, there may be a hatchet throw to test them out. Dry Road Farm is pretty far away from any towns so please bring your lunch along.

Bring an idea. Bring a project. Bring some material. Bring a spare forge. Bring some work gloves. Bring an Iron Master item. Bring a lunch. Bring some tailgate items. Bring some Iron in the Hat stuff. Bring money for tickets. Bring a friend to help carry it all... But above all, bring yourself!

Old Dry Road Farm is located west of Reading near Blue Marsh Lake
202 Highland Road, Wernersville, PA.

From the East (Reading)
Follow US-422 W (W Penn Ave)
-Turn right onto Green Valley Rd
-Turn left onto Brownsville Rd *Look for Yellow Old Dry Rd Farm Sign and the PABA Anvil*
- Turn right onto Highland Rd

From the West
Follow US-422 E
-Turn left onto Bernville Rd
-Turn right onto Brownsville Rd
Look for Yellow Old Dry Rd Farm Sign and the PABA Anvil
-Turn left onto Highland Rd



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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.

-- President's Message --

It's time to head out to the farm again! Our hangout at Old Dry Road Farm will have a double shot this summer. This time though, we will be free of the more public type of hammer-in we had in Reading and will have at the farm in August. I'm looking forward to a bit more member chatting and forging an putting our new tongs and forges to work.

It is pretty exciting that we have ABANA in our state now and the conference right in our back yard in a few weeks. I, for one, am so glad the forge in Johnstown is getting up and running and that we have a conference so close to us. I hope I will see some of you out there.

Short message for me this month as I am still getting things going again, but I do want to thank all of you who came out to Reading and the Goggleworks in April. We had a great showing for PABA, and had a great time all in all. Special thanks to Paul Huff and Dave Fisher for sharing their forging knowledge with some new members.

See you all soon,
Andrew Molinaro
President PABA

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 grown 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.

PABA CALENDAR 2024

August 3 - Blacksmith Day, Wernersville, PA
Old Dry Road Farm,
Iron Master of the Day Item:
A Lock (choice of what kind)

October- Andrew's New Shop, Clearfield, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Campfire Cooking Item

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

Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association 42nd Annual Summer Conference

June 21, 2023 – June 23, 2024, at Threshermen's Park, 14975 E 2200 N Rd, Pontiac, IL 61764.

QuadState

September 27-29, 2024
Miami County Fairgrounds,
650 N County Road 25A, Troy, OH 45373
<https://sofablacksmiths.org/quadstate/>

Joanna Furnace

1250 Furnace Rd, Geigertown, PA 19523
48th annual Hay Creek Festival – Sept 6 – 8, 2024
– 10 am to 5 pm daily

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

I know there are a lot of upcoming events that members attend or demo at... Help advertise for them and show off what you do!

Articles and Shop Tips

The Striker is always looking for information to pass onto it's members. Please send the editor any shop tips you may have and if you have a project or an item that you make... Share a "How-To" article with PABA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BS101 - Beginner Blacksmithing (Weekend)

August 3 - 4, 2024 9 AM - 5 PM

Instructor - Thomas Dresser

Assistant Instructor - Jim Maness

Overall Course Fee: \$200

Description - BS101 Beginner Blacksmithing is a 2 day weekend course designed to teach the basics of blacksmithing. From forge and fire control to hammer control you will learn to forge a fish tail scroll, pig tail scroll, tab hook, drive hook, forge poker, watering can handle, and other student selected projects as time permits. This course starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. on both days.

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.

Forge Fest

PABA had another fun year working with the Goggleworks for the Forge Fest event. The weather stayed mostly dry and we had a decent turn out. There were events and things to do for visitors all afternoon and into the early evening.

Several PABA members watched over the forges and had the public trying out some hammering throughout the day. The group even gained a few new members.

Thank you to all the members that helped out and made the day possible. We're looking forward to being here again next year.



Jon Lee managed to get in some practice for the next meetings hatchet throwing. A nice underhanded bulls-eye.

Below are a few of the items that were made during the event.





Both Dave Fisher and Jeff Rinker brought a number of items to show off for the visitors. Will smith brought a display of old non-sparking tools for heavy duty work.



PABA had a very nice turn out for the Iron Master contest and the highest number of votes! Curtis Bohn had the most votes but since his sculpture was made a few years ago and had won before his win was disqualified. The Iron master of the Day went to Steve Eshelman, who was a close second in votes.



Brian Glaze, who was in charge of the Iron Pour, was willing to pour a swage block for the group. Steve Faust took on the project and gave him a pattern but unfortunately the attempt at this meeting failed.



Brian planned to try again at a later event. If we're lucky we'll see a good finished block at the next meeting.

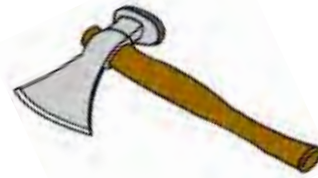


Railroad Spike Hatchet

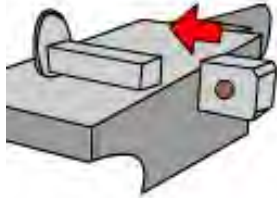
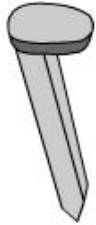
Demonstration by Bill Epps.

<http://www.besmithy.com> - www.anvilfire.com

August 4, 1999

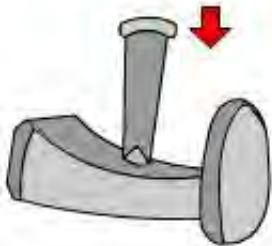


The spikes I use have an "HC" on the head which stands for "High Carbon" Steel



Bump up to 1" Square

- The first thing we do is upset the point end. A Railroad spike starts out about 6" long and about 5/8" square. We are going to bump it up till it is about 1" square and 3 inches long.



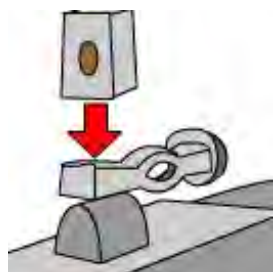
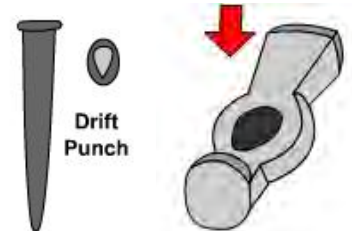
- With the splitting punch I will split the hole or eye for the handle. About an 1 1/2" down from the top to the center of the slot and the slot will be about 1" to 1 1/4" long
- I go half way from one side then half way from the other side. Very seldom do I get it exactly in center, so I have to thin one side to get the slit back in center.



- After we make the slot, stand it up on the head and hit on the end to start the slot to open up. The material that the punch is made out of (I have 2 one is S7 and the other is D2), but 52100 should work well also.

- I start working the slot or eye on the horn just to even things out and get the hole back in the center before I start my drift. I haven't mentioned heats, I assume you guys can figure this out., but you work this metal very hot, but careful not to burn it up.

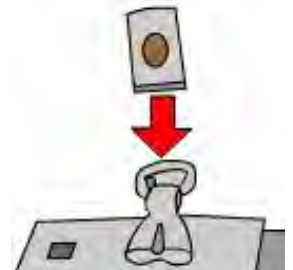
- Now I start my drift, but I don't drift the hole all the way out just yet., I just want to drive the drift about 1/2 to 3/4 the way through. I don't want to finish the hole to size yet because when you start spreading the blade you will distort the hole anyway, so leave it a little small so you can straighten it back up.



- The bottom fuller is used to fuller the spike in the center. I fuller it in the center on one side and the quarters on the other side. The fuller I use had a 1/4" radius on it (1/2" diameter). Fullering helps it to spread to get the width on a blade. The cutting edge length should come out about 4"

- Start spreading and thinning down the blade after fullering

- I use a cross pien to get more spread to it and to thin the blade. I use a cutting plate (mine happens to be aluminum) to trim off the jagged edge and make it easier to hot rasp.





- I use a hot rasp with steel good and hot. Start with an old farrier rasp then I go to a mill file to shape the edge.

- After I hot rasp and file the edge, I finish drifting the hole to size. You drive the drift from the "Front" side so you end up with a tapered hole to fit the handle which is tapered.

- After the hatchet's shaped and the cutting edge filed, I harden the cutting edge (Only). I heat the whole piece until it is non magnetic and put the edge about 1/2" deep in to the quench tub. I never see any reason for hardening anything other than the working part. When it turns black and stops sizzling, I take it out and it let

finish cooling on its own. This will draw the edge down to where I have a good tough edge, but still hard enough to stay sharp.

- After it is cool drive a tomahawk handle into the hole. The handle should be driven in tight and you have a pretty good chucking axe and the head of the RR Spike makes a pretty good hammer head for driving tent stakes. Stand back 5 paces, chuck it like a rock and it will stick every time you hit the target!



Editor Note: *I've added this section from Anvilfire.com to help with ideas for the August Iron Master of the Day. If you want to try a more involved locks this four part series may be of use. Good luck!*

Locks and Keys Part I : Lock Basics

Demonstration by [Jock Dempsey](#) - June 19, 2002, update August 2011

https://www.anvilfire.com/iForge/tutor.php?lesson=jd_locks/demo_1

Look on Anvilfire.com for the next 3 parts.

1 Lock Basics - 2 [Wards and Bits](#) - 3 [Lever Tumblers](#) - 4 [Padlocks](#)



Locks are relatively simple mechanical devices if you understand how they work. Many years ago I took a course in Locksmithing that covered a great deal more than simple bolt locks in order to learn some of this. As a result I am a Certified Locksmith albeit non-practicing.

Locks can be sold by the smith as part of a gate or a separate works to mount on doors. Due to the fact that these locks are no longer in style they have relatively good security since no one practices picking them or even carries tools to do so.

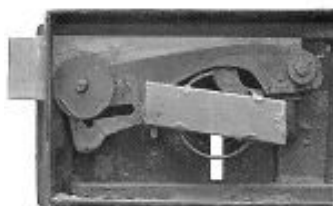
I always thought that selling "castle" locks and keys to the rich and famous would be a good business. Another one of my ideas that I never followed through with. . .



This is a lock I made for the gate on my portable forge trailer. The gate kept my oxy-acetylene equipment secure so I wanted a pretty good lock. As I was making it for myself I could not afford to get fancy.

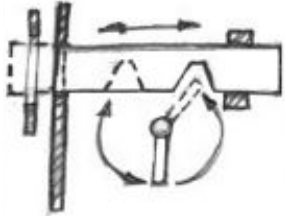
The insides of this lock are pretty ugly. When the gate is open the insides of the lock are exposed so you can see how they work. When closed there is a steel plate that covers the back. This is a warded lever tumbler lock.

The key for this lock is rather large. I called it my "castle key". However, the shank could have been much shorter and the bow (handle) much smaller. If you make big "castle" locks for a customer that is going to use on dwelling doors you should probably provide a lighter weight key perhaps made of aluminium for daily use on a key chain. It would make a fancy "fob".



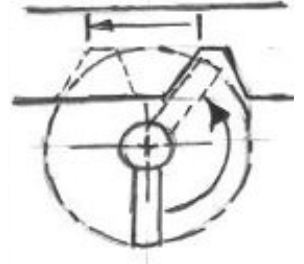


Lock making opened up other areas of hardware to supply. These are replacement drawer pull plates and matching lock plate I made for an 18th century dower chest. The original pull plates had all the little tabs that stick out broken off and heart lock plate was missing. Its shape was determined from the bleaching of the wood.



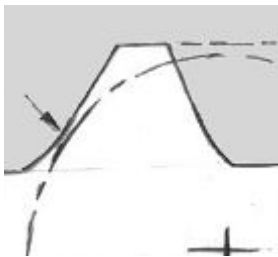
The part of the lock that slides and engages the strike plate is the "bolt". The bolt is moved directly or indirectly by the key which is a rotating lever. The key engages a notch in the bolt as it is rotated moving the bolt.

To design and build a lock you need to make a little layout like this. The closer the bolt is to the key the farther the bolt moves and the deeper the notch in the bolt needs to be. The notch is symmetrical so that the key can engage the notch and push the bolt from both directions.



IF the bolt should move out of position due to vibration or someone "trying" the door, it is possible for the bolt to move a small amount.

As shown to the left, this can prevent the lock from being operated in either direction.

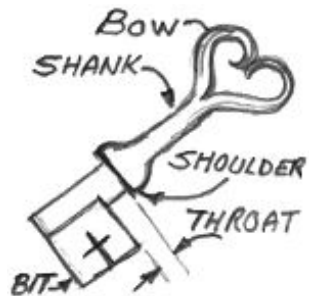
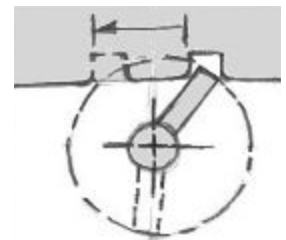


To prevent the problem above the notch should have a gentle curve at the bottom. When the key passed the curve there is significant clearance. If the bolt should slide back a little the key can push it out of the way easily.

Bolts have a friction spring, sometimes with a "detent" to hold it in proper position. However, you always need to allow for wear and tolerances.



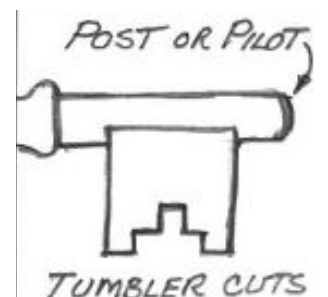
The bolt notch can also be a shallow square cut with rounded corners. This reduces the throw of the bolt a little but may have other design advantages. In any case, you need to make a scale layout using a compass and ruler. For small locks you may want to make an oversized layout say 2 or 4 times size to be easier to draw.



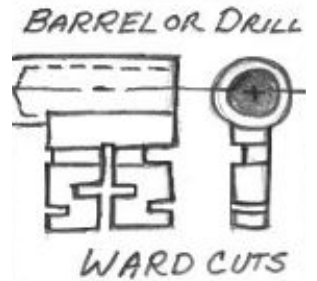
The parts of a key are the bow (handle), shank, shoulder, throat and bit. The shoulder is optional depending on the type of key. Most barrel keys do not need a shoulder but may have one for decorative purposes. Modern bit keys that work from both sides of a lock need a shoulder to position the bit in the lock.

The bow of keys has been a place to show off all kinds of work, forging, casting, graving. In fancy lock and key sets the bow is often a work of art.

Modern bit keys have a "post" to help steady the key and a shoulder to position it. It may have ward cuts but it will always have tumbler cuts except on the cheapest of cabinet locks. The tumbler cuts are different heights as each tumbler must be raised a certain height to operate the lock. The tumbler and ward cuts are symmetrical on keys that operate from both sides of a lock



Keys with hollow ends are called “barrel” or drill keys. The hole fits over a pin in the lock. The pin acts as an obstruction to picking tools and a guide to keep the key centered.



The ward cuts must clear obstructions in the lock. Wards are usually circular and the key must clear them during most of its rotation. Making the wards is much more difficult than making the key to fit.

Like my “castle key” locks and keys can use both warding and lever tumblers for security.

Antique lock and keys only security was the “ward”. A ward is an obstruction that the key must get past. Wards are both thin flat plates and cylinders attached to the ward plates and lock body. The separated spaces are where we get the word ward as used in “hospital ward”. Flat thin files called “warding files” were originally made for cutting wards in keys.

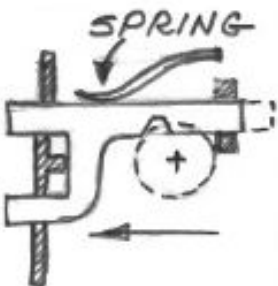
Wards also consist of obstructions to putting the key in the lock. Slots were often cut in keys just as they are today to fit around tabs in the ward plates and the lock’s escutcheon plate. Keys also had various protrusions to prevent them from fitting in the wrong lock. The same lock could be made that had a ward on the right and another on the left. A key that could get past both was a “master” key.

If you are making sets of locks and keys to multiple doors or gates then you may need to consider your designs carefully so that keys only fit their one lock BUT the master key fits all.

Medieval and Renaissance locks and keys were veritable mazes of complex wards. The cuts in the keys being very fine and made with a jeweler’s saw. However, the security of a warded lock was so low that during this time locksmiths created many locks that used trickery such as false and hidden keyholes as well as booby traps that would cut the fingers off a would be lock picker!



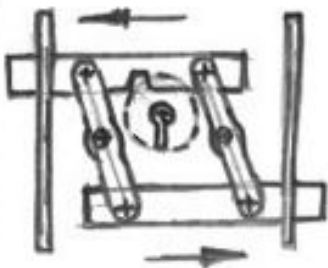
Locks of this period were often great works of art and less security devices. The ABANA 2002 Masterpiece Lock is this type of device.



Double bolts are actually a single bolt as shown. Make your layout carefully to be sure there is room for all the parts.

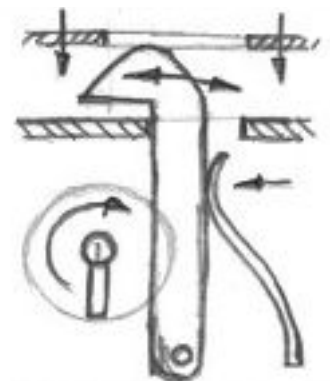
The spring adds friction to the bolt so it does not jiggle out of position OR is thrown out by a swinging door. The bolt may want a slight depression at each stopping point for the spring to engage into so that it stays in place.

Lever tumbler locks do not need a spring or detents as the tumblers hold the bolt securely in both end positions.



Two directional bolts generally use simple lever mechanisms. However from this point onwards locks can have gears, racks and all sorts of mechanical devices that we are not going to get into.

Another common lock made by smiths is the spring or “bear claw” lock. These are used on boxes, trunks and cabinets where you want the lid or door to automatically lock when closed. A simple leaf spring holds the bolt in position. The key just pushes the bolt to one side.



These type locks can be warded and or have lever tumblers.

Pennsylvania Striker



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

July 2024

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, August 3

Blacksmith Day at Old Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA

PABA will have its 11th annual Blacksmith Day the first Saturday in August. Volunteers are needed to make the day a success. We'll need help supervising the public as they try their hand at forging, or lend a hand in the kids area and show them how iron and clay are forged similarly. **If you are able, please come early and help with setup!** Contact Will Smith with any questions. After all day helping with the public and participating in the forging contest; we'll still need help at the end to get everything loaded and the site cleaned up. Please hang around and help. Public hours are 9AM - 4PM.

Tailgating and Public Sales near the barn in the designated area. \$20 table vendor fee for public sales payable to Old Dry Road Farm. - **Food Vendor for breakfast and lunch!** Iron in the hat in the barn.

Please contact PABA VP William Smith, 717-480-7686, wsmithpa@aol.com - if you have any questions or would like to offer help.

Iron Master of the Day item: A Lock (choice of what kind)

If you need inspiration for a lock, take a look at this site. www.youtube.com/blackbearforge

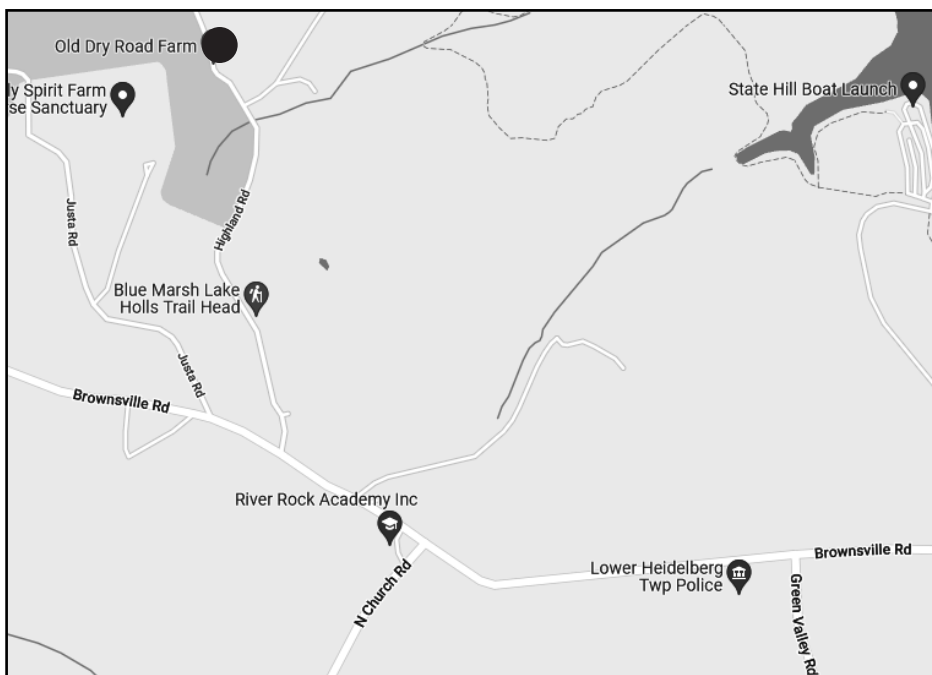
The forging contest will be: Put your hand in a box with a pre-forged item. You're able to feel it, but not see it. The person that makes the closest match wins.

This is a great day to show off blacksmithing to the public. Bring your friends!

Old Dry Road Farm is located west of Reading near Blue Marsh Lake
202 Highland Road, Wernersville, PA.

From the East (Reading)
Follow US-422 W (W Penn Ave)
-Turn right onto Green Valley Rd
-Turn left onto Brownsville Rd *Look for Yellow Old Dry Rd Farm Sign and the PABA Anvil*
- Turn right onto Highland Rd

From the West
Follow US-422 E
-Turn left onto Bernville Rd
-Turn right onto Brownsville Rd
Look for Yellow Old Dry Rd Farm Sign and the PABA Anvil
-Turn left onto Highland Rd



PABA Contacts

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

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Committee Leaders

Iron in the Hat Chairperson - *NEEDED*

Equipment & Maintenance - *NEEDED*

Publication Contact - Keith Eckman

Safety Equipment - Herb Moyer

ABANA Affiliate Contact - Doug Learn

Library - John Kauffman & Martin Reynolds

Event Hosting - *NEEDED*

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 grown 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.

By-Laws:

Review and Update

PABA, like other ABANA affiliates, is governed by its by-laws. Ours have not been reviewed and amended to reflect the group's current practices for over 20 years. The Board along with several other members have reviewed the current version and will discuss these changes at the August Board meeting.

Once the draft revision is decided on; the approved draft will be provided to the membership for review and comments. The compiled draft will be voted on by the membership at a future meeting.

More to come in future newsletters.

Doug Learn

PABA CALENDAR 2024

October 5 - Andrew's New Shop, Clearfield, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Campfire Cooking Item

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

QuadState

September 27-29, 2024
Miami County Fairgrounds,
650 N County Road 25A, Troy, OH 45373
<https://sofablacksmiths.org/quadstate/>
Tickets available online starting in mid-July

Joanna Furnace

1250 Furnace Rd, Geigertown, PA 19523
48th annual Hay Creek Festival – Sept 6 – 8, 2024
– 10 am to 5 pm daily

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

Rough & Tumble - Kinzers, PA

<https://roughandtumble.org/schedule>
76th Annual Threshermen's Reunion August 14-17

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.

I know there are a lot of upcoming events that members attend or demo at... Help advertise for them and show off what you do!

Articles and Shop Tips

The Striker is always looking for information to pass onto it's members. Please send the editor any shop tips you may have and if your have a project or an item that you make... Share a "How-To" article with PABA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BS101 - Beginner Blacksmithing (Weekend)

August 3 - 4, 2024 9 AM - 5 PM

Instructor - Thomas Dresser

Assistant Instructor - Jim Maness

Overall Course Fee: \$200

Description - BS101 Beginner Blacksmithing is a 2 day weekend course designed to teach the basics of blacksmithing. From forge and fire control to hammer control you will learn to forge a fish tail scroll, pig tail scroll, tab hook, drive hook, forge poker, watering can handle, and other student selected projects as time permits. This course starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. on both days.

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.

Old Dry Road Farm in June

PABA had a low key meeting at Dry Road in June. Since this was not the big public event we have in August, it allowed some of our members to chat forge and enjoy a calm day with very nice weather.

A number of our younger members had a chance to make items and get some practice at hammering. Phil practiced too but I think he out-grew the “younger” description!



Rowen Barlip Hammering

Photo by Randy Barlip



Thank you to everyone that helped with the logistics for the day. It takes a good amount of behind the scenes work to make sure we have everything at an off grid site.



Hatchet/Hawk throwing. Thanks to Will Smith for bringing some hatchets for people to try out.





Iron Master pieces and out winner, Dave Fisher

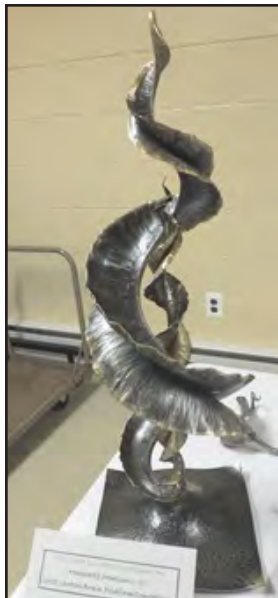
Right: A student of Allen Schaeffer's showed up and enjoyed some forging.

Allen noted on a Facebook post: "Approx. 60% of my students are under 21.

I will start with someone as young as 9 depending on the situation. This is a phenomenal amount of interest for the age group and that is the future of the artist-blacksmith trade.

Not all young folk are glued to the Xbox.

Gen Z and Gen Alpha being willing to sweat and get their hands dirty gives me hope for the future."



NEWSLETTER CORRECTION

The April Iron Master of the day should have been Curtis Bohn. PABA didn't specify an age for the sculpture and other older pieces have won in the past. The only stipulation is the item can't be used more than one time. Curtis never entered his fold form piece before so he was the winner.



Lifting anvils with style! Start submitting your anvil lifting pictures to the PABA face book page. (Don't hurt yourself!!!)

Will was grabbing anvils and riding off into the sunset.

Paul said "I felt strong being around all these smiths." after being at the ABANA Conference.





ABANA 2024

Paul Huf attended the ABANA conference in June and was kind enough to send me a few pictures for the newsletter.

Mark Sperry, from Williamsburg, cleaning up the scale from inside a scroll.

Also a few different styles of scroll endings.

If you are planning on making the August Iron Master item... Here is a Steak Turner from a RR spike.



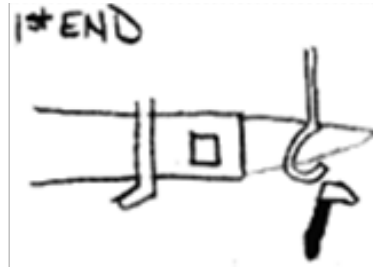
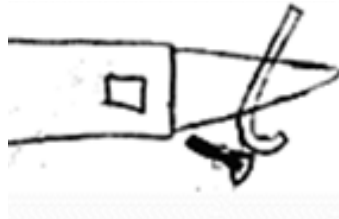
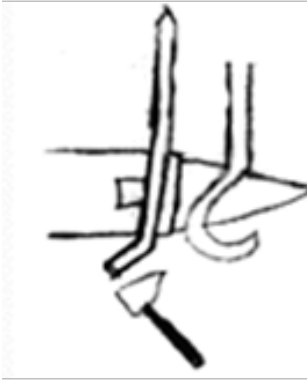
Tripod

June 28, 2000 - www.anvilfire.com
 Demonstration by Bill Epps

"A 3 legged tripod. This was shown to me by Richard Ross at the Guadalupe Forge in the very early '80's, and has been a good seller for me."

I start out w/3 pieces of 1/2" round X 60" long. (You can make it any length you want to, this works out best for me.) One end of all 3 pieces I put a short point. Then I cool that end off and heat the other end and I turn about 3" over the face of the anvil and turn this into an eye. The ID of the eye will be about 3/4".

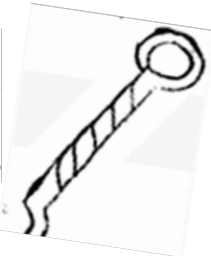
Keep the eye on center.



Cut a piece of 1/2" round about 14" long and turn it into a circle. Keep it as round as possible. Take the round ring and spring it open slightly to the side far enough to eventually slide the end eyes on.



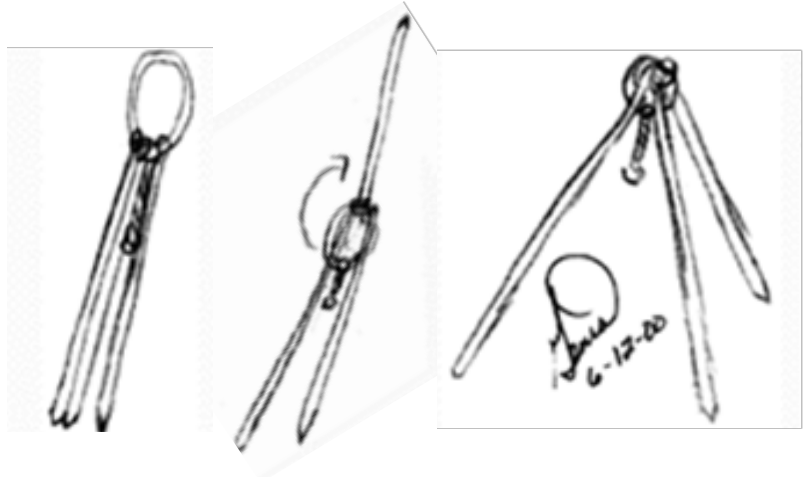
Then I take a piece of 3/8" square about 14" long also and make a hook w/a closed eye in the top end, and a "centered hook" on the bottom.



Add twist in the middle just to give it a little style.



Heat the ring, slide the 3 legs and the hook eye onto the hot ring. Go to the anvil and flatten the ring to close down tight. *Hint:* After you close the ring, quench it. This keeps it from springing back open or distorting.



Hold it upright and swing the center leg all the way over, spreading the other two legs out. The hook should be on the bottom and the eye of the 3 legs at the top of the ring. These will hold up to about 200lbs. I put a rope on the hook and stood on it. It will hold me and I weigh about 200lbs.

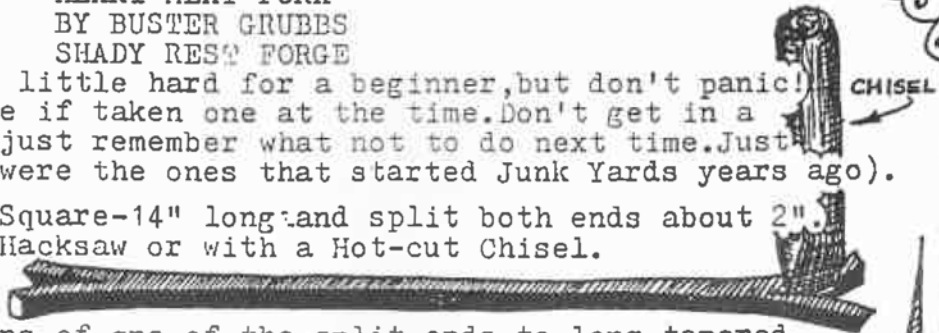
THE OCMULORE BLACKSMITH'S BEGINNERS CORNER BY BUSTER GRUBBS

HEART MEAT FORK BY BUSTER GRUBBS SHADY RESO FORGE

This project may seem a little hard for a beginner, but don't panic! The procedures are simple if taken one at the time. Don't get in a hurry. If you do a No No, just remember what not to do next time. Just start over. (Blacksmiths were the ones that started Junk Yards years ago).

(1) Take a piece of 3/8 Square-14" long and split both ends about 2". This can be done with a Hacksaw or with a Hot-cut Chisel.

FIG. 1



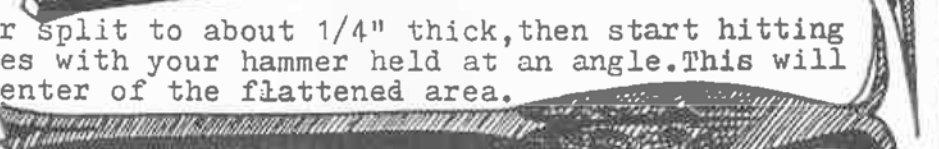
(2) Draw out both sections of one of the split ends to long tapered points of equal length. This can be done easier by heating and bending the sections 90 degrees to the stock.

FIG. 2



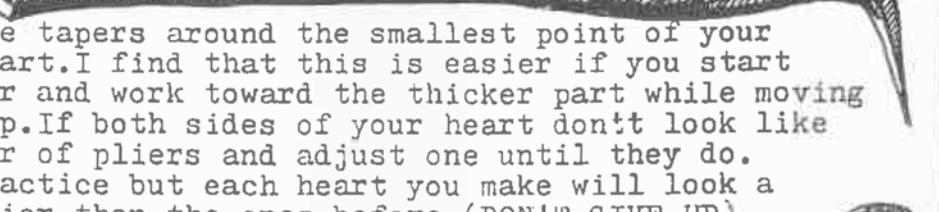
(3) Flatten 5" just under split to about 1/4" thick, then start hitting this area's top-side edges with your hammer held at an angle. This will leave a ridge down the center of the flattened area.

FIG. 3



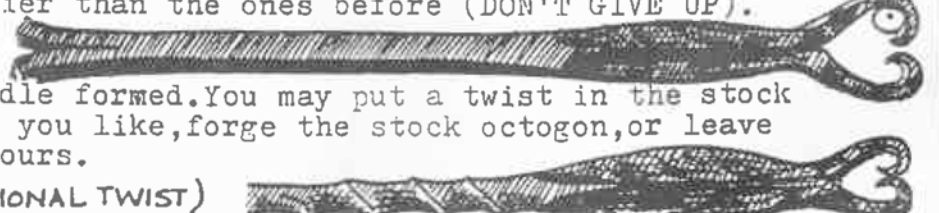
(4) Now heat and bend the tapers around the smallest point of your anvils horn to form a heart. I find that this is easier if you start at the point of the taper and work toward the thicker part while moving forward a little each tap. If both sides of your heart don't look like mirror images, take a pair of pliers and adjust one until they do. It will take a little practice but each heart you make will look a little better and be easier than the ones before (DON'T GIVE UP).

FIG. 4



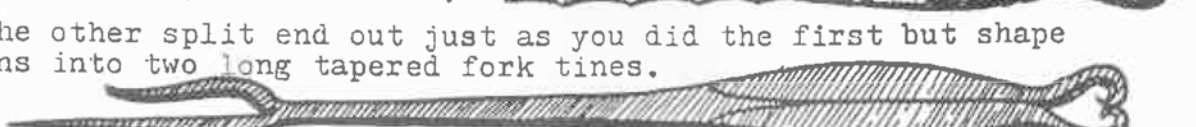
(5) Now you have the handle formed. You may put a twist in the stock just below the handle if you like, forge the stock octogon, or leave it as is. The choice is yours.

FIG. 5 (OPTIONAL TWIST)

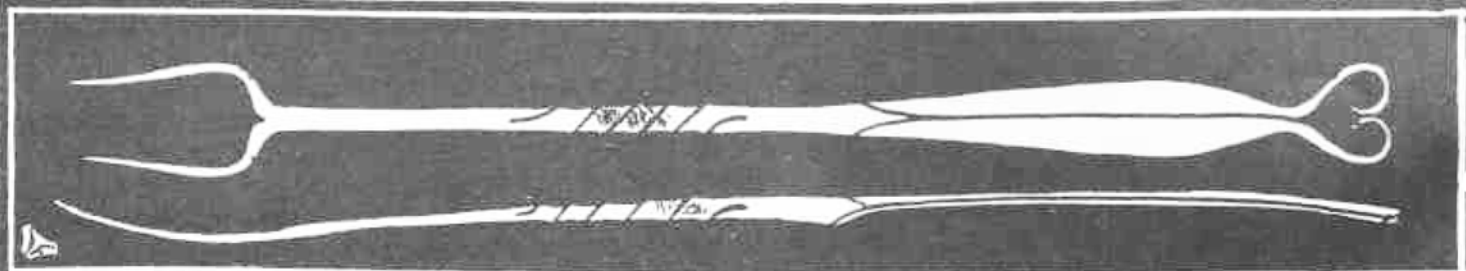


(6) Draw the other split end out just as you did the first but shape the sections into two long tapered fork tines.

FIG. 6



(7) Bend the tines upward a little and the handle down a little to give the side profile a flowing shallow "S" shape as shown below.



DOUG HENDRICKSON'S VEGGIE CHOPPER
MADE FROM THE MOST COMMON
RESOURCE OF THE OZARKS -
LEAF SPRINGS FROM ABANDON
PICK UPS, GARS AND JEEPS.



TOUCH OUT
THIS PATTERN



GRIND THE
BURNED
EDGES OFF



DRAW EARS OUT
TO A POINT



FORM BLADE USING
CROSS PEEN TO
SPREAD AT CUTTING
EDGE



TURN TAPERS TO TASTE,
ANNEAL, WIRE BRUSH
AND GRIND FINAL EDGE.

THE ANNEALED EDGE IS
JUST FINE FOR THIS TYPE
OF TOOL. A FILE OR
STEEL WILL SHARPEN
IT NICELY.

I GOT
TO BEAT
THE
NEW

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.

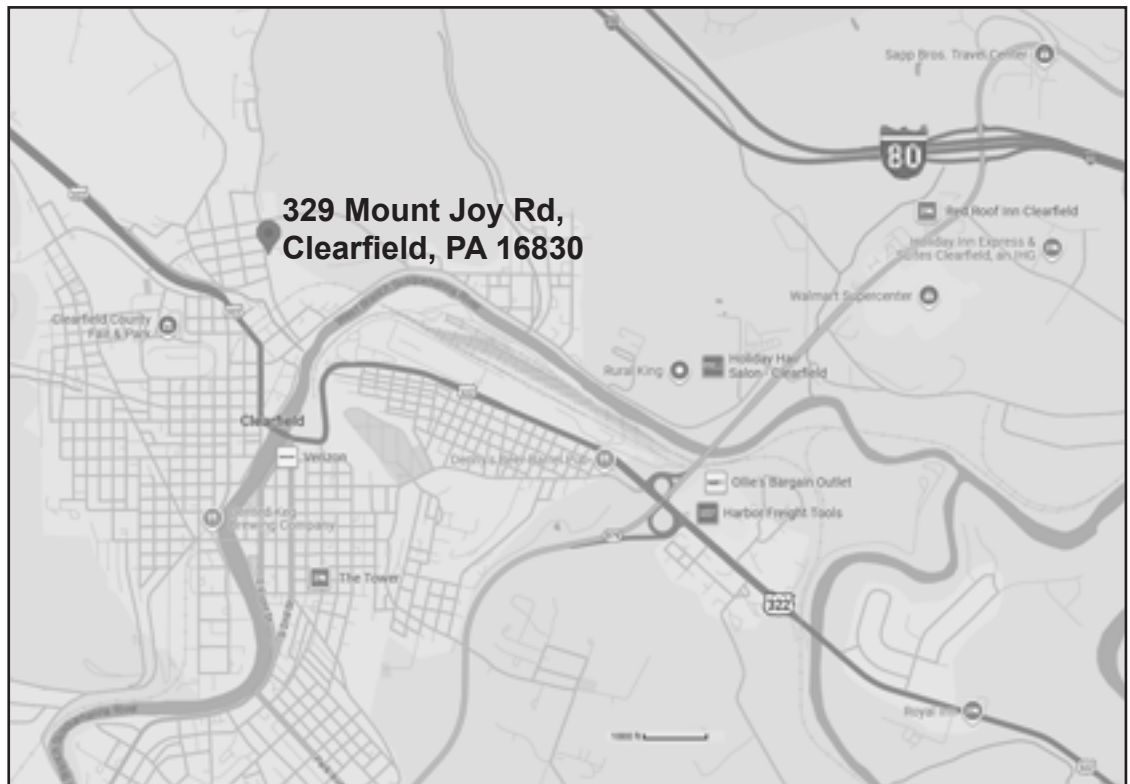
Andrew Molinaro

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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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>

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Instructor - Bob Hungerman

Assistant Instructor - TBD

Overall Course Fee: \$200

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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

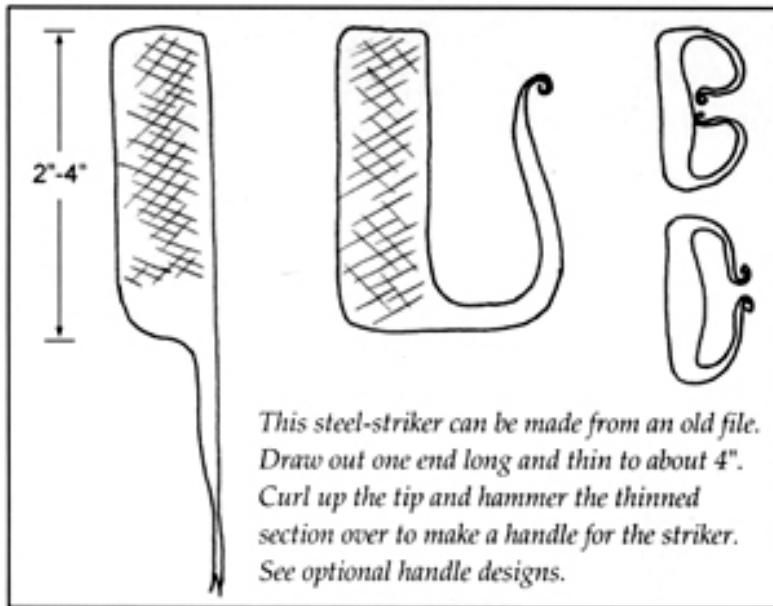
by Jay Close, *The Blacksmith's Guild of the Potomac, Summer 1992*

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



Pennsylvania Striker



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

November 2024

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, December 14

Gallery Meeting - Paradise, PA

It's the most wonderful meeting of the year! PABA is celebrating the holiday season and we invite members to bring items that they wish to show off or to sell. Friends, family and the public are welcome to attend. There is plenty of space outside for tailgaters or a forge if the weather permits. The trailer and equipment should be available. Come and catch up with other members and share what you've been learning and working on the past year.

After lunch there will be important info shared during the membership meeting and we'll also be voting for PABA officers. If you have ideas for meeting demonstrations or are willing to be a demonstrator, let us know. This is the time to discuss future PABA concerns and ideas.

Doug Learn will go over the updated PABA by-laws and answer any questions. If you have an email address with us, you should have a copy already. There will be copies on hand to read over if you wish. Doug volunteered, in conjunction with the board, to take on the task of updating PABA's by-laws. He worked hard to update and clarify the by-laws and bring them up to current standards. The board has approved the revision. At the Gallery meeting we will ask for a vote of approval by membership.

We may also have a guest speaker. A friend of Byron Mellinger, David Goldberg, may be attending. David is master Japanese sword smith as well as a jewelry maker and artist. He was a winner on an early episode of Forged in Fire as well.

Lunch is pot luck! Please bring a dish to share if you are able. PABA will have hot drinks and tea cooler available. Usually there is a suggestion of what to bring based on last names... This year please bring what your wish. Generally we are heavy on the desserts so if you can bring a side dish or main that may be better.

-- ELECTIONS! -- PABA members are voting for President, two Board of Directors and Secretary this December. Currently Rick is PABA Secretary and is willing to continue on if the membership wishes. Jeff will not be running for another term on the Board.

If anyone else is interested in one of the elected positions or becoming a Committee Leader, Please let a PABA officer know.

.....
Iron Master of the Day Item:

Holiday Decoration

Don't forget Iron in the Hat.

We'll have plenty of tables for show & tell or sales items.
.....

Directions: Paradise Community Center is located 9 miles East of Lancaster, just off Route 30 - 6 London Vale Rd, Intercourse, PA 17534.



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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 at the Gallery!

Greg Hagen, owner of Holland Anvil, 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.

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.

-- President's Message --

It's again time for the gallery meeting. I can't wait to see you all and chat about various projects, plans, and happenings and see what projects you have all been up to.

We will have the trailer down to the meeting which means we will have forging stations available for all who would like to swing a hammer. I will be taking the trailer back with me to Clearfield and working on setting up a proper packing system so we can more easily deploy our forging stations in the future. Our plan is to have four stations available at all our events.

My move is completed, shop set up, am I am again able to focus on PABA. If you have any ideas for PABA projects or recommendations, please reach out to any board member or myself and let us know. Looking forward to a great year ahead with you all.

Andrew Molinaro

PABA CALENDAR 2025

Check back for more info & any changes.

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

April 26 - 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

Mid Atlantic Smiths' Association
2025 Bill Gichner Memorial Hammer-In
www.masasmiths.org
8341 Black Dog Alley
Easton, MD 21601
January 3 - 5, 2025

The demonstrator this year is Brendan Stevens. He will be demonstrating a miniature post-vice. You can check out his Facebook, youtube and Instagram accounts at: B.C.Sblacksmith

Schedule:

Friday - People are welcome to trickle in Friday after lunch. There will be a dinner on Friday at 6:30 pm with a business meeting after dinner.

Saturday – Doors open at 7am with demo starting at 9am ending around 4. Followed by an auction, dinner and a presentation.

Sunday - starts at 9am until noon with lunch provided.

Meals include coffee and donuts for breakfast Saturday and Sunday. Catered meals for Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday lunch. Please bring items for display and the auction, which will be held on Saturday after the demo and before dinner. There will be no Iron in the Hat.

Please register at:

<http://www.masasmiths.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Gichner-REGISTRATION-FORM-2025-1.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blacksmith Guild of Western Maryland
Groundhog Day Hammer-In
Saturday Feb 1, 2025
12012 Mousetown Rd, Boonsboro MD, 21713
Come for a fun day of forging demos, food, tailgate sales and Iron in the Hat.
Tim Beachley will be the featured demonstrator

2nd annual Selmer Ironworks Hammer-In
Saturday, February 15, 2025
9:00 AM 10:00 AM
5823 Conover Rd Taneytown, MD 21787

This year's demonstrator is Fred Crist. Forging demonstrations, tailgating sales, raffle! Donate a forged critter to the raffle. Vote with tickets for best animal, head, insect, grotesque, etc. Item donations offset the cost of the event.

This event is free to the public. Bring a handmade item for Iron In the Hat. Item donations offset the cost of the event. Know someone interested in blacksmithing, but they've never made anything to donate? Bring them along and buy some extra tickets. Items do not have to be forged ironwork. Share your art with the community.

More details will be posted at
www.SelmerIronworks.com

October at Andrew's in ~~Strods~~... Clearfield, PA

In October PABA members made a trek out to Clearfield PA to visit our president at his new shop. If you saw the October meeting was at Andrew's shop and headed to the Poconos you could be forgiven since for almost 20 years that's the location we traveled too... It would have still been your fault for not reading the newsletter and going to the wrong place. Andrew moved out to his hometown during the early part of 2024. The day was perfect for the trip and we even

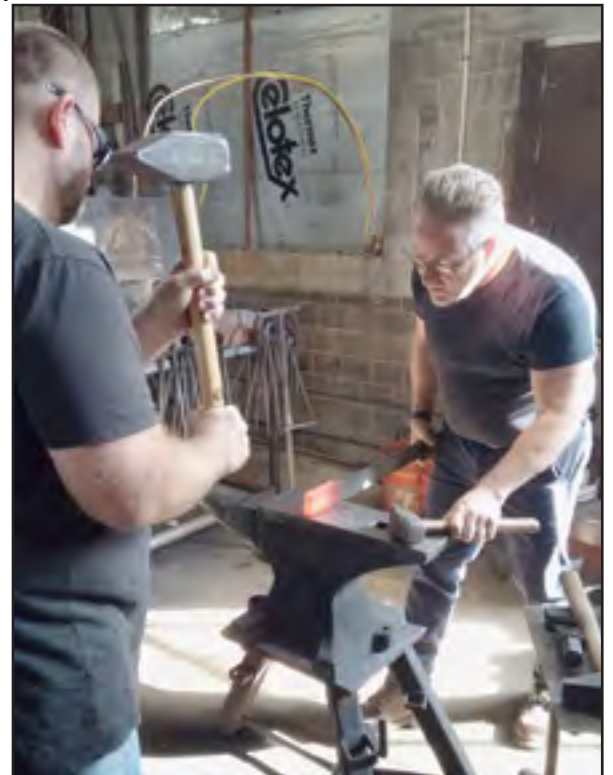
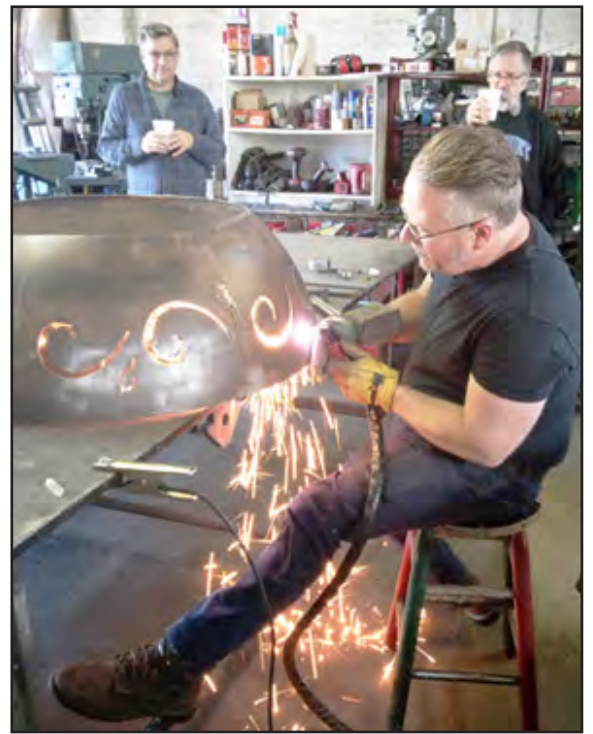


got to meet some of the Pittsburgh Area members and leaders.

It was a hands on day for the attendees. Shannon, Steve, Zak and Rick were

some of the main helpers on the various parts of the project. Andrew had an end of a large metal tank that he was turning into a fire pit for his house. He started off the day by finishing the plasma cut design in the tank end. After that he started working on the legs. One of the group asked about the 90° technique he used and Andrew made a few pieces for him as an additional demo. Everyone that wanted to help had a chance to swing a hammer making parts or helping lift and maneuver the large bowl around when the legs were riveted on. After the meeting Andrew offered to host a fire pit evening at his place if you wanted to stick around.

I personally had a nice drive and a fun time catching up and great time watching the demos. I'll note that we don't have his shop on the 2025 schedule but hopefully PABA can visit again in future years. Thank you to all that helped during the day and a big thanks to Andrew and Lenka for hosting!



Clearly the start of a Three Stooges episode. "When I nod my head, you hit it."



The three legs were shaped and left with a flat support on top. Andrew planned to add a ledge and cover for it when it was finished.

Photo by Paul Huf



Ahhhh, refreshing!



The rivets were a bit of a challenge to get the head made straight and then having limited room to swing the hammer while setting them.



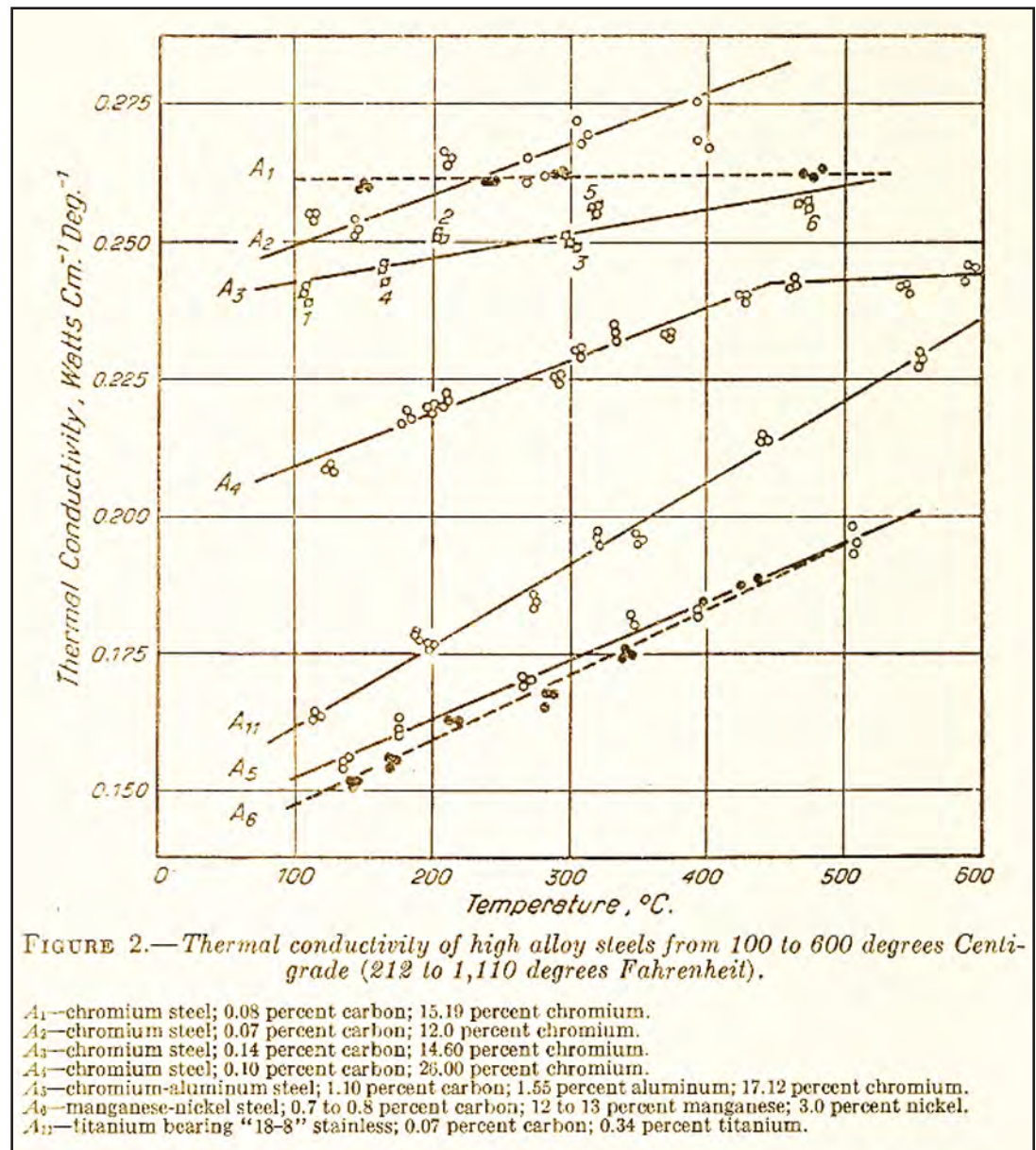
Understanding Thermal Conduction

Winter is coming and it's time to light the fires to keep warm as well as forge iron. I recently moved to a semi-heated shop and boy does it feel like it! I noticed while forging yesterday that the morning heats were so much less productive than the afternoon heats. The ambient temperature in my shop that day was 52F°, not bad for forging. I assume that my anvil was about that temperature in the morning. By late afternoon, having forged all day, the anvil face was sitting happily at 163F°. I recently listened to a blacksmithing podcast that had a fairly energetic discussion about anvil heating. Essentially there was a conversation going around about whether folks should heat their anvils to reduce possibility of anvil breakage (due to higher likelihood of shock at low temps) and more efficient forging. The conclusion that these podcasters came to was that anvil temperature didn't matter at all.

The first part of their conclusion I heartily agree with. Clearly what humans think is cold is hardly relevant to steel. Just consider steel used in northern bridges. If -20F° made steel brittle enough to be dangerous, we would have a real transportation crisis every winter. While steel does begin to become more brittle below -5F°, it is highly unlikely you can hit your anvil hard enough to break it even on the coldest day.

The second conclusion I am not so sure about. I personally have years of practical experience avoiding "heat pull" from our work to the anvil. When quenching a chisel or top tool, I rarely leave the hot metal laying flat. I am sure you have seen an assistant turning the work on its edge while not being worked. The hotter the metal stays the more work I can get done in a day. Punching and chasing is highly relevant here as the contact surface needs to be laid tight to the anvil allowing more thermal exchange. I even stopped using hold-down tools many years ago due to the increased contact drawing heat from the piece. So clearly, the anvil can pull heat much quicker than radiant or air cooling.

An additional factor is the thermal conductivity of steel at different temperatures. This is something I have really noticed throughout my smithing career. I see it mostly at high temps where the material slows its heating as it nears forge welding temperature.



Considering this; I have found some charts that help show that indeed this is a property of most materials, including steel. You can see in figure 1 that ambient temp mild steel is at its highest thermal conductivity. This drops almost in half as you reach welding heat. As a result, a winter shop temperature anvil is going to take that heat away from your material more quickly than a warm anvil. As you work throughout the day you will indeed get more work done per heat as your anvil heats up. (*Knife makers will also consider the opposite effect in alloy steels as seen in figure 2.*) How much does this affect your day? Maybe not at all. For me, it sits in the back of my mind and sometimes changes how I work. Especially when doing more refined work like chasing, forge welding, or knife work.

To check my technical findings, I sent this to my son to proof read. He in finishing up his grad school in chemistry and dug into this topic happily. After some calculation, he figured 100F° difference in anvil temperature can offer roughly 20% increase in work time. He then added all the additional factors that he didn't include, like radiant, air conduction, and draw from the bar itself. So I figure 10-15% is a safe guess and feels correct given my practical experience.

In no way do I think heating your anvil is important enough to justify the expense of such a venture. However, if you are using a small anvil, have a bit of precise work to do out in the shop, maybe you take it inside the night before and land that forge weld just a bit better then next day?

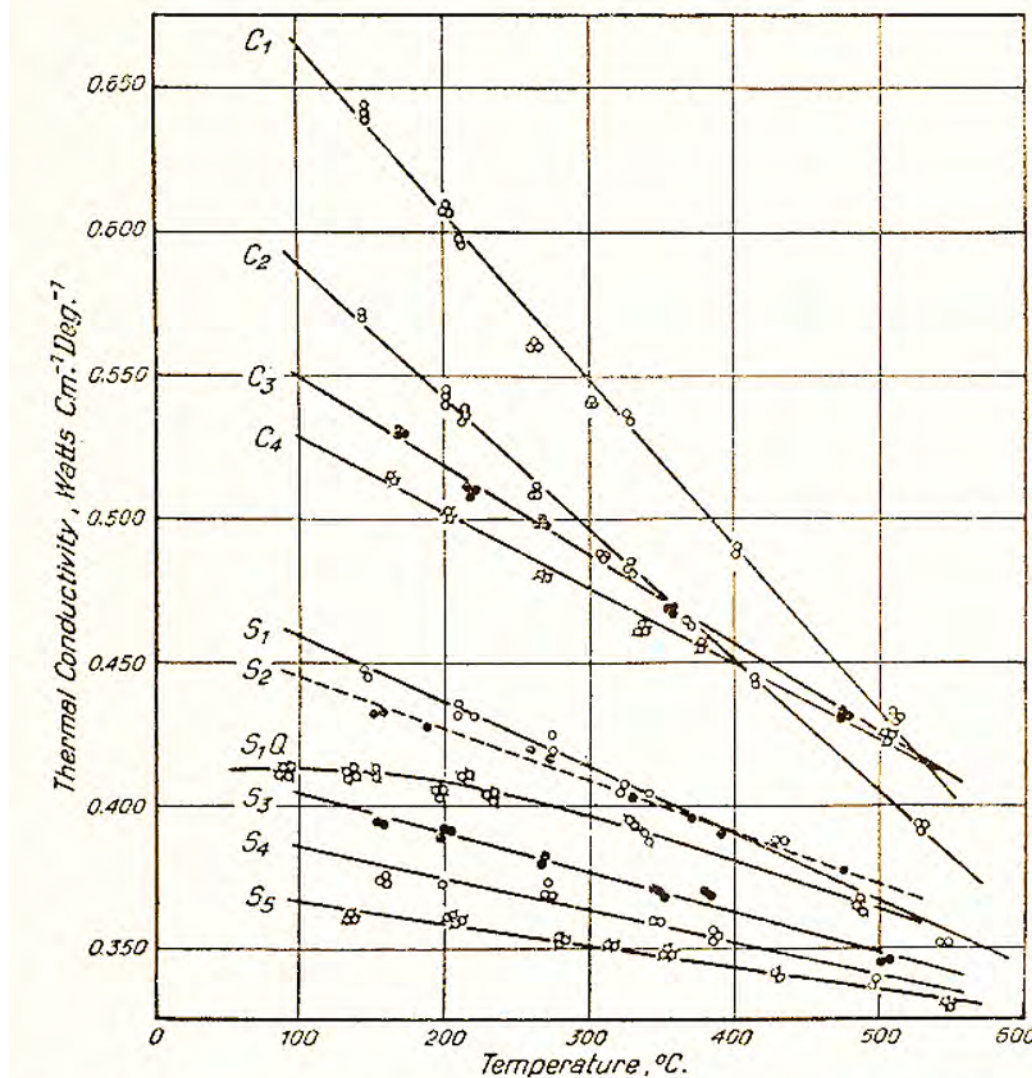


FIGURE 1.—Thermal conductivity of irons and low alloy steels from 100 to 550 degrees Centigrade (212° to 1,020 degrees Fahrenheit).

- C₁—open hearth iron; approximately 99.9 percent iron.
- C₂—wrought iron; approximately 99.5 percent iron.
- C₃ and C₄—cast irons; approximately 4.0 percent carbon and 1.5 percent silicon.
- S₁ and S₁Q—carbon steel; 0.83 percent carbon.
- S₂—nickel steel; 0.35 percent carbon; 1.37 percent nickel; 0.46 percent chromium.
- S₃—manganese steel; 0.51 percent carbon; 1.65 percent manganese.
- S₄—tungsten steel; 0.35 percent carbon; 1.04 percent tungsten.
- S₅—chromium steel; 0.10 percent carbon; 5.15 percent chromium.

In the end, knowing your material and how it reacts to heat transfer can never detract from your abilities. Once you start noticing these things your ability to heat treat, become more efficient and manipulate your material to your purpose will undoubtedly improve.

Andrew Molinaro

Editors Note: If you want to warm your anvil up or keep it warm on very cold days... There was a shop tip years ago that found a magnetic engine block heater works well. You can find smaller ones on amazon for under \$50

BLACKSMITH KNOWLEDGE

TYPES OF ANVILS

Type A1
Weight (kg): 32, 41, 52, 91, 129, 161, 305



Type A4
Weight (kg): 32, 41, 56, 92, 126, 159



Type B25
Weight (kg): 38, 48, 69, 102, 159



Type B27
Weight (kg): 60, 83, 153, 225



Type B31
Weight (kg): 61, 105, 141, 214



Type B34 & B36
Weight (kg): 70, 103, 122, 163, 248, 310.
Type B36 is identical to type B34 except that the horn and base are on opposite sides



Type B38
Weight (kg): 62, 109, 135, 187, 241



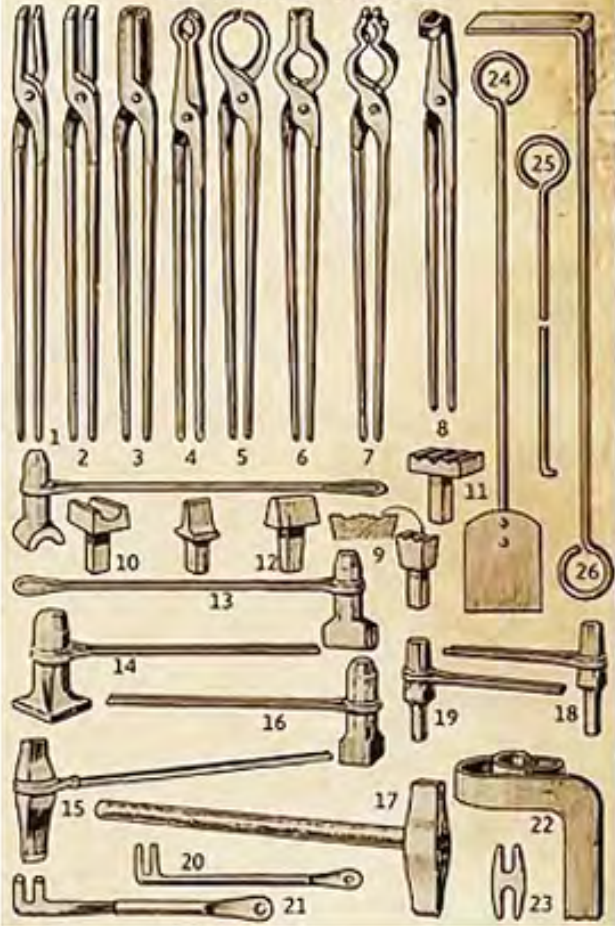
Type C51
Weight (kg): 63, 87, 106, 126, 145



Type F84
Weight (kg): 49, 70, 103, 150, 200



SMITH'S TOOLS



KNIFE TYPES



WROUGHT IRON VERSUS STEEL

Wrought iron is an iron alloy containing a very little amount of carbon (about 0.08%)	Steel is a metal alloy composed of iron, carbon and few other elements
Produced by heating and working with tools	Produced through a firing process followed by addition and removal of different components to create the final alloy
Has a greater tensile strength than wrought iron	Has a good tensile strength
Contains about 0.08% carbon	Contains about 2-4% of carbon

HEATING THE STEEL

2000°F	Bright yellow	1093°C
1900°F	Dark yellow	1038°C
1800°F	Orange yellow	982°C
1700°F	Orange	927°C
1600°F	Orange red	871°C
1500°F	High red	816°C
1400°F	Red	760°C
1300°F	Medium red	704°C
1200°F	Dull red	649°C
1100°F	Slight red	593°C
1000°F	Very slight red, mostly grey	538°C
0800°F	Dark grey	427°C
0575°F	Blue	302°C
0540°F	Dark Purple	282°C
0520°F	Purple	271°C
0500°F	Brown/Purple	260°C
0480°F	Brown	249°C
0465°F	Dark Straw	241°C
0445°F	Light Straw	229°C
0390°F	Faint Straw	199°C

I saw this poster while on vacation this past summer. It's available online for purchase from different places if anyone is interested in the full sized version. Maybe it will be of some interest/help.

Gary Rhoads has a copy of this book and forwarded me this review. The Hooks were an exhibit at the ABANA headquarters.
.....

Book Review

Title: HOOKED A Blacksmith's Study of Function Through Form

Author: Matt Jenkins

Published By: Cloverdale Press

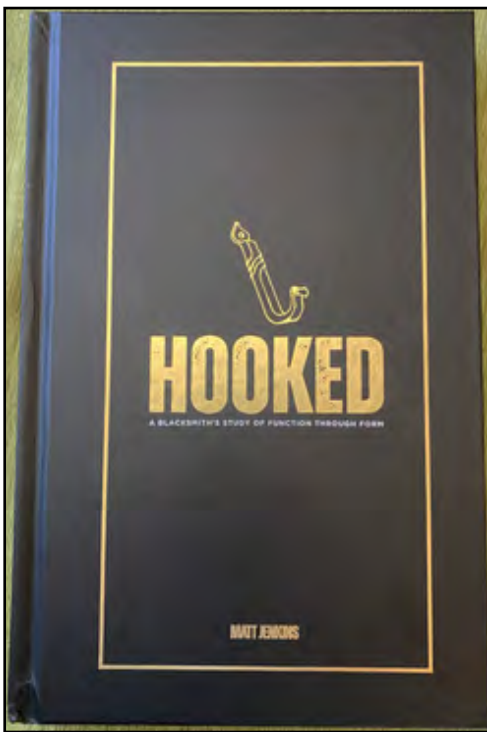
Hardback Cover

Dimensions: 11-1/4" x 7-1/4" x 7/8"

187 Pages 366 Hook Images plus 24 Step by Step Drawings

ISBN: 978-1-0688813-0-5

Price: \$45.00 (+\$18.35 Expedited Parcel Shipping to the USA)



I first heard of Matt Jenkins considering having a book printed showing the 366 hooks that he did in 2016 while speaking with him

at the Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM) 2024 Conference. Matt was a featured demonstrator and when I heard about the possibility of getting a book about this endeavor, I was anxious.

In the Introduction, Matt expresses appreciation to the Manitoba Craft Council and the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America for premiering and then arranging a North American tour of the 366 Hook Exhibit. I was able to view the exhibit on May 2, 2023 as it made its opening at the Touchstone Center for Crafts in Farmington, PA. The 366 Hook Exhibit consisted of hooks arranged on panels representing each month. It is amazing to me and a testament to the creative mind of Matt Jenkins to see all of the various hooks that were made in 366 days.



Each of the 366 hooks is shown in an individual photo while some of the hooks are featured with full page photographs. Still other hooks have a photo along with a diagram showing the steps in making the hook.

Quoting a part of the last paragraph in the Foreword:
“This collection is much more than 300 ways to make a 1970s taper or curlicue. The smith and the engineer have been welded together in his mind. On the one hand, we can see the careful planning and stress of calculations, and on the other, the eager mashing of hot metal. The work is clearly done spontaneously, with ideas being worked out as they appear, showing the excitement of discovery and the discipline of execution. With every turn of the page, we’re about to take a bite of a new apple.”

- Peter Ross

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

For Sale: Reynolds (Providence, RI) Number 2 Fly Press. Height from table: 34 inches. Width of arm: 36 inches. Height of table to table lip (table is recessed 1"): 32 inches. Table dimensions: 20" x 27". Footprint: 25" x 28". Throat distance: 6". Accepts a 7/8" diameter round in the ram tool holder. No tools. \$1500. Please contact me for photos and further information. Doug Learn 215.285.5280 douglearn121@gmail.com.

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

Andrew Reist - Oak Lawn Blacksmith Shop - Lancaster, Pennsylvania
717-925-9310 - oaklawnblacksmith@gmail.com - Anvils, Swage blocks and other Blacksmith tools.
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/OakLawnBlacksmithUS> or <https://www.facebook.com/OakLawnBlacksmith/>

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

Reifsniders 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

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

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
Rick Cooper
Gary Rhoads
Pul Huf
Doug Learn
Bryon Mellinger
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 2025 (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