

Pennsylvania Striker



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

January 2026

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, February 7

The Newcomer's, Mount Joy, PA

Stan & Carolyn have invited PABA again this year for our winter meeting. They have plenty of room in the shop and garage to setup and enjoy the days events. We'll be having Matt Harris as our featured demonstrator.

Matt Harris is well known for his architectural and sculptural design work. I believe he'll be creating an architectural design element for his demonstration. You can take a better look at some of his work and learn more about his studio on his website - <https://matthewharris.studio/>

This should be a great meeting! The meeting will start around 9AM with the usual lunch break. **We're having a potluck lunch. Please bring an item to share if you are able.** Carolyn will make her chicken corn soup. In case of weather issues, please watch our website and Facebook pages for more information closer to the date or contact a board member the evening before.

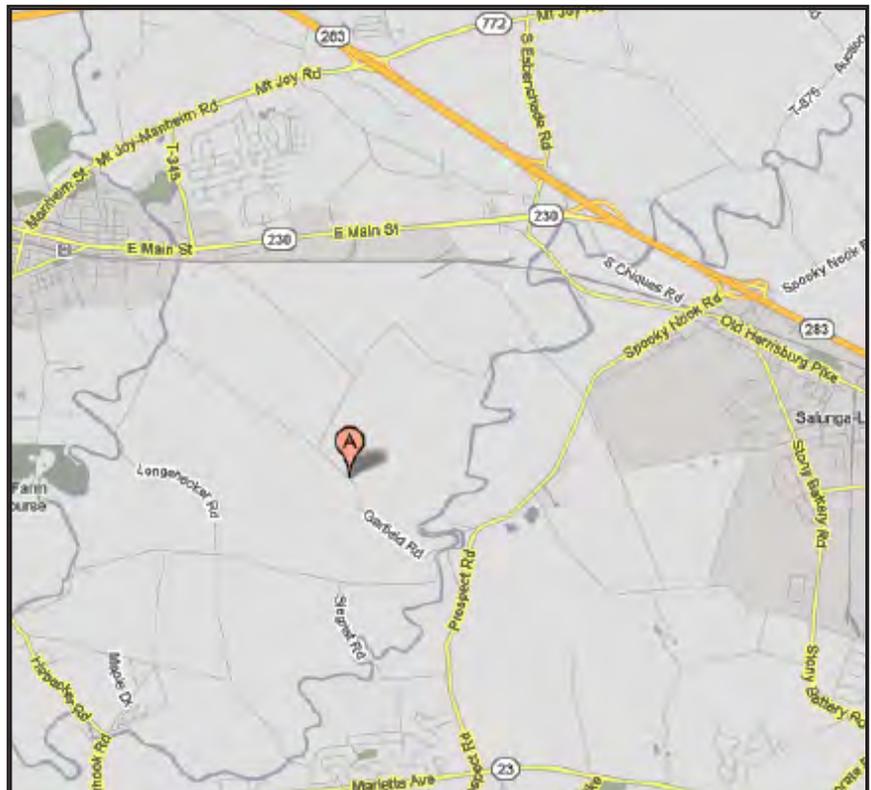
**IRON MASTER OF THE DAY ITEM: WINTER THEMED ITEM
(BOOT SCRAPER, CRAMPONS, ICE AX, SNOW MAN...)**

Meeting 9am - 3pm

**Pot Luck Lunch
(Bring a dish if you can)**

**Don't forget items and money for Iron
in the hat**

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



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

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

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

Committee Leaders

Iron in the Hat Chairperson - Gary Rhoads
HELPER NEEDED

Equipment & Maintenance - Randy Barlip

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.

-- ABANA News --

2026 ABANA Conference

November 2026 in Bentonville, Arkansas

Dates: November 11-14, 2026

Location: Benton County Fairgrounds located at 7640 SW Regional Airport Blvd., Bentonville, Arkansas 72712. It is just 4 miles from the Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA). The fairgrounds include ample room for parking, 5 acres for tent camping, RV hookups, and plenty of space for all conference activities. <https://abana.org/2024/09/07/2026-abana-conference/>

ABANA's Grant Program provides educational grants twice a year!

<https://abana.org/education/grants/>

Submit your application for an ABANA Grant. ABANA offers two types of grants: \$250 to support attendance at conferences or events and \$500 to support enrollment in a workshop, class, or degree program. Eligibility requirements for each grant are outlined below.

In keeping with ABANA's mission to strengthen the blacksmithing community, priority is given to applicants who demonstrate a commitment to sharing the skills and knowledge gained through this support with others. If you have questions about the grant application process, please contact us by email before completing your application.

Note: Grants are for individuals only (not groups, schools, or organizations).

The two grant cycles for this year will be January and June of 2026.

Due January 31st, 2026 @ 11:59pm

PABA CALENDAR 2026

- April 25** - GoggleWorks Iron Pour & Fire Arts Festival - Reading, PA
-- LATE START - MORE INFO TO COME--
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Sculpture
- June 13** - Brad Gray's, Selingsgrove, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Door Hardware
- August 1** - Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Sharp Edged Device
- October 10** - Andrew Molinaro's, Clearfield, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Plant Hanger
- December 12** - Gallery, Paradise, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Holiday Item

**Blacksmith Guild of Western Maryland
Groundhog Day Hammer-in at Mousetown Forge
Saturday, Feb 7, 2026 -- 9am - 4pm
21012 Mousetown Rd - Boonsboro Md 21713
bgwm.org**

There's going to be:

- Demonstrations by four talented blacksmiths
- Iron in the hat drawings
- Tailgate sales... buy and sell metalworking tools
- Potluck lunch

Admission is free. Donation of handmade items for iron-in-the-hat is appreciated.

**3rd annual Selmer Ironworks Hammer-In
Saturday, February 14, 2026
9:00 AM 10:00 AM**

5823 Conover Rd Taneytown, MD 21787

Demonstrator: Dale Morris from the VA Institute of Blacksmithing. 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. 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.

The demonstration will be inside. Tailgating will be outside, weather permitting.

More details posted at SelmerIronworks.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Furnace Town Blacksmith Guild Hammer-In
March 28, 2026**

**Furnace Town Historic Site
3816 Old Furnace Road
Snow Hill, MD, 21863.**

<https://abana.org/2026/01/08/furnace-town/>

First timers are welcome!

All skill levels welcome!

The following demonstrations will be held:

Shannon O'Conner: Hair Accessories

Larry Furst: Letter Opener

Eric Harvey: Nail Making

Noah McGraph: Celtic Cross

Don't miss the 50/50 & Iron-in-the-Hat raffles!

*Register before March 13, 2026,
for early bird pricing.*

BGOP Spring Fling April 18-19, 2026

Frederick County Fairgrounds

155 Fairgrounds Road

Clear Brook, VA

<https://bgop.org/bgop-spring-fling/> 22624

**BLACKSMITH GUILD OF CENTRAL
MARYLAND**

36th Annual Blacksmith Days

May 16 & 17, 2026

BSD 2026 will feature

Tal Harris and

Derick Kemper - www.damselforge.com

<https://www.bgcmonline.org/bsd2026>

*Let PABA know about your events.
There are a lot of upcoming events that
members attend or demo at... Help
advertise 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.*

PABA Gallery Meeting

PABA had a very nice meeting in Ephrata, thanks to all the hard work by Rick Cooper in finding us an alternative location for the December meeting. We had a good turnout and some excellent food for the pot-luck lunch. There were several tables of display items for everyone to talk about, plus a good table of Iron in the hat. Our Iron Master of the Day also had a good showing. Stan was the meetings winner with his star candelabra.

Our membership meeting covered several important points.

Based on our yearly group costs, we're currently operating at a deficit. Last years loss was approximately \$1500. We've seen less numbers at Iron in the Hat, plus there was lesser membership numbers this past year. Currently the money that we have in the groups bank account covers

the difference, however, improvement ideas are welcome.

Randy Barlip has offered to try out being the Equipment Committee Chair.

This year we'll be at a new location in June. Brad Gray will be showing off his shop in Selinsgrove PA.

We'll also be looking at finding non-member demonstrators to attract more interest at the meetings. The first meeting at Stan Newcomers will host Matt Harris.

PABA election results:

Treasurer - Lenka Voturbova

Vice President - Will Smith

Board Member - Brad Gray



Our PABA Grant for money toward a metal working class was won by Curtis Bohn.



Sassy the Sasquatch nut cracker by Will Smith



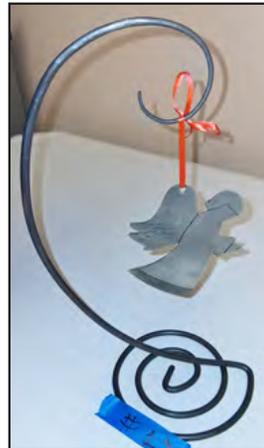
There were a lot of fun and creative items brought for display.



Our Iron Master of the Day, Stan Newcomer with his star candelabra.



A great display of mixed media art by Mary Myers



PABA's roving reporter Gary Rhoads, sent me two articles. The other will be in April's edition. Enjoy and thank you Gary! (Question... What vehicle does the key fit?)

In Search of the Worlds Largest...?

Looking for what is believed to be the world's largest cast anvil (5,530 pounds, 78 inches long and 34" tall)? Look no further than the small town of Martinsville, IL.

What about the world's largest wind chime, rocker, key or more than a dozen other world record sized items or just plain old BIG things like a nail puzzle; for those things, make a stop in the city of Casey (pronounced Cazeey), IL located about 10 miles west of Martinsville, along the Historic National Road, Route 40.

This all started when Casey resident, Jim Brolin the VP of Brolin Enterprises,

Inc., a pipeline and metal tank business had a grand idea to bring visitors off of I-70 and into their small city of just under 3,000 people. For me, the obligatory stop in Casey started around 2008 as I traveled to my son at Scott Air Force Base. What was intended to be a quick break has morphed into a visit to this idyllic community every time I pass by. I first learned about their annual popcorn festival held on Labor Day weekends. Then I was attracted to all their "World's Largest" things. The people of Casey are friendly, rural folks and there are several antique shops and cafes to visit. I was definitely impressed by Casey's celebration of the city's military members and veterans with banners of these folks on just about every light pole on the way in and out of town.



If you decide to visit what may be the world's largest cast anvil (impressive even if it isn't), make a stop in Casey, IL. Spring through fall is a good time as you can try out their Teeter Totter, climb steps to the inside of the world's largest mail box, or look at the many other large items and enjoy a break from the road.

For more about Casey and the anvil in Martinsville, check out bigthingsasmalltown.com

Gary Rhoads

The Rowe Foundry evolved from Elias Rowe's blacksmith shop in 1870, to Martin Allen (Al) Rowe's blacksmith, boiler-making and machine shop in 1901. The third generation son and founder, Edgar Rowe, melted his first iron in 1898, and built his first small melting cupola in 1910. This small cupola was the beginning of the Rowe Foundry which has continued

to operate for more than 100 years and has grown into a business serving world-wide customers.

With a background in blacksmithing, and the ability to pour large castings the Rowe Foundry made what is believed to be the world's largest cast anvil as a tribute to its' past while using modern techniques. A design for the anvil was chosen, a pattern created, and on July 7, 2015, the anvil was poured. The anvil display was incorporated into the signage for the new Linn Park as a tribute to Alexander Linn,

who was also a blacksmith in Martinsville from 1898 through the early 1950's.



Winter Projects -- I decided to try something different for one of the how-to articles. I typed in what I wanted and let Google AI give me the directions. Below is what it came up with for a blacksmith made boot scraper. No pictures were given so, here's your challenge, follow exactly!

.....

Forging a boot scraper is an excellent, functional blacksmithing project suitable for beginners to intermediate smiths, providing practice in fundamental skills like drawing out, upsetting, punching, and bending. Traditionally used in the 19th century to remove mud, these tools can be made as standalone units or, historically, incorporated into iron railings.

Materials and Tools

- Stock: Mild steel bar stock (approx. 1/2" to 3/4" square or round).
- Tools: Anvil, forge, hammer, hot-cut chisel or hardy cutter, tongs, wire brush.
- Optional: Rivets or welder for assembly.

Step-by-Step Forging Process

- 1. Creating the Scraper Blade (Fish Tail)** -- Heat the end of your bar to a bright orange/yellow heat. -- Place the end of the bar flat on the anvil, using the hammer at a slight tangent to spread the metal into a wide, flat "fish tail" shape. -- Ensure the metal remains flat and relatively thin to create a good scraping edge. -- Smooth out hammer marks, but the finish does not need to be perfect.
 - 2. Forming the Handle/Stem** -- Cut the forged bar about five to six inches back from the fish tail. -- Draw out the remaining stock to create a handle or shank. -- Use a hardy tool in the anvil's hardy hole to create an asymmetrical taper, or taper it symmetrically depending on the design. -- If creating a stand-alone, tall scraper, forge a scroll or hook at the top for decoration and utility (a place to hold onto).
 - 3. Creating the Blade Edge** -- Refine the fanned-out scraper end by hammering it to a roughly 30-degree pitch on both sides to create a sharp, effective edge.
 - 4. Assembly and Finishing** -- For a Simple Standalone Scraper: The piece may be done after hardening the edge and applying a protective coating (e.g., beeswax or linseed oil). -- For Complex Designs: If adding legs or mounting brackets, use traditional rivets or plug welds to join the components.
- Finishing:** Wire brush to remove scale, and apply a rust-resistant finish.

Design Variations

- Horseshoe Scraper: Weld new horseshoes together for a rustic, quick, and popular design.
- Garden Gate Scraper: Incorporate the scraper directly into the frame of a hand-forged gate or fence.
- With Brushes: Incorporate slots or brackets to hold replaceable, stiff brushes for cleaning the sides of boots.

Pro-Tip: As this is a tool, high-carbon steel is generally not necessary; mild steel is sufficient for removing mud and scale.



Here are two other ideas. Old style, heavy duty crampons (sans straps) and another scroll style snowman that could be mounted on a yard stake.



Snowman Ornament

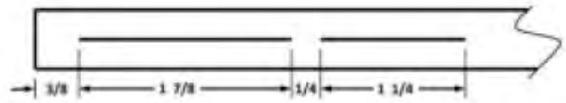
By Steven Sporre, a MABA member

This snowman consists of two circles, the lower drifted to 1-1/4", and the upper drifted to 7/8".

Calculate the circumference of each circle by multiplying the drift diameter by 3.1416. Calculate the slit lengths by dividing the circumference by 2 and subtracting 1/8" from each. The length of the large slit is 1.84" (just under 1-7/8"), and the length of the small slit is 1.25" (1-1/4").

Divide the width of the stock by 2, to get the space between the slits.

For this snowman lay out the slit lines on both sides of a piece of 3/16 x 1/2 inch flat stock, starting 3/8" from the end.



Use a cold chisel to progressively cut through the two slits from both sides, stopping short of the very ends. When the chisel breaks through, open the slit just enough to get a hacksaw blade through.



Remove most of the chisel "rag" with the saw, and cut to the ends of each slit.

Partially open the slits cold over the hardie hole with a slitting chisel.



Heat the bar and drift the large hole first.



Round up the hole on the anvil's horn, or a cone mandrel. Taking as many heats as necessary.



Open the slit, then heat the bar and drift the second hole. Tweak the area between the two holes so they are aligned above each other.



Again, round up the hole on the anvil's horn, or a cone mandrel.

Flatten the snowman's body. File any sharp edges inside the circles and break any sharp corners around the outside.



Grind off the end tab so the bottom circle visually has a consistent wall thickness, then break those corners too.

Cut the snowman from the parent stock, leaving enough to have the impression of a top hat.

Add a circular hat brim that slips down to the top of the head. Cut a 1" diameter circle from 16



gauge sheet metal. Make the centered hole by drilling two 3/16" holes, chiseling out the bridge between them, then filing to fit over the hat shape.

Drill a 1/16" hole in the hat for the thread or hook to go through. As pictured the ornament weighs 1.7 ounces.

This 2 page article reprinted from the Nov-Dec 2023 edition of The Upsetter, the newsletter of the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association

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 • 2236 Lebanon Valley Mall • Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042
(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 -
kjsjones@carrollcountymd.gov • <https://www.bgcmonline.org/classes>

Bryn Athyn College - www.brynathyn.edu/department/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.mscaitlinsschool.com
301-246-2248 - to schedule an appointment - Info@mscaitlinsschool.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

Penland School of Craft - penland.org - 2687 Conley Ridge Road, Bakersville, NC 28705 - 828-765-2359 - info@penland.org

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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 Fransico, 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

2026 Dues - \$30 per year.

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.*

Gary Rhoads
Paul Huf
Brad Gray
Carolyn Newcomer
Rick Cooper

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

www.paba-site.org



PABA-PA-Artist-
Blacksmiths-Association

PABA Membership Application 2026 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) \$30

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 \$30 (one year) to: Lenka Votrubova - 1023 Old Penfield Rd, Clearfield, PA 16830

PABA USE

Cash _____ Check # _____ PayPal _____

New Member \$30 _____ **New Member after June** _____ **Renewal \$30** _____

June-Dec. price \$15 _____ 2026