



# N.J.B.A. Newsletter

**NJBA Volume 13, Issue 3 10/31/08**  
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

## Editors Soapbox

Hi, We still have some great events for this year and we are working on next year. As editor I would appreciate some help in writing up events for the newsletter. You don't have to be a gifted writer just send me something about the event as I can't make all of them or remember everything.

Larry Brown, Editor

## Upcoming events for 2008—09

Get you calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for updated meet information. Remember most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something. Meet information starts on this page and continues on page 3

**November 16th**, Dr. Wm. Robinson Plantation & Museum, Clark NJ. Information this page.

**November 29 and 30** New Jersey Museum of Transportation, Pine Creek Railroad Information this page.

**December 7th, 3PM, Holiday Party** information on page 3

**January 31 9am** NJBA/PABA Meet at Eric Cupers Information on page 5.

## November Meets

**November 16th, Dr. Wm. Robinson Plantation & Museum, Clark NJ**, Circa 1690. We are going to set up a demonstration at this Museum. The hours are from Noon till 4, so come out and we will see if we can turn this into a yearly event.

### Directions:

William Robinson Plantation  
593 Madison Hill Rd, Clark, NJ - (732) 381-3081  
<http://www.clarkhistoricalsociety.org>  
From the Garden State Parkway northbound take exit 135 toward Westfield/Clark, Partial toll road

0.1 mi. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for RAHWAY/BRANT Ave and merge onto Brant Ave 0.4 mi. Turn left at Westfield Ave 0.6 mi. Turn right at Madison Hill Rd, Destination will be on the left.

## New Jersey

### Museum of Transportation

**Pine Creek Railroad**, <http://www.njmt.org/>

Get away from the family and recover from Thanksgiving by going to a NJBA Meet!

If you want bring the family! We will have outside demos going on at NJMT for the weekend of 11/29 and 30. All smiths are welcomed to participate. We will have two forges available. Might also have a gas forge running. We will of course be forging railroad spikes into something new or making some tongs. Come out and get some time in the fire.

### Directions;

From the Garden State Parkway take exit 98 for State Hwy 34/State Hwy 138 E toward I-195/Trenton/Belmar/Pt. Pleasant, 0.9 mi. Keep left at the fork to continue toward RT-34 0.2 mi. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Manasquan/Pt Pleasant/State Hwy 34 S/Spring Lake and merge onto RT-34, 0.7 mi. Slight right toward Allenwood Rd 430 ft. Turn right at Allenwood Rd 0.7 mi. Turn right at Atlantic Ave 0.5 mi. Sharp right at Allaire Rd 384 ft Pine Creek Railroad, Allaire State Rd, Farmingdale, NJ 07727

### Notice

Recently NJBA member Jeff Morelli passed away. Any donations NJBA members are able to make to an educational fund for the benefit of Jeffrey's children would be appreciated. Donations should be written to "Morelli Children Fund" and sent to Mark Cubberley, 282 Main Street, Groveville, NJ 08620.

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## **The NJBA Web Site!**

The NJBA Web Site is up  
and running at:  
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

The Newsletter is at:  
<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~vze25jcc/index.htm>

or use the link on the NJBA web site  
for the newsletter.

## **Official NJBA Address**

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

**Rather than use room in the newsletter,  
All correspondence between  
ABANA and NJBA is now being posted  
on the NJBA web site.  
If you cannot access it there, contact me  
and I will send you copies.  
ABANA is communicating again so  
check it out**

## **NJBA Board of Directors**

### **Marshall Bienstock,**

663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731  
732-938-6577 732-780-0871  
[jlfmib@optonline.net](mailto:jlfmib@optonline.net)

**Larry Brown,** Editor, Membership,  
90 William Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308  
718-967-4776  
[lp.brown@verizon.net](mailto:lp.brown@verizon.net), [brownln@hotmail.com](mailto:brownln@hotmail.com)

**John Chobrd,**  
231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown, NJ 08520  
609-443-3106 [jchob@verizon.net](mailto:jchob@verizon.net)

**Eric Cuper,**  
2436 Birch Street  
Easton, PA 18042 908-642-6420  
[ericuper@msn.com](mailto:ericuper@msn.com)

**Tom Eden,**  
152 Oak Lane, Hightstown, NJ 08520  
609-371-0774  
[njirrigation@msn.com](mailto:njirrigation@msn.com)

**Bruce Freeman,**  
222 Laurel Place, Neptune, NJ 07753  
732-922-8408, 609-716-2827  
[freemab@pt.fdah.com](mailto:freemab@pt.fdah.com)

**Bruce Hay, Jr.,**  
50 Pine St., Lincroft N.J. 7738  
732-747-4758

### **John Kuhlman**

218 Sandy Ridge - Mt Airy Rd.  
Stockton, NJ 08559  
609 397-2552 [jwkuhlman@comcast.net](mailto:jwkuhlman@comcast.net)

**Thomas Majewski,**  
165 Robertsville Rd., Freehold NJ 07728  
732 462-2453 [v2e4mab9@verizon.net](mailto:v2e4mab9@verizon.net)

**David Macauley,** Chairman, Treasurer,  
4 Patricia Ct., Howell, NJ 07731  
732-206-1568, 732-949-8422  
[drmacauley@att.com](mailto:drmacauley@att.com)

**Mark Morrow**  
53 Beverly Beach Rd  
Brick, NJ 08724  
[arblademaker@swordsmith.net](mailto:arblademaker@swordsmith.net)

**Daniel O'Sullivan,**  
110 Midland Ave., Glen Ridge NJ 07028  
973- 259-9873 [danandbeckyos@netzero.net](mailto:danandbeckyos@netzero.net)

**Bruce Ringier,**  
346 Rt.565 Wantage, NJ 07641  
973-702-8475 [yllwbrnfrm@aol.com](mailto:yllwbrnfrm@aol.com)

**Tim Suter,**  
1112 Ladner Ave., Gibbstown, NJ 08027  
856-423-4417

**Eric Von Arx**  
43 Center St  
Rumson NJ 07760  
732-842-9355 [evonarx@hotmail.com](mailto:evonarx@hotmail.com)

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## NJBA Holiday Party!

The holiday party is to be held on December 7th, 3PM at Jan and Marshall's house. Many thanks again, to Marshall and Jan for opening their home to us in the holiday season. Members are asked to also bring various trivets, candle holders, or other holiday items they are making to the party.

Despite the emphasis on blacksmithing, members are encouraged to bring their families. Bring a dish, beverage or dessert. Contact Jan or Marshall for advise on what to bring.

### Directions to Marshalls' Home:

Marshall and Jan's "cabin" is not on Marshall's farm, but about 3 miles east of it on the same road. Casino Drive is just off Rt. 9, about 3.5 miles north of interstate I. 195 (exit 28). and about 4 miles south of Rt. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways including the Garden State Parkway, the NJ Turnpike. 1-295, Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. From Rt. 9 northbound. make a right onto Casino Dr.; southbound. take the jug handle to make a left onto Casino Dr. Continue past Marshalls' Farm to #301 Casino Dr., Howell, N.J. (ph# 732-938-6577) jlfmib@optonline.net



## Old Time Engine Show at Washingtons Crossing, September 12-14th

This is a great engine show to see with old cars trucks, tractors and small engines. John Chobrida brought his trailer and forge setup to the event for the three days. I went on Friday this year as I was busy for the weekend with work, but it was bad timing. I got to the show and met Mitch Swirsky and Tom Majewski in the tailgating area and made it over to the spot where John sets up near the entrance. All went fine for a little while and I worked with Mitch on forging some bronze bar he had and then it started to rain hard. It was decided to call it a day and I left hoping for better weather next year. Larry Brown

## Middlesex County Fair

August 4th -10th East Brunswick NJ

I went to the fair on the last day and when I got there Tom Majewski was working at the forge and David Macauley showed up soon afterwards. I worked in the fire a while as did Tom and David and we had a few young girls come by to try their hand at blacksmithing. The day was heavily overcast and it soon started to rain and we decided to pack up as it was the last day anyway. Larry Brown

## Red Mill at Clinton, NJ

This is a yearly meet was on September 28th this year instead of being in August, great idea but it rained. We can't help that but we had a fair turnout of members and tailgaters and had an election for the board members. There was a pretty constant demonstration by various smiths and Bob Bozzay in the shop during the day and a few people visiting during the day stopped by to see what we are all about. Thanks to Eric Cuper and Bob Bozzay for setting up and coordinating the meet. Larry Brown

## Peters Valley

### Ironfest and Pig Roast

The Peters Valley Ironfest and Pig Roast was held on October 11th this year and as usual it was a great time and party. Eric Cuper and Dan O'Sullivan (Both NJBA board members) demonstrated in the shop as the day went on and there was a good size tailgating area. There was an auction of contributed iron work, much from the smiths who taught there over the Summer. As usual the food was GREAT!

This event was a benefit to help the teaching program in the blacksmith shop. I don't know how much they made at the end but I hope it was worth doing so they'll repeat this great event again next year. Keep your eyes on their web site for the calendar of next years classes and sign up for one and increase your skill level. The Web site is; [www.petersvalley.org](http://www.petersvalley.org), Phone 973-948-5200

I'll try to see if I can get some pictures and do a better write up for the next newsletter (If you were there with a camera, send me a few pictures). Catch Eric and Dan at the NJBA/PABA meet at Eric's shop in Easton on January 31st! Larry Brown

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Better Late Than Never Tuckerton Seaport Report

On May 18 NJBA had a demo at the Tuckerton Seaport in Southern, NJ. The demo was held during their Blues and Wine Festival. The recreated shore community was a different atmosphere than most of our events, and with the food and music it was an enjoyable day.

I forgot or didn't know everybody's names, excuse me as I am bad with names, but I would like to thank everybody who took the time to come out for some forging and fun. It was a nice day even though it was cut short by the weather. I would like to thank John Chobrdra for volunteering his trailer and equipment. Tom Majewski

## Old Millstone Forge

The Old Millstone Forge Blacksmith Shop and Museum is in the process of restoration and could use the help of all who can donate to the restoration. Ben Suhaka is involved with the site and the restoration and has been a long time member of NJBA. For information about the restoration visit their web site; [www.oldmillstoneforge.org](http://www.oldmillstoneforge.org) and to visit, it is located at North River St., Millstone NJ 08844, phone 908-448-6624 email [blacksmiths@oldmillstoneforge.org](mailto:blacksmiths@oldmillstoneforge.org)

## Donald Streeter's Approach to Making a Rivet Shear

Donald Streeter showed a different approach to the problem of shearing rivets in his book, Professional Smithing.

Instead of having one tool with multiple uses, he went with a dedicated tool, and if you have a lot of rivets to resize, his method probably works better and would certainly be easier.

Get two bars of annealed tool steel, 12-18" long. It helps if one of the bars is the same thickness as the rivets you'll need... for example, if you have a bag of 1" rivets and you need them 3/4" long, make one of the bars of your rivet shear 3/4" thick, and one, say 5/8". Inserted one way, the rivet shears at 3/4", but from the other side, it shears 5/8".

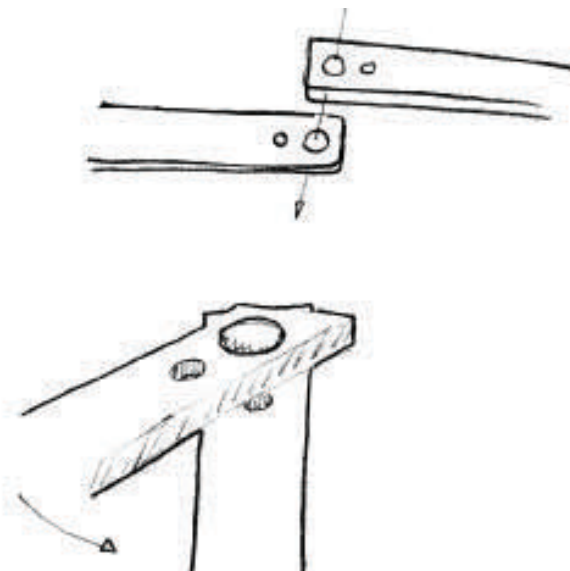
Drill a hole at the end larger than the diameter of rivet you have to shear, and pin the two together so that the two bars pivot.

About a half inch away, drill a hole the size of your rivet. It isn't necessary to harden

these bars, since rivets are so soft. Drop your rivet in and pull, and you'll get a clean sheared rivet of the correct length.

Of course, you need to make one for each size rivet that you'll be working, but most folks only keep a few sizes of rivets in stock anyway, so three or four of these would cover 98% of your rivet sizing needs.

Hammers Blow 8 3 SUMMER 2000



*Donald Streeter's Rivet Shear*

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## **Blacksmithing Demonstration** **Eric Cuper and Daniel O'Sullivan at Cuper Studios** **Saturday, January 31, starting at 9am.**

Eric and Dan are teaming up again to present a scintillating demonstration for NJBA, PABA, and others. All are welcome! As always, there will be an Iron In The Hat, tailgating is welcome (try to leave parking spaces in front of the garage doors for tailgaters), and maybe I'll turn the heat all the way up to 60 (don't tell my employees). Coffee and Donuts will arrive at 8:45ish, demos starts at 9ish, lunch and IITH at 12ish, more demos from 1 until 4. We usually order out for lunch and request contributions. I only have a few chairs so if you want to sit, you might want to bring a chair.

### **The Demonstrators**

**Eric Cuper**, an NJBA Board member, began blacksmithing at Peters Valley Craft Center in 1996 (which is where he first heard of NJBA). From there he attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to receive his BFA and MFA degrees specializing in blacksmithing. While at SIUC, Eric's forged sculptures were shown nationally and won several prestigious awards. His work can also be found in several books on forge work.

Since 2004, Eric has been operating Cuper Studios LLC in Easton, PA. Cuper Studios is an architectural metalsmithing company currently producing railings, lighting, gates, furniture, fireplace accessories, sheet metal work, sculpture, and other house jewelry. Check out [www.cuperstudiosllc.com](http://www.cuperstudiosllc.com) for some of Eric's work.

**Daniel O'Sullivan** received a BFA from Parsons School of Design, completed a traditional Ornamental Ironworker Apprenticeship followed by Stage Forge at the International School of French Wrought Ironwork in Muizon, France. He taught blacksmithing in County Mayo, Ireland, and worked for an exclusive European metalworking company. Daniel is now proud to be a Local 483 Union Ironworker and is on the Board of the NJBA.

Eric and Dan are currently planning a team demo to produce a finished piece suitable for auction. A good time should be had by all, hope to see you there.

### **Directions to Cuper Studios**

Shop address is 1301 Lynn Street, Easton, PA 18042. Phone 610-438-8694.

Email: [www.ericcuper@msn.com](mailto:www.ericcuper@msn.com)

**From NJ:** Take 22 West into PA. After you leave the toll booth, stay in the right lane. Take the first exit immediately off the bridge. Keep right on the exit, going under 22, to a stop sign. Turn left at stop onto Larry Holmes Drive. Take Larry Holmes Drives thru 2 lights and turn left onto Lehigh Drive (immediately following Wawa strip mall). Lynn Street will be your first right and my building is the first big beige building with maroon trim on the right.

**From PA:** Take Route 22 East towards Easton. Take the 248/ 25<sup>th</sup> Street Exit. At the end of the exit turn right onto and follow 25<sup>th</sup> Street heading South. Turn right onto Lehigh Drive. After the intersection with a stop sign and the bridge for the park, Lynn Street will be the 4<sup>th</sup> left.



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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Attention blacksmiths,

The Bethlehem Steel tour is finally here! On November 15th the National Museum of Industrial History will be running a tour of the derelict Bethlehem Steel facility in Bethlehem, PA. It has not been approved by the casino yet but this should not be a problem. The tour will be from 9 to noon and cost \$15 in the form of a check made out to the Museum or cash. Please pay upon arrival. You must be able walk and stand for long periods of time, climb stairs and it will be cold and possibly wet. Also, I would like to remind you that this facility has not been maintained for over a decade and safety is of the utmost importance. You will be required to sign a general liability form, wear work boots, steel tips if you have them, a hard hat, long pants and gloves. If you do not have a hard hat, the Museum will provide you with one.

Now for the good stuff. The tour begins @ 9:00 sharp at the NMIH offices in Southside Bethlehem (the address is listed below). From there we will enter the facility and tour the Tool Annex, Blast Furnace "E", the Blowing Engine House, and Iron Foundry. I strongly encourage you to bring a camera and flashlight if you want to be able to see and record everything on the tour.

If you are interested in attending this tour, please contact Calum Learn by phone at 215-489-1742 or via e-mail at [cjfdlearn@verizon.net](mailto:cjfdlearn@verizon.net) as soon as possible. There are only 20 spots, so please sign up only if you are committed to attending.

Thank you and I hope to see you on the 15th.

Calum Learn

**National Museum of Industrial History**  
530 E. Third Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Phone:** 610-694-6644  
**Fax:** 610-694-6641  
**E-mail:** [nmih@fast.net](mailto:nmih@fast.net)



# Atlantic Coast Blacksmiths Regional Conference

The first Atlantic Coast Blacksmiths Regional Conference (ACBC) was held on September 4<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ashokan Center outside Kingston NY. For those who attended I have to assume you had a great conference and for those who didn't I'm sorry to say you missed the opportunity. The groups involved in the planning of the conference will soon be considering any site that may be suggested for the next one. So hopefully in two or three years the next one will be held. NJBA should consider being officially involved when the opportunity arises.

The ACBC began as the ground-work done by the Northeast Blacksmiths Association (NBA) in preparation for the 2008 ABANA Conference. The conference had been approved by ABANA at the 06 conference in Seattle and was to be held on the grounds of SUNY New Paltz. The plans were being finalized with the site and demonstrators were being arranged and then ABANA decided they didn't have the seed money needed to support the conference after problems in Seattle and they pulled the plug canceling their conference.

ABANA suggested to the affiliates that they have regional conferences without ABANA's assistance. NBA contacted groups from Virginia to New England trying to set up a regional conference based in the planned area. With the response that was received it was decided that a conference would be possible with

seed money from the groups that agreed to sponsor the event. It was decided to hold the conference at the Ashokan Field Campus (Now the Ashokan Center) if the limit of 300 participants was set as the site could handle the food, camping and lodging for that many at the facility.



Main Pavilion Demo Area



Green Coal Workshop and Demo Area



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

The event sponsors were:

Northeast Blacksmiths Association  
New England Blacksmiths Association  
Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

With the support of:

Connecticut Blacksmiths  
Capitol District Smiths  
Berkshire Blacksmiths  
Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac  
Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmiths Association



Demo Tent and Tailgate Area

I arrived the day before to assist in set up as needed. The Ashokan Center is currently comprised of three levels; on the lower level was the dining hall and conference room, the bunkhouse and path to the camping area. The next level normally is a field and a pavilion, but for the conference it had a large tent set up for a demonstration area on the end of the field opposite the pavilion and the field was devoted to being a tailgating area. The upper level had the tent for the green coal training area, an area for the outside food vender (If you didn't use the meal plan) and the centers pewter shop which the display gallery was set up.

There were three main demonstrators, Mark Aspery, Peter Ross and David Norrie. Each demonstrator had three demonstration slots and a talk or slide show held in the evening. There were 4 mini demonstrations by Bob Compton, Fletcher Coddington, Rich Waugh and Bill Clemens. There were four one hour lectures by Fletcher Coddington, Bob Bergman, Dave Caccamo and Mike Sarri. I attended one demonstration by Peter Ross, two by Mark Aspery, two by David Norrie and part of a design lecture by Dave Caccamo. These were up close easy to see demos making the conference a great experience. After lunch on Sunday the entire site was broken down and packed away except for the tents, which had been set up by a rental place, and the last of us started to go home.







There was a gallery set up in the building the center usually uses as a Pewter shop. Many smiths brought work to display and the demonstrators judged the pieces and gave their picks. There was a lot of high quality work in this small area!

## **Peter Ross** X Garnett Hinge

I haven't had time to write up Peter's demo from my notes and Marshals, I hope to by next newsletter. I watched this part of the demo, but I only watched parts of his following demos. So much to see! For the demo Peter made a X Garnett hinge which is a product originally imported in large quantities from England. These were made in small workshops and shipped to America by weight and sold by size.



## Mark Aspery Forging Techniques

Mark is a European Journeyman Blacksmith currently an associate of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths in the United Kingdom. He currently owns and operates the Mark Aspery School of Blacksmithing in California. Throughout the demonstrations Mark produced a large number of items, A welded rose hip, a collar on a square bar, a leafing hammer, a chisel, a swage and a crimping stake. He then used these items to make a water leaf. For his lecture he discussed heat treating and case hardening. Mark gave a great high energy demonstration that I enjoyed every minute of.



## David Norrie Architectural Ironwork

David was originally from Canada but has been in Boulder Colorado since 2001. He runs a three man shop making architectural ironwork. His demo was to recreate the center parts of a railing he designed showing how to make the symmetrical pieces and allowing the correct amounts of material for forging.

