



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 9, Issue 4 02/01/05

Editors Soapbox

Happy New Year to all! As I write this we are having the first major snowfall of the year and I am losing my enthusiasm for more as there is over a foot here and it hasn't stopped. We have a good schedule of events coming up and encourage you all to come out to watch and or be part of them. We have decided to stop providing lunch at the meets so bring something or we will let you know what is available in the area. This is to provide more money for the group, so that we can afford to bring in more paid demonstrators and have better meets! Well keep warm and happy hammering.
Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2005

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

February 13th — Joe Szilasky, Knifemaker, demo at Dick Gambino's shop. Details this page.

March 20th — Berksnire Blacksmet at Greg Phillips shop in Montgomery, NY Details on page 3.

April 2nd, 3rd — **9 am** Tong making workshop at Marshalls shop in Howell, NJ. Details on page 4.

May 15th — Hammer-in at Bruce Ringiers shop in Wantage, Northern NJ. Tim Suter demonstrating. Details in next newsletter.

July 9th, 10th — Railroad days, Historic Cold Spring Village in Cape May, NJ. Details in next newsletter.

July 27th thru 31st — Monmouth County Fair, Details in next newsletter.

August 5th thru 14th — State Fair in Sussex, NJ. We are going to sponsor a joint tent with Peters Valley. Demonstrators wanted. Contact Bruce Ringier, details in next newsletter.

September 17th — Peters Valley Pig Roast, Details in next newsletter.

NJBA WINTER MEETING and DEMONSTRATION

Dick Gambino will open his Garwood, NJ metalworking shop to host a one day meeting on Sunday February 13, 2005.

Joseph Szilaski, of Wappingers Falls, NY is our featured demonstrator. Joe was born in Hungary and schooled in the metal smith apprenticeship program. He came to the United States in 1970, and has continued his work here. Joe has earned his living as a full time bladesmith for over 15 years, specializing in edged tools and weapons. He is an American Bladesmith Society Mastersmith, and a writer and columnist for "Blade Magazine".

Early American forged weapons are a special interest and his demonstration will be on techniques in forging tomahawks and pipe tomahawks.

Joe is an adept smith with an easy going style. Look for an interesting and entertaining day. You can check out his website at: www.Szilaski.com

When - We will meet at 9 AM Sunday, February 13th (20th snow date).

Where - Dick Gambino's 7 North Avenue (Route 28) Garwood, NJ 07027

About one mile west of the Garden State Parkway. Use exit 137.

Lunch is a "bring or buy your own" affair. Dick is arranging for a catered lunch, maybe chili and sandwiches, from a nearby deli. All interested, can "chip in".

Everyone is encouraged to bring something(s) for our "Iron in the Hat" fundraiser. The money we raise from the sale of tickets goes directly into the New Jersey Blacksmiths Association coffers, and pays for the activities.

Continued on page 3.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

NEW!!!

Official NJBA Address

**NJBA
P.O. Box 761
Mt. Laurel NJ 08054**

The old address was:
NJBA, P.O. Box 195
Howell, NJ 07731

This will still be active for a while but
please note the change and start using
the new address.

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 the site may be linked to from the NJBA web site.

**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**

NJBA Board of Directors

Marshall Bienstock, June, 2005
663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731
732-938-6577 732-780-0871
jlfmib@optonline.net

Larry Brown, Editor, June, 2005
90 William Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308
718-967-4776
lp.brown@verizon.net, brownln@hotmail.com

John Choborda, June 2004
231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown, NJ 8520
609-443-3106 609-396-9583
JChob@earthlink.net

Tom Eden, June 2005
152 Oak Lane, Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-371-0774
njirrigation@msn.com

Bruce Freeman, June, 2004
222 Laurel Place, Neptune, NJ 07753
732-922-8408, 609-716-2827
freeman@monmouth.com,
freemab@pt.fdah.com

Bruce Hay, Jr., June 2005
50 Pine St., Lincroft N.J. 7738
732-747-4758

Anton Holstrom, June 2004
26 Saddle Shop rd., Ringoes N.J. 08551-1510
609-466-0349 antonholdstrom@msn.com

Thomas Majewski, June 2005
165 Robertsville Rd., Freehold NJ 07728
732 462-2453 v2e4mab9@verizon.netv

Adam R. Howard, June 2005
c/o HHM, P.O. Box 5005, Clinton NJ 08809
908-735-4573 kunstschmeide@aol.com

David Macauley, Chairman, June, 2004
4 Patricia Ct., Howell, NJ 07731
732-206-1568, 732-949-8422
drmacauley@att.com, drmacauley@monmouth.com

Jeff Morelli, June 2005
234 Rahilly Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562
609-723-5990, 732-494-9061x1162

Nate Pettengill, Treasurer, June, 2005
300 Vine St, Delanco, NJ 08075
856-764-5639, nate.pettengill@lmco.com

Bruce Ringier, June, 2005
346 Rt.565 Wantage, NJ 07641
973-702-8475 wlkngb@yahoo.com

Tim Suter, June, 2004
1112 Ladner Ave., Gibbstown, NJ 08027
856-423-4417

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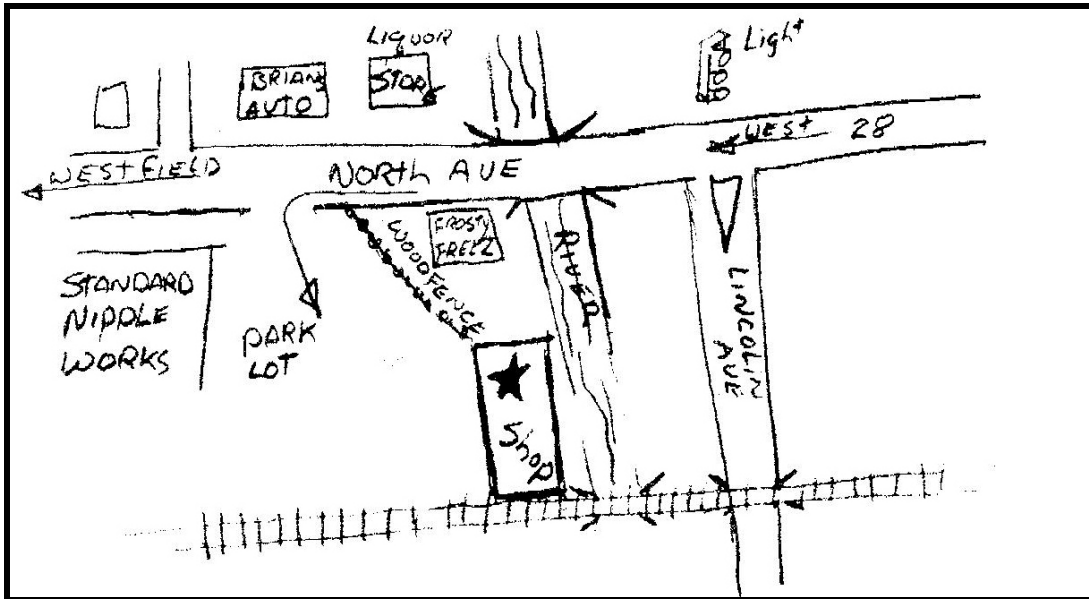
Dick Gambino has some nice items available for sale. A refurbished Nazel Power Hammer Model B3, a Buffalo Forge Drill Press, and also some acorn tables. Check with Dick on the details.

Tailgaters are welcome and should come early!

Contacts –

Tom Eden, cell 609 903 3982 or
home 609 371 0774

Dick Gambino 908 789 8500



Directions to Gambino Metal Works

Directions: Gambino Metal Works is at 7 North avenue in Garwood, NJ (Phone# 908-789-8500) Take the Garden State Parkway to exit 137, Cranford. Go right at end of ramp onto Rt. 28 West which later becomes North Avenue. Road dog legs through town of Cranford. Go seven or eight lights. You will then see a Frosty Freeze on the left. Immediately after crossing Lincoln Ave., make a left turn into the drive way of Standard Nipple Works. Gambino Metal Works is behind the Nipple Works and not visible from the street.

Berkshire Blacksmiths Meet

Hi all,

I finally settled on a date for the Spring meet It will be: Sunday March 19. Anyone with any thoughts, suggestions or requests should give me a call or drop me a line.

By the way, I'm feeling fine now and have been for the last 4-5 months. Thank you all for the encouragement and positive thoughts last winter.

Any difficulty is eased by friends.

Greg Phillips

937 Rt. 17k

Montgomery, NY 12549

gphillips@hvc.rr.com

845-457-5671-leave message

845-590-5254 Cell- talk to me now



New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Learn Tong Making Workshop! Outside The NJBA Area April 2nd and 3rd, 9 am to 4 pm

The cost of this workshop is \$50. This should give people the opportunity to make two pairs of tongs. We provide the stock, teaching and assistance you have to do the work!

It is emphasized that this is a workshop at which one can LEARN to make tongs (and take them home with you) not a workshop to make tongs for the trailer, etc. This workshop is for beginner to intermediate-level smiths. Experienced persons are invited and asked to come help out (at no fee). Each person will probably go away with one pair of tongs made of 1/2" stock (reins drawn out) and one of 5/8" stock (reins drawn out or welded on).

We have to require participants to sign up in advance first come first signed up. This will enable us to provide enough instructors, materials and forges for a worthwhile teaching experience.

Bruce Freeman is the contact person: 732-922-8408. This number is for "signing up" so leave a message. The \$50 will be payable at the start of the first day. He will not generally return the phone to confirm unless there is a reason. Lunch will not be included. We'll probably take a 1-hr break at noon for lunch, or else chip in and send out for something; to be determined.

Directions: Marshalls farm is at 663 Casino Drive, Howell (Monmouth Co.). NJ. which is about 1/4 mile east of Route 9. Casino Dr. is a few miles north of 1-195. and a few miles south of Rte. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways. including the Garden State Parkway. the NJ Turnpike. 1-195. Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. Marshall can be reached at his shop at (732) 780-0871.

NJBA would like to thank
and gratefully recognize
Lincoln Wolfe for his
generous donation

Little Giant Class

The Annual Little Giant Rebuilding Class is coming up. The class is March 18-20, 2005 at their home base in Nebraska City, Nebraska. I have attached a copy of the registration form, which has more details.

Let me know if you have any questions, and thanks!

Keri Igiant@alltel.net

(Registration form lost by editor. If anyone is interested contact me and I will find the contact information out for you)



Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

May 21 & 22, 2005

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland will host their 17th annual Blacksmith Days at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, MD. Between Baltimore and Fredrick Maryland. \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate. \$5 for dinner Saturday night. Demonstrators are Luc Fiedler, hot forging and cold forming floor lamp and sculpture, and Iron Masters (3 to 4 smiths from Russia, led by Nikolai Pakhomov), team forging and fabrication of a three dimensional tree. Dinner presentation with Tina Chisena. Also bladesmithing, brass casting, air hammer demo, tailgating, iron in the hat, public auction of forged iron work, handmade quilt and quilt stand raffle, hand forged bowie knife raffle, and more.

For information contact Dick Smith, Blacksmith Days Chairman, at rsmith@lofstrand.com or Ted McNett, BGCM President, at tedneck@aol.com. You can also check <http://www.bgcmonline.com>

Thanks, Ted
BGCM President

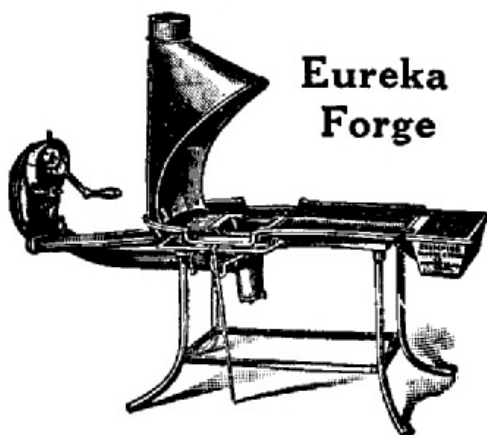
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NJBA Holiday Party

The Holiday Party was again hosted by Jan and Marshall. This year, the attendance was up, many people who had been there in past years were joining in the festivities. More wives and significant others than usual were in attendance - a positive note.

A special surprise awaited the guests as Marshall's mentor and favorite blacksmith Peter Ross, formerly of Williamsburg was in attendance and happily discussed blacksmithing and many other topics. Food and drink were excellent and plentiful. (Peter also attended the open forge on Monday night)

Once again many thanks to Marshall and Jan for opening their home to us this past holiday season.



Report on Joint Meeting of NJBA and NJ Museum of Transportation Allaire State Park, Wall, NJ November 13th, 2004

Prepared by David Macauley

The New Jersey Blacksmith Association held a joint meeting with the New Jersey Museum of Transportation (NJMT) on Saturday November 13th, 2004. The meeting took place at facilities of NJMT also known as the Pine Creek Railroad on the grounds of Allaire State Park. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the two organizations to one another and to provide a demonstration of

industrial riveting. NJMT has established a forge in their repair shop with the help of Bill Kerr and David Macauley. The purpose of the forge is to use repair and fabricate parts for the various engines and cars in the NJMT inventory.

The current major project at the NJMT is the repair of the Porter Mogel 46 steam locomotive. The boiler for the locomotive is riveted with $\frac{3}{4}$ " rivets. This author and several of the other volunteers at the shop have been practicing riveting test plates together to relearn the art of riveting. The demonstration of the 13th was to rivet two 6" x 6" x $\frac{1}{4}$ " plate together with 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " soft steel rivets. The demonstration was performed by Jim Lubrant, the chief mechanical officer for the shop, David Macauley and other volunteers. Jim did most of the riveting with an air hammer fed from a $\frac{3}{4}$ " air hose. The other three demonstrators tried to hold the plates with a rivet in them steady on top of a rivet backing hardy tool in the main anvil. This was the toughest part of the demonstration. If the plates angled away from flat horizontal, the rivet would not line up after being headed. This problem should be mitigated when we rivet on the boiler itself which is stationary. Many of the test rivets were vertically askew, but they appear to have filled the holes and the heads formed pretty well. The NJMT did decide that new heading tools are required for the pneumatic hammers. The existing heading tools are not sealing the rivet heads to the plates thoroughly enough. The museum shop is strongly soliciting any ideas for improving our riveting process. If anyone has information please contact David Macauley at drmacauley@att.net, 732-206-1568.

Jim Lubrant also conducted a tour of the shop and all of the engines and locomotives that the NJMT owns. He also explained the plans of the museum to build a larger blacksmithing area at the back of the current shop. The goal for the new shop is to provide not only support for restoration, but also sufficient resources to conduct group classes on Blacksmithing. NJMT continues to have a very strong apprentice program. This author already has at least 3 young apprentices. A specific project for the apprentices will be to fabricate a pump car as shown in figure 1. This project will require machinists and blacksmithing skill – a demanding but a rewarding project.

Continued next page.

A successful Iron in the Hat was conducted during lunch in which both NJMT and NJBA members participated. The event in total must have been successful since at least one NJBA member joined NJMT.

A professional smith for over 30 years, **Dick Sargent** has been chosen from a large field of qualified applicants.

Bruce Ringier, 2nd VP Board of Directors



"Grounds for Sculpture" in Hamilton, NJ.

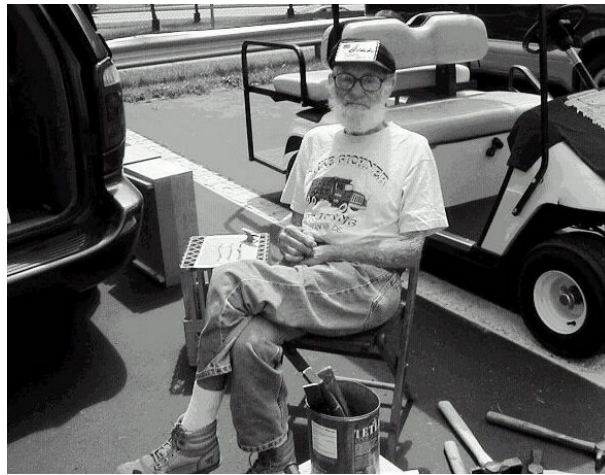
Tom Eden sent in these pictures from one of the places he does business with. Looks like a nice sculpture park to check out on a day you want something different to do! Thanks for sending this in.
<http://www.groundsforsculpture.org/>

GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

18 Fairgrounds Road
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619
(609) 586-0616, Membership Office: (609) 689-1089
Email: info@groundsforsculpture.org
Open to the Public: Tuesday - Sunday,
10am - 8pm, April - October
10am - 6pm, November - March
Wheelchair Accessible

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In Memory of Bill Gichner, 91, Who Passed Away on 8 December, 2004



Bill tailgating at the ABANA Conference in Richmond, Kentucky in July 2004

"Bill Gichner passed away on December 8, 2004 at about 10 a.m. He went into a peaceful sleep with Bob Swenson at his side and a few minutes later breathed his last breath. Bill now joins the other revered blacksmiths that have done so much for the world of blacksmithing. His constant support for the blacksmith community and for the educational facilities will not be lost because he's gone but will stand as a living memorial of what he has done for all of us." These words sent by Bob Morris to announce Bill's death, just hours after it occurred, express in a few words the essence of what Bill Gichner was about and what he meant to the blacksmithing community.

The man is gone but his legacy survives in those whose lives he has affected and in the educational facilities for blacksmithing that he has helped establish and expand, loaning and often donating equipment to make sure these facilities were properly equipped to teach blacksmithing and prevent it from becoming a lost art. Next time you're at BGCM's shop and school, ask someone who's been around a while to point out what's there courtesy of Bill Gichner and you'll begin to understand how we've been touched by his life, so many without even knowing it, taking classes and using equipment that is there because of Bill.

Next time you light a forge fire take a moment to reflect and thank Bill Gichner (and the other great smiths that have gone before him including Samuel Yellin, Alex Bealer, and Francis Whitaker) for preserving and promoting the art and craft of blacksmithing for you and all of us to enjoy. Thanks Bill, we'll miss you!

From: HAMMER & TONG January/February 2005 Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

(This is a eulogy that was delivered by Nol Putnam on 12/10/04 at Addis Israel Synagogue, Washington, D.C., copyright Nol Putnam)

Uncle Bill

And so we have gathered, not to bury Bill but to praise him, to honor him, and to acknowledge the deep debt we owe him.

What a span he has seen: from airplanes made of canvas and baling wire to land rovers on Mars; from the hey-day of smithing in the 1920's studying with the likes of Paul Kiss at his father's shop to smithing's nadir after World War II; to now, where if not ascendant the art is at least well known. And this is in no small part due to the efforts of Bill.

So I would say first that Bill was a traveling man. With the exception of loading the van, a chore that Bill doled out happily to whoever was unhappily handy, usually Big Bob, Bill was ready for a trip in about ten minutes. And those poor old vans - what they were made to carry. It was not that they were stuffed to the gunwales, rather that all the

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stuff was so awfully heavy and often awkward. Forget anything except the front two seats. As Mack can attest, he made do with a campstool on the bad trips and a lawn chair on the good ones - no seat belts there. The trio of Bill, Peter and Mack logged some 80,000 miles around the country looking for shops, trading tools and books, and trying to keep the van on the road. Was it in Colorado that one of the vans finally gave up the ghost? Before that trio was the duo of Bill and Phil Blundell. When Phil got back to the Farm he'd come by the shop and regale me stories of the road. Like stopping someplace in Kansas on the search; the outskirts of a small town "Stop the van." Bill rolls down his window, sniffs the air - "Take a right up there, there's a shop around here somewhere." And ten minutes later they'd roll up to some dilapidated building that was indeed a shop. And the trading began.

Bill was a trading man. He loved to sell you something. He liked it better if you had something to sell him. But he liked it best if you could trade, haggle, argue, suggest, plead and finally agree.

Beneath the trading, however, was genius. He knew the value of tools; he knew the worth of the right tool for the right job. If Bill felt that you needed that specific tool, neither heaven nor hell would stop him from getting it into your hands. "But, Bill, it's too expensive." "Not if it's the right tool," he'd say. "But I can't pay for it now." "That's all right, take it and use it and pay me when you can." He did that hundreds, perhaps thousands of times.

Swenson and I were figuring the other day that Bill probably made about two dollars a sale over the years. What people did not know about were the tools he gave away to set up some worthy shop - in Africa with Manfred Bredohl, in Guatemala with Jack Andrews, in the middle of the Navajo Nation, as a memorial to Debbie, for the farm shop that Bob Morris set up to teach new smiths.

And his books, his beautiful books - many now given to the new Metals Museum library. One or two found their way to my library. I choked at the price, but I didn't argue, and in truth they have been worth every penny. Many were works of art in their own right, created in the days when publishing was an art form, gilt letters on the bindings, print that made an impression on lusciously thick, deckle edged paper. Bill loved them for themselves and that they were also a tool.

He would lend them, he would share them. Not six weeks ago, he got Michael to make some Xerox copies of a picture in a book he had just received and then sent to me simply because I admired it. A generous man.

Bill was an earthy man and never profane. In thirty years of friendship I cannot remember hearing him swear.

Above all, Bill was a friend. He was a friend to hundreds of people; but Bill was my friend. We met thirty years ago at a craft fair. When he came by my booth for the fourth time, I said something brilliant, such as "You must like iron." In a few years the relationship had blossomed and Bill would call me every few weeks to see what and how I was doing. His phone bills must have been horrendous for he called all over the country and often to Great Britain. But it was always personal. "Can I help you with anything?" "Do you need anything?" "Are you charging enough?" And, "when can you come down to the beach? I need about ten minutes warning for the Princess Suite?"

He taught me tricks; he told me truisms; and once in a while he'd leave me holding the bag. At a small craft fair I was taking a break from demonstrating at the anvil. Bill was hammering away, a young girl watching intently. "So what do you think I'm making," he asks. She replies, "a giraffe?" "Exactly right," says Bill. He hammers away for a minute or two, then turns to me, "Nol, would you finish up this giraffe," and sotto voce "I've gotta' go pee."

I thought of him as my Uncle Bill. That older, loving relation who always had a good word, usually an insightful word, and who you knew, when the going got hard, you could turn to for advice and help. Uncle Bill's support and wisdom has in no small part made me the smith I am.

And to Michael, Joann and Bob, and then all the grandchildren, to Joe and his family, while I am not sure you had any choice in the matter, thank you for sharing your Dad, your Grandfather, your brother.

Go well into the night, Uncle Bill, my "gentle, parfait knight."

December 10, 2004
Nol Putnam

copyright Nol Putnam 2004

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Blacksmithing

Workshops and Classes:

Peters Valley Craft Education Center

19 Kuhn Rd., Layton, NJ 07851 (973) 948-5200
pv@warwick.net www.pvcrafts.org

Academy of Traditional Arts

Carroll County Farm Museum

500 South Center St. Westminster, MD 21157
(410) 848-7775 (410) 876-2667

Touchstone Center for Crafts

R.D.#1, Box 60, Farmington, PA 15437
(724) 329-1370 Fax: (724) 329-1371

John C Campbell Folk School

One Folk School Rd.
Brasstown, NC 28902
1-800-365-5724 www.folkschool.com

Red Mill Forge

Contact Adam Howard about workshops and per diem
use of the shop (908) 735-4573

BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda

Has a large selection of tools for sale.

Anvils – Forges – Leg Vices—Blowers

Tongs – Hammers

Will also repair and/or resurface Anvils

Call John for prices and availability

Evening (609) 443-3106

Wanted: Donations for the NJBA Trailer

We need hand tools, files,

Tongs (Old, new and repairable),

Safety Glasses and assorted rivets.

Look around and see what you
have to donate.

Contact: Dave Macauley, Directors list, Page 2

Business Members

We would like to thank those who joined with our new
Business Membership category
Please show them our support

Marshall Bienstock

663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731
(732) 938-6577, (732) 780-0871

John Chobrda, Pine Barrens Forge

231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-443-3106 JChob@earthlink.net

Eric Cuper Artist Blacksmith

109 Lehman Lane, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
908 642-6420 ericuper@msn.com

Bruce Hay, Jr.

50 Pine St., Lincroft, NJ 07738

Jayesh Shah Architectural Iron Design

950 S. 2nd St., Plainfield, NJ 07063
jay@archirondesign.com

Open Forges

We are looking for members who are interested in opening their forges up to members as an open forge. This does not have to be a weekly forge as is Marshall's the others can meet once or twice a month. Please contact, Larry Brown, Editor.

Wewanttoencouragealltojoinus!

Monday Night Open Forge in N.J.

Marshall Bienstock is hosting an open forge in his shop at 7 pm almost every Monday night (Please call ahead on holidays to make sure , (732) 780-0871)

Open Forge in Long Island

Sunday from 10:00 am to 6pm.

Starting the 1st Sunday in November until the end of April. Please call ahead to confirm and get directions.

Ron Grabowski, 110 Burlington Blvd. Smithtown, NY
(631) 265-1564

Ronsforge@aol.com

