



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 15, Issue 3 10/22/10
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

Editors Soapbox

Hi, 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. We have some events coming up that are good opportunities for fellowship and to swing a hammer, so come out and enjoy.

Larry Brown, editor

We need some more activity from our members!

Recent events in the lives of some of our directors have made it hard for NJBA to be all it can be. We need more people to help out other than the same few doing everything. Please talk to one of the directors to find out what you can do to help!

We are also looking for members who have a pickup and would be interested in helping bring the NJBA trailer to meets. If you are interested in helping please contact one of the board members listed on page 2. Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2008/2009

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 13th- Anvil Repair Workshop
More information this page.

December 5th- NJBA Holiday Party, hosted by Marshal and Jan, more info on page 3.

December 11th- Damascus workshop, at Marshalls farm for more info see page 3.

February 5th- Meet at Eric Cuper's shop in Easton, PA. More information on page 3

Saturday November 13th, Anvil Repair Workshop

For \$100 and some sweat labor you get your beat-up old anvil repaired with freshly welded, ground and polished edges. This is a workshop meaning that the anvil owners are participants, usually meaning you will be assigned a task such as grinding, etc.

Anvils missing chunks of the face badly swayed or otherwise abused can also be repaired, but will require more preparation, labor, and money on your part. The workshop will take place at Marshall Bienstock's shop in Howell NJ. Prior registration is required so we can have the proper amount of supplies on hand - please provide the approximate size of your anvil. Pictures would help determine the amount of work required. NJBA has run a similar workshop on several occasion with tremendous results. Non-NJBA members will be required to join to participate in the event. The Contact Persons for this event are: Bruce Hay; (732) 747-4758 and Larry Brown (917) 620-9774

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.

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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](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

**Directors names are not
listed on line**

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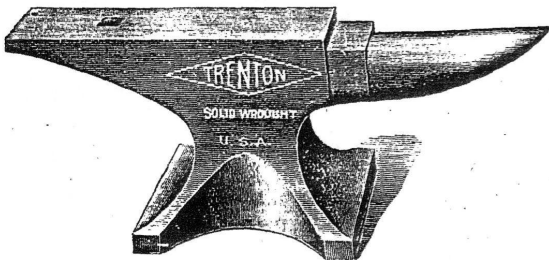
NJBA Holiday Party December 5th at 3PM

The holiday party is to be held on December 5th, 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. (ph# 732-938-6577)
jlfmib@optonline.net

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

TRENTON BLACKSMITHS' PATTERN.



Saturday December 11th, Damascus Workshop

This will be a basic damascus steel class for knives or specilty tools led by Mark Morrow (<http://www.swordsmith.net/>). This will be a beginner level class.

We will be making a simple pattern bar of folded steel in both gas and coal , coke forges, tools and forges will be provided. Attendees will need to bring leather gloves and safety glasses.

The patterns will be twist , ladder and random , also covering types of steel to use , grinding methods and heat treat of finished blades and how to bring out the pattern in the steel.

Charge to be \$50 per person plus \$20 or less (payable to Mark) for materials. (Open to members only, but anyone may join NJBA on the day of the event.) To be held at Marshall's shop. Mark's email address is; swordsmith201@verizon.net and also the shop phone 7324585823 , we need a at least a \$20 deposit and balance at the door. There is a minimum of 4 participants and a maximum of 8.

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.

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Blacksmithing Demonstration **Eric Cuper and Daniel O'Sullivan or** **Mystery Demonstrator** **at Cuper Studios** **Saturday, February 5, 9am.**

Eric and Dan or possibly another swell demonstrator will present a scintillating demonstration for NJBA, PABA, NOMMA, 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 we'll crank up the heat. 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. We will have bleachers but if you have a chair you prefer please feel free to bring it.

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 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. Demonstration and demonstrator yet to be determined.

Directions to Cuper Studios

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

Email: www.ericcuper@hotmail.com

From NJ: Take 22 West into PA. After you leave the toll booth, stay in the right lane. Take the first right exit immediately off the bridge. Keep right around the exit and turn left at the stop. Follow this road (Larry Holmes Drive) through 2 lights and take the next left onto Lehigh Drive. Continue on Lehigh Drive and Lynn Street will be your first right with my building being the first big off white building with red trim on the right.

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

Coal Order with Eric Cuper

Hello Everyone. I need to buy coal and I am looking into getting a full load to hopefully save everyone some money. The order would be for 22-23 tons and it would be bagged in 50# bags with 40 bags to a pallet, so one pallet equals one ton. I am happy to keep several tons in my shop and sell by the bag but I am unable to keep the bulk of this in my shop so I am looking to see if anyone is interested in giving me a confirmation of an amount they would like to purchase to see if we can make this happen. I need to know by early December because once freezing temperatures set in they can no longer bag it because it clumps together. This blacksmithing coal is from the Fisher Coal Mine in Bradford, PA. I do not have the technical data. We would get the 'nut' size which is 3/4" x 1-1/2" and smaller. I have been using it for several years and it forges and welds well and produces very little clinker. Prices may change, but at the moment it would cost \$250 a ton. I have forklifts so I can unload the truck at my shop but everyone would need to get their share quickly so it doesn't choke up my shop for too long. I am also able to deliver 4-5 tons for a nominal delivery fee if you have the means to unload. Please call or e-mail with interest as soon as you can so I can confirm an order. Eric Cuper 908-642-6420 or eric@cuperstudios.com

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Outside NJBA Meet

The upcoming NOMMA meeting invite has been extended to our group. It will be a swell meeting and I encourage all to go if you can. Eric Cuper

NOMMA Northeast Chapter Meeting

When: Saturday, November 6, 2010; Starting at 10 am

Where: M. Cohen & Sons, t/a The Iron Shop, 400 Reed Road, Broomall, PA 19008

In addition to a tour of the M. Cohen & Son facilities, Chris Tierney formerly of Samuel Yellin Metalworks and currently with M. Cohen and Sons, will be forging steel utilizing the coal forge, hand and power hammer forging, anvil tooling and hot chisel work. The focus of this demonstration will be on moving mass and layering detail in order to achieve a more complex design.

The design will be a copy of an ornament from the Yellin Collection.

Additionally they will be showcasing their laser and water jet techniques to incorporate intricate design work along with hand forged items to produce a unique modern twist on old methods.

RSVP is required in order to make proper arrangements.

Phone: 973-247-7604

Fax: 973-247-7605

Email: majkarailing@optonline.net

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Directions: call 610-547-8487 or go to <http://www.ironshopcustom.com>

Eric Cuper

Cuper Studios LLC

eric@cuperstudios.com

Phone/Fax 610.438.8694

Cell 908.642.6420

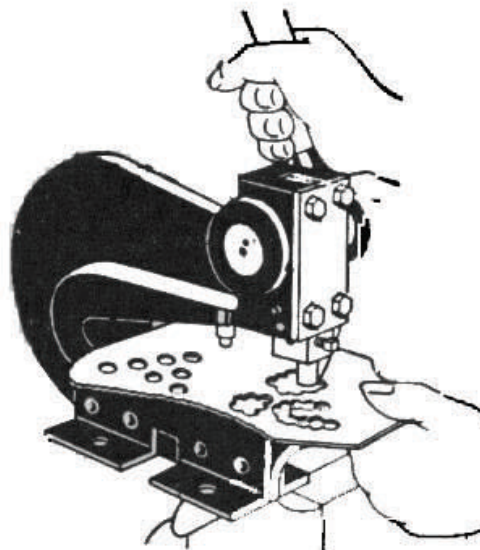
Peters Valley Pig Roast

The Peters Valley Pig Roast to benefit the Blacksmith shop/school was held on September 4th this year. The demonstrator for the event this year was Jonathan Nedbor of High Falls, NY, with a popular and unscheduled demo by Sam Salvati, who I believe is currently working with Tim Miller in Bayport, Long Island. The event had tailgating, an auction (With a lot of great items) and well of course food. There was a selection of roast pork (Pig in BBQ was the star of the show), burgers, dogs, sides and a vegetarian alternative for the non carnivorous. It is now a BYOB event, I had a great time and recommend it to all as a must make event for next year. L Brown

Red Mill Picnic- Report

By Bruce Freeman (with contributions by Dave Ennis)

This year we held our annual picnic and tailgate sale at the Red Mill on Sunday, Sept. 12. The weather was drizzly in the morning, but soon brightened up. It was later reported to me that attendance was about 44, including



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NJBA members and others. I'm sure there were at least two dozen NJBA members and relations present.

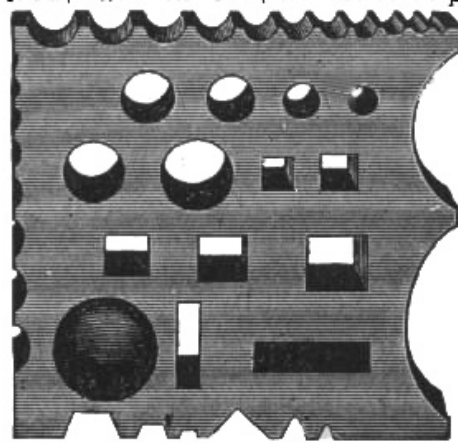
Dave Ennis took on the task of shopping for the picnic food and supplies, including providing two charcoal grills for cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Bob Bozzay and the staff of the Red Mill also contributed to the effort. By the time I arrived, two canopies had been erected, and tables and chairs set up. One charcoal grill was set up and Dave soon assembled a second one. (We opted to use charcoal this year because the city of Clinton has imposed greater regulations on the use of propane grills.)

Mark Balzarette and his wife handled the grills again this year. They started them up in time to have lunch ready by noon, and then kept things running till all were well fed. They also did most of the clean-up, with the help of Dave Ennis.

A local Boy Scout, Brian Fokker from Clinton Troop 121, recently completed installing a brick floor in the front portion of the Red Mill's blacksmith shop as part of his Eagle Scout project - and it looks GREAT! The Mill honored him before the Hammer In. There was a brief 'ribbon cutting' and some recognition of his work. The Mill staff, Board President, Scoutmaster, a local Cub Scout pack, and the local press was there. Since I was running a few minutes late due to the rain slowing traffic, Larry Brown represented NJBA in this ceremony and said a few words.

My contributions were to bring up the NJBA sign and EZ-up canopy, and to get the iron-in-the-hat organized. I also brought up the T-shirts and sweatshirts, and handled their sales. In addition, I joined several others in tailgating blacksmithing and related merchandise. I saw a number of items change hands before the afternoon was over.

As is my wont, I drafted a few folks to help out with the iron-in-the-hat. Maggie sold tickets for the IITH, and Larry and Mike Braddee con-



ducted the drawing, later in the afternoon. What with the IITH and T-shirt sales, NJBA did better than break even for the day. I believe all went away satisfied that the day was well spent.

Old Time Engine Show at Washington's Crossing Park

The Show was very nice this year with a broad selection of one lung / hit or miss engines (Most running) antique trucks, tractors, cars and farm equipment. The show is held at Washington's crossing park in NJ in Titusville, NJ. It was a beautiful day on Saturday when I got to the event. Mike Erdie, Jose Torres and Mitch Swirsky were at John Choborda's trailer with a fire going and Mike was working at the forge. A few other members were working in the fire at various times or checking out the show. I spent a while walking around looking at all the tractor, trucks and hit or miss engines in the fair grounds. I can't begin to describe all the equipment that is on display there, much of it restored beautifully. I forged a scroll and something else (I need to do write up sooner after an event) as an impromptu demo on Saturday. The Show is was held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday I would recommend this event as a great day out, bring your family and see some history and some forging.

Report L Brown

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2010 Boy Scout Jamboree Metalwork Merit Badge Report

By Doug Learn

On 22 July my son Calum and I, accompanied by Life Scouts John Kopperman and Zack Johnson and Scoutmaster Kim Johnson all of Troop 71 traveled to Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia to participate in the 2010 National Jamboree as Metalwork Merit Badge counselors. This was the 100th anniversary of scouting and proved to be one of the largest and best Jamborees.

We carried three forges, four anvils, three vises, one drill press, a chop saw, two grinders and all the other ancillary tooling to help outfit the merit badge booth for blacksmithing, one of the three metal skills that were taught, tin-smithing and foundry being the other two. The Metalwork Merit Badge booth was approximately 120 by 40 feet, with the blacksmiths set up along the entire side of the booth, 9 forging stations in all. Kim and Zack helped in the foundry area, while Calum, John and I were blacksmithing instructors, along with 12 others from all over the US, half of whom were ABANA members. A total of 45 volunteers worked in the booth, including administrators who kept the advancement paperwork organized, handled safety gear and kept the booth managed, and tinsmiths and foundry crew who taught these skills. In addition, others taught the basic safety, metallurgy introduction and did the hardening and tempering requirements. And this was only one of the booths set up on Merit Badge Midway, and nearly all of the 126 merit badges were offered during the Jamboree



After two days of set up and three days of prep work teaching some of the other instructors the skills they needed to teach the scouts, we started teaching some of the over 45,000 scouts who attended Jamboree on Monday, and carried on for 9 days, until lunch the following Tuesday. The booth was very popular, perhaps the most popular on the Merit Badge Midway, with scouts starting to arrive an hour before we opened and often with 30 waiting in line throughout the day. Operating hours were from 0930 to 1700h with about an hour off for lunch. The scouts, Military Brass and Military Police also gravitated to the booth, primarily because of the visibility of the blacksmiths and also because several of us made bottle openers, steak turners and other such pieces for them. Calum, under the tutelage of ABANA member Jim Robarr, made a knife from 1095 steel for the grandfather of one MP.

Over these days, approximately 1100 scouts passed through the booth, and 486 worked on the blacksmithing requirements, having first completed the initial safety and metallurgy requirements and making a center punch. The blacksmithing requirements include making two pieces that require forging a taper, making a decorative twist in a piece, performing riveting and preserving their work

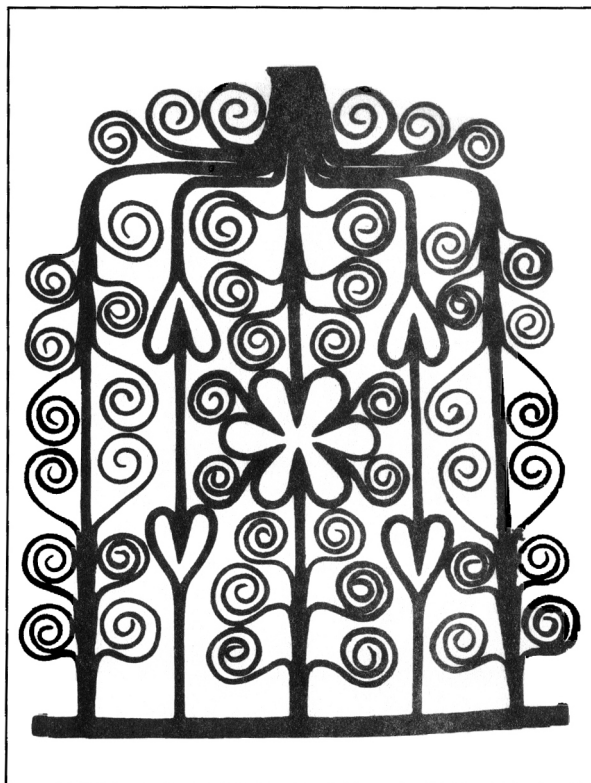
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with wax. The choices of projects were a dutch oven trivet, a spatula with a stainless steel blade, a dutch oven lid lifter and a steak turner. Working in pairs with a counselor, the scouts worked on one of these projects, completing the piece in about 90 minutes with assistance from the counselors to match the Scout's skill level. The counselor's goal was to expose the scouts to the processes and the field and ensure that they carried away a piece that they could be proud of and a souvenir of their experience.

The staff stayed in Wilcox Barracks and either bussed or drove to the Midway each day. We ate breakfast and dinner at the mess hall and had lunch on site. I 'incentivized' the outdoor cooking booth and Lodge Cookware staffs with dutch oven tools and bottle openers early and several of us enjoyed their cooking in lieu of the bag lunches. The fellowship of the counselors, not only in Metalwork but with all the counselors and staff, was wonderful, with people from all walks of life, tool and die makers to physicians to retired Marine generals, volunteering their time to give the Scouts that will be, for many, a once in a life time experience.

A search of YouTube for BSA Jamboree Blacksmith will yield two videos made by scouts completing the cinematography merit badge. One is of Rich Herman of Minnesota and the other is me. There are many sites on the internet where photographs of the Jamboree are posted, and many of them show the Metalwork Merit Badge booth.

My thanks to my fellow counselors, along with PABA members Ed Land, Stan Newcomer and Don Plummer for their generous donation of equipment that made this possible. And my thanks to my wife Fawn, who provided, as she has for over 15 years, her support for my volunteer work with Scouts. We will



be doing this next Jamboree in 2013 at the Bechtel Center in West Virginia. I hope to share the experience with some of you.

Flame Polishing to Rejuvenate Old Safety Glasses

By Bruce Freeman

Recently, I came across information on the flame polishing of plastics. I'd know for many years that glass could be flame polished, but that entails heating the glass to incandescent – a process not amenable to plastics.

It turns out that many plastics can be flame polished merely by waving a MAPP gas flame over them. (Apparently, the hotter flame of MAPP gas is preferable to propane, but I can't attest to this as I've only tried MAPP gas.) Start with a foggy sheet of plastic, like Plexiglas, waive the torch over it, and it magically

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turns clear as the surface imperfections melt together and become smooth. But take care because if you heat the plastic too much it will bubble, and the bubbles may be impossible to buff out.

Anyone working in a shop uses safety glasses, but small scratches and fogging impair your vision and can actually make the use of a battered pair of safety glasses – unsafe! If you can't see through them, you might tend not to wear them at all.

As it happens, I use non-prescription safety glasses that fit over my prescription glasses. I get these on the cheap from Harbor Freight, so it was no great risk to try flame polishing one of these pairs. The first step was to clean off the oil and grit by washing gently with detergent and warm water. Let the glasses dry, then waive the flame over them. The result is great – you can watch the lenses get clear.

A warning, however: Don't try this with prescription lenses unless you would otherwise throw them out anyway. The flame polishing may very well change the prescription, either by direct change of the lens, or by warpage. But for the cheap safety glasses that you can wear OVER your prescription glasses, you have little to lose if the trick fails.



Tim's Tips

By Tim Suter

I would like to pass along a few observations I have made; Recently I completed a gate that includes eight double ended scrolls which enclose eight smaller double ended scrolls. I find that scrolls are like snowflakes, no two are the same, regardless of the care taken. Same technique, same length of material, same scroll form,, etc... They all need some tweaking to perform as intended.

To simplify this and final assembly I made an angle iron frame of the desired dimensions with a bolt hole at the location of the final fastening, located and drilled the hole in the scroll and bolted it in. then with a torch for localizing the heat I tweaked the scroll to fit the frame closely. The mounting hole in the smaller scroll was located, drilled, bolted in and tweaked to suit. Where scroll met scroll I located a 1/4" pin hole. The pin was plug welded both sides and rotary filed smooth to hide it. This greatly simplified the final assembly.

Winter is fast approaching; Last winter I used a small electric space heater to take the initial chill out of my 12 by 18 shop, then used a window fan at low speed to circulate the air around my forge, hood and stack. The shop was soon at a cozy working temperature.

What to do about a freezing slack tub; Mine is a beer keg mounted on casters, the better to move it to the most convenient location. I put a 25 watt light bulb under it, wrapped it with insulation batt and a cover of the same batt. I would guess the water never got less than about 60 in the coldest of nights. it is nice not to have to empty the tub lest it freeze and break or have to fill it when the hose is frozen. The cost is inconsequential compared with the convenience of going to the shop whenever the mood strikes.