

FIRE & IRON

Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Spring-2023

Next Ashokan Hammer-In April. 28th,29th,30th

Demonstrator:

Terry Sheridan



Spring Forging Contest-

The project for the
spring is a candle
holder.

Register Online

[https://
northeastblack-
smiths.weebly.co
m/events.html](https://northeastblacksmiths.weebly.com/events.html)

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President's Message

Spring 2023 Northeast Blacksmiths President Message

Greetings from the north country. As I'm composing this letter it is 10 below right now. I hope everybody is warm and safe and the home fires are burning hot. I'm looking forward to the spring hammer-in, it looks to be a interesting weekend. We have a good demonstrator coming in and have quite a few people already pre-registered which is very encouraging. I would like to propose a forging contest of a candle stand that is traditionally made with a *\$50 discount to the winner* for the fall hammer -in off registration fee. For those that do not have my contact information, my email address is ironanearth@gmail.com My cell phone number is 518-744-8139. Looking forward to seeing everybody at the hammer-in and thank you .

Frank-

Don't forget to bring items (shop related or not) for the Iron-in-the-Hat Lottery, our after lunch fundraiser. If you can take the time, make an entry for the Forging Contest. And also, bring some examples of your work for the display table. Remember that it is about sharing your joy of shaping steel and making things, so all levels of work are welcome.

2023 Northeast Blacksmiths Spring Demo

Demonstrator: Terry Sheridan

Terry Sheridan, from Collingwood Ontario, Canada, is our demonstrator for the Spring weekend. Terry's day job is running a machine shop where he works on heavy construction machinery and is on call to do work for several nearby ski resorts. In the shop, most of his forging is for industrial applications, using gas forges and power hammers. View more of Terry's work at [The Barn Studio - Galleries](#)

Terry's plan for the weekend demo is to forge several traditional tools from wrought iron with carbon steel edges, such as a small axe, chisel, and spoon auger. There will also be a demonstration of a set of box joint pliers and a set of forged joint dividers. And, if time permits, a demo of techniques used for forging sockets and other internal shapes.

Expect a fact filled demo that will send you home with notes filled with simple approaches to forging traditional items, practical solutions, tooling ideas and inspiration.

Here is some of Terry's work...



Terry Sheridan



**Fall Hammer-In :
2022**

Our presenter for the Spring Hammer-in was Leonid Karelshcheyn



Here, Leonid is working with his daughter. Sometimes its nice to have an extra set of hands on the job!! She was a great apprentice for the day and also helped tremendously with translation throughout the demonstration.



This is a picture of the chair that Leonid made. Although still a work- in- progress after the morning demo, the chair showcases Leonid's architectural expertise and incredible forging knowledge.

Our Iron-in-Hat is always a great way to contribute to the association and pick up some great stuff!



Our open forge is a great opportunity to practice and learn new skills in a safe a friendly environment.

Congratulations to James Nelson for winning the Fall Hammer-in forging contest which was a “forged shoehorn”.



Other Upcoming Events

* The New England Bladesmiths Guild's seminar will be held at Ashokan on September 15-17. This is a dual meet with the Northeast Blacksmiths Association. For information, visit <http://ashokanknifeseminar.com/>



Save the date for June 6-9, 2024! The next ABANA conference will be June 2024 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Details are being worked out and will be announced at a later date.

* 31st Annual Ozark Conference -April 27th - April 30th, 2023.

For more information visit <http://www.bamsite.org/>

Here is a list of craft schools that offer a range of blacksmithing courses. If you know of any others that should be on this list, please contact me lucas.patsch@gmail.com and I can update it for the next newsletter. Some of these schools offer internships and scholarships!

- Brookfield Craft Center– www.brookfieldcraft.org
- Adirondack Folk School- <https://adirondackfolkschool.org>
- Penland School of Craft– <https://penland.org>
- Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts– www.arrowmont.org
- John C. Campell Folk School - [www,folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org)
- Arc and Flame Center– www.rocafc.com
- Center for Metal Arts– <https://centerformetalarts.org>

NBA Safety and Shop Needs – Discussed at the Fall 2022 business meeting.

Please consider bringing items on this list for use in the Teaching Program and in the blacksmith shop. We need to have a good selection of tools for repair and maintenance. The tools don't have to be new, clean and usable is good.

Fire Extinguishers, Types A, B & C, good to have 2 of each.
10# size would be good,
5# would be OK

Wire Brushes – wood block handles: wire brushes and wire strip Butcher Block brushes. Need at least 2 of each.

Oil – 2 quarts, minimum, light machine oil - 30W Non-Detergent

Wrenches – large box end wrenches, adjustable crescents, socket sets. Could use some larger combination wrenches (open and box end) as well as socket sets in 1/2" & 3/8" drive. Several adjustable crescent wrenches and Allen Wrench set, would also be good to have in our tool kit.

We also need basic materials for the Teaching Program:

Mild steel, square and round – 1/4", 3/8", 1/2" & 1/4" x 3/4"

1084 Tool Steel – 3/16" x 1" x 24"

These can be in random lengths, 12" or longer.

Tradition and Lore

THE SONG OF THE ANVIL

*“ for thou shalt learn
The wisdom early to discern
True beauty in utility;
As great Pythagoras of yore,
Standing beside the blacksmith's door,
And hearing the hammers, as they smote
The anvils with a different note,
Stole from the varying tones, that hung
Vibrant on every iron tongue,
The secret of the sounding wire.
And formed the seven-chorded lyre. “*

-Longfellow: *To a Child.*

“ there is no orchestral instrument, the origin of which can definitely be attributed to the sound of the hammer on the anvil. The nearest approaches are the triangle, the xylophone and the bells; the triangle, however, is descended from the systum of the Egyptian priests, which has no apparent connection with the smithy, and the xylophone is too modern to be attributed to such a source by descent. The music of the bells, though, has a distinct connection with the forge. The earliest bells were made of wrought-iron plates laid over on another and riveted together—the work of the blacksmith—and there can be little doubt that the whole idea of bell music was suggested by the sound of hammer upon anvil: early bells were, indeed, rung with a hammer. The bellows of the organ, too, introduced into Western Europe music about the eighth century A.D., seems obviously to have been taken from the bellows of the forge.”

“The Smith; The traditions and lore of an ancient craft”

By Frederick W. Robins

*Re-post from Fall 2022 Newsletter

Tool for holding sockets for bending radii

This is a tool I came up with 15-20 years ago. It enables me to make hooks or bend rod or flat narrow stock into a variety of radiuses. It is made out of an old junk adjustable crescent wrench I had. I cut it off and welded it to a piece of heavy tubing that fit my hardy hole. I ground one side to hold a 3/8" socket of any outside diameter and welded a small piece of spring steel to the other side for length and ground it into a piece to hold a rod or a curl on a hook. I adjust it for whatever I am bending. The pictures should explain things well enough for anybody able to electric or torch weld and use a grinder. After I welded the spring steel on I heated the area welded with a torch to red heat and let it air cool. I used a mig welder, but it could be welded however you normally weld steel.

In the photos I took two piece of 1/4" round rod, pointed them and forged a curl on one end. I adjusted the tool for the rod I was bending and then heated the rod. Since this rod was mild steel I cooled the curl in water before bending, and you pull hard on the rod towards you when bending to get a nice bend. I can change sockets and bend to any size in a socket set. I was going to make a better one, but this one worked so well I have just used it. I have an adapter to use 1/2" sockets on it as well. While I invented this myself, I am certain this type of tool has been made by many smiths as we are an inventive bunch. Doing production work gives a person a lot of time to think while doing repetitious work.

Bob Patrick 11/2/2022



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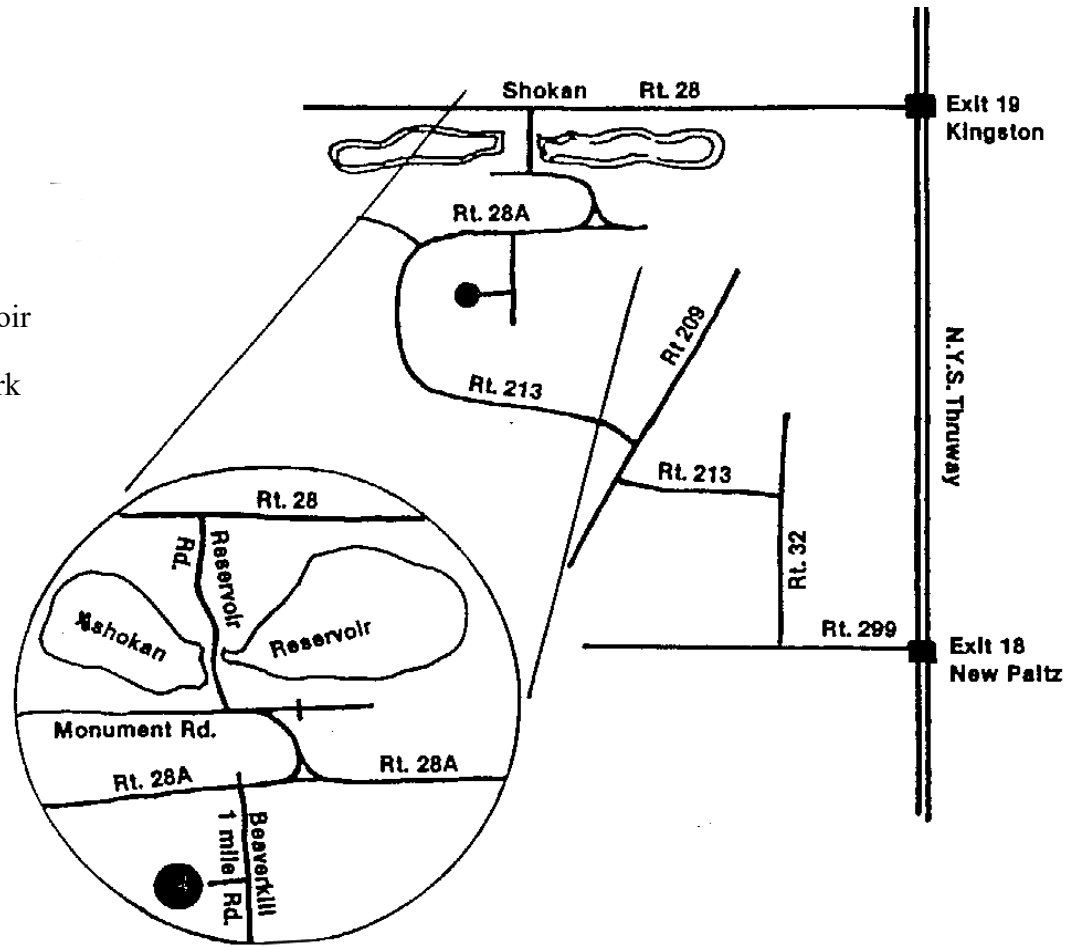
For Registration information for our
Spring Hammer-In on April 28th, 29th, 30th
visit

<https://northeastblacksmiths.weebly.com/events.html>

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