

FIRE & IRON

Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Fall 2018

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

Demonstrator:

ELMER ROUSH



Fall Forging Project

The project for the Fall is a forged "Key Holder"

Hands-On Workshop
Beginner and not so.

Register Online

If you pay at the door it saves us the PayPal Fee
www.northeastblacksmiths.org

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President's Message

Fall Hammer-In

This coming Hammer-In will be the second time we are sharing the Ashokan campus with the New England Bladesmith's Guild. Last Fall's NBA/NEBG weekend was a gathering of over 146 metalsmiths and metal enthusiasts! It was a high voltage weekend! An added benefit to the NEBG presence is being able to see the Bladesmiths' Sunday morning knife exhibit.

Work Day at the Forge

We had a successful Tong Workshop at the Salem Art Works blacksmith shop in early June. With 14 participants, we all worked hard so that everyone went home with a pair of tongs! Most of the participants were new to NBA, so I hope to see them at Ashokan. Thanks to Daniel Lapidow and John from SAW for assisting with the tong-making instruction.

ABANA Conference

By now, you may have heard about the ABANA Conference that happened in June, outside of Richmond, Virginia. From all I've heard it was a great success. Four days filled with eye-opening forging demos, lectures/presentations, a large gallery show, large teaching program, and socializing with hundreds of other smiths. We are very lucky that in just 2 years the next ABANA Conference will be in our own neighborhood! The 2020 Conference will be June 3-6 in Saratoga, NY.

I expect that there will be many NBA members in attendance, both as attendees and volunteers. Being a volunteer at the conferences gives you an inside view of the event, and you'll get a lot more out of it than you put in. Sign up at our Fall Hammer-In to volunteer. See the announcement on page 10 in this issue of the newsletter.

Fire & Iron is the official newsletter of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association. The projects and processes described in the newsletter are potentially dangerous. The Northeast Blacksmiths and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles in the Newsletter Fire & Iron. The Newsletter Editors, Officers and Members of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the newsletter Fire and Iron. The Newsletter of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association assumes no responsibility or liability

Presidents Message Continued...

40th Anniversary

And finally, the NBA has reached a significant milestone: this Fall marks the Northeast Blacksmiths Association's 40th year! In celebration, we'll have commemorative T-shirts for sale, a BBQ dinner, beer in the Pavilion, a photo board of past Hammer-Ins, the Whittaker videos will run all weekend and more.

As a postscript, I want to mention the passing of William (Bill) Young, a member of our group many years ago. Bill was our first newsletter editor. At Kent Reeves urging, Bill put the newsletter together in all its mimeographed glory. Bill had lived in New Jersey and later moved to rural Delaware County, NY, where he set up shop producing silversmithing tools, andirons and fireplace tools, among other work.

Jonathan Nedbor

Important Message:

Many people on our e-mail list have been deleted from the active list because they did not respond to an e-mail from the Ashokan Center requesting permission to send future e-mails. If you have not received an e-mailed invitation to the Fall Hammer-In, you must go to our website at northeastblacksmiths.org, click on the "Contact" page and click on the "Join our mailing list" button. This is the only way to get back on the mailing list!

2018 Fall Hammer-In

We have Elmer Roush from Brasstown, NC as our demonstrator for the Fall Hammer-In. Elmer is known for his edge tools such as hewing axes, froes and hatchets as well as dividers, calipers, locks and kitchen utensils. He has studied the ironwork of the 18th & 19th centuries to learn to create historically accurate objects in the manner and style of the smiths of that era.

Elmer began smithing on his own in 1970 and eventually took classes at Arrowmont, Haystack and John C. Campbell Folk School. He also had an opportunity to work with master smith Vaclav Jaros from Czechoslovakia

Since 1987, Elmer has been smithing full time producing tools, 18th Cent. hardware, architectural ironwork as well as a production line of candle holders, letter openers and fireplace tools. In addition to teaching at Peters Valley, Touchstone, Appalachian Center for Crafts and John C. Campbell, in 1999 Elmer helped set up the blacksmithing program at Cearta Inneona in Ireland, where he was head instructor and acting CEO for a year.

For the first part of his weekend demo Elmer will make a socketed chisel with a welded socket and bit. Following that he will work on a fancy flesh fork that he will detail with chased and engraved designs.

Elmer has a good reputation as an instructor and demonstrator so we can expect an interesting and informative demo. Don't miss it!

For more on Elmer's
www.elmerroush.com

work: <http://>



Spring Hammer-

In : 2018

Our Spring demonstrator was Nick Rossi. For his main project he made a hand forged drop point knife.

Nick used a piece of 1084 steel and forged the entire piece in the coal forge. His process was done almost entirely by hand, using a lot of hammer and file work.

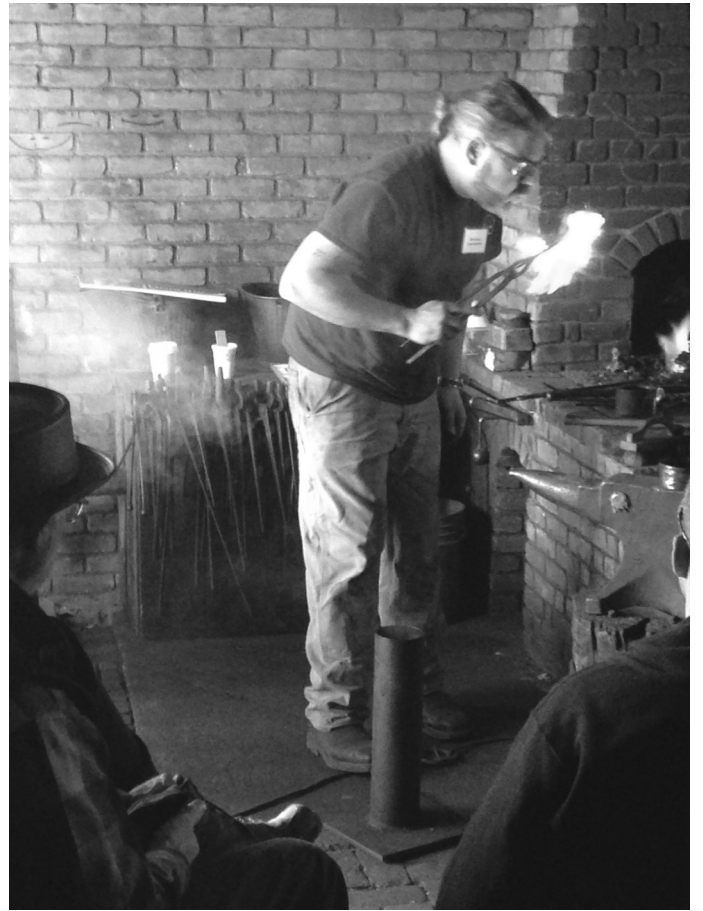
Throughout the weekend, Nick continually shared his wealth of knowledge for knife-making and metallurgy. He was extremely passionate about blades and their historical significance as well, making the demonstrations highly engaging.



Finished knife from the demo: Photo by C. Davidson.



One of the only times Nick used a grinder. I think it was right before lunch break!



HOW TO: By Nick Rossi

Hot punched and Fit Guard

This is a process that I developed after taking a traditional joinery blacksmithing class at NESM. I was working on a knife design that could be made quickly and efficiently but more elegant than the “forge a full tang and bold some wood on the sides” hard use knives that are more common. While the rustic, forged finished look isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, I think it has some charm. Just beware, a rustic knife made without great care is just plain ugly.

I start with a standard, hidden tang knife. The tapers must be very consistent, with the ricasso being the thickest part like on any hidden tang knife. Guard shoulders are filed in as usual, but with a 3/16 radius in the transition to the tang. You will need to forge a flat bottom punch. 7” of 3/4 coil spring would be perfect. The flat bottom of the punch should be roughly the same width and height as 2/3 of the taper of your tang. It’s very important that the tapers of your punch be flat with no convexities. There is no need to heat treat this punch.

This guard is made using 1/2 round. 1/2 square can be used for a larger guard. Measure 1/2 inch from a medium radius on your anvil edge. Utilize a half-faced blow to create the shoulder defining your finger guard (Fig 1). Forge down to 3/16. You can make it thinner later.

Flatten just enough of the round stock to fit the face of your punch (Fig 2).

Using tong rings or a stand, make a “footprint” 3/16 from the shoulder you just made (Fig 3) If it’s not in the middle, or about 3/16 from your shoulder, now is the time to adjust (Fig 4).

If you are happy, drive the punch straight into the “footprint” at a high heat. You can take as many heats as you need. I like to put some green coal in the hole as a lubricant. Stop when you feel the punch hit the anvil. To free the punch, tap the finger guard flat against the anvil with the punch still in place.

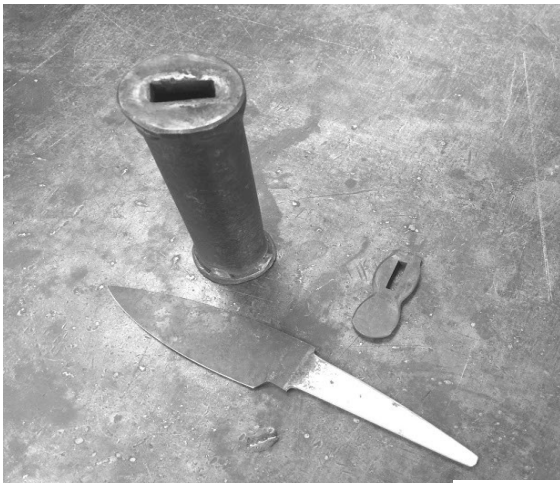
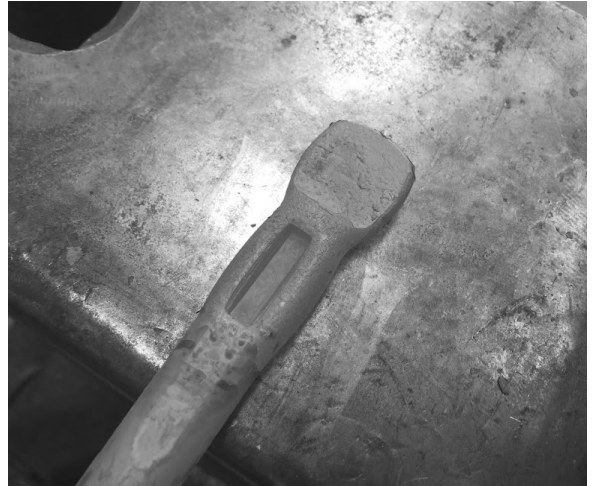
This will cause significant distortion, so tap your guard flat before proceeding. Flip your piece over. There should be a shiny “Bulls eye” where the thin piece of metal not displaced by the punch is left. This is the “Biscuit”. Place your punch over that shiny spot and at a black heat, give it a sharp hammer blow (Fig 5). That should shear out the thin web left over and your biscuit will fall out, leaving a rectangular hole the same size as the face of the punch (Fig 6). Cut guard off the bar.

We will be using the tang as a drift for the final sizing of the guard and a “Monkey tool” to push the guard into our tang shoulders. A monkey tool is as simple as a piece of plate with a rectangle slot punched into it, welded to a pipe. You can use your punch that you already made, just drive it a little deeper. This tool will fully support the sides of the guard as it is driven on (Fig 7).

Get the guard very hot, drop it on to the tang and drive it onto the tang shoulders, being careful not to monkey at an angle. Again, this may take several attempts. With the guard fully seated, loosen the vise and tap the tang, freeing the guard. Try to do this while the guard is still red. It will shrink as it cools and will have to be driven back on, which is what we want (Fig 8).

The finger guards always come out too long, so I file or grind it shorter and contour to taste. After grinding I throw it back in the fire and wire brush to get that as-forged finish back. To install, I drive the guard back on with the monkey tool cold. Because of the taper of the punch the back of the guard has a larger slot than the front, so I fill that void with JB weld or G-Flex for a permanent water and weather proof seal.

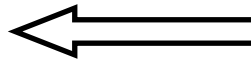
Photos on the next page...



It was a beautiful day for tailgating and catching up with other club members.



Standing room only inside the shop.

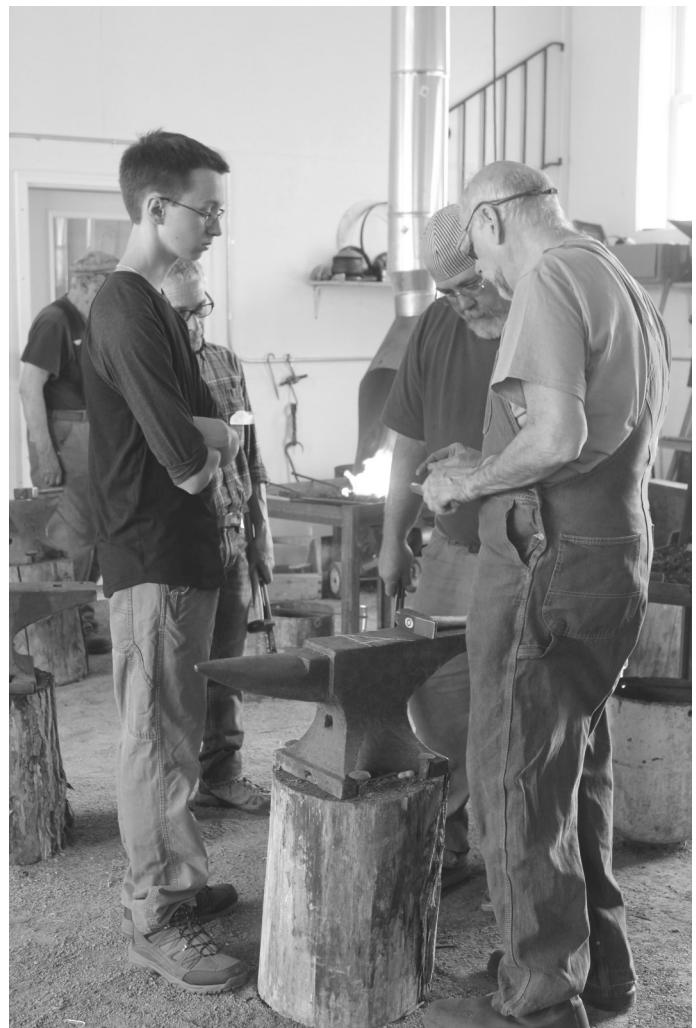


The hands on program was alive and well. We had a lot of participation from our members including some youngsters!! Passing this knowledge down has always been something that our club has valued.



There's more opportunities for the club to meet!!!

The NBA participated in a tong-making workshop on June 9th at the Salem Art Works shop. This was a hands-on learning experience with instruction. The goal was to have some people make tongs to donate to the upcoming 2020 ABANA Convention which will be held in Saratoga NY, a few miles away from the Salem Art Works shop!!



Photos by Jordan Vincent of Salem Art Works

2020 ABANA Conference Update

The planning for the 2020 ABANA Conference to be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds near Saratoga Springs, NY, June 3-6, 2020 is well underway. The conference committee consists of Bob Menard, Rand Condell, Bob Valentine, Mark Aspery, Dana Flanders, Dick Sargent, Matt Parkinson, Leigh Morrell.

For those of you that were in Richmond you know that we created quite a buzz about 2020. Many of us wore red tee shirts on which was written "Ask Me About 2020". We had tables with information about Saratoga, Lake George and the Washington County Fairgrounds. A representative of the Saratoga Tourist Bureau joined us for three days. There is now an ABANA 2020 Facebook account and we have obtained two domains, ABANA2020.com and ABANA2020.org. We have yet to develop our website but should have the site up later in the Fall.

The fairgrounds has nearly 200 RV sites and many tent sites. There is also a very rustic bunkhouse on site. There are lots of buildings and demos will be held in these buildings. Vendors and tail gators will also be in covered buildings.

We have more than half of our demonstrators for the conference. The Conference will focus on the seven areas of Blacksmithing: Traditional, Tooling, Art, Power, Knives, Farrier and teaching.

The Adirondack Folk School has an annual Instructor Rendezvous in August where we share ideas, discuss how to improve our blacksmithing program and make tools for the shop. Most of our instructors are involved with planning the 2020 Conference. This year we have invited representatives from all of the regional affiliates to join us. We will spend Friday and Saturday evenings sharing ideas and plans for 2020, and spend Saturday finishing off the 40 pairs of tongs started by the New England Blacksmiths at their June meet. Hopefully we will be able to add to that number. On Sunday we will make a site visit to the Fairgrounds.

The ABANA Board will be coming to the area the first weekend in November to meet with the committee and they too will do a site visit.

Lots of planning has already been done but there is a lot more to do. It requires many hands to have a successful conference. if you would like to help please contact me at: rand.condell @adirondackfolkschool.org.

Northeast Blacksmiths Association Meeting Minutes April 14, 2018

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Jonathan Nedbor
Request for agenda items. Minutes read from Fall meeting, 2017**

Discussion on group's "new" trailer: improvements suggested by Phil, Tim and Fred. Wall protection and tie downs:
Friday work crew at Fall meet

Jonathan requested trailer registration for "old" trailer, has not paid for old trailer, waiting on registration

Tool liability still in limbo

Alternate meeting sites: attendance issue has been resolved with shared weekends at Ashokan - Spring: Watershed Group,
Fall: Bladesmiths

Lack of proposals from committee for Alternate Meeting Sites met with lukewarm response.

2020 ABANA Conference, Saratoga Springs: no updates

Group merchandise: Tim Neu volunteered to take over group purchases and sales. Tim to inventory items

Whitaker Tapes: copies needed, Chris Dougherty to make copies, PJ Muller to assist

Greg Phillips to create and make window stickers with group's logo with "established 1978"

Attendance at business meeting needs to be improved: urge members to attend and participate in business meeting

Workshops between Hammer-Ins: Jonathan arranged June 9th "A Work Day at the Forge: Hammer and Learn",
project - Tongs, at Salem Art Works, Salem NY

Web Site: Tim Neu is the new website administrator, taking over from Larry Brown. Thank You Larry!

Newsletter Luke Patsch is the new newsletter editor. Many thanks to Carl Davison and his wife Barb for their many years of dedicated service.

New Librarian needed, Fred Morse is stepping down.

Demonstrator for Fall Hammer-in is still undecided, suggestions offered: Elmer Roush, Lorelei Sims

Frank Shaw noted: best turnout for the forging contest. Ticket voting still an issue, needs to be explained better prior to vote

Kelly: suggested changing Forging Contest location and increase the number and quality of entries

Jonathan: improvement needed in quality of donated items for Iron in the Hat

Need for a stand-up Tool Box in the trailer was discussed. Tim to purchase one to be installed at the Fall Meet.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 PM Respectfully submitted, Hank Rehm

Upcoming Events

2020 ABANA Conference in Saratoga N.Y. Keep checking the ABANA website for future information.

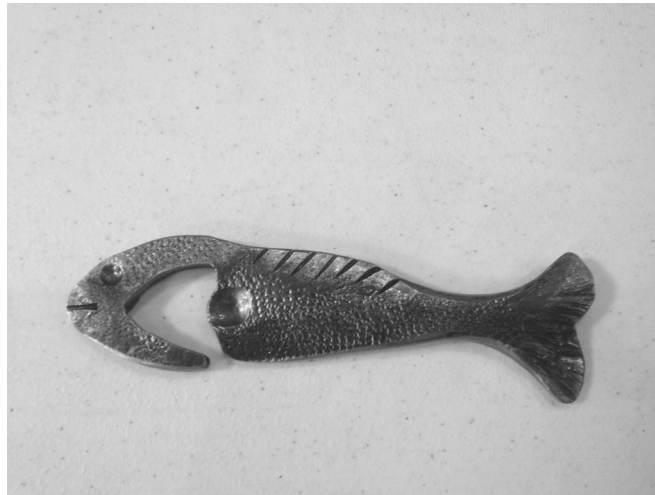
**September 28th, 29th, & 30th , 2018
Northeast Blacksmiths Association Fall Hammer-In
Demonstrator, Elmer Roush**

New Jersey Blacksmiths

Check out <https://www.njblacksmiths.org/> for nearby events!

Sept. 7th, 8th, 9th....New England Blacksmiths Fall Meet Mark Aspery demonstrator
for updated info go to the web site < <http://www.newenglandblacksmiths.org/> >

**“Forging
Winner
Spring**



**Project”
from the
meet**

Next Forging Project

The project for the Fall is a key holder.
Ideas for next Spring’s forging project are welcomed...
Contact: lucas.patsch@gmail.com



NBA Members Library

We have an extensive assortment of blacksmithing books / DVD’s and VHS tapes for loan to members.

Fred Morse is our Librarian Contact <fmorse@frontiernet.net> (845)783-2049

You will have to pay shipping both ways or pick up and drop off items at the hammer-in

For a complete list go to our website

www.northeastblacksmiths.org

REGISTRATION Fall 2018 HAMMER-IN

**After Sept. 15th
there will be a late**

On-Line Registration available at www.Northeastblacksmiths.org

If you can't register on-line fill out & mail in the form below

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Check Package choice below Late = postmarked after Commuter package = no lodging.

- 1) ___ \$ 255.00 Adult weekend pkg. : 6 meals, 2 nights lodging, demo fee & dues. **(Late \$280 after Sept. 15)**
- 2) ___ \$ 225.00 Student weekend pkg. Student ID required: 6 meals, 2 nights lodging, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$250 after Sept. 15)
- 3) ___ \$ 210.00 Adult weekend commuter pkg. 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$235 after Sept.. 15)
- 4) ___ \$ 180.00 Student weekend commuter pkg. Student ID required: 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$ \$200 after Sept. 15)
- 5) ___ \$ 130.00 Adult Sat. pkg. 3 meals, demo fee, day pass, & dues. **(Late \$ 150 after Sept.. 15)**
- 6) ___ \$ 100.00 Student Sat. pkg. Student ID required : 3 meals, demo fee, day pass & dues.
(Late \$120 after Sept. 15)
- 7) ___ \$ 135.00 Adult Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. 2 lunches, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues. **(Late \$155 after Sept.15)**
- 8) ___ \$ 105.00 Student Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. Student ID required: 2 lunches, 2 day –passes, demo & dues
(Late \$125.00 after Sept. 15)
- 9) ___ \$ 95.00 Adult Sat. or Sun. Lunch pkg. Lunch, demo fee, day pass & dues. **(Late \$110 after Sept. 15)**
- 10) ___ \$ 65.00 Student Sat. or Sun. Lunch pkg. Student ID required, lunch, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$80 after Sept. 15)
- 11) ___ \$ 65.00 Adult Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day pass & dues. **(Late \$75after Sept. 15)**
- 12) ___ \$ 35.00 Student Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day pass & dues. **(Late \$ 45 after Sept. 15)**
- 13) ___ \$20.00 **Dues only**

**Please check box if you would like to
participate in the Hands-On Forging”
activity**

Make checks payable to: Northeast Blacksmiths Association
c/o Tim Neu

PREREGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT ! Please fill out and return the registration form before Sept.15, 2018.

Registration fee will be refunded 100% if you cancel by Sept. 15, After this date, a 50% refund is available.

When: Plan to arrive to the Ashokan by 2:30 PM. Friday Sept. 28th Seminar concludes after lunch on Sun. Sept. 30th

Student ID required for full time student discount rates .

For first time attendee's **Discount \$10**

Meals: Served buffet style with a vegetarian alternative. Please indicate on the registration form any special needs.

Lodging Lodging is bunk house style. Blankets & pillows are provided by the Ashokan Center. Bring your own linens or sleeping bag and toiletries. A separate bunk area will be reserved for couples. For those who may need more privacy, a rustic campground is

Child Participation Scholarship

We have initiated a reduced rate for children that want to participate with their parents in the workshop. This is a limited offer and must be reserved ahead of time. Availability is on a first come first serve basis, Call ahead of time for qualifications and availability[845] 657-7553

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Fall 2018 HAMMER-IN AT ASHOKAN

Friday, Sept. 28

2:30 PM - Arrival & shop setup
6:00 PM - Buffet Dinner & Registration
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Presentation by Elmer Roush

Saturday, Sept. 29th

8:00 AM - Breakfast
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Elmer Roush
Pavilion: Intro. to equipment, fire tending, and hands-on forging skills

12:00 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM to 1:30 PM - Iron-in-the-Hat drawing, Forging contest judging
1:30 PM to 5:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Elmer Roush

Pavilion: Hands-on

basic forging skills continued

5:30 PM - Dinner
7:00 PM - Chapter business meeting .

Sunday, Sept. 30th

8:00 AM - Breakfast
9:00 AM to 11:30 PM -Final demo / wrap up with Elmer Roush
11:30 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop clean up
12:00 PM - Lunch

Safety Alert

To participate in the Hands-on forging area you must

- Wear safety glasses
- Wear non flammable clothing, cotton / wool
- Wear shoes that cover your feet completely, leather.

Personal Release Form
(Please read carefully and sign)

I acknowledge that the blacksmithing activity I am about to participate in is a potentially dangerous activity. I understand that the activity has been organized and is being led by private individuals working as unpaid volunteers, and is not a program of the Ashokan Center. I take full responsibilities for my health, well-being, behavior, and experience during this activity. I agree to exercise appropriate care and awareness during the activity and accept this as my responsibility in consideration for permission to participate. I agree to wear appropriate protective clothing and footwear, and will use protective eyewear at all times while in and near the activity area. I understand and assume the risk and responsibility for any injuries or damages suffered by me arising out of my participation in this event, and any costs I may incur associated with such injuries or damages, or otherwise incurred on my behalf in the furtherance of my well-being or safety.

I release from any liability and surrender all rights to make a claim against the Ashokan Foundation, Inc., the Ashokan Center, Inc., the staff of the Ashokan Center, the members and officers of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association and the persons who are facilitating the event and other participants in the event, as a result of any injury, damage, death, or any other loss suffered by me. This includes any claims resulting from negligence (but not its willful or wanton misconduct) on the part of the property owners or staff of the Ashokan Center.

I have read and understand and agree to the above statements.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

In the event of an emergency I request and give permission to the organizers to contact the person listed below and to secure appropriate treatment at my own expense.

Name (please print) _____

Telephone number: _____

Ashokan Center
477 Beaverkill Road
Olivebridge, N.Y. 12461

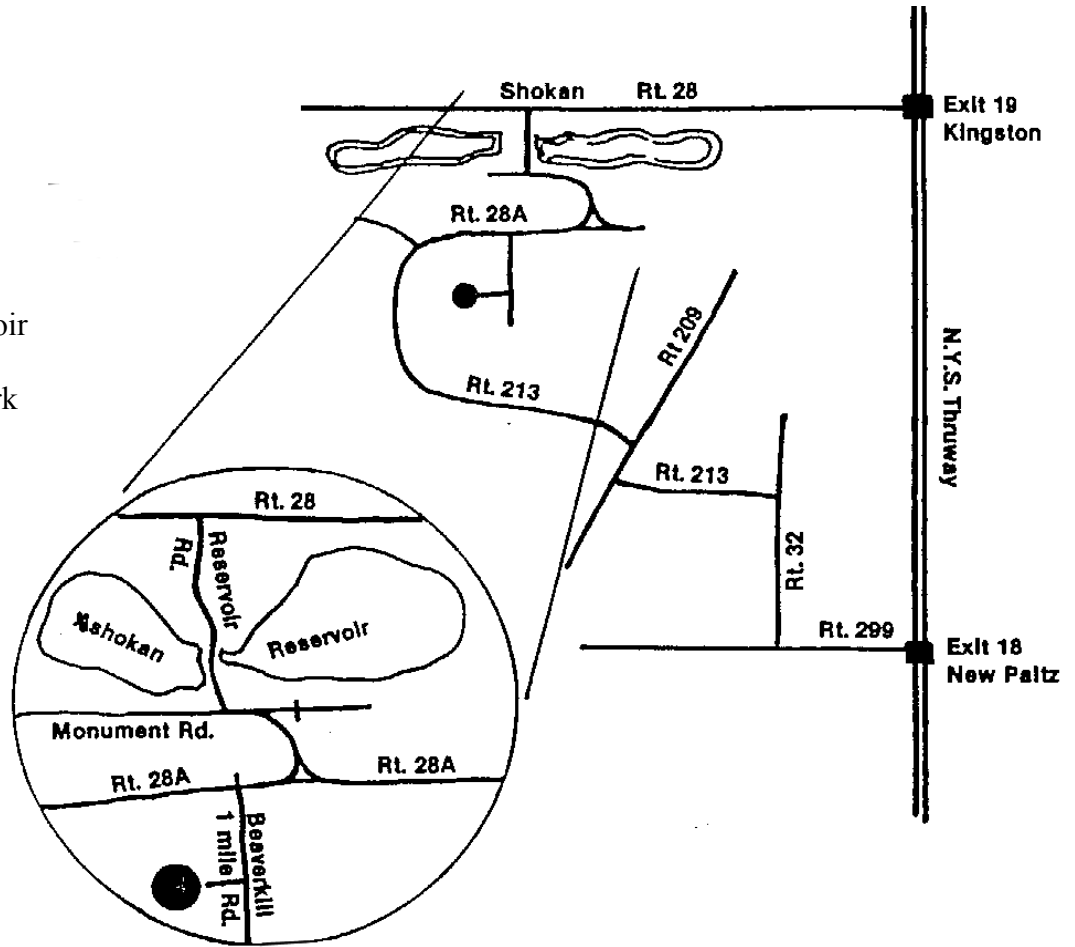
Location :

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Town of Olive
Ulster County, New York

Telephone:

(845) 657 - 8333

<http://www.ashokancenter.org/>



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