

2026 Annual Meeting workshops/presentations/builds

Workshops:

Low Impact Masonry Heater Workshop 2026-Material Production - Lasse Holmes and Tom Hirsch

Using locally sourced materials, we will be mixing, forming, and drying high mass adobes (for the heat battery) and also firing homebrew refractory bricks (for the combustion core) for use in a low-embodied energy masonry heater build in 2027.

- 2026 will focus on making the mass bricks and fire bricks.
- 2027 will be building with the materials.

Association presentation on the whole concept of low-impact embodied energy included.

Indiana Limestone Facing - Dave Z

We have a sponsor donating 2.5 tons of Indiana limestone/4" bed depth. This stone will be used for heater facing, accents, and keystone/cornerstone applications. There will be opportunities to learn stone cutting and dressing as well as keystone fabrication and carving. We will have chisels and hammers available to use or bring your own kit. Indiana Limestone is famous for carving, and there are abundant opportunities to carve a perfect MHA keystone for your favorite arch.

Basics and Theory Class - Dan Peltier and Max

The class is scheduled for approximately 20 hours. Four of those hours will be scheduled as virtual classroom time for the week before the meeting in the evening, and the remaining hours will be a hands-on demonstration where you will have the opportunity to be part a of a masonry heater build.

Pre-arrival, online classes are scheduled for March 31st and April 1st with Chris Prior

Sketch Up – Boris

Description will post soon.

Presentations:

Modular Approach/Sketch Up - Max Edleson

Description will post soon.

Low Impact Masonry Heaters - Lasse Holmes

Lasse Holmes and Thomas Hirsch will give a presentation (hopefully igniting a fire in the group discussion!) on material choices for masonry heaters and on evaluating them for health, social, and environmental impacts.

New website launch – Patrick Seiben

Introduction to the new MHA website including bells and whistles

Smoke Testing / Videos Presentation - Chris Prior

Description will post soon.

Hands On Build Projects

J Loop Build (Beginner) – Aki Yoshimizu

Description will post soon.

Bell Heater Build (Intermediate) - Jim Schalles

Description will post soon.

Heater Build (Advanced) - Eric Mosier and Boris

Description will post soon.

Oval-Shaped Oven with Central Fire Trough Build - Jon Santiago

This will be an oval-shaped oven with the door opening on the long side. The oven will feature a central trough where the fire is made, and two raised decks on either end of the oval. The fire is front and center for guests to see, compared with a traditional round oven where you rarely see the fire unless you are the chef. Beyond the aesthetic, it creates a multi-zone cooking environment that allows for roasting and grilling in the central trough. This type of oven has great appeal to a residential or commercial customer who wants the ambiance of a fireplace with the cooking ability of a brick oven. Our oven will be about 4' wide.

Barrel Oven Build - Pat Manley with Pat Seiben

Description will post soon.

Copper Wood-Fired - Chris Prior/Bucky Black

Description will post soon.

Other Activities open to all attendees:

Design Contest Awards

Auction – Thursday Night

Pizza Party – Friday Night

Clean Up – Saturday daytime