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January 2014

THE FORGE FIRE

The Newsletter of the Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

An Affiliate Of The Artists-Blacksmiths' Association of North America, Inc.

IBA is a Not For Profit Indiana Corporation recognized by the IRS under section 501(c)(3)

10:00 AM is the regular meeting time for IBA Hammer-Ins
with beginner training available at 9:00 AM.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ASK FOR HELP!

**If you would like an IBA membership application form,
please contact Farrel Wells, Membership Secretary**
(765) 768-6235.

BULK LOTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEMONSTRATORS,
SHOPS, SHOWS AND OTHERS WILLING TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

The Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc., its staff, officers, directors, members, and hosts and the *Forge Fire*, specifically disclaim 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 in the *Forge Fire*. The Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc. And the *Forge Fire* assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety, or safe use of any information contained in the *Forge Fire*.

The Forge Fire is the newsletter of the Indiana Blacksmithing Association Inc. (IBA) IBA is an affiliate of the Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America Inc. Permission is granted to other similar non-profit organizations to reproduce uncopied articles originally appearing in *The Forge Fire* provided credit is given the original source.

More nearby resources and organizations for blacksmiths:

Rural Smiths of Mid-America:
Meetings are on the first Saturday of each month
Call Moe Handy
(317) 862-5647 for details.

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the latest *Forge Fire* for monthly IBA revisions.

Jan 18 2014 **FALL CREEK BLACKSMITH SHOP MIDDLETOWN**

Feb 15 2014 **KEN DETTMER SHOP COLUMBUS**

Mar 15 2014 **IBA BUSINESS MEETING**

Apr 19 2014 **TBD**

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Editors Message

Most of you have already heard that Don Neuen-schwander passed away last month. For many years Don was a vital contributor to the IBA. His network of friends and associates went far beyond Indiana. During most of my involvement with blacksmithing, Don was applying his talents toward copper creations. He became an expert at copper forming and finishing, which led him to lead many classes as he shared his knowledge with others. Some of Don's expert copper work is shown at the website <http://www.donsforge.com/> created by Don's daughter Mary. Michael Wollowski has provided an article on page 6 remembering Don. Jim Johnston provided some photos of Don and has work.



The IBA business meeting is coming up on March 15. At this time I believe we have three candidates for the two board of directors positions. I believe both Gary Phillips and Steve King will be up for re-election and Bill Newman has indicated that he will also be a candidate. Anyone else interested in serving as a board member should contact Ken Dettmer. Ballots will be included in the February edition of the Forge Fire. I plan to have the February edition sent out early so everyone can cast their ballots. If you have any satellite news or articles, please get them to me by January 27.



The December hammer in was canceled. I have not heard, but I am hopeful that we will be able to reschedule back at Rocky Forge with Melvin Lytton. I will get an update on this for the February edition.

This months hammer in is at Fall Creek. We always have a good turn out with John's big

shop providing plenty of room for forging and discussions. As has been customary, lunch will be at the Iron Kettle.

IBA Satellite Groups and News

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508
 Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Doug Moreland (217) 284-3457
 Max Hoopengarner (812) 249-8303

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd and 4th Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270
 John Schamber (260) 579-7303

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Ted Stout (765) 572-2467

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Doug Neukam (812) 259-4430
 Steve Stoll (812) 486-9668
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contact: Ray Sease (812) 522-7722

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: John Zile: (765) 533-4153
 Larry Singer (765) 643-5953
 Farrel Wells (765) 768-6235

St. Joe Valley Forgers

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729
 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Billy Merritt (812) 338-2876
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060
 Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The meeting for December was held at Dave Kunkler's new shop in Branchville, Perry County. The shop is almost complete and will be wonderful. He has a hot water heated floor in the shop, powered by his outside wood burner, and is was very nice. We have a wonderful pitch in meal and several new members joined us. Dave demonstrated his rolling mill, and Steve king did a calla lily from 1" bar as we begin practicing for the next BFH demo, perhaps a calla lilly made by strikers from large stock.

Next meeting will be at Steve King's shop in Paoli

AACB BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE

May 16 & 17, 2014 Murfreesboro, TN

www.appalachianblacksmiths.org

www.facebook.com/pages/AACB-2014-Blacksmith-Conference

Register online with PayPal/credit card!

● MAIN DEMONSTRATORS ●

Brian Brazeal: Tool Maker, Artist

Elmer Roush: Lock Making, Viking Ax

MINI DEMOS

Dave Smucker: Metallurgy / Heat Treatment

Lonnie Farmer: Frying Pan Forging

Broadus Weatherall: Cowboy Hat, Cross, Door Pull

Mike Rose: Layout & Design

John Williams: Joe Humble Door Knocker, Stories

Gary Bowman/Jason Bivens: Knife Handle Making

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

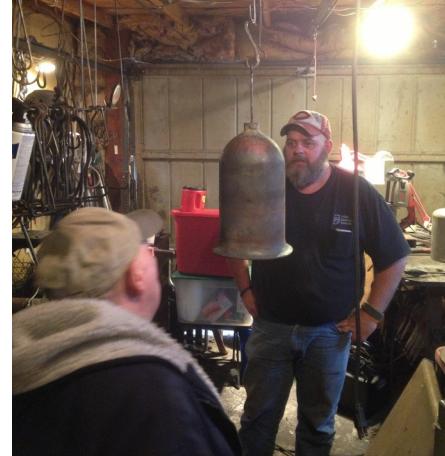


The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the home of Paul Bray in Seymour. We had a good turnout and had a lot of fun (some at my expense). The fire was built at 6:30am. Matt Jones secured a discarded scuba tank and had a wild idea for a Christmas gift for his wife. Ray Sease brought over his saw and torch blade, and helped Matt scribe a line around it. Matt then began making his mark become a reality. In a short time, he had succeeded in cutting it in half. His intention was to make a bell, similar to the one Ray had made. Upon putting it in the fire, we discovered it was galvanized. We gave a good bath in muratic acid, rinsed it thoroughly, and put it back in the fire. With the help of Kevin Welsh, Kenny Dettmer, and others, we soon had a bonified ear busting , ring-for-an-hour bell. The clapper and other pieces were scrounged from the limited resources available. We had a great day and closed shop around 4:00pm. No iron-in-the-hat. See you next month at my house, 139 South Park Drive, Seymour. Meal furnished.



February meeting to be announced.

Paul Bray



Learn how to make your Little Giant power hammer work harder than ever!

Please join us for the 22nd annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar! Although we did pass ownership of Little Giant to our machinist, Roger Rice, this past summer, Sid Suedmeier will continue teaching the rebuilding class at his shop at 420 4th Corso in Nebraska City.

We carry on the tradition of our good friend Fred Caylor of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

The 2 1/2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, former owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 22 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles. The class is held in Sid's shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!

**March 21-23, 2014
REGISTRATION**

No experience is required to attend this class.

Name: _____

Business name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

PAYMENT

American Express

Check enclosed

Visa

MasterCard

Discover

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit each class to 25 participants. Number: _____

The classes start at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and usually end by Saturday evening. The schedule runs Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

POWER HAMMER INFO

Size: _____

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Brand: _____

Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6605 or SidsShop@windstream.net.

Suedmeier Enterprises, 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

In Memory of Don Neuenschwander

Michael Wollowski

I first met Don about nine years ago, so around the time he was 81 years of age. We met at the monthly meetings of the Wabash Valley Blacksmith Club. Don was very curious and genuinely interested in other people, as such, it was easy to talk to him and he sure made people welcome. With seemingly no effort, he had something witty to say or a question to ask. His Wanderlust eventually got the better of him and he started travelling heavily. Whenever I got a chance to catch up with Don, he either just came back to town from a blacksmithing meeting or was on his way to some far away meeting in places like Alabama or his favorite place, the Folk School in Brasstown, NC. Don was a member of many of the blacksmithing associations in the mid-west and the south. At some point, five ABANA affiliates of which Don was a member got kicked out of ABANA, when it outlawed anvil shoots. Don didn't care, he was more interested in people than organizations - has was a true social bug.

At some point early in my blacksmithing endeavors, I purchased a post vise with a bent leg. Don told me to bring it to our meetings and without hesitation helped me heat and bend it back into shape. At a blacksmithing meeting at Conner Prairie, another organization that was dear to his heart, he made a spring for a post vise that needed mending. Not too bad for someone in his 80's. To top it off, Don learned copper smithing and eventually taught many classes on this subject and gave demonstrations.

For a while, the Wabash Valley Blacksmith Club had a yearly meeting at Dennis Kutch's place to learn about tinsmithing. Don asked to ride with me to one of those meetings, and it was during our drive that I learned a lot about his personal side. I learned that he operated a very successful Dentures Manufacturing Lab, with about 100 employees. He used to fly an airplane and he used to travel a lot, for business and for fun. Among others, he went on several blacksmithing trips that took him to Europe, where he got to know some key smiths and some of the movers and shakers over there. He snapped rolls and rolls of photos and kindly loaned them to me as well as some videos he took while there. When returning the photos, I got to see some of the blacksmithing items in his home. While listening to his stories, it became obvious that he has met a lot of smiths in this country.

Finally, there is the IBA for which Don has done so much. Everybody knows that he ran the auction for the longest time. Additionally, who does not know about his bidder number 13? To honor Don's memory, the IBA board decided to retire it. Among the many contributions to the IBA, perhaps Don's most significant contribution was in his role as treasurer. When he assumed this role, the IBA used a very informal way to keep the books, making it hard to balance them. Don brought his business background to the IBA to ensure we weren't going to get in trouble with a federal agency whose initials also start with an 'I.'

To end on a personal note, I was not able to make it to one of our conference auctions, so I asked Don to bid on an item for me. He did, and won it for me. He even delivered it to my house, on his way to work.

Even at 90 years of age, Don made it a point to go into work every Tuesday and that is where he passed away; at his business, something he built from a small local shop to a company that had clients as far away as Australia.

Farewell, our friend.



Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Scholarship

One or two scholarships will be available for the Traditional Joinery Projects class at the John C. Campbell Folk School, April 13-19, 2014 taught by Clay Spencer. It will be an Instructor Resource which covers tuition and part of the room and board. You will be responsible for other expenses such as materials and fuel fees.

This scholarship is for Intermediate and advanced students who have a solid foundation in basics, can manage a coal fire and must be able to forge weld. The class is to make a table but you may make any other traditional joinery project of your design.

Interested blacksmiths should complete the following application and send it by e-mail or mail it to Clay at 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670. Contact Clay at 256-558-3658 or clay@tirehammer.com on any questions. Include your name, address, e-mail and phone number.

1. Describe your blacksmithing experience, how many years, classes taken, jobs, kind of work you do, how many hours you blacksmith in an average month.
2. Goals for your blacksmithing career, what you wish to do as a blacksmith, Describe your participation in the blacksmithing community: teaching, demonstrating, craft shows, writing articles, belonging to and attending local groups, attending conferences.
3. Make a scale drawing of a proposed project (your original drawing, not copied from another source), Should show 2 or 3 views with stock sizes and specify proposed joinery. Include a cut list for the stock. In this class you may make a table by my or your design.
4. Explain why you need a scholarship to attend a class.
5. Do you sell blacksmithing items you make? What type items? How do you sell?
6. Include at least 3, no more than 5, photos of some of your work.

The completed application should be received no later than March 12, 2014. Do not send before February 1, 2014. Successful applicants will be notified by March 26, 2014.

When you register you must inform the Folk School that you are using an Instructor resource. You will be responsible for all other costs such as fuel fee, materials, transportation, any additional cost for lodging and food, etc.

After the class you are requested to write a 2 page article explaining some of the blacksmithing techniques used in making your project, (include some photos or sketches) and send it to your state organization.

Hello All,

I just had fun watching videos on the making of the famous **Gransfor Bruks Axe** in Sweden. You may have already seen these videos, but in case you have not just Google “Gransfor Bruks Ax video”. You will get several hits so enjoy.

Enjoy.....
Ted

(Editors Note: I watched one of the videos and was amazed at the speed and process used.)

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Upset Corners: What's Happening? HB Staff

I like to work with measurements taken along the center-line of a bar when I can. When a bar bends, the inside dimension is compressed and the outside dimension is stretched. Generally, the center-line measurement remains a constant. The same is true of upset corner bends.

Before you get started with a bar of metal, let's make a 90° bend using some computer-generated drawings. I am going to make cuts in the drawing where a metal bar would bend, as it may help demonstrate what will happen to the bar of steel during an upset square corner process.

In order to get a 90° bend, I will have to remove some material from what will be the inside of the bend. This will be the first cut in the drawing, cutting it in half—allowing it to pivot and act like a bar of steel.

The second cut is to remove the two corners that will stop the drawing from being bent at 90° along the center line. This is the excess material that would be compressed if we were to do this while bending a hot bar of steel. These two cut-out corners, when added together, will form a square.

The drawing is rotated around its center line, the square gap that is formed at the outside of the bend represents the stretched and thinned material if we were to do this hot on a bar of steel.

The material removed earlier is now placed in the gap left after bending. This represents upsetting a hot bar of steel and moving the compressed material from the inside of the corner to the outside of the corner by hammering.

We should now be able to see that the smaller square section of stock formed by the two small triangles is half the thickness of the original drawing. If the drawing was 2 inches thick, then each small triangle will measure 1 inch high, 1 inch at the base and whatever across the hypotenuse.

Looking at the drawings, you will note that the inside edge was shortened and the outside edge was increased by the thickness of the material. This piece of trivia can help us

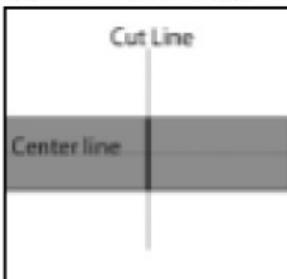


Fig. 1. The bar is shown with a cut line representing the position of the 90° bend

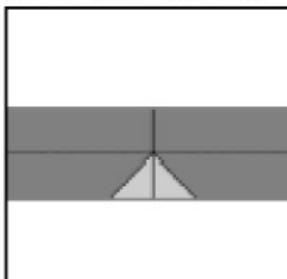


Fig. 2. The grey triangle material has to be removed to create the bend

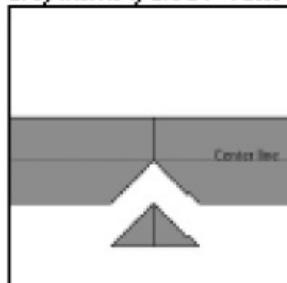


Fig. 3. Once removed, the bar can be bent to 90°

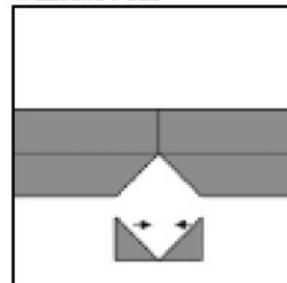


Fig. 4. The removed stock can be added together to form a small square

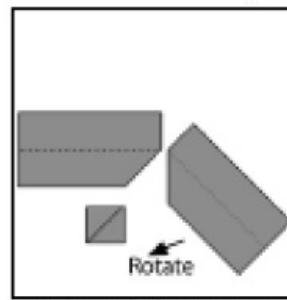


Fig. 5. The bar is now bent through the cut line but around the center line

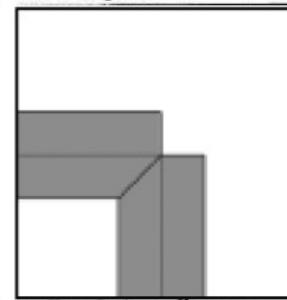


Fig. 6. A small square section of material is missing from the outside of the bend

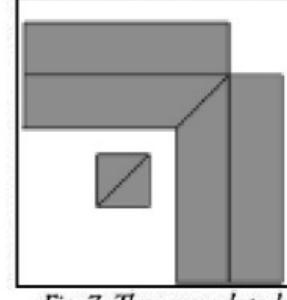


Fig. 7. The removed stock is the same size as the missing stock—half the thickness of the parent bar

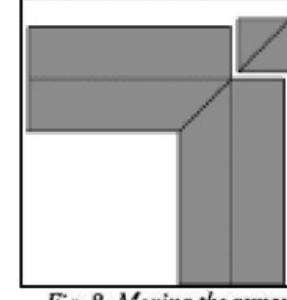


Fig. 8. Moving the removed stock into the area of the missing stock represents forging the upset corner

UPSET CORNERS

when we are trying to follow the grille drawing.

With an upset, square, corner bend, the outside dimension on EITHER side of the corner will be stretched by half the thickness of the parent bar. The total growth to the outside of the bar is the parent bar thickness.

The inside dimension will also change (decrease) by half the thickness of the bar on EITHER side of the corner.

Again, the total change will be the thickness of the parent bar.

The center line dimensions will stay reasonably stable during the forging of the upset corner—providing you do not over-penetrate the corner with the force of your blow and thereby upset the bar outside of the corner area.

It is a good idea to forge a few test pieces to determine how much you affect the bar outside of the corner area. For me, I lose about $\frac{1}{32}$ " per side when forging an upset corner. I simply add this shrinkage to my overall length when laying out the bar.

When forging an upset corner, the compressed material from the inside of the bend is moved out to the outside corner of the bend and knocked around a bit until it forms a square corner. Of course, the devil is in the details—which I shall look at in the next issue. □

BOXOR

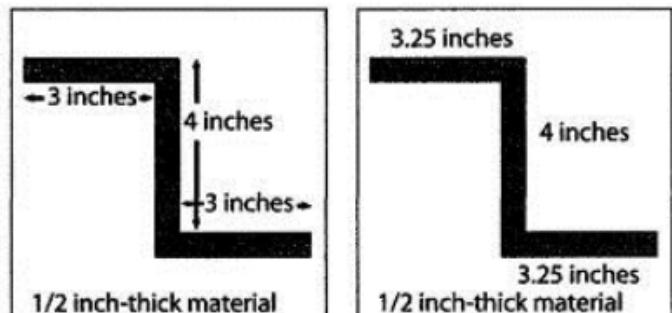


Fig. 9. The examples above show two methods of looking at the same problem. By measuring along the center line in the right-hand illustration, length calculations are made easily

To register go to:

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



ABANA
Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America
Month Day, Year

The next ABANA Conference will be held
in
Harrington Delaware
at
The Delaware State Fairgrounds



From
13-16 August 2014

[**Conference Details**](#)

Register before 15 January 2014 and save \$50.00

Cost to Attend the Conference:

ABANA Members only \$125.00
Non - Members \$175.00*



The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*
1280 N CR 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested
If Undeliverable return to sender
With original address legible

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop - January 18

3380 W 650 N, MIDDLETOWN, IN 47356

SULFUR SPRINGS IS 3 MILES WEST OF IN. 3 ON US 36 AND APPROX. 12 MILES EAST OF PENDLETON ON US 36. GO NORTH AT THE FLASHING LIGHT (300W), TRAVEL NORTH FOR 1 1/2 MILES, TURN LEFT (WEST) ONTO 650 NORTH. JOHN'S HOUSE IS THE FIRST DRIVE.

CALL JOHN AT (765) 533-4153 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

LUNCH WILL BE AT THE IRON KETTLE IN SULFUR SPRINGS.

Kenny Dettmer's Shop

February 15

15721 S 250W Columbus, IN

From the North: take I 65 S to Ogilville / Walesboro (exit 64) turn. right. Go to the 1st cross-roads (300 W). Turn left. Approx 1 mile to the "T". Turn left (600s). Go to 250W. Approx. 4 miles to a brick house on your left.

From the South: I 65N to Jonesville exit 55 turn. right, go to road 950 (in Jonesville). Turn left. Go to 250W turn. right. Kenny's house is approx 1/2 mile on your right .

Please bring a dish to share.