

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****September 2013****Gary Phillips '14**

President:  
14800 N SR 167 N  
Albany, IN 47320  
(765) 789-8316  
[behere@netdirect.net](mailto:behere@netdirect.net)

**Steve King '14****Bill Conyers '15**

Vice President:  
50964 Lilac Rd,  
South Bend, IN  
(574) 277-8729  
[billconyerssr@yahoo.com](mailto:billconyerssr@yahoo.com)

**Ken Dettmer '15**

15721 S 250W  
Columbus, IN 47201  
(812) 342-4084

**Dominick Andrisani '16**

3608 Capilano Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47906-8869  
PH #(765)463-4975  
[andrisan@purdue.edu](mailto:andrisan@purdue.edu)

**Ted Stout '16**

8525 W 700 S  
West Point, IN 47992-9258  
PH# (765) 572-2467  
[stout8525@tds.net](mailto:stout8525@tds.net)

**James Johnston '17**

Education Chairman:  
806 Twyckingham Lane  
Kokomo, IN 46901-1885  
(765) 452-8165  
[kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net](mailto:kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net)

**Keith Hicks '17**

Secretary:  
5184 State Road 252  
Brookville, IN 47012  
(765) 914-6584

Librarian:  
Larry Rosentrad  
8715 E. 375 N  
Churubusco, IN 46723-9501  
260-693-3267  
[rosentrad@cs.com](mailto:rosentrad@cs.com)

Editor:  
Bill Kendrick  
1280 N 900 W  
Seymour, IN 47274  
(812) 445-3009  
[bill.d.kendrick@cummins.com](mailto:bill.d.kendrick@cummins.com)

Treasurer and membership secretary:  
Farrel Wells  
8235 E 499 S  
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807  
PH # (765) 768-6235  
[flwells@frontier.com](mailto:flwells@frontier.com)

# 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**

Sept 21 2013	<b>GARY PHILLIPS FORGE (BOARD MEETING &amp; OPEN FORGE)</b>
Oct 19 2013	<b>TBD</b>
Nov 16 2013	<b>TBD</b>
Dec 14 2013	<b>TBD</b>

INDEX

PGS 3-6  
SATELLITE  
NEWS

PG 7  
INDIANA STATE  
FAIR

PGS 8-11  
DAN MILLER  
STYLE SLIP  
JOINT

**Dates to Remember**

Sept 21-22 Trail of  
Courage Festival,  
Sutton-Terock

Sept 21  
IBA Board Mtg

Sept 27-29  
Quad State  
(SOFA)

**Editors Message**

The 2013 Indiana State Fair has come and gone. Bill Newman organized the IBA demonstrations in the Pioneer Village exhibits. As you can see, Bill made at least one friend at the Fair. I spoke to several IBA members who supported the Fair. Everyone told me they had a very good time. More photos are shown on pages 6 and 7.

You may have noticed a shortage of hammer in dates on the front cover. There have been a few scheduling surprises that altered the plan. This month we will meet at Gary Phillips shop for a board meeting and open forge. Gary will provide chili. Please bring a dish to share. Next months Forge Fire should see us back on the traditional four month schedule.

The SOFA Quad State conference is coming up the last weekend of this month. Quad State is a premier blacksmith event that is within easy driving distance. There is always a good contingent of IBA members in attendance. You may be able to find someone to car pool with.

I want to personally thank Jim Johnston, Charles Gruell, Ray Sease, Paul Bray and Matt Jones for hammering at the Hayden Festival. The weather was warm and I would not have made it past noon without you. The fall weather brings a number of festivals. As the weather cools these festivals become even more pleasurable. One festival that has often coincided with IBA meetings is the Trail of Courage festival in Rochester.

**Trail of Courage Living History Festival** Sept. 21-22, 2013 at Rochester IN. Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Sutton -Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop, and Fred Oden's blacksmith shop in festival's wooded area will be open. Food will be available in festival area. All funds go to operate the museum and historic village.

Admission: \$7 adults, \$2 children ages 6 to 11, Free ages 5 and under. Free Admission if you work a half day or help set up or clean up (Friends and family members must pay admission). Check in at the museum.

[www.fultoncountyhistory.org](http://www.fultoncountyhistory.org) or [fchs@rtcol.com](mailto:fchs@rtcol.com) 574-223-4436



Bill Newman with Indiana State Fair Queen  
Mariah Huff

## 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

### **Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop**

The Vernon Historical Society Blacksmith Shop was opened by Ray Sease and after we had a roaring fire going, Charlie Helton gave us a class on chain making , down to even making the chain tongs to hold them. K.C. Reschar had the honor to be mentored in this class. ( All references to C.J on last month's Forge Fire was actually K.C. sorry- my bad.) Another beginner, Seth Heiry, was mentored by Kevin Welsh. They practiced drawing out, tapering, curling and other basics. Charlie also gave a short demo on the proper way of drawing out. Various others gave an abundance of tips and short demos. Many of these basics are excellent reviews even for old guys. Jim Perkins made a rare appearance and made a cross and discussed the various methods employed by various artists. We had 16 present and we had a great time, regardless of the heat. We have Labor Day weekend with this shop being open on Sunday and Monday. Saturday the 31st will find several of us at the Hayden Blacksmith Shop. Hope to see you soon. Paul Bray

### **The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers**

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers met at Jason Hardin's shop this month. While the high heat and humidity reduced turnout, a good time was had by all.

The September meeting is cancelled and we are meeting at SOFA Quad State.

The Meteorite Mashers have again been invited to demo as a club at Cannelton Indiana on October 12th, and our regular meeting for October will be held the last Saturday of October, location not yet determined.

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths



sion on the blacksmith shop, trying to get the helve hammer covered. We even had a couple extra guys show up just to help with this project. I have included pictures of some of the construction work. Those guys are a lot braver than me. There were a few people that did some actual blacksmithing but I failed to find out just exactly they were working on. It was extremely hot and some of us ladies retired to the house to partake of

Howdy again. The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on August 3, 2013. We missed getting our notes in to be in last month's newsletter, but we are back again this time. We had another good meeting this month. There were a few of our regulars that were missing, but we still had a good crowd and good fun. Most of the guys were working putting a roof over the exten-



the air conditioning. We did enjoy another great lunch and iron in the hat. We have a really great bunch of people and we appreciate all of you. We want to thank all of them so much for all the work on the building and supporting our club the way they do.



Until next time.....

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Once again the White Water Valley Blacksmiths gathered to keep our honorable craft alive and well. The meeting, as usual began at precisely about Four-ish in the afternoon. Jimmy Dean began with a demonstration of his Fly Press by turning round discs into round bowls. The most important feature of his particular set-up is his ability to remain seated while working the machine, reinforcing the most basic of all Blacksmithing Tenants: "Keep it simple and, if possible, keep it easy!" Come to think of it, that may not be a universally subscribed to Tenant, but it sure fits with our group!

Keeping with tradition, the food was magnificent. We did encounter a minor *faux pas* when it came to dishing out the chili. We forgot to provide a way to extract it from the crock pot. Joyce commented that it was too bad we didn't have a ladle as it would be much easier than the plastic spoons we were using. Seeing an immediate need and some ready-made bowls from Mr. Dean's demonstration, I sprang into action and, with help from Henry, soon had a very passable ladle. As fate would have it, however, the chili had already been distributed (and consumed) before I finished. So maybe "spring into action" was a bit optimistic, but I did get a nice ladle out of it and now we're ready for next month!

Speaking of next month, the meeting will be at Jimmy Dean's again and we'll be getting all worked up about the Quad-state conference in Troy, Ohio. Jimmy Dean and I will be accepting all challengers at their Saturday night competition so be sure to stay and cheer on your favorite IBA representatives!

Happy Hammerin'!



Mark's Ladle.

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



First, we want everyone to pray for John Zile and his family. The attendance at the monthly meeting is next to nothing. Dave Kline opens the shop and no one shows up. I know things aren't the same without John being there.

As usual John's group demonstrated the last two days of the state fair. The weather was good, but I understand that the smiths before us had nice and cooler days.

Dave Kline, Joe Gobel, Eric Shotwell, and yours truly Dave Wells did the demonstrating. Don Reitzel helped us out both days as he did last year. Thanks Don.



Bill Newman was there over seeing everything. Bill is doing an excellent job. He helped the wheelwrights adding sides to the blacksmith shop, so the inside of the shop weathers the winter and is secure. The wheelwrights installed draft hoods and pipe flues, which I understand they paid for. This helped demonstrating and feeling cleaner.

A few pictures of the above demonstrating. So the next time you see Bill, give him a thank you.



Report from Dave Wells



## 2013 Indiana State Fair

The Indiana State Fair was from August 2 through August 18. The Indiana Blacksmithing Assoc. was very well represented with members from several satellite groups present on various days. We now have smoke flues installed on both forges, with special thanks to our Wheelwright neighbors. Drop down doors were installed by grounds carpenters so the shop can now be secured in the evening when crews leave and tools will be safely locked up. Perhaps in the future we can get more Satellite groups involved and share the fun and experience throughout the IBA. Special thanks for all the help. There were some long days worked and there was always at least one forge in constant use. Looking forward to next year.



Bill Newman



Bill Newman with  
the Indiana State Fair Queen  
Mariah Huff from Jackson  
County





*Chad holds his chandelier that utilizes the joint.*

## Daniel Miller-style Slip Joint

*Demonstration by Chad Gagnon, Crescent City*

*Oktoberfest 2012*

Daniel Miller, whose work inspires many, has a chandelier in his open beam dining room, suspended by a slip joint that allows him to lift and remove the chandelier for candle changes and cleaning. Chad was struck with the elegance, simplicity and utility of this joint, and demonstrated it at Oktoberfest 2012.

A female receiver is formed at the lower end of a slender bar attached to the ceiling, somewhat like a clasping hand, while the upper male end of the chandelier is shaped to fit snugly into this receiver and uses the chandelier's weight to keep it securely hanging in place. (*see below*)

The male end is made first and then is used as a template for shaping and fitting of the female part.

*The finished joint*



photos by Mike Mumford

## Slip Joint

### Construction Steps

1. Start with  $\frac{3}{8}$ " square stock. Make the male part first.
2. You need extra material to spread to make the ends. Nick the stock, fold over and forge weld the Z-shaped mass together. (*see progressive steps*) Other ways to get the same increased mass would be to upset the end, or to just start with heavier stock and draw out the remainder of the bar to the desired dimensions. Forge welding is more fun.

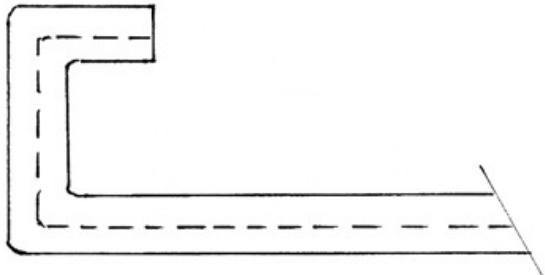
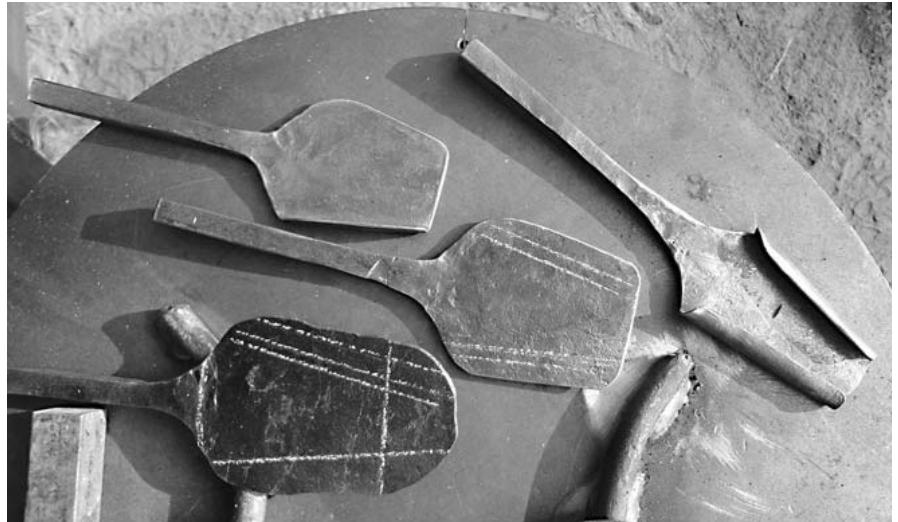


3. Spread using the peen of the hammer and then smooth with the flat face. Spread to about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " thick.
4. Adjust the shape to make a nice taper on the male part.
5. To start the female part, repeat steps 2 and 3, ending up with a slightly larger thinned section. You want enough to make the holding ears to wrap around the male part.



## Slip Joint

6. Lay the male section on the to-be-formed female section, and mark the edges. Then mark about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " outside the edge of the male section. You want to leave about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " more to make the holding ears which will be bent over to grasp the male section.



Since we must measure from the center of the thickness of the stock, keep in mind that the two 90° bends on each tab require extra material. Add half the thickness of the material to the tabs for each of the two 90° bends, or a total of  $\frac{1}{16}$ " to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " more than it looks like you'll need, depending on the thickness.

7. Trim the excess from the tabs. Clamp the female part in the post vise and then use a butcher shaped cold chisel to shear off the excess clean. This can be done cold or hot. Trim both sides and the end in this fashion. File edges smooth.
8. At the remaining marks, bend the tabs up 90°. Bend the first tab in the vise, holding the remainder between the vise jaws.



## Slip Joint

Support the piece with blocking wedged beneath it to prevent downward creep. With a fine-tipped torch, apply localized heat right at the bend before hammering over the tab.

9. For the second tab, clamp the piece in the vise with a 1" square bar as a spacer to prevent damaging the first bent-over tab. The tab will be bent over this bar instead of over the vise jaw. Again, support the workpiece with blocking wedged in from beneath. This trick, as Daniel Miller puts it, *is worth the price of admission*. What we try to do as blacksmiths is move metal **where we want it to go**. To do this, it's critical to prevent it from going **where we don't want it to go**. Working in a vise prevents the workpiece from slipping downward as we strike it from above. By inserting an assortment of blocking between the vise screw housing and the workpiece and by jamming in a couple thin wedges to lock all these in place, we can minimize any chance of downward creep as we work.



10. Holding the male part firmly in place as a forming template, apply a small amount of heat to the tabs – go easy, you don't want to burn them at this point – and then bend them over. Use a stop block in the anvil's hardie hole.

11. Fine tune the fit and finish by prying the tabs back open a bit if necessary to allow free release of the male part. There you have it. <sup>L</sup>

Editors Note:

This article is reprinted with permission from the California Blacksmith Association newsletter, May/June 2013 edition.

The California Blacksmith Association  
web site: [www.calsmith.org](http://www.calsmith.org)



## 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

## **September 21** **Hammer In & Board Meeting** **Gary Phillip's Shop**

14800N State Road 167, Albany, IN 47320

(From Muncie take SR67 North to SR167 North.  
Shop is about 3/4 mile North on SR167)

Chili and Pitch In Lunch

