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February 2013

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.

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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.

**Feb 16
2013**

**KEN DETTMER SHOP
COLUMBUS**

**Mar 16
2013**

**KELLY FARM (DOC RAMSEYER)
IBA BUSINESS MEETING**

**Apr 20
2013**

TBD

**May 31
June 2**

IBA CONFERENCE TIPTON

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Dates to Remember

- Mar 16 IBA Business meeting
- May 31—Jun 2 IBA Conference
- July 19—21 UMRBC (Pontiac)

Editors Message

This month's hammer in will be at Ken Dettmers shop in Columbus. Ken has a large shop filled with quality equipment. The large Williams-White power hammer may be put to use. This is one our highest turn out hammer ins, so be sure to come early.

Next month will be our annual Business Meeting at Kelly Farms, the home of the Doc Ramseyer group. The business meeting will include elections for three board members. I understand that Jim Johnston and Keith Hicks have agreed to run for another term. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Gary Phillips at (765) 789-8316. Look for a ballot in the March newsletter.

The IBA Conference is set to begin May 31 through June 2. The contest theme is fireplace sets. We should have a wide variety of designs for screens, pokers, shovels, etc. I know several satellite groups have been working on their entries for some time now. Last year we added a gallery to exhibit items from our private collections. The gallery filled with interesting items of all kinds. Be sure to bring items to display. As always the auction is a major part of the IBA funding. Submit items and help us continue to grow.

Featured demonstrators at this years Conference are John Bennett and Bob Patrick. JJ is looking for 1/2 day demonstrators.

The Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference (UMRBC) will be held in July. The IBA is a cosponsor of this event. Our feature demonstrator will be Jeff Farmer. Jeff is the resident blacksmith at Berea College. The theme for this years forging contest is "flowers". That subject leaves plenty of room for interpretation, so get creative and make something fun and interesting.

There are quite a few classes and conferences coming up this spring. I will try to include information about events in the region that you may be interested in attending.

Note the March Forge Fire will be coming out early in order to include the board of director ballots. Any items to appear in March should be received by February 25.

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

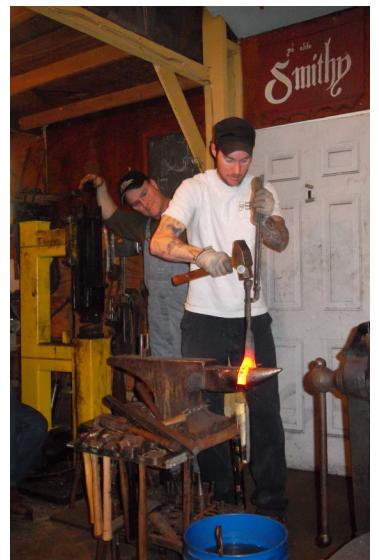
Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060
 Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Vernon Group started its 14th year January 12, 2013 at the restaurant and Blacksmith Shop of Paul and Judy Bray in Seymour, Indiana. Breakfast consisted of eggs to order, bacon, fried potatoes with and without onions, and biscuits and gravy. Dinner was beef stew and left over breakfast.

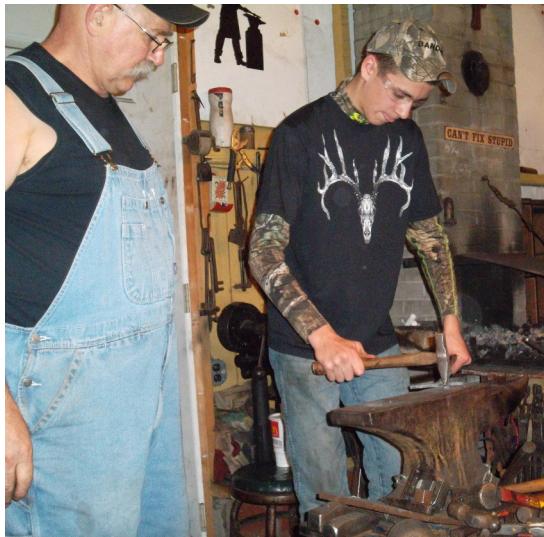
Ray Sease started by making 2 leaf hooks with the assistance of Charlie Helton. Tim Metz with the help of Kevin Welsh, Matt Jones, James Jessie, Bill Newman and many others made a set of andirons. Matt Jones the human power hammer

got a good work out on this one. Tim decided to donate the andirons to the Vernon Group who in turn decided to sell the andirons at Sassafras Day in Vernon and give the money back to the One Arm Blacksmith group.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop (cont)



Bill Newman helped a young man open up 2 crosses while melting a marble in the center of each one. Harry Husby brought 3 fantastic copper pictures that he had made for his wife for Christmas. You had to see them to believe them. They were beautiful. A 16 year young man by the name of Phillip Dyess brought a wall hanging made in the shape of 3 spirals welded together titled VERTIGO. This was his first piece he had made in blacksmithing and it looked very good.

It was good to see our Conference Chairman JJ come down from Kokomo and Jim Bynun came up from Tennessee for the meeting also.



A good iron in the hat was held. There was 32 people signed in. This was 20 more than the law should allow. Everyone had a very good and close time. The shop was open at 5:15 am and closed at 5:30 pm.

The next meeting will be held at Kevin Welsh's in Charlestown, IN at 6717 Tunnelmill Rd., Phone number is 812-987-1872. This will be a pitch in and Pam will be making her Potato Soup and the main dish. According to Ray this the best potato soup in the world.

Nominations for the Prestigious Paul Moffett Service Award are still open if you have a nomination please give it to Ray Sease or any member of the Vernon Group.

Submitted by Ray Sease



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Meteorite Mashers met in Steve Kings newly revamped shop. Nicely done, more fully insulated and was well appreciated by all who attended. Butch Sparks was our featured demonstrator this month and he demonstrated making elbow armor. Butch made these look easy and he also brought some show and tell items all very nice. After Butch finished, Jeff Reinhardt demonstrated making one of his Veggie Choppers, and then Dave Kunkler made a split basket handle, making it look way easier than we all know these are.

Lots of good food, lots of good friends and a warm shop on a cold January day, can't get better than that.

The next meeting will be at Jason Hardin's new shop. He has moved and now has a much bigger shop which he promises will be heated for the February meeting.

Jason's address is:
2631 Mill Creek Road
Salem In. 47167
812-620-0105



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on January 5, 2012. We had a great turn out especially considering that the weather was kind of snowy and the roads were still pretty slick. There were 27 people in attendance and we enjoyed a great time together as usual. We had 3 forges going most all day long. Ron Tincher was here and he had Jerry Robinette make a bail for his bean pot. Garrett Pickett was working on making a knife. Terri and Joe Byer were working on some things. I know Terri made something with a heart. Dakota Smith was heating up an engine valve stem to make something; I am not sure exactly what. Aaron Baker was demonstrating how to do Damascus to newcomer John Weaver. I caught a pretty good picture of the billet after it had been twisted. It turned out beautifully. Pat and CJ Sauer came up from Evansville as they usually do,



and Pat always brings awesome food to share, but I had to share a picture of what she brought this time. She made a peach cobbler and it has IBA in

the crust, I hope you can see it. It was as yummy as it was cute. Thanks Pat! We had another great day of talking and telling stories. We have a new bench that Tim McNelis made for the club. It has been named the liars bench so if you set there you are expected to tell a bunch of baloney, which is no problem for this bunch. Thanks to all who came to the meeting and worked, shared food and fellowship. Until next time.....:)



The Side Draught Flue.

Mark Aspery.

The flue was made from 10-inch ID 1/8 wall pipe.

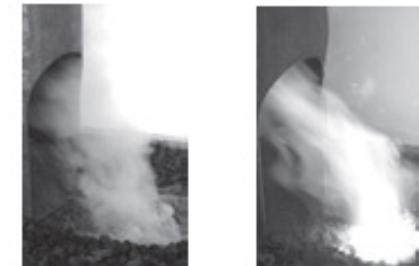
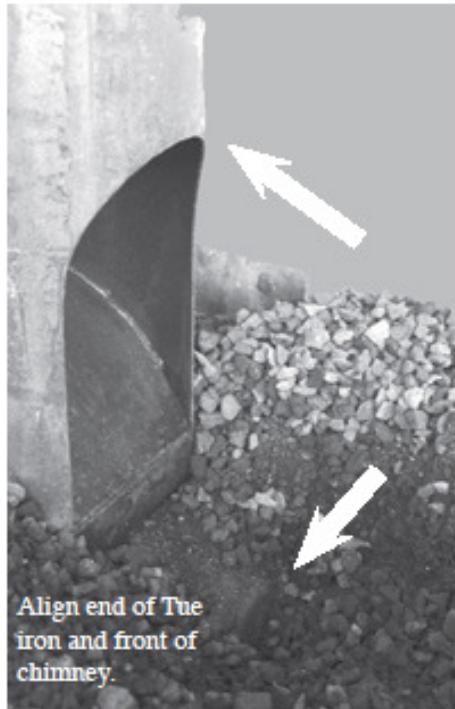
A smoke shelf of 1/4-inch plate was added at approx. 45 degrees.

The dimensions of the flue opening are approx 14-inches tall and 7 1/2-inches wide.

A two inch step was welded in at the bottom of the opening.

Shown is a 13 foot tall chimney.

This chimney has been fitted to a Side Blast forge. The forward edge of the chimney is level with the tip of the Tue. Iron in the forge pan.



Editor's note: This article was submitted by Mark Thomas. Original article published on iforgeiron.com

Lining a Fire Pot

by Daniel Kretchmar

I got my clay out of several different holes in the ground at various reenactments. I have found that regular pure clay (no additives) will eventually crack, particularly if you are forge welding or getting a big fire going like we sometimes do for demos.

I have been making my own fire clay for a while now and it seems to work. I got the recipe from a book on how to make an adobe oven.



Take a lot of small dry irregular chunks of clay (1" diameter or smaller), the smaller the better and fire them in your forge (a gas forge works best for this). If you don't have a gas forge (which considering the thread, you likely don't), broken clay garden pots work too! The trick is to get clay that has been fired already. Break it into tiny pieces. I put on my boots and crushed them on the concrete floor. It doesn't have to be powder, but it has to be smaller enough to stir. I also put fiber in mine for strength. I use natural rope fibers (manila/hemp/sisal/even grass clippings). I cut the rope into 1" pieces and separate the threads.

My recipe is:

- 2 cups wet clay
- 1 cup white sandbox sand
- 1 cup crushed fired clay
- 1 loose quart of fiber rope cuttings

I mix until it is uniform. I add enough water that a 1" ball of the mixture will deform slightly but stay together when being dropped from 4 feet off the ground. I then pack it just like Wes does using a hammer and a 2x4. I have several forges that have this lining that have lasted for years without any repair.

Dan



**Forging on the River
with Brent Bailey, Tools of the Trade
April 5th, 6th and 7th**

The Metal Museum's annual Forging on the River, blacksmithing conference will take place on Metal Museum grounds April 5th, 6th and 7th. This weekend conference will host internationally recognized demonstrator and tool maker, Brent Bailey. Featured workshops and demonstrations will bring smiths together from all over the country.

Saturday, April 6th will culminate with a ticketed Wild Game dinner featuring service by Club Windward. Dinner will be accompanied by a silent and live auction. The auction items will feature a range of forged, cast and fine metals. All proceeds benefit the Metal Museum!

To learn more about the conference, to register or to buy Saturday dinner tickets, please visit www.metalmuseum.org/fotc.

Friday, April 5, 2013

12 – 8 pm Conference activities including charm swap, u-forge and lecture

Saturday, April 6, 2013

9 am – 7 pm U-Forge Open
9 am – 4 pm Demos by Brent Bailey
4 – 5 pm Library Open, Beyond the Forge: Information Resources for Metalsmiths
5 – 6 pm Silent Auction
7 – 9 pm Dinner and Live Auction

Sunday, April 7, 2013

9 am – 3 pm Power Hammer and Flypress Tooling Workshop led by Brent Bailey
9 am – 2:30pm Break-out Presentations by special professionals

Conner Prairie Forge Welding Class

March 23 (Saturday)
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
\$130, \$120 members
Minimum 6, Maximum 10
Instructor: Nathan Allen

The basics of forge welding in a coal forge will be covered. Fire control and fluxes, chain link welding, bunch welding, and lap welding will be covered. Previous blacksmithing experience preferred. All tools and materials provided. Ages 16+

Some items displayed in last years IBA Conference Gallery & Auction:



2013 UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE

JULY 19 THRU 21

This year's project will be Flowers.

Demonstrators

- Indiana Group: Jeff Farmer
- Illinois Group: Michael Bendele
- UMBA Group: SWHBFO



Look for more information in the next newsletter.

The Beloit Art Incubator's Blacksmith Month

This July the Beloit Art Incubator will be displaying Blacksmith pieces. All are welcome to submit their artwork.

The Incubator staff will try to sell your work. You may choose your own price, but note that the art gallery will receive 30%.

Established in 2008, the Beloit Art Incubator is a well respected gallery known for it's high quality artwork. With over 1,000 sq. ft. of floor space the gallery is able to accomidate a variety of artwork sizes.

This is a great chance to show the public what we do!

Have Questions?

Call Jim Ribordy at 608-295-9535
Bob Tufty at 563-332-4800

Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship will be available for the Traditional Joinery Table class at the John C. Campbell Folk School, April 21 - April 27, 2013, taught by Clay Spencer.

This scholarship is for Intermediate and advanced students who have a solid foundation in basics, can manage a coal fire and forge weld.

Interested blacksmiths should contact Clay at clay@tirehammer.com for an application. Or mail Clay at 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013. Completed application must be sent in by March 20, 2013.

Additional scholarship money may be available from your local organization, ABANA or Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Education Foundation in Carbondale, CO.

POWER HAMMER AND COAL FOR SALE

I have a **power hammer** for sale. Tim Metz built it a few years ago. Kenny Dettmer has used it also before I bought it.

It's a 18lb head, spring arm style. I've added a full size treadle and adjustable linkage to it as well as beefing it up some.

I'm asking \$1000 obo.

I also have 3000lbs of **good blacksmithing coal** available for sale at \$18/50lb bag or .32/lb bulk, self-load. I've been using it for a while and it cokes up well, has little clinker and the coal size is about thumb sized and smaller.

Contact me at blacksmith@coolcreekforge.com or **812-240-1825** (cell) for either of the above items.

Thank you. John Steppe

David Norrie Blacksmith Classes

After teaching blacksmithing to novices and beginners for many years on a part-time, occasional basis, I have created a blacksmithing school in Colorado.

David Norrie Blacksmithing School offers several different classes that focus on forging with intention, to beginners, novices, and professionals. We have a dedicated classroom space as well as 3000 sq. ft. of shop area. Most classes are 2 1/2 day weekend workshops, and the intensive custom-designed classes are 1 week long.

We also offer simple accommodations on my property for people traveling to take the classes.

Thanks, David Norrie
 303-859-0770
 <http://www.forgewithintention.com>
 <http://www.davidnorrie.com>



The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*
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Seymour, IN 47274

First Class Mail

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

Kenny Dettmer's Shop

February 18

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.

Kelly Farms (Doc Ramseyer), Business Meeting

March 16

6032 W 550 N Sharpsville, IN 46060

Located just west of US-31. Approximately 6 miles north of SR-28 (Tipton) or 3 miles south of SR-26 (Kokomo).

Please bring a dish to share