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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)

9:30 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*.

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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 Ron Gill 317-374-8323 for details

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

June 19	IBA HAMMER IN
2021	SNAKE ROAD FORGE
July 23-	REGIONAL CONFERENCE
24 2021	BUNKUM VALLEY METALSMITHS
Jul 30 - Aug 22	INDIANA STATE FAIR
Sep 3-5	REGIONAL CONFERENCE
2021	COVERED BRDGE SHOP



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Dates to Remember

June 19 Hammer In Snake Road Forge

July 23-24 Regional Conf Bunkum Valley

July 30– Aug 22 Indiana State Fair

Sept 3-5 Regional Conf Covered Bridge

Editors Message

The May regional conference at Sutton –Terock was a great success by all accounts. We are looking forward to the next two conferences at Bunkum Valley and at Covered Bridge.

This month we have an IBA state hammer-in at Snake Road Forge. Be sure to attend. This is the first official state wide hammer-in in over a year, and the first for Snake Road Forge. Driving directions are on the back cover

The board held a conference call on May 13 to review the Sutton-Terock regional conferenced and to plan any format adjustments for the next two event. I misplaced my notes, so here are highlights base in my memory.

- Monetarily it was a near break even, so concerns about financial impacts were alleviated.
- Try to separate beginner/open forge area from demonstrator area to reduce noise overlap.
- Iron-in-the-hat format worked very well.
- Overall the conference had a different feel than "just a big hammerin". There is interest in continuing these events as well as hammerins

No firm plans have been made, but I believe the regional format will be carried forward into next year. That being said, the board is looking for demonstrators for 2022 Tipton conference. For those of you who were concerned about Covid hurting the IBA, my take is the IBA is coming out stronger. The board is making changes, and those changes are for the better. One of the changes is listed in the box below. The IBA will be giving back to the members in the form of quarterly drawings.

It has been a difficult year and half, but things are looking up.

The Indiana Blacksmithing Association is doing a quarterly drawing of a name from the active membership, and that person will have a choice of \$150 credit from one of the following providers of fine blacksmith tools and publications—Jackpine Forge, Fiery Furnace Forge, or Blue Moon Press. The first drawing will be in July, so please renew your membership if you haven't already. The form and mailing information is on the IBA website. http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/membership.html

IBA website: www.indianablacksmithing.org IBA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/IndianaBlacksmithingAssociation/

IBA Satellite Groups and News

1) Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508 Tim Pearson (574) 298-8595

2) Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

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

3) Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

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

4) Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM

Contacts: Gary Phillips (260) 251-4670

5) Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday

Contacts: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270 Mark Thomas (260) 758 2332

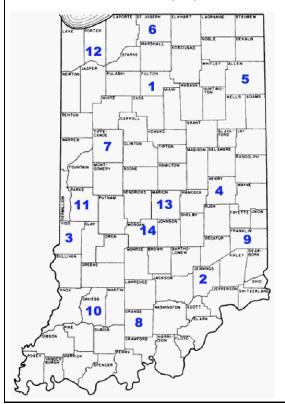
6) St. Joe Valley Forgers

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM

Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

7) Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

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



8) Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Mike Mills (812) 633-4273 Steve King (812) 797-0059 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

9) Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday

Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

10) Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday

Contacts: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150 Carol Baker (317) 809-0314

11) Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 1st Saturday

Contact: John Bennett (812) 877-7274

12) Snake Road Forge

Meet: 1st Saturday

Contact: Rod Marvel (219) 241-0628

13) Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday

Contact: Darrin Burch (317) 607-3170 Doug Wilson (317) 439-7684

14) Old Town Waverly Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday

Contacts: Mike Lyvers (317-728-5771), Kenny Hale (765-318-3390), Mike Jackson (317-509-9115).

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths by Brian Gray installing the American flag and the Mayor of Vernon leading the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Brian also worked on the 50lb hammer. Ray Sease is to follow up on the linkage of same. Bill Newman made a nice key hanger using horseshoe nails. Dave Good made a nice cone hardy tool. Many thanks to Brian for the donation of the fire extinguishers. Also thanks to Ray Sease for taking care of the coffee pot. Some things go unsaid too long. We had 15 people sign in. Next meeting is here June 12, Saturday. As usual, bring iron-in-the-hat and your wallet. Paul Bray

Meteorite Mashers

May's meeting was at Jason Bowman's shop in Elizabeth In. Mike Mills did a beginners class with a young man. Went well. a nice iron in the hat was had with proceeds to a blacksmith in need. To quote Billy Merritt, "When all was said and done, more was said then done" Next meeting at Steve Kings shop in Paoli.

Indiana State Fair Update

By Bill Corey

Once again, the Indiana Blacksmith Association and the Rural Smiths of Mid-America have been invited by the Purdue Ag Alumni Association to join them at the Pioneer Farm & Home Show at the 2021 Indiana State Fair. According to the State Fair web site "The 164th Indiana State Fair will run **Friday**, **July 30 through Sunday**, **August 22**, **2021**. The Fair will be closed to the general public weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays."

If you have a day that you would like to participate, please send me an email at bc65925@gmail.com or call me at 317-919-1047 and I will see about getting you on the calendar for that day and getting tickets to you for attending. I will keep the Indiana Blacksmith Assoc. calendar updated with information about who will be scheduled for what day.

The calendar can be found at http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/

The following is a list of some of the rules for the smithy and what will be expected from those wanting to demonstrate at the State Fair.

First and foremost, all of the rules and regulations of the State Fair will be followed. A list of these can be found at https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair

Safety glasses will be required, side shields are optional. Hearing protection is suggested but not required. There will be safety glasses and hearing protection available.

All smiths must wear denim or canvas non-synthetic long pants, and a non-synthetic or melt resistant shirt, Natural fibers are best. NO SYNTHETIC MATERIALS. They can melt and burn skin. Leather aprons or aprons of other heavy natural material can also help reduce the risk of injury. Long hair should be tied back. It is not necessity however the Pioneer Village would appreciate "Pioneer Village Attire" such as bibs or suspenders.

Either keep your shirt tucked in, or have a long enough tail on your shirt to cover your belt. It is a family friendly environment.

Absolutely NO OPEN TOED SHOES allowed! No flip flops, sandals etc. Synthetic material shoes are also not allowed. Leather boots or shoes are suggested.

If you bring your own steel make sure NOT to bring coated metals. The fumes from coatings can be very TOXIC.

Selling of items will not be allowed unless you have acquired a vendor permit from the State Fair Board. Vendor information is available through the link above or by Carrie Stadtmiller, Vendor Services Manager, 317-927-7510 or concessions@indianastatefair.com

One important piece of information that directly impacts the Smithy is "Guns, knives, ninja weapons, and other weapons will not be permitted to be sold or displayed."

A Broad Overview of Heat Treating

Heat treating is a multi-step operation, though not every step is necessary for every heat treatment. The four steps of heat treatment are:

> Annealing Normalizing Hardening Tempering

ANNEALING – heating to just above 'critical', or phase change temperature, the point at which the steel becomes non-magnetic, then putting the steel in an insulating material like hardwood ashes or vermiculite so that it cools slowly. This will make the steel as soft as it is possible for it to be when it cools.

It is not necessary to anneal a steel before forging, as being at forging temperatures makes all steels soft and removes all previous heat treatment. You anneal so the steel will be as soft as possible while you do cold work on it, like drilling holes or filing.

NORMALIZING – heating steel to a temperature about 100 to 150 degrees above 'critical' temperature and cooling in air to black heat, that is, until it loses all incandescent color. This allows the carbides to evenly distribute throughout the steel and normalize (make uniform) the grain size.

Since most smiths have no accurate way to measure temps to '100 to 150 degrees above critical', it is typically heated to just above non-magnetic for normalization, usually to good effect.

Normalizing is only one cycle, done once, and is followed by grain refinement cycles, which are at slightly lower temp each succeeding cycle. People refer to this whole process as normalizing, but normalizing actually grows grain slightly while evenly distributing carbides. It's then followed by 2-4 grain refinement cycles.

HARDENING – In order for a steel to be hardened, it must have enough carbon. How much is "enough" depends on what you want a tool made of that steel to do. The lower the amount of carbon in the steel, the less hard it can be made.

You achieve hardness by heating the steel to just above 'critical', or phase change temperature, then cooling it suddenly in an appropriate quench medium, which may be different from one type of steel to the next, or one cross section (shape) to the next. This causes the steel to be as hard as it can be, but for most steels it introduces a certain amount of brittleness. How much brittleness depends on the amount of carbon in the steel, the cross section of the steel, and what alloying elements are in it. Carbon is the



dominant factor in deciding how hard a certain steel can get. Different cross sections of steel can have hardenability dramatically affected by other alloying elements.

Things like chrome, nickel, vanadium, etc., increase hardenability, meaning the steel will harden with a slower quench. This is important because thicker steel cools more slowly. Not just the inside, which is obvious, but also the surface because it is receiving heat from the hot interior. A steel that will fully harden in water when it is 1/8" thick won't do that if it's 4" thick - unless it is alloyed for high hardenability.

'Quench' simply means to cool rapidly. In metalwork, each steel has an optimum cooling rate for hardening, and therefore an optimum quenching medium. Oil quenches more slowly than water, water quenches more slowly than brine. Quenching is part of hardening, but the terms are not interchangeable.

TEMPERING - Tempering takes a hardened piece and reheats it to some specific temperature to reduce brittleness and increase toughness. The necessary temperature is determined by the type of steel and the specific use for the implement made of that steel. A straight razor will have a different tempering temperature than a spring made of the same steel.

One thing: redraw (temper) pretty much IMMEDI-ATELY after the quench, lest the internal stresses lead to cracking of the hard, but brittle steel.

Exceptions to this are if the particular steel calls for a period to "rest" prior to redraw. Not likely you will encounter such a steel, but there are some very unusual alloys that have unusual heat treat requirements.

Page 6

Temper colors are caused by oxidation of clean steel surfaces at specific temperatures. What color you get is dependent on the temperature your steel reaches...IF IT GETS UP TO TEMP QUICKLY. That causes the oxide layer to form and get thicker quickly, so in SOME circumstances the color is a helpful guide to estimating tempering temperatures.

The problem with depending on that is that a number of things affect those tempering colors; any residual oil on the steel surface will change the color of the oxide, as will lengthy heating cycles. Left at a specific temperature for long enough, a steel can run through ALL the 'tempering' oxide colors, even though the steel may never reach the temperature associated with a particular tempering color from a short heat cycle. , simply because it stayed hot long enough for the oxide layer to thicken. So TEMPERING is about TEMPERATURE, not color.

The other issue is that home cooking ovens DO fluctuate in temperature. On top of that, the temp that your oven dial indicates may not accurately reflect the actual temp your oven reaches. Your oven cycles. It gets up to temp, then cycles off until the temp drops below a certain point, then it heats up again, just like your home furnace in wintertime.

What I do to address the cycling is to buy 3 oven thermometers (usually around \$10 each at the grocery store) and put them in the oven and set it for 400 degrees (as an example). When the oven says it has reached 400, I check the thermometers to see if they agree with that temp. If they do, you can be fairly confident that your oven dial is accurate.

Since the oven thermometers can sometimes be inaccurate due to rough handling in the store, I look for any two that agree. If two agree, but are different from the oven dial, then calculate the difference between the dial reading and the thermometer reading so you know where to set the dial to get the actual temp that you want.

Since the oven cycles, but I want a blade, or hammer, or any other tool to remain as close to the desired temp as possible, I bury the steel in a cheap pan full of clean sand and put it in the oven. The sand will heat up with the oven, and your steel, but will cool down more slowly than the oven when it cycles, so it moderates the temperature. So long as the oven doesn't go OVER the temp it's set for, you won't ruin the temper of your steel, no matter how long it's in there.

Written by K

Kirk Sullens Henry Vila Shane Stainton Andrew Vida

QUENCHING

From Austin Hillrichs, with credits to Henry Vila

Rule of thumb:

Fast oil <10 seconds for Wx, 10xx, etc Medium speed oil 10-14 seconds for 5160, 80CrV2, etc Slow oil 14-18 seconds for O1, etc.

You need to use an oil that matches the quench speed of the steel. For example: for 10xx steels you need Parks50 to quench the steel from critical to 800F in 1 second or less, for 5160 you need an oil that does this in 5-6 seconds, and for O1 10 seconds. Too slow and you don't get maximum martensite conversion. Too fast will get you maximum martensite conversion but you'll also get either surface cracks or micro fractures in the steel or both.

And let's not forget that certain steels require air quenching, or plate quenching or salt baths, etc.

So when someone asks "what oil should I use for quenching?" you also need to tell us what steel are you quenching.

One thing to point out that might not be obvious or maybe confusing to a new smith is that steels need to be quenched to below the pearlite nose in a specific amount of time. For example:

Wx and 10xx in <1 second 5160 in 5 seconds O1 in 10 seconds

But quenchants are measured as the time it takes to cool a nickel ball from 1625F to 670F (These numbers I pulled off the web and not all have been verified):

Brine: ~4-6 seconds
Water: ~5-6 seconds
Parks 50: 7-9 seconds
50 Quench Oil: 7-9 seconds
Houghtoquench K: 7-9 seconds
Duratherm 48: 7-9 seconds
Parks AAA: 9-11 seconds

Duratherm Superquench 70: 10 seconds

Chevron Quench 70: 10 seconds 130F canola: ~10-11 seconds Duratherm G: 10-12 seconds

Houghton Quench G: 10-12 seconds Gulf Super Quench 70: 10-12 seconds

Gloc Quench A: 10-12 seconds
McMaster Quench Fast: 11 seconds
Citgo Quench Oil 0510: 14.5 seconds
Citgo Quenchol 521: 16.1 seconds
Citgo Quenchol 624: 17.0 seconds
Mcmaster Quenchall: 28 seconds

This article re-printed from the June 2021 edition of The Florida Clinker Breaker, the newsletter of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR LITTLE GIANT POWER HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN EVER!

In 1991, Sid Suedmeier, having recently acquired the dusty remains of the Little Giant business, hosted his first Little Giant Hammer rebuilding class.

The class and Sid were taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana, at that time one of few authorities on these antique machines. As Fred grew older, Sid took over teaching the class, and has taught at best count 27 classes.

Sid sold Little Giant, the parts and repair business, to his long time machinist in 2013, and just this year the business made a move to our good and capable friends, David Sloan and Doug Klaus.

This 2 1/2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from sloppy to sharp. This is the last class that Sid Suedmeier, intends to teach. He will be handing the reins over to David Sloan, who has attended at least 15 classes and has assisted Sid through the years.

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.

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

No experience is required to attend this class. Past students have ranged from age 15 to 90, and from all walks of life. Anyone who wants to learn will benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

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.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We will limit the number of students. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on <u>Friday</u>, and usually ends by Saturday evening. We will be available on Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

School Dates

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

Name: ______ Business name: ______ Address: ______ Telephone: _____ Email address: _____ Since we no longer operate a business, payment needs to be by check or money order. Checks should be made out to Sid Suedmeier. POWER HAMMER INFO Brand: _____ Size: ______ Serial Number:





Using an $\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter fuller, distinct straight or curved veins can be easily made.



Make a tight 180° bend in the center of a 32 inch piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch round rod.



Bend 1 1/4 inch, 90° in a vise.



Make a second bend in the vise allowing enough length to clear your hardy hole by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Bend the ends as far down as your vise allows.



On the anvil, hammer the short end down to the long end.

Now forge the doubled over end so it fits nicely into your hardy hole.

For anvils with hardy holes larger than one inch, use a piece of angle iron of approximate size as a shim.



Place it in the vise, bend the two rods down, and hammer to 90°. While hot, place it in the hardy hole and make sure it seats level with the anvil's face.

By making a slight taper between the rods, larger as

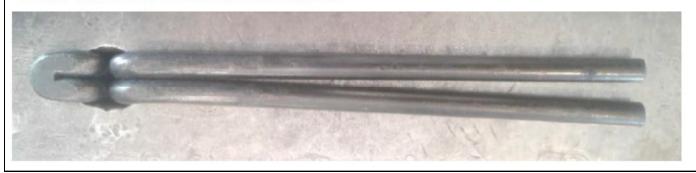
well as tapering veins can be made, using $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{3}{16}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{5}{16}$ inch fullers.



Fullers should be slightly curved to allow "walking" and corners of edge rounded to blend in.

Also refer to Bill Morrison's unique keyhole design that combines both a vein tool and a leaf cup on page 19 of the November-December 2018 issue of the Upsetter. The January-February 2019 cover picture is a sample of Bill Morrison's excellent forged leaves.

This 2 page article re-printed from the May-June 2021 edition of The Upsetter, the newsletter of the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association



Just Stay Put! By Bob Pickens

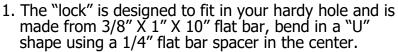


This guillotine is made pretty much from the standard design you may have seen but, it has one big difference that will make it stay in place and not bounce. Movement in the

use of this tool is annoying and the cut or groove you are making can get out of line with the tradition square hardy post. This design has a "lock" that will keep it firmly in place and will eliminate movement when you are striking the hammer block of the guillotine. This "lock" can al-so be added to any tooling you would like to se-cure in your vise. Follow the step by step instructions for a good fit.



If you already own a guillotine, you can add this locking device to yours or if you are building one, make plans to add this nifty device to hold it in place. The following directions are for a 1" hardy, if your anvil has a larger hardy hole, adjust accordingly.



2. Heat the 3/8" X 1" flat bar in the center (heat with a torch to control the bending area). Place the 1/4" flat bar with a rounded end in the center of the 3/8" X 1" flat bar. The rounded end on the spacer flat bar avoids sharp corners on the inside of the "U".

3. Your first bend is done in the anvil upright, the contin-ued bend is done squeezing the two ends together. One end will be slightly longer than the other, grind to match.

4. Prep the two ends to weld to the bottom of the guillotine by grinding a 45 degree bevel with an 1/8" land (flat spot). Make sure it is lined up with the guillotine and MAKE SURE you have it in the correct orientation. (Because...."it" could happen"!)
5. The drift is made from a piece of 1/4" X 1 1/2" flat bar, saw cut at an angle from 3/8" of an inch

to nothing over 6 1/2", approximately. A hole can be drilled in an end to secure with a chain or for hanging up. This would help it not be confused with just a piece of extra material in the shop.























"U" is folded in half, cut ends to match. Grind 45O angle with a 1/8" land for weld. The drift can be cut from 1/4" X 1 1/2 " flat bar, grind corners round. Drill hole for a chain or attachment so it does not get lost or is mistaken for a piece of stock! That can also happen!

Bob has a complete guillotine for sale with this locking mechanism if you are interested. Call: 412-496-9389 or country fab@msn.com

This article reprinted from the May 2021 edition of the Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmith Association newsletter

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

Iron to Art Festival Tickets are on Sale, Register Early, Save Over 30%

The dates are set, October 14 through October 16, 2021.ABANA will host the Iron to Art Festival at our new headquarters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Tickets are on sale now. https://event.abana.org

Opportunities: A group of European smiths are inviting USA smiths to participate in 'Forging Through Time' on Saturday, June 5th. The concept is that smiths are forging at 2 pm in their time zone for three hours. Filming your time is part of the concept. Remember to take photos of your finished project and also share them with ABANA! It's free to register by contacting: forgingthroughtime@gmail.com

<u>Christmas Ornament Contest:</u> ABANA is offering a Christmas ornament contest to ABANA members. For a \$10 entry fee, submit your ornament. entries will be displayed on the ABANA Gallery Christmas tree in Johnstown, PA. top three winning entries will be awarded prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$250 respectively. Additionally, the top three winners must reproduce 50 copies of their ornament for sale in the ABANA Gallery, with \$15 per ornament going to the artist. To enter, visit www.abana.org For more details, e-mail ex-edir@abana.org call 814-254-4817. Entry forms are due by June 28th.

<u>Discount Providers:</u> There are several vendors that value us as customers and offer discounts to ABANA Members. The ABANA website has a list of those vendors that we can support while saving a few dollars. There is a new offer, a grinder discount, for ABANA members from Beaumont Metals. See the ABANA site for more details. Please visit www.abana.org to find discounts under the marketplace / vendor page.

ABANA Affiliate Contest: We are offering a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY for never before ABANA members of our ABANA recognized Affiliate groups to vie for a one year ABANA digital subscription membership, with all the perks. Application and inquiries can be emailed to Chris Rowan the ABANA Affiliate Chairman ironcloverforge@gmail.com with the subject line 'AFFILIATE OPPORTUNITY', also in the body of the email post your Affiliate name and your name. All email applications MUST be submitted by June 11



First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested If Undeliverable return to sender

June 19 Hammer In Snake Road Forge

38N 600W, Valparaiso, IN 46385

Directions: I-65 exit 249 (Crowne Point East 109th Ave). East 109th Ave becomes CR 100S. After about 7 miles turn left on CR 600W. Drive about 1.4 miles, shop is on the left.

Note: This part of Indiana is in Central time zone.

Forge Master: Rod Marvel ph: (219) 241-0628

July 23-24 Regional Conference Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

14586 North CR 1100 East, Odon IN

Directions: Take US 231 south and then SR 58 towards Odon. After the turn-off from US 231, go for 2 miles, and then turn right so as to head north on CR 1100. After another 2 miles, Jim's place is on the right.

Forge Master: Jim Malone ph: (812) 725-3311