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February 2012

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*.

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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.
Contact **Michael Wollowski** (812) 232-2591 if you are
willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

**Feb 18
2012**

**KEN DETTMER SHOP
COLUMBUS**

**Mar 17
2012**

**BUNKUM VALLEY
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Apr 21
2012**

WHITEWATER VALLEY

**May 19
2012**

ROCKY FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD

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Valley

March 30
Forging on the
River

Editors Message

This month we will have our usual February hammer in at Ken Dettmer's shop. This is one of the highest attendance hammer ins for the IBA. Ken has a well appointed shop and there are always plenty of skilled smiths to work at the forge. I hope to see you there.

Ted Stout and Dominick Andrisani have agreed to serve another term on the IBA board. Both Ted and Dominick are well qualified and they have served us well in their current terms. I thank them for continuing to work for the IBA.

Next month the IBA business meeting will be held at Bunkum Valley. Bunkum Valley is one of our newer satellite groups. See page 11 for a map and driving directions. Bunkum Valley will host a hammer in as well as the annual meeting. Although it is not confirmed, I have heard there may be a demonstration of forge welding the axe head that was shown in last month's Forge Fire. Additionally, Doug Neukam has recently acquired a large helve hammer to restore. If you are interested in helve hammers, be sure to take a look.

If you are in need to re-stock your coal supply, you can stop by Graber's Farm and Supply at 400 SW St in downtown Odon. Graber's have pea sized coal that is reported to be very good quality.



Doug Neukam's Helve Hammer

Ballot
IBA Board of Directors
Vote for 2 Only

Dominick Andrisani

Ted Stout

Write in. _____

(Must be willing to serve)

Send ballot to:

Ken Dettmer
15721 S 250W
Columbus, IN 47201

Mark the word ‘Ballot’ on envelope so it will not be opened until the business meeting in March.

Ballots may be cast at the business meeting.

Mailed ballots must be received by March 15th.

Ballot
Ken Dettmer
15721 S 250W
Columbus, IN 47201

Ken Dettmer
15721 S 250W
Columbus, IN 47201

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: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270

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) 255-6209

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

Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruel (765) 513-5390

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Jan.14,12

Shop opened at 9AM Jason Huff a new fellow from Logansport, In. came to try blacksmithing. In 5 hours he made 2 S hooks for his wife, a leaf for our tree of friendship and 2 more to make necklaces four his dauthers. Then he made a pair of tongs to get him started in blacksmithing. Jason is a carpenter by trade but he didn't have all the bad habits that most carpenters have with a hammer. Vary good job Jason. Jason also took a application for IBA so we may soon have a new member.

Denny Setnor made two flint strikers he has been making a lot of camping things. I wonder if he thinks that his wife is going to thow him out or thay are going to do a lot of camping.

Paul Fleischman suprised us all after working on a ash tray for a year he made a spud for ice fishing in one day. This might tell us where his priorities are. Now only if the lake will freeze over so he can try it out good job Paul.

Andy and Austin Williams along with Tim Pearson and myself worked on our state project.

Shop closed at 5:30 PM.

Hammered in Friendship
 Fred Oden

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Vernon group met at the shop of Paul and Judy Bray. The day started with eggs, bacon, fried potatoes and gravy. Paul installed the third in a series of Bill Newman forging stations as it is hard to keep sitting down. Bill started out by making a spoon with Matt Jones helping. Then Bill helped Austin make a cross out of 3/8 sq stock and one from 1/2 the had a marble in the center. Bill also made one from 1 inch sq. stock. Then he made a spoon fork and bottle opener all in one. Austin also made an anvil with Bill's inst. Charlie Helton presented the financial ledger for audit, Charlie does this several times a year. Charlie also the week before did a demo at SOFA for their meeting, he is very good at this. Matt Jones made a tomahawk but did not weld it as 36 persons were present and this would not be safe. SAFTEY FIRST. Four persons came up from Tennessee just for this meeting. Tim Metz instructed a young lady Ellen on making a leaf chain and Jim Bynum helped KC make a leaf. Bob Bynum came up a few days before and insulated Paul's shop for this event. We had a new smith come over Nashville In and he is joining our group. It is great the Vernon group is growing so fast, it must be because of the Forgemasters Kenny and Charlie. Dinner was also served. Iron in the hat was held. The wood stove was started by Ray Sease at 5:30 AM and the shop was closed at 6:00 PM this was a 12 and 1/2 hour Hammer in time flies when you are having fun. I am sure I forgot something.

Ray Sease

The February hammer-in will be held at Bill Kendrick's shop at 1280N CR 900W (Jennings County). Call 812-344-1021 if you need directions. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Bring a chair.

The March hammer-in will be held at Jim Watt's shop at 1813 S. Co. Rd. 175 W, Versailles, IN. Pitch in lunch.

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Time sure flies when we are having fun, this month we will celebrate our first 10 years as a blacksmith club. To help make this next meeting, February 11th, a memorable time to celebrate our 10th anniversary we will have Andrew Davis from the Madd Dwarf Work Shop (<http://maddwarfworkshop.com>) demo for us. He will demonstrate making Mokume Gane, which is like Damascus only with precious metals. After the demo he will lead us in making a knife, hands on, from cable or chainsaw chain. Also, they have made movie props, such as the sword used in the movie Thor. You will be able to wield the sword and have your picture taken. Andrew is in his final semester at Ball State in the metal design program (jewelry construction) with a strong interest in copper work and traditional material construction and manipulation. He is especially interested in copper and Damascus. He will bring some of his work along with the sword made for the movie Thor. Hopefully, his wife will be able to come; she works as a part time enamelist (fusing glass to copper). Also, they are bringing a couple who has taught copper work and enamel on copper at John C. Campbell and other schools across the country. They too will bring some of their work. All of these folks are very talented, so think up your questions and be prepared for one great day.

Since this is a special time let's try to make our iron-in-the-hat a really good pile of treasures. I expect to see several guests and I also hope to get some of our charter members to the meeting.

Lunch will be a pitch in so help with the food by bringing a nice covered dish and Carol is going to make chicken and noodles.

Don't miss this meeting!!!

Ted



making split crosses from 3" square stock. The tongs are made, and soon there will be a practice session of



knowledge to work and was texting back updates as Steve's shop was cleaned!

Next meeting will be at Jason Hardin's shop at 2872 South Becks Mill Road, Salem Indiana 47167

“Doc” Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Got to shop 1:00PM. Cleaned shop up from last meeting. It was hard to believe the amount of fly ash we had created as well as a good size clinker. Started forge with a bag of the City Coal that the bag had started falling apart. It was surprising how well the fire started (32 Temp) and what a honey of a forging fire.

Harry Williams made a new style set of tongs for forging knives. Said he is going to write an article for the Forge Fire to share with us. I made a handle for black pipe for a garden cart. Now add new wheels and paint, then it will be ready for spring. Keeping busy the shop did not seem so cold.

Sincerely,
Charles Gruell

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers met at Steve King's shop. Had about 18 attendees. Visitors from Kentucky and all 4 directions in Indiana. Steve King demonstrated pattern welding making a knife blank and a billet. Jeff Reinhardt demonstrated a poker. Dave Kunkler with The help of Jeff Reinhardt and Jerry Baugman striking reforged a sledge hammer head to a straight peen. This hammer is being made in preparation for



large split cross making. We hope to develop this into a demo for the Tipton conference. Lunch was excellent as usual and iron in the hat was a historic event for the Mashers in that a certain blacksmith for the first time in memory did not win everything. One of the groups of visitors drove 2 hours home and put their new knowledge to work and was texting back updates as Steve's shop was cleaned!

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

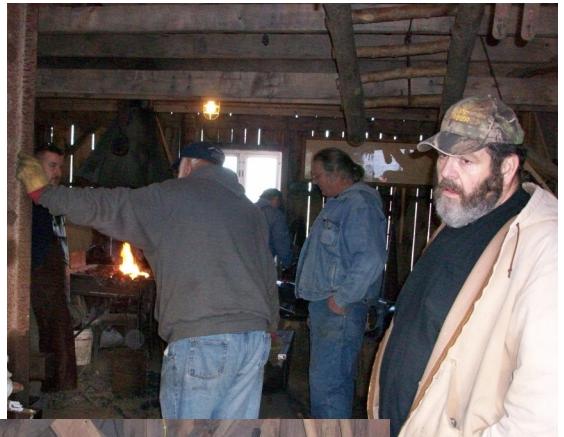
The Bunkum Valley Metalsmith's met on January 7, 2012. We had another great day to hold our meeting. We have been very fortunate with the weather lately, and again for this meeting the weather was just perfect for inside and outside work. We had 22 people in attendance, three forges going, the big one inside and two small ones outside. A lot of work was accomplished. We had a demonstration on making cold and hot cuts by forgemaster Doug Neukam. Doug was making the cuts for Max Hoopengarner's 1200 lb anvil. Max and Rick Helton were here visiting from the Wabash Valley Blacksmith

group. Jim

Malone, our newly elected treasurer, was finishing up teeth for another Crandall (a stone facing tool that the shop had an order for). Aaron Baker was making some damascus billets, CJ Sauer was demonstrating some pot hooks for some prospective members. The prospective members were also making knives out of railroad spikes and one of them made a drive-in hook. One of our new members Gale Mehler made his first fire poker. Grandchildren were present and we had them hammering metal also, and their work was interesting to say the least. We had a lunch of charcoal roasted beaver (Yes! I said beaver) that one of

our local neighbors cooked for us in his newly constructed smokehouse. Of course there was other fare available for those who are more choosy in what they eat, and lots of goodies pitched in by all. We had another really good day of work, food and fellowship.

And as always I say "Even if you have too many irons in the fire....Don't lose your temper." ;)



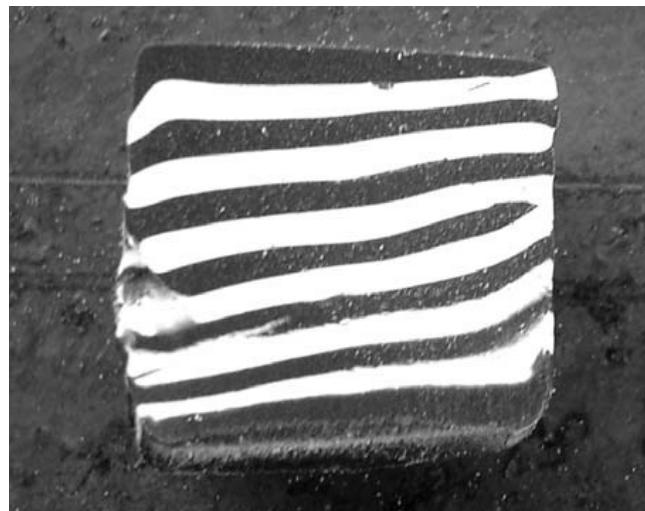
Using Clay to Create Damascus Patterns

by Tom Ferry, Auburn, Washington

Many of us have heard of using modeling clay as a medium to work out a forging sequence when making animal heads.

At Oktoberfest, noted knife maker and American Bladesmithing Master Tom Ferry demonstrated development of Damascus patterns in clay – a quick and easy way to visualize and understand the development of patterns in Damascus or pattern-welded steel. In his demonstration, Tom used Sculpey oven-bake clay (www.sculpey.com). Sculpey is one of several polymer clay products which can be hardened by baking in a home oven at 275°. Here, he didn't fire the clay. Rather, he had dark brown and white clay samples, which he rolled out in a device much like a lasagna noodle rolling machine. Each color of clay was there to simulate layers of different types of materials that would be used to make up a Damascus billet.

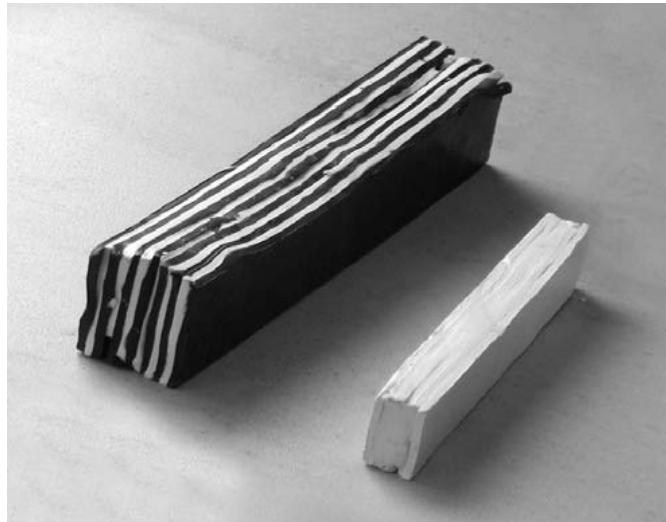
First, Tom rolled out pieces of clay to about 1/16" to 1/8" thick and about 1" wide. He cut these pieces to be about 6" long and then stacked them, alternating brown and white. Forging this stack would result in the random Damascus pattern.



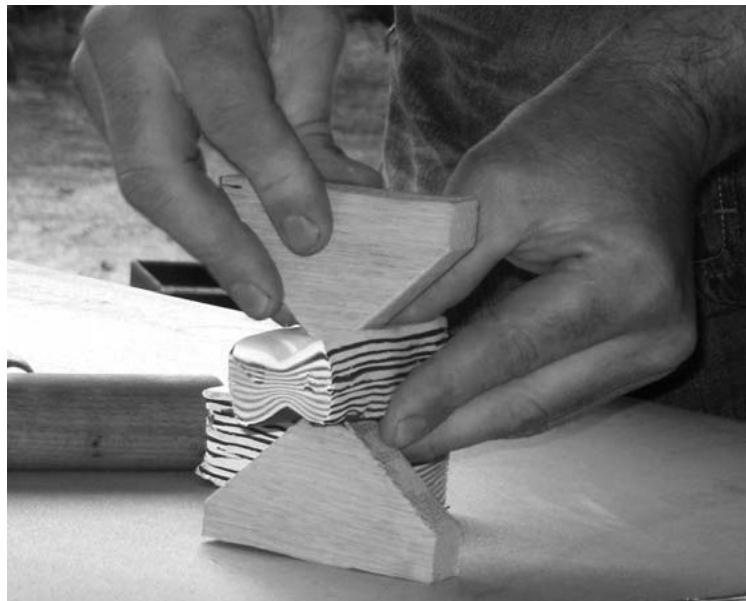
Next, Tom set out to demonstrate mosaic Damascus patterns. He rolled a basic stack out a bit, using a rubber roller to simulate forging the billet.

Radial Pattern

To create the basic radial pattern, he took two stacks, which he wedged in two using a pair of wooden wedges. These simulated this process on a billet with steel jaws in the hydraulic press.

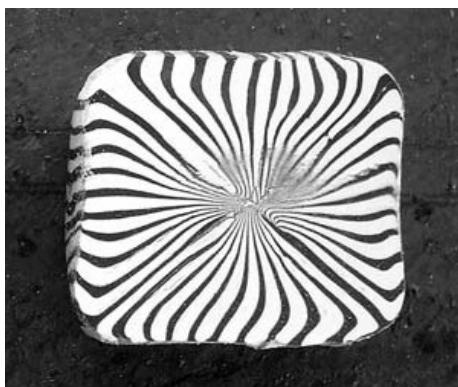
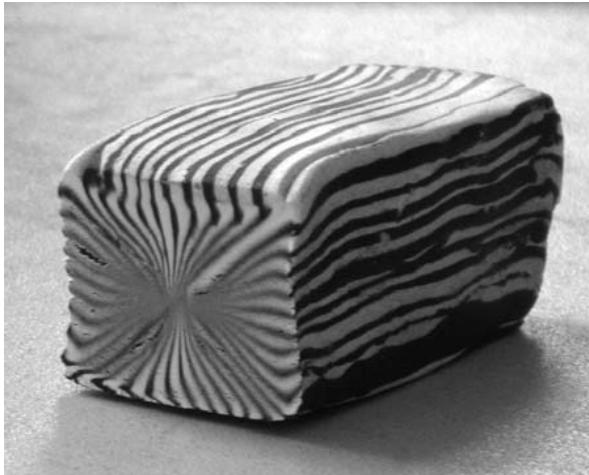


This simulated the basic Damascus billet.



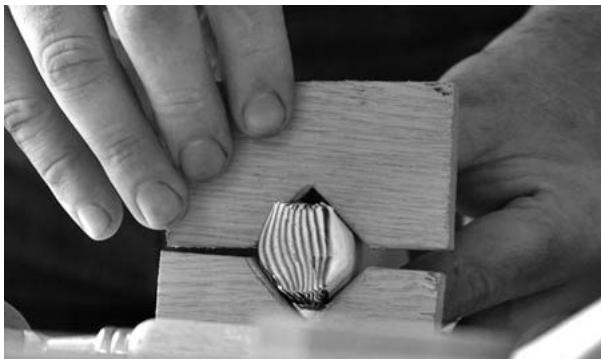
Damascus Design in Clay

Four of the resulting triangular pieces were then reassembled, squared up – ready to forge if you were working in steel rather than clay. In this photo of the billet, the mating of the four pieces can easily be seen.



Radial-Squared Pattern

This pattern started with the same basic stack. Two stacks were split into four pieces. Then each piece was squared up using diamond-shape dies.



Photos by Alan Gering, John Graham & Mike Mumford

Once this was done, each of the smaller sections had a diamond cross-section. These were then reassembled into a billet, resulting in the radial-squared pattern.



Tom demonstrated several other patterns in the Sculpey clay. To get the full details of how to create these patterns, take one of Tom's workshops.

Tom and the clay process

This article illustrates the idea of using clay as a way to visualize and understand blacksmithing processes. Tom used the clay process to show the pattern development, without having to take time out to forge, grind and polish steel pieces. After Oktoberfest, your editor took the sample pieces home to bake in his oven. They were then polished with a belt sander to bring out the patterns.

For more information about Tom, visit his website, www.tomferryknives.com.



Editors Note: This article was reprinted from the January/February 2012 edition of the California Blacksmith Association newsletter.

Random Thoughts from the IBA Librarian

The January Issue of "The Forge Fire" mentioned a couple of activities coming up this spring. One event is the Little Giant Power Hammer Seminar. If you are interested in tuning up or rebuilding your power hammer but for some reason the seminar does not fit into your plans, the IBA library has the following resources available:

1. "Rebuilding the Little Giant Power Hammer Workshop", a two DVD set by Sid Suedmeier
2. "The Power Hammer Cycle: How to Cure the Bang Tap Miss Blues", a DVD by Dave Manger
3. "Power Hammer Tooling and Forging Techniques", a DVD by Dave Manzer
4. "Notes on Rebuilding a Twenty-five Pound Little Giant Power Hammer"
5. "The Little Giant Power Hammer" by Richard Kern

Also mentioned in last month's newsletter is the Garden Feature Competition for our June Conference. The library has a number of books which can either be some inspiration for a design or illustrate joinery and decorative elements. Several DVDs recently available that deal with decoration are in the Bill Epps Series and include the following:

1. "Forged Animal Heads" (dragon, long-horned steer, ram, and horse)
2. "Leaves and Flowers" (five different leaves and five different flowers)
3. "Bugs and Birds" (scorpion, snail, dragonfly, humming bird, swimming swan, and winged swan)

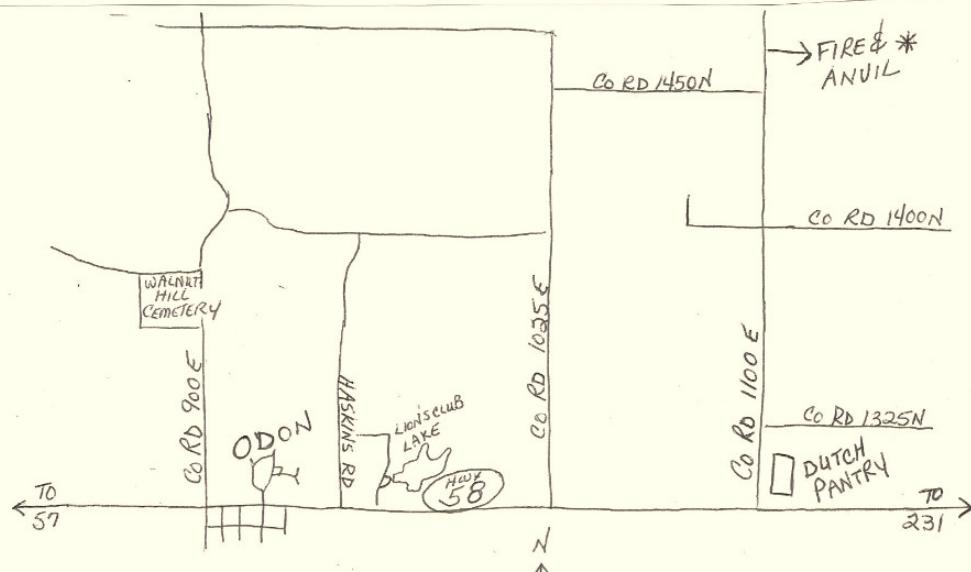
Lastly, we should acknowledge and thank Dave Wells for his contribution of six DVDS on topics demonstrated at Rural Smiths of Mid-America meetings. There will be more about these later.

Please contact the IBA librarian for more suggested references and details for borrowing library materials. Contact info is on the newsletter cover.

Map and Driving Directions to Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Location of the March IBA Business meeting

Bunkum Valley Metalsmith's meet at the Fire & Anvil Shop approximately 1 1/2 mile east of Odon, Indiana and approximately 1 1/2 mile west of highway 231. Go to county road 1100 E, turn north (at Dutch Pantry) and go approximately 2 miles to big white house on right (east). Address is 14586 N 1100 E, Odon, Indiana 47562.





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

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.

Bunkum Valley

March 17

Jim Malone's Shop
14586 North CR 1100 East, Odon IN

Driving 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.

Please bring a dish to share