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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)

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
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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 **John Wendel** (812) 343-1969 if you are willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

April 17	SUTTON-TEROCK
2010	ROCHESTER
May 15	WHITEWATER VALLEY
2010	BROOKVILLE
June 25-	IBA CONFERENCE
27	TIPTON
July 17	SOUTHERN INDIANA METEORITE
2010	MASHERS, PAOLI



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Dates to Remember

SUTTON-TEROCK HAM-MER IN APRIL 17

IBA CONFERENCE JUN 25-27

Presidents Message

We give our thanks to Joyce Roell and Bobby Hoff and the Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths for their hospitality as they hosted our March business meeting. The board met in the dinning room while everyone else was in the forge having fun. Oh well, that's just part of the job of the board.

Gary Phillips and Michael Wollowski were elected to the board as the 2014 class.

Our officers for the next year are:

President – Gary Phillips Vice President – Dave Childress

Secretary – Keith Hicks Treasurer – Farrel Wells

The following people were appointed to these positions:

Election Chair - Ray Sease

Membership Sec. – Farrel Wells

Education Chair – Jim Johnston

Webmaster - Michael Wollowski

Budget Committee – Dominick Andrisani, Ted Stout, Gary Phillips,

James Johnston & Farrel Wells

Forge Fire Editor – Bill Kendrick

Conference Chair- Jim Johnston

Hammer In Chair – John Wendel

Librarian – Larry Rosentrader

The Brochures for our 30th IBA Conference should be in your hands. If you haven't received on yet contact Farrel Wells at 1-765-768-6235 or e-mail him at flwells@verizon.net to receive one. We believe we have a good program on tap for this conference. I am looking forward to seeing the 200 pound steam hammer in operation.

I want to thank John Wendel for his service on the board for the last 4 years and his continued involvement in the IBA. I believe we have a good board but it is the involvement of you, the members, who make any success we have possible.

I also want to welcome Michael Wollowski to the board. I believe he will be a good addition to the board.

I want to thank Bill Conyers of South Bend for running for the board. It is good to have enough involvement to have an actual election.

Gary Phillips IBA President

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE IBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the past couple of years, the IBA has been running an annual budget deficit of about \$4500. This amounts to about ¼ of our assets. Analyzing the budget, we found the following facts:

The conference fees and the income from the conference auction cover the expenses of the conference, except for:

The cost of storing the tools owned by the IBA. The price-tag for that is \$1200/year.

The cost of storing the conference sound equipment in a climate controlled environment. The price-tag for that is \$2000/year.

The IBA store makes a modest profit.

The monthly iron-in-the-hats bring in about \$1000/year.

Many of you receive the newsletter through the internet, reducing the cost of printing and postage to about \$9/member.

Insurance costs about \$8/member.

The library adds another \$4.50/member. The library catalog can be found on our web-site under "Reader's Corner" and we encourage members to better utilize it. The IBA provides free shipping to your address. Members have to pay for return shipping.

Notice that the newsletter, insurance and the library alone add up to \$21.50/member.

Then there are about \$3500 in additional expenses, including scholarships, fees for demonstrators at the Hammer-ins, office supplies, mailings for membership renewals, the cost of hosting the website etc.

The board took a two-pronged approach. We decided to save the \$2000 in yearly storage costs of the sound equipment. Ted graciously agreed to store it in his climate controlled shop. Additionally, the board voted to increase the membership fees to \$35/year. The new rate is the same for individual and family memberships. While this is a considerable increase, we ask our members to support the board in ensuring the fiscal soundness of the IBA. We encourage everyone to contact the board with suggestions for further cost cutting measures. To look at the positive side, for less than \$3/month, you get a newsletter, insurance, the use of a shop, and access to our library.

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

North Central Region

Fulton County

Meetings of the Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. at the Fulton County Historical Society Museum. The museum is located four miles north of Rochester on US 31. For information, call Fred Oden, Forgemaster & Treasurer, at (574) 223-3508, or Dennis Todd Secretary/Reporter at (574) 542-4886.

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

East Central Region

Henry County

Meetings of the Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop are held on the fourth Saturday of the month starting at 10 a.m., with open forge at 9 a.m. at the residence of John Zile in Middletown. For more information contact John at (765) 533-4153 or Larry Singer at (765) 643-5953. Or Farrel Wells at 765-768-6235, flwells@verizon.net

Saturday, March 27, Fallcreek Blacksmiths met with 12 in attendance. I was working on a piece for our Conference contest Pot Rack. I was almost finished, when I burned it up. I sat down and was a spectator while Dave Wells, Dave Kline, Eric Shotwell, Joe Gobel and brad Markum work on other pieces for our Pot Rack, till lunch. We had Iron in the Hat and then went to the Iron Kettle for lunch. After dinner Eric worked on some tools. Kim worked on trade items for the next Rural Smiths meeting, and I think a couple of others played in the fire also. After a fine afternoon of visiting and discussion, the fire was put out and we planed for the next meeting, in April. Thanks to all who came. Come again, and bring a friend.

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Northeast Region

Allen County

The Maumee Valley Blacksmiths and Blue River Blacksmith Guild are a merger of two of our satellite groups. They Meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Maumee Valley Steam Association Grounds in New Haven, Indiana. Call Clint Casey at 1-260-627-6270 for more information.

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers Southern Region Orange County

Forgemaster Billy Merritt (812)338-2876, Treasurer Steve King (812)797-0059, Secretary Shawn Gilley(812)-486-9113

Billy forged a billet consisting of chain links, saw blades and banding. Jeff R. forged a wizard head chesse slicer and then helped Jason Hardin forge a wizard head. Thanks Jeff. Billy helped Jason forge his first damascus billet. Thanks Billy. Jerry B. forged a necklace pendant out of damascus in the shape of a Thors hammer. Eight people were present. We missed having Jerry Robinet and hope his Father is getting better.

Steve

St. Joe Valley Forgers

North Central Region

St. Joseph County

Meetings of the St. Joe Valley Forgers are held on the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. at the residence of Bill Conyers in South Bend. For more information contact John Latowski at (574) 255-6209 or Bill Conyers at (574) 277-8729.

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Johnson County

Meetings of the One Armed Blacksmith's Shop are held on the 1st Saturday of the month starting at 9am. For more information contact Tim Metz at (812)447-2606 or tim.metz@cummins.com.

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meetings of the Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 4:00 p.m. They meet at Big Cedar Forge, the residence of Joyce Roell & Bobby Hoff, east of Brookville on SR 252. For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-0019.

The regular March meeting was well attended. We had our largest Iron-In-The-Hat ever. We also made some real progress on our table project. There were even some new faces in the crowd. The following Saturday we hosted the IBA Board meeting. There were at least thirty people in attendance for that! There were enough doughnuts for each of us to have three or four with some left over. Also consumed was an impressive amount of coffee. Then came even more food for lunch!

It was great to see everyone, and glad those who had a long drive were able to make it too.

Matt Jones and Kevin Welsh showed everyone their press which they used to demonstrate forge welding quarters together. It looks like a handy device to have around. The forge was open for anyone who wanted to jump in an make something. Later in the day we had another big Iron-In-The-Hat. Lots of good things were up for grabs. (It was good for me, I got what I wanted!) Our pile of "Lost & Found" grew quite a bit after that meeting too. If anyone left anything behind, let me know. There are several serving spoons, a blue cooler, and a very nice IBA hat!

Hope you all can come back again for our May Hammer-In!

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Northwest Region

Tippecanoe County

Meetings of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. Meetings are held at the home of Ted and Carol Stout, approximately 8 miles south of Lafayette. For more information contact Ted Stout at (765) 572-2467.

The Rocky Forge meeting on April 10th will be at Ted Stout's shop since we have some projects requiring extra equipment. Coffee and doughnuts will be available around 8:30 A. M.We have over 500 miniature anvils to paint different colors. These anvils will be sold to finance our 30th year IBA party. We also will get started on a weather vane for the women's building. Furthermore, if weather permits some of you can set up outside and pound away. Bring some lunch, a sandwich or whatever you want, we will provide a pot of bean soup to go with whatever you bring.

After attending the IBA meeting in March I am further convinced that we have a great iron in the hat drawing. You guys keep up the quality so I can continue to brag about your drawing. Our treasury is showing the results. As our treasury grows it is really exciting to think we may be able to make the additions to our building. Those additions will come with good iron in the hat drawings, raffles, endowments and sales at the Illiana show. Remember, we decided to make and sell trivets at the Illiana show this year, so lets see what we can make. Be optimistic about the building completion, look what we accomplished in only 6 or 7 years. (The year the building was built.)

Help our group grow, bring a friend who is interested in blacksmithing. See all of you on April 10th., come prepared with a lunch bag, iron in the hat, an eagerness to visit with fellow blacksmiths and a desire to have a fun day.

Ted Stout, Forgemaster

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

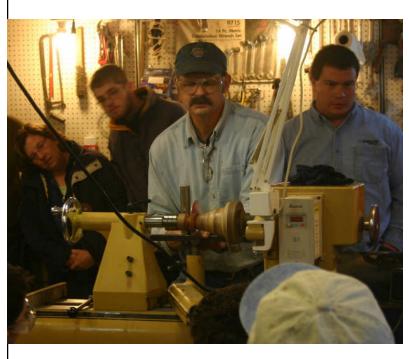
Johnson County

Meetings of the One Armed Blacksmith's Shop are held on the 1st Saturday of the month starting at 9am. For more information contact Tim Metz at (812)447-2606 or tim.metz@cummins.com.

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop Southeast Region Jennings County

Meetings of the Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 am in downtown Vernon. For more information contact Ray Sease at (812) 522-7722.

The Vernon Blacksmiths held their March meeting at the home of Jerry Williams in Holton. Our featured demonstrator was Dale Minor. Many of us were blessed for the first to witness metal spinning. Dale indicated that in the process of spinning metal, he became aware of the need to learn wood turning to make his forms to wrap the metal around. Many times our hobbies lead us into other realms, which tends to make us more versatile. We were exposed to different tools for this form of metal working. His first project was an aluminum bell which almost seemed to flow by its self. Dale then changed his form and spun a real nice aluminum bowl. After a short break, Dale put his bell form back on and proceeded to spin a bell from a copper disc. He explained and demonstrated the need to anneal the copper periodically to keep it soft to work. He used a Mapp torch several times before finishing a nice copper bell(without the clapper). We broke for dinner (which was a large pitch-in) and iron-in-the-hat. Both were very successful. After dinner, there were three wood lathes put into action and we got to try out Jerry's new gas forge. In addition, there were two coal forges outside for anyone who wanted to try to make tools or whatever. There were 44 people signed in and many were busy with all of the activity. We all had a great time, thanks to Jerry and his family. Our next hammer-in will be back to the Vernon shop, so dress accordingly. It tends to be about 10deg, cooler inside than outside. The demonstration pieces were graciously donated for door prizes by Dale Minor. We are hoping to keep the copper bell on display at the Vernon shop. Hammer down! Paul Bray





Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

West Central Region

Vigo County

Meetings of the Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. Meetings are held at the blacksmith shop in Fowler Park, approximately 7 miles south of Terre Haute. For detailed information contact Max Hoopengarner at (812) 249-8303 or Rick Helton at (812) 894-3172

Our March meeting took place at Dennis Kutch's shop where we held our 2nd annual tin smithing workshop. We again met at the Front Porch Restaurant in Worthington for breakfast and then headed over to his shop. All in all, about 25 people showed up through the day, making this a well attended meeting.

Dennis chose an elegant yet challenging sconce for a project. The one I made can be seen below. It looks simple yet takes some skill, time and patience to build. In particular, the sides of the backing as well as the bottom railing have wire inlaid to lend support. Dennis began the workshop by reminding us to only use rawhide hammers or wooden mallets when tin smithing so as to avoid marring the tools. He had blanks prepared ahead of time so that all we had to do is trim them to the patterns. He gave a demonstration on how to make curved cuts with straight snips so as to not leave any hooks that would have to be filed away. This was followed by a demonstration on how to inlay the wire. Since most of us used the bending tools last year, we were off to making our own sconces. While the tin-work kept us busy, there was nevertheless a lot of talking and ribbing going on, some of it between Dennis and his dad, George.





Lunch was ample and delicious. We are thankful to Dennis' wife, daughter and mother for setting up lunch and for doing a good amount of the cooking and baking.

After lunch, we soldered the pieces together and Dennis had another project for those who stayed. Several of us went on a tour of neighboring Doug Neukam and Jim Malone's blacksmith shop. They built their shop last fall with lumber coming from George Kutch's saw mill. The shop is well laid out with a traditional dirt floor. One large forge is placed close to the center of the shop and is designed to be used by two smiths. The firepot was made from an old transmission bell housing. The forge holds a lot of coal and the coke above the firepot fused together to create a chimney which in turn creates a nice deep fire. Several anvils, slag tubs and work benches are placed so as to provide a pleasant and efficient working environment. We were invited to hold our monthly meeting there and will try to do so at a time to be arranged.

We thank Dennis and his family for their hospitality and for hosting another outstanding workshop. Members, please notice that the April meeting takes place at Fowler Park

March 22, 2010

A Trip to "Big Cedar Forge" (Near Timbuktu)

The March IBA meeting was held in a remote area of southeastern Indiana. Traveling down I-74 toward Cincinnati is so unassuming with flat terrain followed by gently rolling hills, then the scenery changes to larger hills resembling areas of the lower Appalachian mountains. Seems the closer the turnoff on highway 1 the further my foot went down in anticipation. When the exit for St Leon finally came in view we made the turn and within a short distance were going into God's country. Traveling down a very long hill called WeeWee hill you can see lots of the geology of the area. As an amateur geologist the those road cuts were calling me, but the signs say "No Digging Allowed", so we kept going until we found Cedar Creek Road, kind of a short cut to our destination without going into Brookville and backtracking. The drive down Cedar Creek Road, which follows the creek for what seemed like 8-10 miles, was absolutely beautiful. Many old Civil War homes are still in use and some are vacant. The scenery must be breath taking during the fall foliage. You have to realize here in Tippecanoe county most of us can see every fence post on the range whether its 10 acres or 100 acres. At our destination (165 miles) we were greeted by many of our friends of the IBA, and by the hosts Joyce Roell and Bobby Hoff. It was encouraging to see such a good turnout for the meeting. The sun was shining and the spring air was warm. The hospitality offered by Joyce and Bobby was excellent. Joyce gave the board a great place for our meeting and the pitch in lunch was plentiful. Carol even found the day old baby Bengal kittens. (No we do not need one!)

Shortly after arrival I was able to make a forge tool before the meeting. Bobby has rigged his blower with a foot powered rheostat and that works nice. It is a safety feature to keep from burning the metal. His side draft hood, as I have always preached, offers excellent draw. There was no smoke in the work area. Bobby and Joyce have a very nice country setting on the banks of Cedar Creek, a peaceful setting for the Big Cedar Forge and their country living.

For those of you who missed the meeting I am truly sorry because it was a fun time. The journey and the destination made for a memorable day.

From the Big Cedar Forge we traveled into Kentucky to do some horse trading with Harley Chandler. We found Harley and his brother in the shop busy working on another coach. After visiting for a while and making our trades Carol and I head north on route 1 toward I-74. We stopped at the historic Sherman House Restaurant in Batesville for supper. That is a neat town to visit and the restaurant is a good place to eat. Their specialty is German food. That was just another stop to make our day memorable. With full stomachs we headed home and arrived around 9:00 P.M. with over 400 miles driven.

Ted Stout



INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION BLACKSMITH OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Date: Name of Candidate:	
Nominating Group (Satellite Group or three petitioners) Name of Satellite Group:	
Name of Representative of Satellite Group:	
or Petitioners Signatures (3):	
The nominating group should describe the candidate's history, accomplishments contribution to blacksmithing and/or the IBA, and reasons for why the candidate smith of the Year.	
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR NOMINATION	
Date: Name of Candidate:	
Nominating Group (Satellite Group or three petitioners) Name of Satellite Group: Name of Representative of Satellite Group:	
or Petitioners Signatures (3):	

Part 1: The nominating group should write a brief description why you feel your candidate should be selected as Rookie of the Year.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Part 2: To be filled out by the Candidate
Name of Rookie of the Year candidate: How many years have you been blacksmithing?
Write a brief description of your family background (for example, married, number of children, ages)
What are your blacksmithing goals?
What inspired you to get involved in the blacksmithing field?
What would you like to accomplish as a blacksmith?
Why should you be selected as Rookie of the Year?
Signature of candidate Date

Safety Message by Jeff Reinhardt

A Safety Tidbit About Eye Protection

In the shop, we should protect our eyes from the various hazards present. Often prescription glasses are worn and thought of as being adequate – they're not! Let's look at the difference between regular prescription glasses and safety glasses. Prescription safety glasses are made to an ANSI standard, and are marked as "Z87". Under this standard, minimum impact resistance is specified. The lens is subjected to a 1" steel ball dropped 50" and no cracking, chipping or breakage is allowed. The frames are also tested in a similar test. For the high impact rating (Z87+). The lens has a ¹/₄" steel ball shot at 150 foot per second into the lens, and no cracking, chipping or breakage is allowed plus the lens must be retained in the frame. The specified impact resistance values require a stronger frame, and thicker lens than regular prescription glasses. During a strong impact, regular prescription glasses may fracture or the lens come out of the frame, allowing the impact object to enter the eye. In most cases a standard prescription lens will be about 2mm thick versus a 3mm thickness for a rated safety lens. Still think those cheap sunglasses are protection?

When choosing safety glasses, always ask for Polycarbonate lens, as they are the most impact resistant, and UV protection is standard. A prescription safety lens will have the maker's logo in the lens in the upper, outer corner. Some are tiny and hard to see, but if not there, they are probably not safety rated lens.

The frames will carry a marking of Z87 on each temple and the center frame as well. No marks? Not safety rated. Safety glasses also need side shields to protect from entry at the sides by particles. Don't take these off as they offer critical protection.

So now you have nice new easy to see through safety glasses. How do you keep them clear, unscratched and clean in a dirty blacksmith's shop? The best way to clean any eyeglass lens material is to first wet the lens with lens cleaner and flush the bigger grit off. Then gently use your fingertips to wipe the lens cleaner around. Finally, flush with flowing water and polish dry with a soft cotton rag. Good lens cleaner is soft hand soap, just touch your finger to the dispenser end and spread the cleaner around the already wet lens. No flowing water? Use Windex and again wet flush spray, wipe gently and then polish dry. A Tupperware dish with a tight fitting lid is a great place to store safety glasses and the CLEAN cotton rag to wipe. An old well washed Tshirt provides excellent polish rags for this purpose.

Festivals and Classes:

Huntington Indiana Jaycees Renaissance Faire Memorial Day Weekend May 27-31

Info: huntingtonrenfaire.com Contact: Todd Nightenhelser (email:upoorsoul@hotmail.com)

3rd Annual Civil War Days in Princeton, Indiana Sept 10-12

Info: www.princeton-indiana.com Contact: Mary Ann O'Neal (ph: 812-385-3752)

Tinsmith and Coppersmith Convergence: June 25th -27th, 2010

Info: www.tintinkers.org Contact: BOB@tintinkers.org



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April 17, 2010

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Fulton County Historical Society (off US-31 North of Rochester)

(feature tong making)

May 15

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths
Big Cedar Forge, the residence of Joyce Roell & Bobby Hoff

East of Brookville on SR 252. For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-0019.

First Class Mail