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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.

Dec 9 2017	<b>DON REITZEL'S SHOP (2ND SATURDAY)</b>
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Jan 20 2018	<b>LARRY WHITESELL'S SHOP TIPTON</b>
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Feb 17 2018	<b>KEN DETTMER'S SHOP COLUMBUS</b>
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Mar 17 2018	<b>KELLY FARMS BUSINESS MEETING</b>
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DEMO

**Dates to Remember**

Immediate  
Board of Directors  
nomination sent  
to Steve King.

March 17 Annual  
Business Meeting  
at Kelley Farms

June 1-3  
IBA Conference

**Editors Message**

We had a very good November hammer in. The hammer in was hosted by the Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild at the Parke County Fairgrounds blacksmith shop. Steve King along with strikers Jeff and Isiah demonstrated. Steve and Jeff forged a beautiful rounding hammer that found its way into iron in the hat. Steve and Isiah worked on some drifts that were then used to drift a 1" hardy hole in a striking anvil. Some photographs are posted on page 6. Better photos and some video clips can be found on the IBA Facebook page courtesy of Dave Wells.

We have a full slate of hammer ins coming up.

- December hammer in will be hosted by Don Reitzel. Note the December hammer in will be on the 2nd Saturday to avoid interrupting family holiday festivities. Don and family will be providing the main entrees. Feel free to bring a side dish or desert. Kurt Fehrenbach will be demonstrating knife making.
- January hammer in will be hosted by Larry & Glenda Whitesell. Larry & Glenda will provide the entrée. Bring a desert or side dish to share. I do not know if there will be a demonstration or open forge.
- February hammer in will be hosted by Ken Dettmer. This is traditionally the highest attendance hammer in, so come early and bring a chair.
- March will be at Kelly Farms for the annual business meeting.

With the annual business meeting being about 3 months away, we need to get board of directors nominations submitted. Gary Phillips and Steve King have their terms expiring in March. Anyone wishing to run should contact Steve King by the end of December, so we can get names out in January for the February ballot.

Jim Johnston tells me the 2018 Conference demonstrators will be Pep Gomez and Nathan Allen. Pep is from Las Cruces, NM. He recently demonstrated at the Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference in Pontiac, IL. Nathan is the historic trades manager at Conner Prairie. More conference details will be coming in the next editions. Note the group project is a "chair". That leaves plenty of room for creativity.

Jim also told me this years' UMRBC was a great success. The location is still the Thresherman's Park in Pontiac, IL. However the traditional July schedule was moved to October with more agreeable temperatures. I will get more details in an upcoming edition.

**IBA website:** [www.indianablacksmithing.org](http://www.indianablacksmithing.org) **IBA Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/groups/IndianaBlacksmithingAssociation/](http://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  
 Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

### **3) Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop**

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

### **5) Maumee Valley Blacksmiths**

Meet: 2nd Saturday  
 Contacts: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270  
 Mark Thomas (260) 758 2332

### **7) Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild**

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

### **9) Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths**

Meet: 2nd Saturday  
 Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

### **11) Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths**

Meet: 1st Saturday  
 Contacts: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311  
 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150  
 Carol Baker (317) 809-0314

### **13) Satellite 13**

Meet: 4th Saturday  
 Contact: Bill Newman (317) 690-2455

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

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

### **4) Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop**

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM  
 Contacts: Gary Phillips (260) 251-4670  
 Dave Kline (765) 620-9351

### **6) St. Joe Valley Forgers**

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM  
 Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729  
 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

### **8) Meteorite Mashers**

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

### **10) One-Armed Blacksmith Shop**

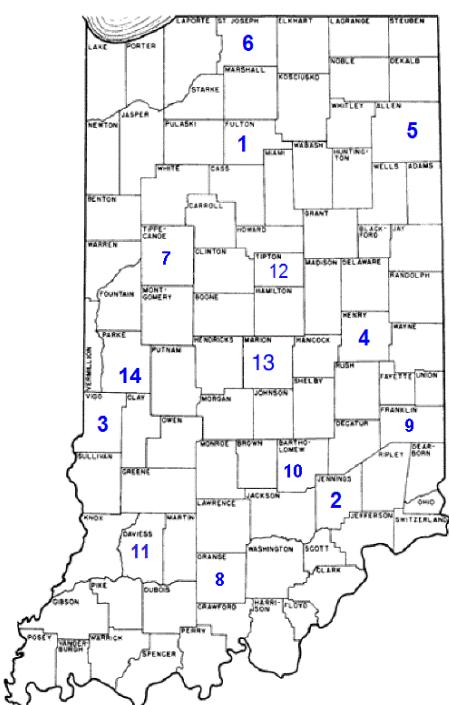
Meet: 1st Saturday  
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

### **12) "Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop**

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

### **14) Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild**

Meet: 1st Saturday  
 Contact: John Bennett (812) 877-7274

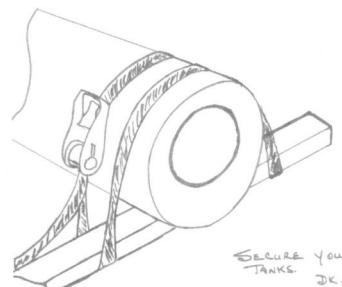


### **Hauling Welding Cylinders?**

By Doug Kluender  
 Has this ever happened to you?

You run out of gas in the middle of a job and decide to go the welding supply to get your cylinder filled. You load it in the truck and tie it in as best you can. About the second corner you hear "clunk, clunk, BAM" and feel the truck take a 6" sideways hop—the result of the cylinder coming loose from its bindings.

This solution requires a piece of scrap tube or bar '20"-40" long and a tie down strap. Of course it works best if you have a non-slip rubber mat in the bed of your truck.



Reprinted from "The Anvil's Horn"  
 September 2010  
 The Arizona Artist Blacksmith  
 Association.

SECURE YOUR  
 TANKS.  
 DK 2010

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Meteorite Mashers

The November meeting of the Meteorite Mashers was at Jeff Reinhardt's shop, and the November meeting is traditionally the Smoked Turkey Hammer-in. Jeff Hickory smoked 2 turkeys for the entree and the entire crew stepped up the food. A large split cross was forged for Pete Riddle, with 10 touch marks on that cross. Several new folks forged on it but do not yet have a touch mark. A heavy hunk of forklift fork was then drifted to make a 1" hardy hole. We had possibly the best ever iron in the hat, had the biggest crowd yet and had lots of beginners outside and in the shop forging as the weather once again was wonderful for the Smoked Turkey Hammer-in. Jeff is already planning for next year. The December meeting will be held at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville



### Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith shop

The Vernon blacksmith shop was opened by Bill Kendrick at approximately 5:30 am . He once again, warmed our hearts and souls (and the shop) with his heaters. Many thanks for his demo of a series of round and square twists, assisted by Kevin Welsh. Bill Newman made a Viking belt buckle. Kevin made a cross. Fred Vinup drew out antique rebar from an old bridge on the power hammer to make a knife blank. Lila and Mike Lyver were making "S" hooks with the assistance of Bill Newman. Kevin Made a 1 1/2" cross with Tim Wilson Brad Wever and Bill Kendrick as strikers. Mike Lyver remade a fireset from 5/8" round, assisted by Bill Newman. Lila Lyver and Bill Newman made a cross. Xander Good worked on tongs with the help of Kirk Fairinbock's reins. We had 24 who actually signed in. This was the last hammer-in at Vernon for this year. December meeting will be at John Cummins. January will be at Paul Bray's- February will be at Kenny Dettmer's - and March will be at Kevin Welsh's. I hope I got it right ,this time! April will me back home at Vernon. If you need help- ask! Bring lots of iron-in-the-hat and even more , money . Many thanks to the members up north for making the trip down here. I would name each one, but I would probably leave out someone. Satellite 13 had several members. If you want to bring something extra for trade or door prize, feel free. Paul Bray

December hammer in at John Cummins shop, 14473 Chesterville Rd, Moores Hill, IN 47032.

Directions: From Hwy 350, approx. 3 miles east of Milan turn South on Palmer Rd. Turn left at 2nd stop. Turn right on Chesterville Rd. 8th house on the right. Look for signs.

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metal Smiths met Saturday the 2nd. We had a great turnout with people arriving all day long and we had 38 people for lunch. Several of the wives and family members came. We had a really good time with our first annual ornament raffle. Several of our smiths spent the last month creating handcrafted ornaments, several are pictured below. We had some new faces which is always a welcome opportunity to share the trade and teach. The meal was wonderful with Eddie Cox smoking a ham, and lots of other food.... mashed potatoes, noodles, deviled eggs, corn, chicken and noodles, bread , pecan pie, donut holes, monster cookies, persimmon pudding, chocolate/toffee candy, potato candy, red velvet cookies, blackberry cobbler and no bake cookies. Enough said it was a great day! From all the BVMS we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Photos from November Hammer-In  
Hosted by Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild  
Steve King Demonstrating Hammer Making



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

You are invited to join us for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. It will be held Friday March 16 through Saturday March 17, 2018.

First taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana, we carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant from running but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working machine. Sid Suedmeier, former owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from Fred and 26 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, but we will also have a new style on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. Our city has a nice selection of cafes, outlets, antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

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

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

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

No experience is required to attend this class. Our past classes have been attended by folks from every walk of life, from students to retirees ...anyone who wants to learn can 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 most performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and typically ends by Saturday evening. We are available Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

## 2018 REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT

- Check enclosed  
 Cash in person

(Sorry, we no longer accept credit cards, although credit cards can be used to purchase parts through the Little Giant business owned by Roger Rice, also in Nebraska City)

### POWER HAMMER INFO

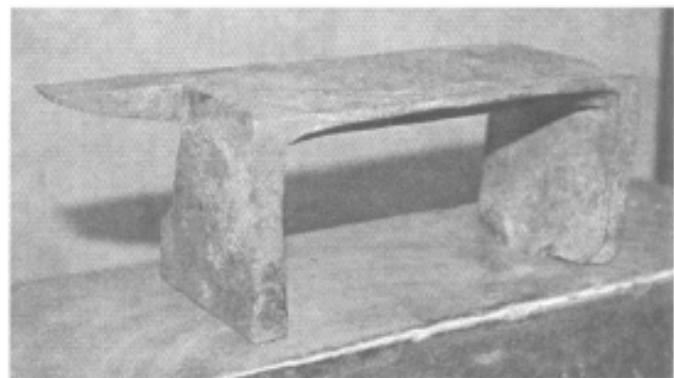
Brand: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402/873-6605 or sidsshop@windstream.net*

# Anvil Bridge

by Tom Latane'

With the help of Louie Fisher, who works in my shop one afternoon a week, I recently made a tool for which I have felt a need for some time.

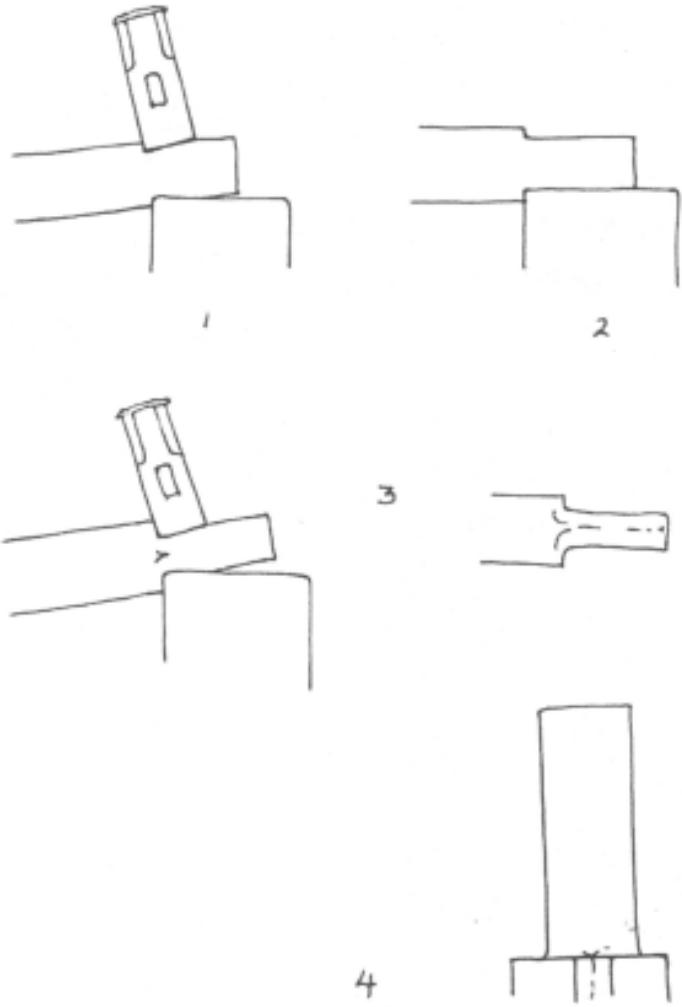
The forging of hinges and other scrollwork with chisel-split branches has always been difficult. Using the edge of the anvil has meant spreading the split members ninety degrees apart for dressing, then working them back together at the desired angle. Working over a tinsmith's hatchet stake held horizontally in the vise always involved a lot of repositioning the stake after hammering.



An anvil bridge provides the acutely angled edge backed up by the mass of the anvil. I designed mine to have one edge beveled like the hatchet stake, one square edge, and a small spur with a longer taper. I considered making the spur a small square horn but thought that the thinner edge might be handier when this tool was in use.

We began with a piece of leaf spring three inches wide and a half-inch thick.

1. Using a set hammer over the edge of the anvil, we created shoulders establishing the top of the tenon.
2. The remainder of the tenon was forged to the depth of the shoulder,
3. This was repeated several times until the width of the tenon had decreased to an inch and the thickness increased to an inch. Some upsetting can be done if the thickness does not increase enough. Longitudinal folds do not compromise the strength of the tenon.
4. With the tenon fit to the hardy hole, the material was cut to a convenient length and the shoulders upset to seat well on the anvil face.



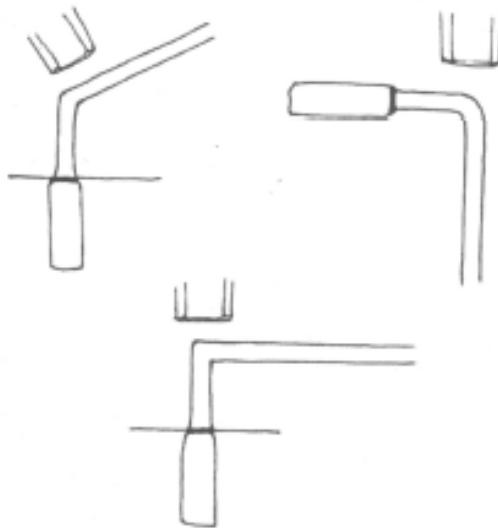
5. The next step was to forge a right angle bend, toward the horn, about 2 1/2" above the anvil surface.

6. I marked a spot 2 1/2" from the far end and chisel cut the spur away from the side which would not be beveled. The spur was short, leaving a full width at the end for the foot.

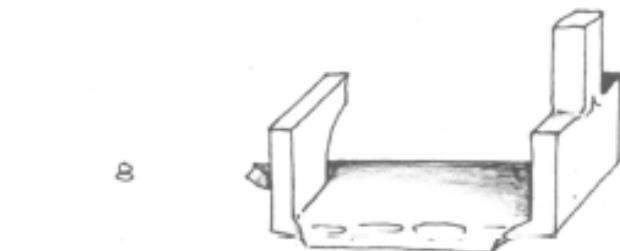
7. A second right angle bend was then formed, leaving the spur material in the same plane as the bridge top. The foot was then upset or drawn out to create a level bridge top and solid contact for the foot.

8. A cross pein hammer was used to draw our the edge of the bridge with as little gain as possible in length. A curve in the bridge top resulting from stretching of the beveled edge can be corrected by upsetting the beveled edge from the ends or drawing out the opposite edge.

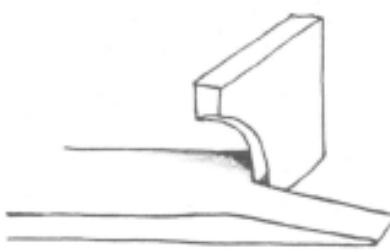
9. When the heavier forging was all done and the bridge was adjusted to sit solidly once again on the anvil face, the curved end of the spur was cut and it was forged to the desired taper. The bridge was not hardened or tempered.



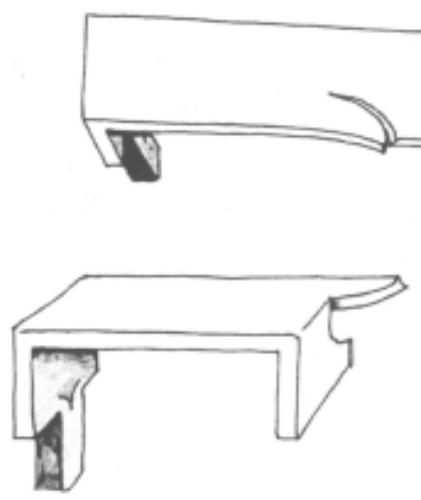
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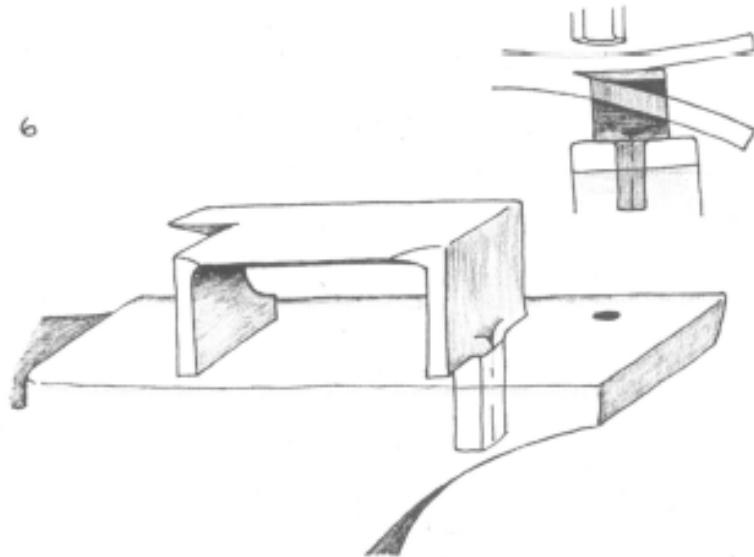
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6



7



## SOFA 2017, Peter Braspenninx Demo Notes

*a MABA member*

*Write-up and pictures by Steven Spoerre*

At the beginning of the demo, Peter explained he's been working on a series of sculptures that explores what can be done with a line – for the demo, his "line" was seven feet of 3/4" square stock. The final sculpture would consist of three parts, two hemispheres and a lower support that would all be friction wedged together.



The lower support was brought partially forged and the hemisphere to be forged was marked and

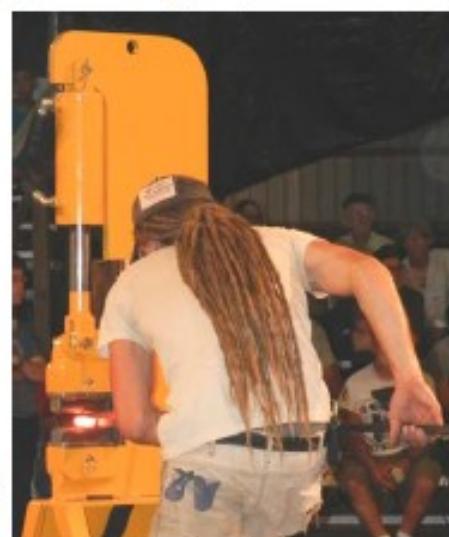
This article reprinted from Nov-Dec 2017 edition of the Newsletter of the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association

setup ready for fullering, the other hemisphere was brought already completed so it could be passed around and we could see what he was making. A way to describe creating a hemisphere from an initially straight element would be to reference a world globe – slit and drift two holes on either side of the center point; place these two holes facing up on the equator just below Columbia; wrap both ends of the bar around the equator until they almost reach Malaysia; bend the bar up and arc them over the North Pole; as the ends come back down to the equator, slip them into the two holes.



Both the lower support and the 3/4" square were put in the forge and Peter alternated working between them, slitting the first of the two center holes in the lower support, and forging down one end of the 3/4" stock. Both pieces were symmetrical about their center points, so all the forging steps were repeated on the other end of the stock. Peter slit the first hole on the anvil,

explaining what he was doing and the tools being used, for later work he enlisted the help of several friends to tend the forge, strike and maneuver/support the long piece of 3/4" stock. The initial forging down was quickly done on a hydraulic forging press, supplied by Coal Ironworks, and was finished up at the anvil with the help of a striker. The needed circumference was calculated and 90 degree bends were put



in the bar before any of the curves were made. Each 90 degree bend took 3 heats – the first to create the corner in the vise, the second to shape the corner on the anvil and the third to refine the edges. After each operation, the piece was examined for straightness and corrected as needed.



A vise mounted jig was used to form all the arcs of the hemisphere, sections were heated, clamped in place and coaxed into position with bending forks.



The layout of the three sets of holes was critical for the assembly, so careful measurements were taken from the completed hemisphere for the other two parts.



The drifting of the holes makes an attractive feature that is a tight square on the inside but has a smooth flow along the outer edges. Care was taken to locally quench the hole areas as the piece was bent in the jig, to minimize distortion.



Here are a couple of "straight on" views of the finished sculpture to give you a better idea of how the three pieces go together.



For inspiration visit Peter's website.

[phyreforge.com](http://phyreforge.com)



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Newsletter of the  
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

**Farrel Wells** *Membership Secretary*  
8235 E 499 S  
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested  
If Undeliverable return to  
sender

### **December 9 Hammer In**

**Don Reitzel's Shop, 4113 W County Road 900 S, Stilesville, IN  
46180**

Directions: Take I-70 west of Indianapolis to exit 59 (SR 39). North on SR 39 for 1 mile. Turn left on County Road 900. Shop is about 6 miles on left.

### **January 20 Hammer In**

**Larry Whitesell's Shop, 4314 S County Road 300W, Tipton, IN  
46072**

Directions: From US-31 turn east on CR 500S. Go east about 3 miles and turn north on CR 300W. The shop is about 3/4 of a mile up on the left (west). From SR28 turn south on CR 300W. The shop is about 2 miles south on the right (west) side of the road.