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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.

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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.

Jan 16
2016

BUNKUM VALLEY METALSMITHS

Feb 20
2016

KEN DETTMERS SHOP
COLUMBUS, IN

Mar 19
2016

IBA BUSINESS MEETING

Apr 16
2016

TBD



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> PGS 6-7 PETER ROSS HELPER

> PGS 8-15 PETER ROSS PLIERS

Dates to Remember

January 9
Zile Estate Auction
Sulfur Springs, IN

January 16 IBA Hammer In Bunkum Valley

January 22 Blacksmith Auction Arcola, IL

January 23
Auction with
Blacksmith tools
Greenfield, IN

February 20 IBA Hammer In Ken Dettmer's

March 19 IBA Business Meeting

Editors Message

We are starting the new year with a great hammer in at the Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths. It has been quite a while since we had a state hammer in at Bunkum Valley. The group is very active and have a nice big shop. I encourage you all to come out and enjoy the day and the company.

February we will return to Ken Dettmer's shop. Ken's shop was destroyed by fire a little over a year ago. The new shop is coming along well. Historically, hammer ins at Ken's shop have been very well attended. This year should be a return to that same tradition.

There are several auctions this month that feature high quality blacksmithing tools and equipment. The first auction is on January 9 from the estate of John and Arthenia Zile. John served as IBA president for many years. He also hosted the Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop. On January 22 there is a consignment auction in Arcola, Illinois. Ted Stout has attended this auction in the past and he tells me several IBA members have attended. The last auction is a personal property auction in Greenfield on January 23. The listing includes at least one anvil and several forges and blowers. Take a look on page 5 for details about times, locations and links to the auction listing.

The IBA business meeting will be coming up in March. I am assuming the location will be Kelley Farms/Doc Ramseyer. I will confirm the location for the February Forge Fire.

As usual, we have 2 board positions that will need to be filled. The positions current held by Ted Stout and Dominick Andrisani are expiring. I have not heard if Ted and/or Dominick intend to pursue another term. If you are interested in running, please contact Gary Phillips. The ballots will be included in the February Forge Fire.

Charlie Helton is wanting nominations for Blacksmith of the Year and Rookie of the Year. The IBA has a tremendous amount of talent in both old and new blacksmiths. Charlie's goal is to have 13 nominations, one from every satellite group, rather than the few nominations that have been submitted in the past.

This months Forge Fire is an expanded 16 page edition. I wanted to include the article on Peter Ross box joint pliers, but the standard 12 page format was too small to include the full 8 page article. Peter demonstrated the joint at the 2011 IBA conference. It makes for more elegant looking hinged joint than a simple lap with rivet. The extra 4 pages also provided space for an article on a blacksmith's helper.

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

IBA Satellite Groups and News

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM

Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508

Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM

Contacts: Doug Moreland (217) 284-3457

Max Hoopengarner (812) 249-8303

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd and 4th Saturday

Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270

John Schamber (260) 579-7303

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM

Contacts: Ted Stout (765) 572-2467

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday

Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday

Contacts: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150

Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday

Contact: Bill Newman (317) 690-2455

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 ÅM

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 Convers (574) 277-8729 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Billy Merritt (812) 338-2876 Steve King (812) 797-0059 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

One-Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Meet: 1st Saturday

Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060

Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM Contacts: Mike Kelley

Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met in December at the forge Kenny Dettmer at Jonesville. A lot of work got accomplished and world problems solved. Holes for wiring were drilled, wires were ran, wall boards erected, ceiling hole covered and a lot of small things got fixed. We all had a great time. There was no iron-in-the-hat or drawing for lunch but it was impossible to eat all the great food that was brought. Many thanks to all who came and helped in any way.

January meeting at Paul Bray's ,139 South Park Drive, Seymour.

February meeting will be at Bill Kendrick's forge at 1280 N 900 W ,Seymour IN, 47274. Directions: US50 (about 5 miles East of Seymour) turn North on CR 900W (look for Accuracy Unlimited sign). Go North 2 miles. At T turn left then immediate right. Look for red barn and shop on right. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

March meeting will be at the forge of Kevin Welsh at 25619 Gill Rd., Nabb IN, 47147. This is a pitch in.

Happy New Year! Paul Bray

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths held a meeting on January 2, 2016. We had around 30 people in attendance. We had a wonderful lunch.. And thanks to all that brought dishes..







There was some knife making going on. Aaron was teaching knife making . Aaron is always willing to help .







We will be hosting the state IBA hammer in on January 16th 2016. Hope to see you there!

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Our December meeting was at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville. Good attendance for the day after Christmas. Stared out with Steve King making a flatter. Once ready to upset, the billet was placed in the upsetting fixture and striking began. After a few sledge blows from a team of 3, the fixture collapsed. It seems Steve had used a plate that was high carbon or other hard to weld material and the welds that had good penetration pulled out chunks where the welds had been. Disappointing but Steve was a good sport considering the instant whipping out of cameras and much laughter. We went on to a very good meeting and Steve stated he has more plate that he knows is mild steel, and he will rebuild. Butch Sparks brought BFH logo license plates as Christmas gifts for the Brotherhood. As usual Dave and Donna Kunkler were great hosts in a great shop. Next meeting will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs the last Saturday of the February. (Jeff's shop has heat)



Satellite 13

Max Williams wife called me to tell the IBA that Max passed away on Dec 20.

Area Auctions of Interest

January 9, Sulphur Springs Community Building, 10 AM.

John and Arthenia Zile estate sale. John and Arthenia were both active members of the IBA. The sale bill includes numerous anvils and blacksmith tools. Weblink: http://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/2630441.html

January 22, Tri-County Auctions, Arcola, IL, 5PM (Eastern time)

Blacksmith consignment auction. There will be over 40 anvils, forges, swage blocks, top and bottom tools, hand tools and many miscellaneous blacksmithing items.

Weblink: http://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/2631089.html

January 23, Hancock County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN, 10 AM

Large personal property auction including blacksmith tools. Weblink: http://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/2639532.html





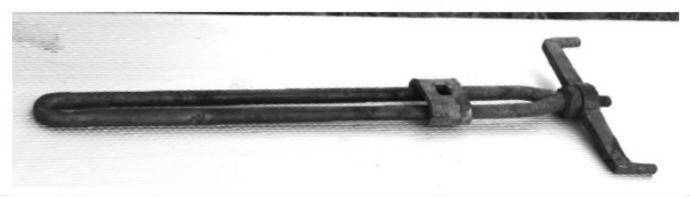
Peter Ross - Blacksmith's Helper Demo at 2015 SBA Conference.

THOMAS BOUCHER.

Friday afternoon, Peter Ross began a demonstration on how to forge a blacksmith's helper. He was to finish the demonstration Saturday morning, however I was only at the conference on Friday. The helper he was demonstrating was a variation on the one in the image to the left. The solid part of the leg was moved to the lower portion of the leg and the slotted portion was moved to the top of the leg. The reason for this change was to keep the locking handles stationary as the leg was adjusted.

A blacksmith's helper is a good way for a smith to demonstrate his skills. Peter had designed a rather nice one, but it's more elaborate then it needs to be. The one that he decided to demo for us was a much simpler construction, based on a piece that he found in a warehouse, dating to around 1880's-1910's.

He began with stock that appeared to be about 1"x½"x12 %" for the three feet. Each of the feet was tapered and rounded out for about 6" on one end. Once they were cleaned up, and the tapered and rounded ends transitioned well, he stacked them to be faggot welded. Since the material was not square, two were stacked and the third was stood next to them (Fig. 1). A piece



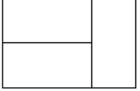


FIG. 1 SHOWS HOW PETER GROUPED THE THREE PIECES TO BE WELDED TOGETHER. A PIECE OF WIRE CAN BE USED TO HOLD THEM IN PLACE.

of wire can be wrapped around the bundle to help hold them together until they are properly welded

Once the feet are joined, scarf the end, as well as the end of the lower part of the leg or stem. Peter said that he does not take his time to make his scarf super clean and tidy. As long



FIG. 2 - PETER SHOWS THE COMPLETED WELDS

as the centers hit first and the end is feathered out, they are good enough for him.

The stem should be three times the width of the round bar used for the upper, adjustable, portion of the leg and about 20" long. After welding the stem to the feet, punch and drift a square hole about an inch or so from the top of the stem. Repeat this process about 10" down as well. These two square holes will be for the carriage bolts that make the top of the leg adjustable.

Peter says that making a carriage bolt can be tricky. Everything must be under control. The shank size must be consistent and match the size of the threading dies. The shank must also be straight and square to the head. The square portion of the shank must be wider then the threaded portion as well. To head the bolt, make a bolster using the same drift that you used to put the holes in the stem portion of the leg. Begin to taper out the parent stock of the bolt so that it will fit into the bolster. Offset the bar, while you taper, so that you form shoulders. These shoulders will keep the bolt from sliding through the bolster and will aid in the heading process. Break the corners of the top of the bolt, before heading it



FIG. 5 - CLOSE UP OF THE FINISHED CARRIAGE BOLT

in the bolster. He did not show us the filing and cleanup or threading process for the bolt, but it should be easily figured out.

Once thing to note about this carriage bolt, and the ones produced during the 18th century, is that there is a much longer portion of the bolt that is square and unthreaded compared to modern carriage bolts.

The nut and handle are made as one piece. Peter showed us two ways that the handle can be forged.

The first method of making a handle was to isolate a square portion at the end of the stock. Peen the isolated area sideways to flatten it out and widen it without much change in its length. Octagonalize and round out the isolated area. Punch out a hole in the center of the isolated area. Cut off the handle from the parent stock and octagonalize it. Round out the lower portion of the handle leaving an octagonalized section below the nut. Offset the nut from the handle so that it can easily be grabbed when pieced together on the leg (Fig



FIG. 4 - OFFSET THE HANDLE FROM THE NUT.



FIG. 5 SHOWS THE TWO METHODS OF SHAPING THE NUT. ALTERNATIVE METHOD ON THE BOTTOM.

4). At a low heat, drift the hole large enough to be threaded with the corresponding tap for the carriage bolt.

The alternative method has you scarf the end of the bar and fold it over and welded it upon itself. Use a pin in the eye of the nut to retain the shape of the hole. The rest of the handle is forged and shaped as the previous method is finished out.



FIG. 6 - THE FINISHED LOWER PORTION OF THE LEG.

*Edit - The bottom left image at the beginning of the article was taken by Linda Holmes-Rubin. It is a photo of the upright made at the second demo, which I was not present at. There is no write-up on its demo, but hopefully you can figure it out from the image.

[Special, 2015.

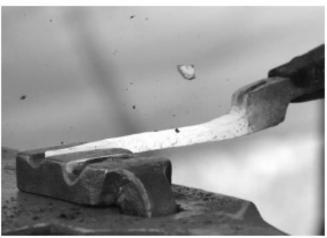
PETER ROSS PLIERS DEMO

PHOTOS AND DEMO NOTES BY JIM GUY





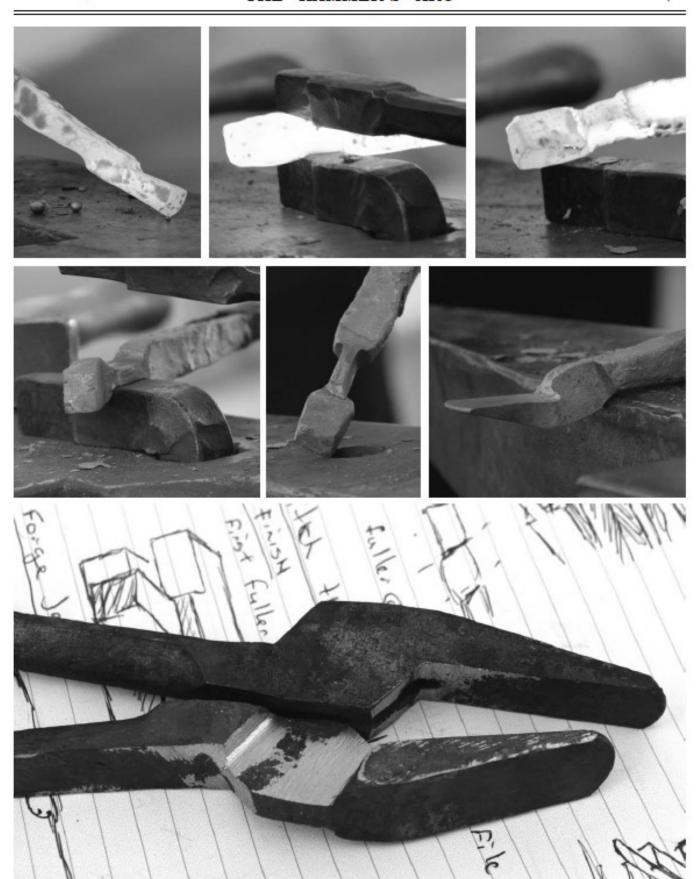






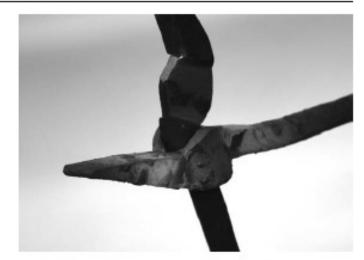
SPECIAL, 2015.]

THE HAMMER'S ARC



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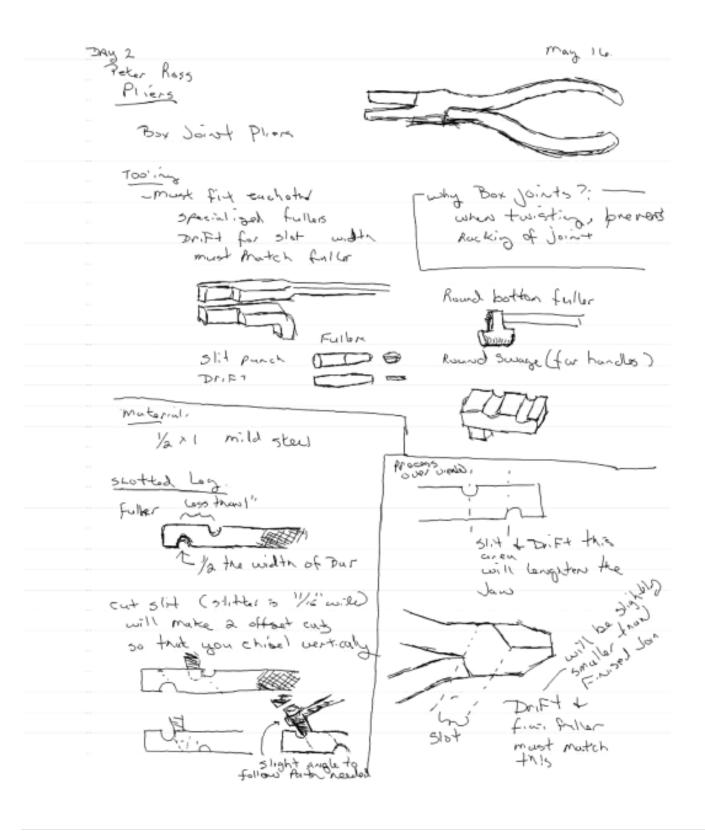




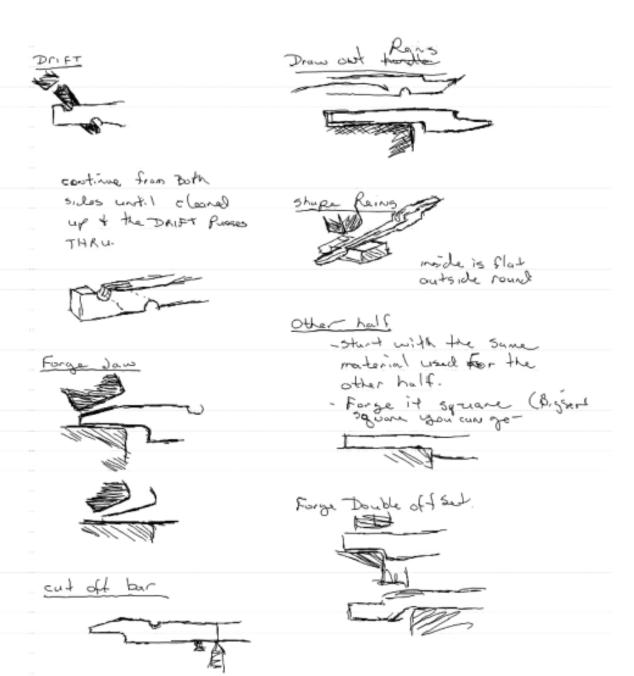


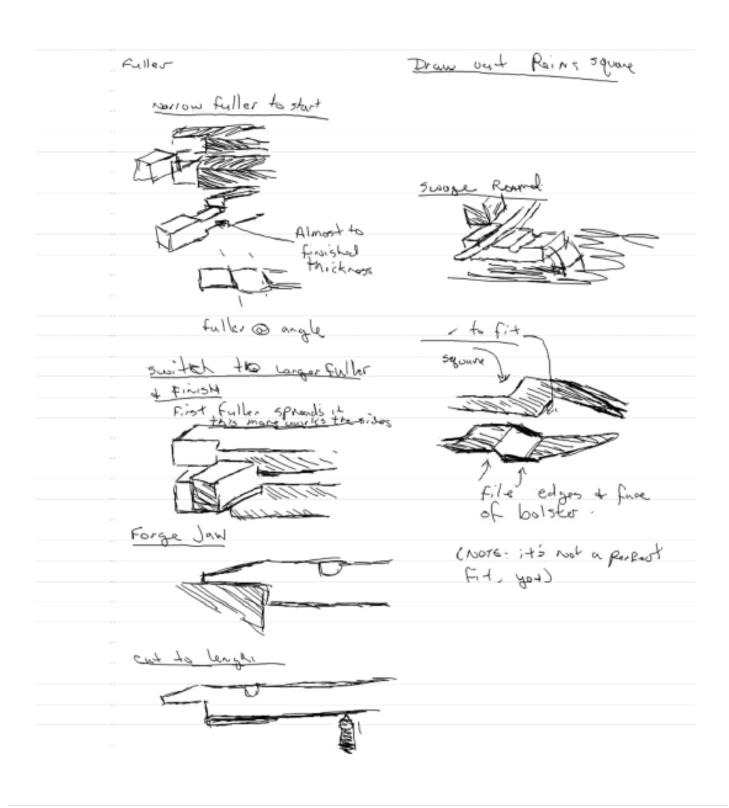




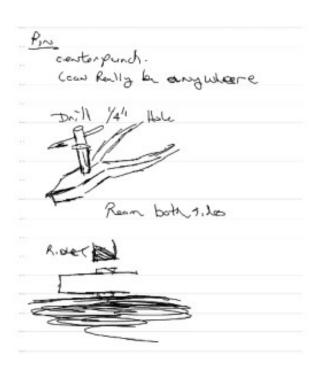


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Bunkum Valley

January 16 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

Kenny Dettmer's Shop

February 20

15721 S 250W Columbus, IN

From the North: take I 65 S to Ogilville / Walesboro (exit 64) turn. right. Go to the 1st crossroads (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.

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