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May 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.

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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.

**May 19  
2012**      **ROCKY FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD**

**June 1-3  
2012**      **IBA CONFERENCE  
TIPTON, IN**

**July 21  
2013**      **SOUTHERN INDIANA METEORITE  
MASHERS**

**Aug 18  
2012**      **ONE ARMED BLACKSMITH SHOP**

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IBA CONFERENCE UPDATES

**Dates to Remember**

June 1-3  
IBA Conference

Aug Indiana State Fair

Sept Quad State (SOFA)

**Editors Message**

My calendar tells me we are three weeks from this years Conference.

Our feature demonstrators are Elmer Roush and Clay Spencer. I had the pleasure of attending a traditional joinery class taught by Clay at the John C Campbell Folk School. I just recently learned that Campbell has a Clay Spencer blacksmith shop adjacent to their Francis Whitaker shop.

JJ tells me the demonstrators are all anxious to come out and get started. Lets help them with a big turn out.

Early Conference registration due date, making you eligible for the prize drawing, is May 23. Do not delay.

Check out page 11 for more details relating to this years conference.

Last month I had the pleasure to attend the Girl Scout 100 year anniversary at Camp Dellwood. The turn out was HUGE. Once the scouts started arriving we ran non stop. Jennifer Hayden coordinated the blacksmithing venue. We had nine blacksmiths, including Lorelei Sims from Illinois. For those of you who have not met Lorelei, she brings a lot of positive energy where ever she goes. I would encourage all IBA members to support events like this. You find that you have as much fun as any of the children. A more detailed article will be in an upcoming Forge Fire.

As reported in last months Forge Fire, the IBA has an opening on the Board of Directors. I have not gotten any news about anyone filling this position. If you have an interest in guiding the future of the IBA, I encourage you to contact Gary Phillips or any of the directors listed on the front. The upcoming Conference would be a good opportunity for the IBA to fill this position.

The May IBA hammer in will be hosted by the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild. They have invited Melvin Lytton to demonstrate. I have not seen Melvin demonstrate, but I have been told by several sources that he is an excellent smith and demonstrator. I am looking forward to being at Rocky forge on the 19th. Come on out. Please bring a covered dish to share.

## 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: 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) 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

### **Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild**

The Rocky Forge group planned to have our April meeting at the Boy Scout Camp Krietenstien, southeast of Brazil, to give the scouts hands on blacksmithing instruction. Mother nature did not cooperate, we were notified at about the half-way point of the trip to turn around and go back home. Three blacksmiths were already there, but I did not know if any instruction was actually done before cancellation.

Rocky Forge members will be demonstrating for 4th graders at Independence on May 4th and at the Illiana Steam and Power Show grounds on May 14th. On the 14th we will have between 300 to 500 kids depending on how many schools participate.

The May meeting will be to host the IBA at Ted Stout's shop on May 19th. Our feature demonstrator will be Melvin Lytton, who was a blacksmith for Conner Prairie for several years. Melvin said he hopes for a good turnout so that he can see some of his old friends.

Also, that day we will have an iron in the hat drawing followed by a short auction of shop items donated by club members to support an addition to the Rocky Forge shop at Rainsville.

If time permits after Melvin's demo there will be several forging stations available with power hammer capability for your use.

The meal will be a pitch in with the drinks, table service and meat provided. Bring a covered dish (with something in it) to share. Coffee and doughnuts will be available after 8:30 so come early for time to visit.

Ted Stout  
 765-491-2194

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Shop open at 9AM

Kestrel Little started seeing how many different shapes he could make with RR spike knives. Danny Setnor made a heart hook for his wife to see if he could get out of the dog house. He wouldn't tell us why he was in the dog house. Then he made a dream catcher. Andy and Austin Williams was seeing which one could make the biggest blade on a RR knife. Then they worked on a piece for the chair that Austin is making for his 4H project. Paul Fleischmann worked on punching holes. I don't know if he is going to make something that he needs holes in or just killing time. Tim Pearson showed Danny how to make the dream catcher and help Andy and Austin worked on their RR knives.

Hammered in Friendship

Fred Oden

### Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

We met in April at Jimmy Dean's shop where he made a copper inlaid Sausage Ladle, designed specifically to retrieve every one of Jim Burckey's Marvelous Homemade Sausages. In the demonstration, Jimmy managed to use his traditional hammer and anvil, his power hammer, his treadle hammer, and his fly press. Mark Conrad made a star shaped stamp for Jimmy to use in the fly press. Mr. Dean then took his ladle handle, coated it liberally with flux and successfully melted pieces of copper into the star shapes. A couple of passes at the grinder left a very agreeable bi-metal sausage extractor. Hank Heinzelman brought his latest work, a cross necklace made from a fence post. I'll try to get some pictures for next month's newsletter so you can see the workmanship. As usual, there was no lack of good food and good friends around the forge. The May meeting will be held at Mark Conrad's shop at 11625 Greenridge Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45251. The meeting will start at 2:00pm. Mark will be unveiling his new homemade treadle hammer.

### Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop started by Charlie Helton after the old guys had breakfast at the "Log Cabin". Kevin Walsh and Pam Tripiett awed us with two pans of mouth watering, almost-to-die-for fruit turnovers. (So good, in fact, the Historical Society begged for the recipe to use in the up coming festival.) Kevin then straightened some horse shoes , some went to iron-in-the-hat, and others for demonstration. Charlie spent some time straightening a heavy hay rake spring. He then surprised us with a demonstration of the proper way to make a beautiful penny scroll. Makes you want to make one for yourself! It was donated to the lucky person who won it in iron-in-the-hat. Kenny Dettmer tested some iron for us for its workability and brittleness properties, if any. Brian Simmons worked on turning a tiller blade into a skinning knife. Kevin used a drawn out horse shoe and a copper pipe cap to make a rather stunning new candle holder for the iron-in-the-hat. Kevin made a door pull with his newly acquired hammer bought from the forgemaster. By the way, the turnovers were a complete sell-out at the festival, no surprise to us. It was nice to get back at home at Vernon, and we sat around discussing future plans in our "business meeting." Anyone wishing to nominate someone for the 2013 Paul Moffit Award, contact Ray Sease. The requirements are based on academic contributions rather than blacksmithing skills. The final selection will be at the sole discretion of the Vernon blacksmiths. Paul Bray

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

This month's meeting was at Steve King's shop. The day was spent in prep and the making of a split cross from 3" square stock. The billet was in the 85# range, and all of the forging was by hand, striking with a team of 3 with sledges and one to two managing the tongs. Forge Master Billy Merrit heckled, no make that directed, and at one point as we spread the arms we had 6 men pulling and pushing on tolling arms. The finished cross is shown with the newly minted "Brotherhood of Friendly Hammer-men" (The BFH) with the hammers used. The billet started heating at 11:30. A wonderful lunch of chicken and noodles provided by Jerry Robinette's wife was eaten as the billet heated. The cross was completed at 4:30, and the crew was plenty tired. This cross was made as practice for the cross we will make at the heritage festival in October in Cannelton Indiana. There may well be more practice crosses made. We are learning as we go about tricks to handle and heat this big a billet and how to move the arms. Besides the team shown, Billy Merritt, and Jerry Baughman also contributed to the effort. In the Photo, starting at the left are Dave Kunkler, Steve King, Jeff Reinhardt and Jason Hardin. The cross is about 32" tall. A great time was had by all, and all of the sledge hammer heads stayed on for the entire day.

Next meeting will be May 26th at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs. The address is 2810 West Riley Road, Floyds Knobs, Indiana 47119.



### "Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Larry Whitesell made a baby spoon from a roller bearing. Then from a small to a large spoon was made out of square stock. This was used later for removing clinker from the fire and adding flux to items that were being welded.

Larry and JJ made more hardy tools. A cupped ring from eye bolt (works well for cupping flat stock). The shank above the threads was shaped into a tapered "L" so you can work horizontal to or from the anvil surface. For hardy fitting and maintaining tools high the shank was upset and a ring added.

I worked on more pieces for humming bird feeders as well as keeping the fire going for others (always knew I was an old crank). Found out there was a problem with the pump. That was why they had no water last month.

Keep the forge fires going! H Charles Gruell

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on April 7, 2012. The weather was beautiful, once again, even if it was a little on the chilly side. Our attendance was down some this meeting with around 15 people here. There was a swap meet going on at the Whiteriver Valley Antique Show grounds, in Elnora, that took some of our members away and delayed some in getting here. We were a little lazy this meeting although there was some work that went on with Chuck Kryder making a hairpin fuller.



William Pratt was making some kind of animal.  
I'm not

sure what it was. Sorry William I didn't get more info on it. Shawn Gilley was working on some tongs.



We had a couple of visitors, Joe Sauer, son of Pat and Cj, and his daughter Dora. Dora did some smithing and made an S hook. A bunch of the guys did a real good job holding up the sides of Aaron Bakers pickup,(I have the pictures to prove it). Aaron made some interesting purchases at the swap meet and that is mainly why the gang was hanging on the sides of his truck. We enjoyed another good pitch in lunch, had fun with iron in the hat, and as usual visiting with new and old friends was the best. Until next time remember...if you have too many irons in the fire, don't lose your temper ; )



*The November/December 2011 Bits had a design challenge to "Build a Better Leg Vise". Dan Jennings, Editor of the Anvil's Horn, sent this design article from Ron Kinyon as well as his version or Ron's vise. If you have any modifications or improvements to this design or any other ideas, please send them to editor@alaforge.org.*

### Kinyon Simple Post Vise

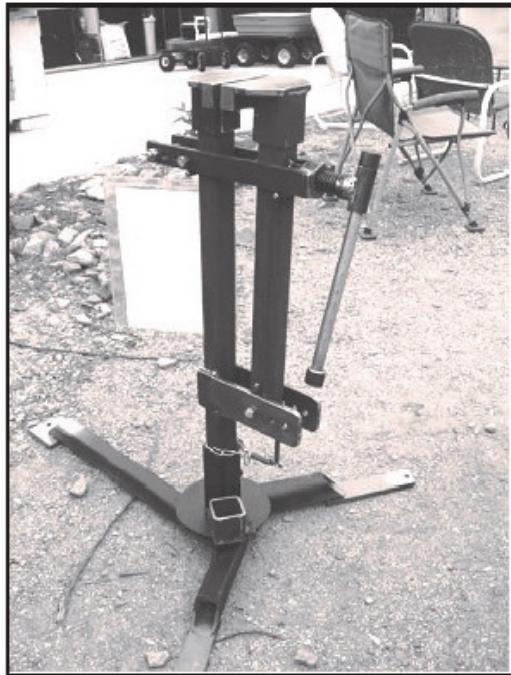
Answering a plea for a simple post vise, Ron Kinyon came up with an alternative to trying to find and buy a 100 year old vise or spend big on a new Pakistani made vise. We think this vise actually performs better than the alternatives.

- The jaws are removable which allows them to be virtually any size and shape.
- The jaws have a bit of clearance to the posts, which allows some conformity to tapered work.
- The bottom pivot is adjustable to accommodate widths up to 4" while maintaining parallel jaws.
- The vise can be built any height.
- Build cost is around \$150. (depends on choice of base and number and style of jaws).

The posts are 2 x 2 x 1/4 wall box tube. The jaws are built on receiver tube cut 3" long (2 1/2 x 1/4 wall box). 1 x 1 1/2 cold rolled steel make the jaws. 3/8" x 3" strap makes the top jaw gusset and the lower pivot brackets. 3/8 x 1 1/2 strap is used for the clamp. Grade 8 bolts make the pivots and the clamp stop.

The screw is 1 1/4" Acme because the nut is 2" across the hex. The Acme threaded rod can be purchased from Enco in 3' or 6' lengths. However, each vise only requires 4 1/2". A little lathe work is required.

Options for the base include 3 legs, a base big enough to stand on, and a receiver tube concreted underground (making the vise solid with the earth, but removable for storage).



Ron used receiver tube to attach the bottom of the vise to the base. Here you see two possibilities.

R: Notice he welded the tube to a smaller plate and bolted it to the large plate. It would be difficult to weld to the large plate without it warping, which would make the base wobble.

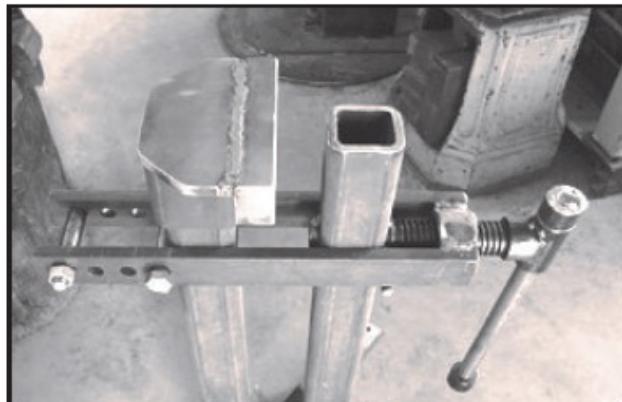
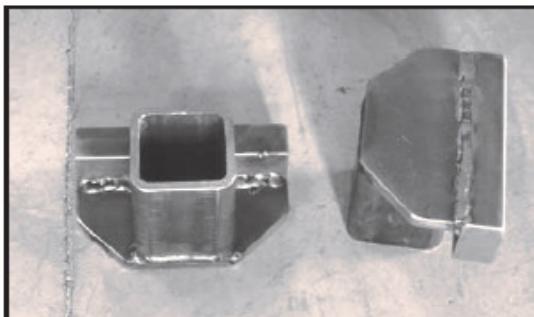
Ron is planning to host a few vise building workshops sometime in the future. If you are interested in attending one email Ron at [ronkinyon@aol.com](mailto:ronkinyon@aol.com)

If you build one on your own let Ron and I know what great ideas you came up with.

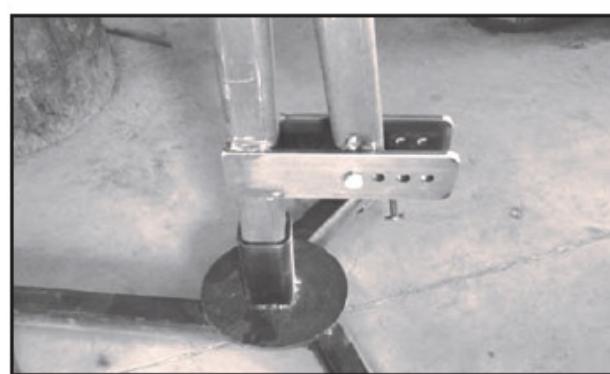
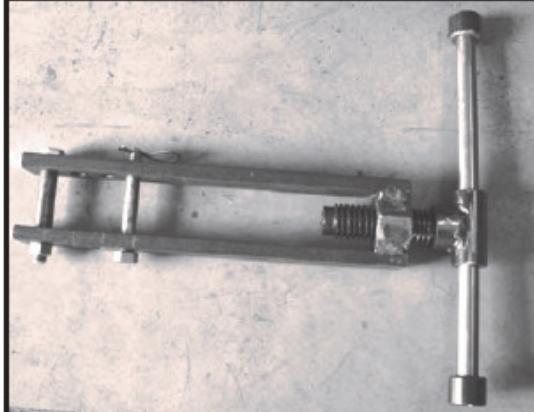


The Anvil's Horn

Jaws: the 3/8" gusset is flush with the top of the 1 x 1 1/2 and tops the 2 21/2 square tube. Clamping and carefully tacking the pieces before welding will keep everything square. These jaws are 5" long, but they could be any length. All material is mild steel, so far. We don't know if another material would be advantageous.

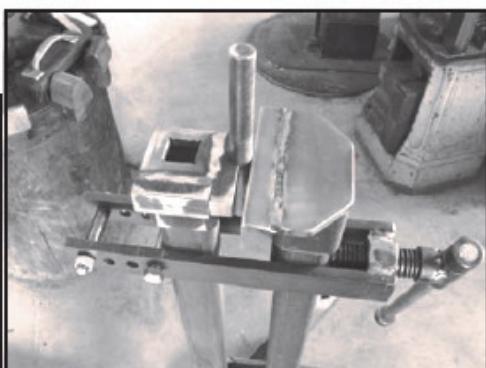


The ends of the posts are left open. The 1/2" diameter pivot holes and the clamp holes are 1" apart. The hole in the moveable post is drilled 1/4" off center which allows the post to be turned 180 degrees for a 1/2" adjustment. The 1/2" adjustment may not be required, as the jaws hold tightly throughout 1 inch of adjustment..



The bolt at the left has a piece of tube 2" long to keep the clamp spaced properly.

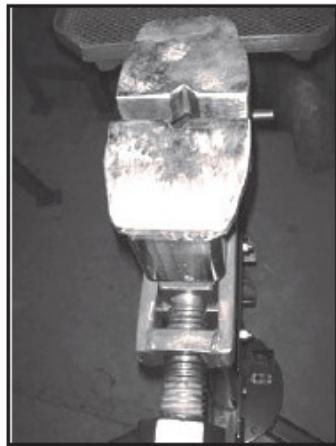
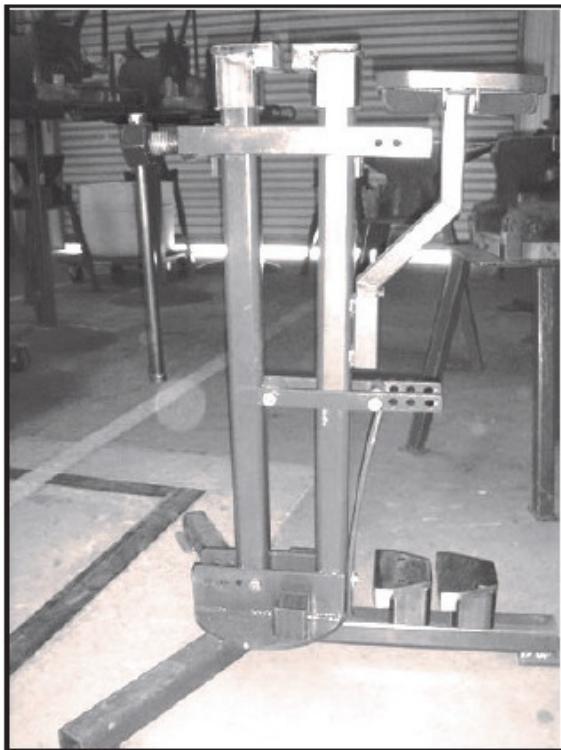
The 4 1/2" long acme screw is turned to 1" diameter on the clamping end which will allow the screw to be removed if it mushrooms during use. The other end is turned to fit the ID of the 1" x .125 DOM (3/4"). The handle is 3/4" with the DOM forming the end stops.



Ron made one jaw with a 1" square hole to fit his hardies.

**Kinyon Post Vise: Another version**

by Dan Jennings



The V notches in these jaws were Doug Kluender's idea. They hold any size hardy, tapered or straight and hold them very tight.

I plan on building 2 more sets of dies, but haven't decided on a configuration, yet.

This is my version of the Kinyon post vise. I moved the pivot point to the bottom of the fixed leg to give the pivot plate more support and to reduce the angle of the jaws. We haven't noticed a significant improvement for the user over Ron's configuration..

I used a 2" wide leaf spring and linkage because I didn't have room for the return spring below the pivot bolt like Ron used. It works well, but added work and complexity.

I added a removable shelf because I always need a place to stow bending forks, hammers and tongs. If I had moved the clamp down 1", I could have used a piece of receiver tube to hold the shelf.

Ron welded 1" x .125 wall DOM to the screw to hold the handle. I didn't have the DOM so I used a big nut that I had. It works fine, but the DOM is easier to build.

I think a post vise should be about the same height as the user's anvil. This one is a little shorter than Ron's.

I added some 2" box tube cut 2" long to the base of the vise to hold the extra jaws.

I used an acme threaded rod and nut from a scaffold jack, because that is what I had. I'm concerned it may not hold up very well because the nut is thinner than the purchased acme nut. If it does wear out, replacement will be easy.

In the photo at the left there is a piece of 1/4 x 2 x 2" strap with a hole to accommodate the turned end of the screw. Inside the hole I put an 1/8" thick disc of brass for the screw to bear against. The brass acts as a thrust bearing and keeps the screw from galling on the 2" box tube. The hole acts as a guide for the screw.

**Left Photo:** The first time I used the vise, I found the shelf was in the way of my twisting wrench. I made the shelf 9" x 6". I need to turn it 90 degrees to eliminate that interference.

**Wrap up**

The goal was to design and build a post vise that was affordable and available. The result is a design that holds better than traditional post vises. With traditional post vises the jaws are designed to be parallel at a specific dimension, usually around 7/8" + -. Smaller stock is only held on at the top of the jaw, larger only at the bottom. We get full jaw contact from 1/4" to 1" which holds the stock very well.

The ability to build alternate jaw configurations is mind boggling. Just having short 3" long jaws would often solve a forging problem. Burying a receiver tube in the ground and having the vise connected to the earth and still be portable is another possible attribute.

Ron is planning on having a vise building workshop, but many of you can and will build your own. Ron and I would appreciate your feedback and ideas. Of course, if you build one, please send me photos.

**COOL TOOL**

*Vise Jaw Spacer  
By Clay Spencer*



Pictured is a vise jaw spacer. When you clamp stock in vise on one side of the jaws, it puts a twist in the legs of the vise and the vise doesn't hold as well as it could. To compensate, you should put a piece of stock of the same thickness on the opposite side of vise jaws.

This vise jaw spacer has several sizes:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ",  $\frac{3}{8}$ ",  $\frac{1}{2}$ ",  $\frac{5}{8}$ ",  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 1". It has a hole for a chain to be attached to the vise. I used to demonstrate making one of these using a treadle hammer, forging stock to size, punching 2 holes, assembling and locking the insert in the punched hole.



**IBA Supporting Girl Scout Celebration at Camp Dellwood**

## **CONFERENCE UPDATES**

### **IBA CONFERENCE DATES: JUNE 1-3**

### **CALLING ALL MEMBERS TO THE GALLERY**

Want to see a spectacular gallery at the IBA conference this year? Then let's do it. If we all pitch in we can indeed show the "Indiana Blacksmiths in Action" by bringing in your items to show at the Gallery display. Eligible things to show are those items you made at home, whether recently or 30 years ago. We want to see what you have made. We also want to see what tools or tooling you have made so there will be a space to display those items. Hopefully, this will give those looking at it some take home ideas. The gallery can be an educational experience. We also will provide a display area for antique items made by the blacksmith. It is always interesting see those items and figure out how they were made. A limited number of glass cases will be available to protect those special items.

Please help us make this the very best gallery we have had yet!! We have a lot of talent in Indiana so let's show it. If you have any questions or comments please email or call us (contact info on front of Forge Fire).

Dominick Andrisani

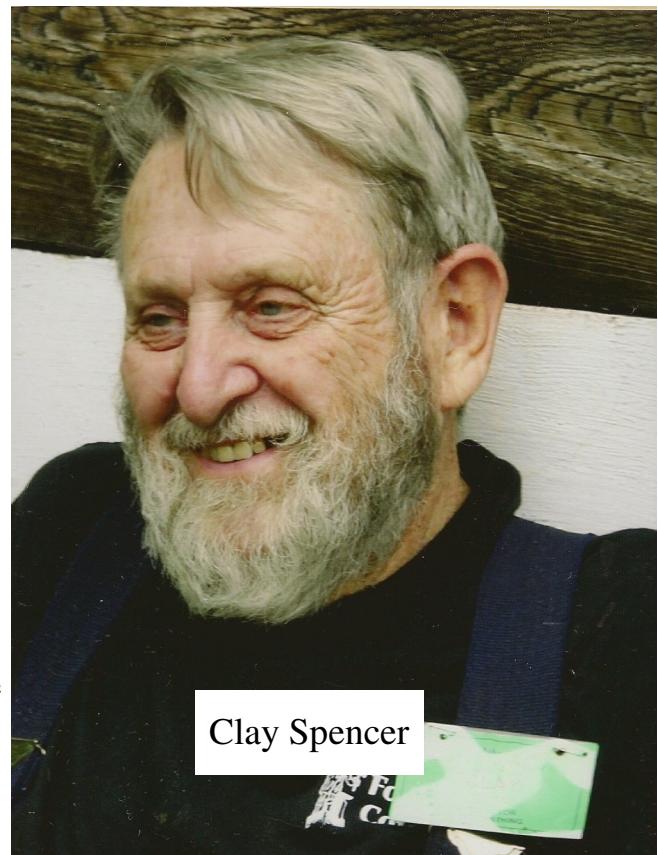
Ted Stout

### **VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED**

Anyone who has video recording equipment and is willing record this years demonstrators please contact Jim Johnston at (765) 452-8165 or email: [kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net](mailto:kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net). People providing video services will receive copies of all demonstrators videos.

### **DEMONSTRATORS ARE GETTING READY**

Jim Johnston reports that Clay Spencer, Elmer Roush, Bill Conyers and Jennifer Hayden are looking forward to this years IBA Conference. I do not have many details about the actual demonstration materials. JJ thinks Elmer will be forging a Viking style axe on Sunday morning.





## The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the  
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,  
Inc.

**Bill Kendrick** *Newsletter Editor*  
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Seymour, IN 47274

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested  
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## **Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild** **May 19**

### **8525 West 700 South, West Point, In.**

From I-74, exit at Waynetown (9 miles west of Crawfordsville). Take highway 25 north thru Wingate. Proceed north to the flashing light where highway 28 intersects with 25 at Odel. (The sign reads Odel on both sides). Continue north for 2.5 miles to county road 700 South, turn west (left) on 700 south, Ted's shop is the first building on the left.

From Lafayette follow highway 25 west to West Point. Proceed on 25 for 2.0 miles to road 700 south, turn west (right).

**June 1-3**

**IBA Conference Tipton County Fairgrounds**  
**South of Tipton, IN on SR19**