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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.

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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

**Jan 15  
2011**

**FALL CREEK BLACKSMITH SHOP  
MIDDLE TOWN**

**Feb 19  
2011**

**KEN DETTMER SHOP  
COLUMBUS**

**Mar 19  
2011**

**JENNINGS COUNTY  
HAYDEN, BUSINESS MEETING**

**Apr 16  
2011**

**SUTTON-TEROCK  
FULTON COUNTY**



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## **Dates to Remember**

Jan 15  
Hammer In at Fall  
Creek

June 3-5  
IBA Conference at  
Tipton

July 15-17  
UMRBC at  
Pontiac, IL

Sept 23-25  
SOFA Quad State  
at Troy, OH

## **Editors Message**

2010 was a great year for the IBA and its members!

Our 2010 IBA conference was a huge success. We had a large turn out as people came from all over to see our featured demonstrators. The theme of showcasing Indiana blacksmiths was big hit. Jim Johnston, conference chairman, deserves a lot of credit for his hard work.

The Indiana State Fair was another success story. Dave Childress organized the IBA participation at the Pioneer Village. Everyone I talked to enjoyed the experience and is looking forward to the 2011 Fair.

Ted and Carol Stout initiated, planned and hosted the IBA 30th anniversary celebration. Dominick Andrisani's article, published in last months Forge Fire, captured the essence of the event. One of the primary activities was the creation of a memorial tree for Clifton and JoAnne Ralph's grandson. Clifton called me a few weeks ago. He wanted to tell me how much he appreciated that activity.

At the December board meeting a new IBA satellite group was established. The Bunkum Valley Metal Workers are located in Odon, IN. They become our 11th satellite group. This is another positive sign of the strength of the IBA and blacksmithing in Indiana. The Bunkum Valley group welcomes visitors. They meet on the first Saturday of the month (2nd Saturday this month due to New Years).

As we move into 2011, I anticipate the even more good times.

At our March business meeting we will elect two board members. Ray Sease has announced he will not run for another term, so we will have at least one new director. Dave Childress will be running for re-election. Ken Dettmer and Bill Conyers have announced their candidacy. Anyone who is interested in running should contact Ray Sease immediately (phone: 812-522-7722 or email: [anvil.8@hotmail.com](mailto:anvil.8@hotmail.com)). The February edition of the Forge Fire will include a ballot of all candidates. More details are posted on page 11.

Along with our annual IBA Conference set for June, this year we will participate in the Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference at Pontiac, IL.

**Visit the IBA website at: [www.indianablacksmithing.org](http://www.indianablacksmithing.org)**

Although 2010 had many positive events for the IBA, we did suffer a great loss. On March 3 Paul Moffett passed away. Paul was a long time supporter of the IBA. He worked hard to make the IBA a success. Paul kept the IBA connected to other blacksmithing organizations such as ABANA and UMRBC.



As many of you know the December hammer in had to be moved due to an injury to Chaz Kaiser. Paul Bray contacted Chaz and got this encouraging update.

### **Merry Christmas!**

**I'm doing better but am supposed to be in a sling till Jan. 4th..... Bah humbug!! Ain't no way. I'm trying to use it as much as possible. But it's slow. Probably won't be doing any steel hammerin for a couple months but I hope to be able to hammer out some copper sooner.**

**Give my best to everyone!!**

**Happy New Year!!**

**Chaz**

### **Looking for past Forge Fire Issues**

As part of a project to document the history of the IBA, we are looking for old issues of the newsletter. We are in the process of scanning them to a computer. Once collected, you will be able to purchase the DVD from the IBA store. This project has several phases. For now, we are looking for the following newsletters: January 2000, March 2000, May 2000, July 2000, January 2001, and July 2002. If you have copies of these newsletters, please get in touch with Michael Wollowski by calling 812-223-3000 or by emailing to [wollowski@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:wollowski@rose-hulman.edu) We will take good care of your copies and return them to you promptly.

Thank you,

Michael

**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.

December 11, 2010

Shop opened at 9 am

Frank Ciccolella, Bob Riley, forged fire rakes with Fred Oden instructing

Paul Fleischmann worked on making a ash tray to sit on top of a old fire extinguisher

Tim Pearson forged several drive hooks for the school he works at

Krestel Little forged a set of tongs with Fred Oden instructing

\$49.00 was collected for the shop Thanks to all who gave

shop closed at 2 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Dennis (Bear) Todd

Secretary/Reporter

**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

**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.

**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.

**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 Hoopengartner at (812) 249-8303 or Rick Helton at (812) 894-3172

**Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths****Southeast Region****Franklin Co.**

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.

<b>The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers</b>	<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>Orange County</b>
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Forgemaster Billy Merritt (812)338-2876, Treasurer Steve King (812)797-0059, Secretary Shawn Gilley(812)-486-9113

<b>Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop</b>	<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>Jennings County</b>
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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.

<b>Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild</b>	<b>Northwest Region</b>	<b>Tippecanoe County</b>
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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 next meeting is coming up on January 8, and it should be a fun time. We will have the Rural Smiths of Mid America and the Rocky Forge members in attendance. The plan is to pair members of each group to work on a project together, maybe a coal shovel. The RSMA has chosen the coal shovel as the "trade item" for this month's meeting. What they do is each member makes the trade item and brings it to the monthly meeting and they draw tickets. As your ticket is drawn you can have your choice of the trade items on the table. So if you want to participate in that drawing, then make a coal shovel and bring it to the meeting.

I am hoping for good weather so we can use the outside forges, but in case the weather does not co-operate I will have 3-4 gas forges and one coal forge available inside the shop.

Lunch will be a pitch in meal so bring a covered dish to go with soup. Our cook, Carol, will not be here that day, but we plan to have a pot of soup to contribute to the meal.

Also, bring your forging tools, metal and items for iron in the hat.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30. See you all on the 8th of January. Wow its 2011 already!!

Ted Stout, Forgemaster

<b>Bunkum Valley Metals Workers</b>	<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>Daviess Co.</b>
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The Bunkum Valley Metal Workers meet the first Saturday of the month. Forgemaster Doug Neukam (812) 259-4430. Treasurer Steve Stoll (812)486-9668. Secretary Shawn Gilley (812) 486-9113.

Hello to all our fellow members in the IBA. As some have heard we have formed a new satellite group here in Southern IN. Located in Odon, IN. We are the Bunkam Valley Metal Workers. We have held a few meetings and have had a lot of interest in the area for blacksmithing and metal work. We encourage all to come visit us as we meet on the 1st Saturday of the month. For Jan. we will not be meeting on the 1st. We will how ever be meeting on the 8th. Just a very informal day. This change is due to New year's. We will be meeting on normal weekend in Feb. Hope to see all who can make it. Remember we are close to coal yard so come see us and get your coal. Thanks to the Board of Directors for their time hearing us. And the openness of them at their meeting. Thanks to all. BVMW

There will be a meeting for our satellite group in Jan. At the shop of Jerry Robinette. (16139 N. 500 E., Elnora, IN 47529) We ask all who can attend to please make it and please remember to bring items for iron in the hat and a covered dish. Also his shop is located close to the new location for coal..so remember to stop and load up on coal while in the area. Hope all had a wonderful holiday.



**One Armed Blacksmith's Shop****South Central Region****Johnson Co.**

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



All,  
We will be meeting at my house on February 5th. Below are some photos of our last meeting. Thanks to Jim Jesse, Charlie Helton and Kenny Dettmer for the Demos. Thanks to Charlie Shaw for accepting the Treasurers Position.





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

Please join us March 18-20, 2011 for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar!

This class was 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 ½ day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 20 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

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

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

*Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6603 or Sid@LittleGiantHammer.com*

*Little Giant is located at 420 4<sup>th</sup> Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.*

### **Blue Moon Press**

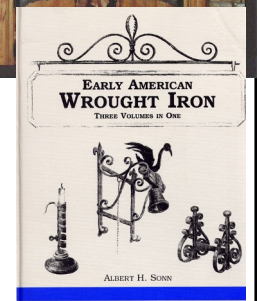
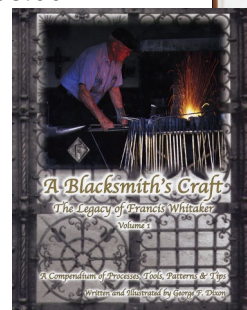
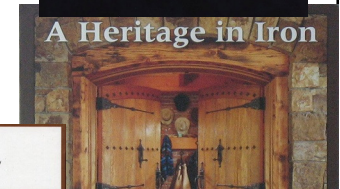
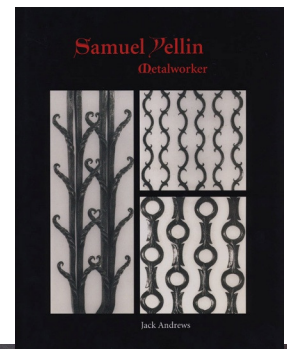
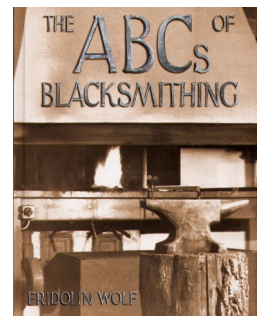
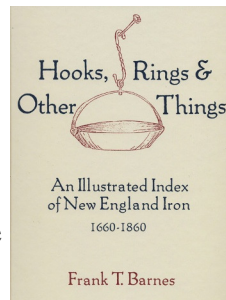
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Huntingdon, Pa. 16652

Toll Free #: 866 627 6922 (This is a secure answering service with a real person when everyone is out of the office.)

1. The Blacksmith's Cookbook by Francis Whitaker \$40.00
2. Hooks, Rings and Other Things by Frank T. Barnes \$42.95
3. Samuel Yellin: Metalworker by Jack Andrews \$52.00
4. ABC's of Blacksmithing by Fridolin Wolf \$45.50
5. Early American Wrought Iron by Albert Sonn \$108.00
6. Heritage in Iron by Rafael Routson \$50.00
7. Moving Metal by Adolpf Steines \$32.95
8. A Blacksmith's Craft by George Dixon \$42.50



## Making the Jim Claar Anvil Vise

Michael Wollowski

Jim Claar made this kind of vise when he was asked to make 20 hooks for a pot rack. He wanted to be able to form the hooks under closer scrutiny than allowed by the low height of an anvil. A post vise provides the right height but not enough surface to work the hooks. To solve this problem, Jim modified a post vise by cutting off the rear jaw and welding in its stead a stake anvil. His design seems to be a natural progression of the post vise, extending its use to work where good clamping power enables the use of both hands to form metal. I found his design intriguing and decided to build one myself. On these pages, you will find construction notes.

To begin, you need a post vise and a small anvil. A post vise with 4 1/2" jaws seems to be just about the right size. While I would have liked to use a slightly larger anvil, I settled for a 25 pound anvil that is 11 1/2" long and has a 3 7/8" wide face. Both were in pretty good shape. It takes some heart to cut up a perfectly fine tool, however, the end result is a tool that is far superior to each of the individual ones.

Cut off the rear jaws fairly close to the screw hole as seen in figures 2 and 3. This way, you can leave as much of the anvil as possible, giving you more mass. Cut the anvil so that its top aligns with the top of the front jaws. In order to ensure a strong weld, grind a 1/2" bevel in the front and rear of the anvil as well as the front and rear of the vise. See figures 2 and 3 for details. There is no need to cut a bevel on the heel and throat of the anvil as the bottom of the cut anvil and the top of the cut vise form quite a large cavity.

The welding was done by a local fabrication shop. I gave them the post and anvil and asked them to weld the anvil so that it is

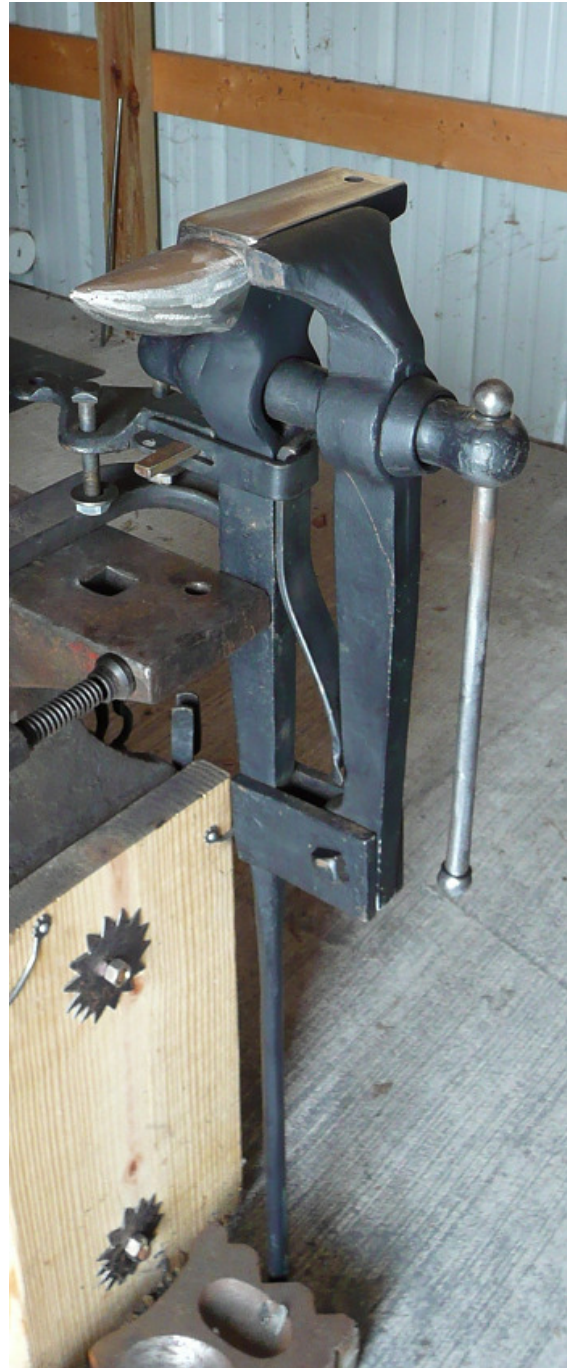


Figure 1: Finished vise



square to the post. This was a mistake. As the post is forged and has a taper to it, it is hard to determine a good reference point for squareness. Instead, assemble the front jaws to the back post when dropping off the welding job, giving the welder the intended reference points. It pays to take some time to aligning the anvil to the post when first tack welding them. The more precise you align the anvil with the front jaw, the less grinding you will have to do.



Figure 2: Dry-fit anvil and leg showing the ground bevels



Figure 3: Cavity created by the anvil and vise top.

Figure 4 shows the weld between the anvil and the leg. As you can see, they did a fine job filling in the cavities. Next, clean up the welds and grind the sides of the anvil as well as its top so that it aligns with the front jaw.



Figure 4: Anvil welded to post.

Figure 5 shows that the left side of the jaw does not line up neatly with the side of the anvil, instead there is an overhang. While not intended, I imagine that this may come in handy when attempting to bend a piece over the horn, while holding it tightly in the vise.



Figure 5: Detail showing jaw overhang.

All in all, this was a neat project. I am anticipating years of back-saving use.

# 101 Ways to Die in your Shop

By Dominick Andrisani

Let's face it. Blacksmithing is dangerous. There are a gazillion ways to get hurt, or worst to die, in every shop. I thought it would be enlightening to list a few of them as a friendly safety reminder.

1. You can die from tetanus. Tetanus is a bacterium that adversely affects skeletal muscles. In recent years, approximately 11% of reported tetanus cases have been fatal. The highest mortality rates are in unvaccinated people and people over 60 years of age. Tetanus is often associated with rust, especially rusty nails, but this concept is somewhat misleading. Objects that accumulate rust are often found outdoors, or in places that harbor anaerobic bacteria (like the tetanus bacterium), but the rust itself does not cause tetanus. The rough surface of rusty metal merely provides a prime habitat for tetanus bacteria to reside, and the nail affords a means to puncture skin and deliver bacteria into the wound. Tetanus can be prevented by vaccination and the CDC recommends that adults receive a booster vaccine every ten years. Standard care practice in many places is to give the booster to any patient with a puncture wound who is uncertain of when he or she was last vaccinated, or if he or she has had fewer than three lifetime doses of the vaccine. The booster may not prevent a potentially fatal case of tetanus from the current wound, however, as it can take up to two weeks for tetanus antibodies to form. For those of you who think you are hardier than a horse, I want to remind you that Traveler, General Robert E. Lee's favorite horse, stepped on a nail and died of tetanus. (Reference: Wikipedia)

2. You can die from the fumes if your heat galvanized metal in your forge. Just ask blacksmith Jim "Paw-Paw" Wilson. Oh, he died that way! (Ref: <http://www.anvilfire.com/iForge/tutor/safety3/index.htm>)

3. You can die if you lay your acetylene tank on its side for some hours and then pick it back up and use it. When free state (liquid) acetylene exits your torch it explodes in a way that turns your tank into an improvised explosive device (IED). The next thing you don't know is that your body is in small pieces in the collapsed remains of what used to be your shop.

4. You can die if you run your oxy-acetylene torch with the acetylene regulator pressure greater than 15

p.s.i. You and the tank can explode with near simultaneity as free state acetylene violently decomposes!

(Ref: [www.baesg.org/acetylene.htm](http://www.baesg.org/acetylene.htm))

5. "Injuries resulting from the use of angle grinders are numerous. The most common sites injured are the head and face. The high-speed disc of angle grinders does not respect anatomical boundaries or structures and thus the injuries produced can be disfiguring, permanently disabling or even fatal. However, aesthetically pleasing results can be achieved with thorough debridement, resection of wound edges and careful layered functional closure after reduction and fixation of facial bone injuries." I don't think you want to go there! It sounds painful and costly. Be careful! Always wear appropriate eye and face protection (Ref: [www.head-face-med.com/content/4/1/1](http://www.head-face-med.com/content/4/1/1))

6. You can get burned. While this might not seem obvious, it's best not to wear gloves when blacksmithing. If you pick up hot metal with a gloved hand, the chances are that you will be burned worse than if you grabbed the hot metal barehanded. After you burn your fingers on hot metal, stick your hand in the slack tub and keep it there for a few minutes. This procedure won't cure a thing. It just gives you time to think about what you just did! If your burns are bad, apply some SSD (Silver sulfadiazine, a sulfa drug) to prevent and treat infection. It kills a wide variety of bacteria including ones that live in slack tubs. See your doctor or pharmacist and keep some SSD around.

7. When using rotating machinery like a drill press or some other spinning tool, your hands, face, and body can be pulled into the machine and become mangled. Remove your gloves, loose clothing, and long hair before you start the machine.

To be continued...

Please e-mail your favorite way to die in your shop to [andrisan@purdue.edu](mailto:andrisan@purdue.edu) for possible inclusion in this ongoing actuarial project. Put the word DIE in the subject line so I can easily rescue your suggestion from my SPAM blocker.

### ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP.

Elections for 2 Board of Directors members are coming up on March 19th so I need some nominations.

I already have three. Dave Childress, a current board member and officer. Kenny Dettmer, a well known artisan blacksmith and all around good candidate. Bill Conyers, a long time member of the IBA who has served previously on the board.

Also if you see or talk to Gary Phillips please encourage him and tell him what a good job he has been doing for the IBA. I feel he has done a great job as president the years past and would continue to lead us in the right direction with the help of a good Board of Directors.

We need some good candidates to put on the ballot so please consider running for the Board of Directors along with Dave Childress, Kenny Dettmer and Bill Conyers.

So please send your noninations for the Board of Directors to Ray Sease, the 2011 Election chairman at

814 South O'Brien Street  
Seymour, Indiana 47274

He must receive your nominations by the first day of February so he can get the names on the ballot in the February Forge Fire so you can vote and get them back to him by March 16th so he can bring them to the March Board of Directors meeting on March 19th. You can also bring your votes to the March state meeting where all votes will be opened and counted at the meeting, no letter will be opened until the meeting. Please marked your letter with the word c/o ballot so we will know not to open it.

PLEASE VOTE, it is very important because we have very poor returns for the number of members in the IBA. So if you don't vote don't gripe.

Be sure to send nominations by February 1st and ballot by March 16th or bring it with you to the March State Meeting to:

Ray Sease  
814 South O'Brien Street  
Seymour, Indiana 47274







## **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

### **JOHN ZILE**

January 15

3380 W 650 N, MIDDLETOWN, IN 47356

LUNCH WILL BE AT THE IRON KETTLE IN SULFUR SPRINGS.

SULFUR SPRINGS IS 3 MILES WEST OF IN. 3 ON US 36 AND APPROX. 12 MILES EAST OF PENDLETON ON US 36. GO NORTH AT THE FLASHING LIGHT (300W), TRAVEL NORTH FOR 1 1/2 MILES, TURN LEFT (WEST) ONTO 650 NORTH. JOHN'S HOUSE IS THE FIRST DRIVE.

CALL JOHN AT (765) 533-4153 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

### **Kenny Dettmer's Shop**

February 19

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.