

January 2015

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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 17
2015

DON REITZEL SHOP
STILESVILLE

Feb 21
2015

ST JOE VALLEY FORGERS
BILL CONYERS

Mar 21
2015

BUSINESS MEETING
DOC RAMSEYER SHOP

Apr 18
2015

TBD



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Dates to Remember

January 17
Hammer In
At Don Reitzel's

February 21
Hammer In
At Bill Conyers

March 21
IBA Business
Meeting

June 5-7
IBA Conference

July 17-19
UMRBC
(Pontiac)

Editors Message

This month's hammer in will be held at Don Reitzel's shop in Stilesville. This will be my first trip to Don's shop. I have been informed that the shop is spacious and has very good heat. Look on the back page for driving instructions. The February hammer in will be hosted by Bill Conyers.

Our annual business meeting will be held in March at Kelly Farms (Doc Ramseyer Shop). As usual we have two director terms that will expire. If you are interested in serving on the IBA board, please contact Gary Phillips very soon. Next month's Forge Fire will include the board of director ballot.

Charlie Helton is chairing the awards committee. Charlie is looking for rookie of the year and blacksmith of the year candidates. Nomination forms and guidelines are included in this edition.

Conference update: Jim Johnston tells me the 2015 IBA Conference plans are coming along very nicely.

Featured demonstrators are Michael Bendele and Nathan Robertson. IBA demonstrators will include Dick Fisher and Phoebe Graham.

Done at Home contest will be tongs made by 2-person teams. Judging will focus on functionality and appearance.

We are planning to have a pre-Conference class on hammer making instructed by Nathan Robertson. This will be a 4 day class with strikers, but no power hammers allowed.

The Board of Directors met in December. Here are some key highlights.

The quarterly financial report looks good. I will publish official results after the annual Business Meeting.

The IBA has added a 13'th Satellite group. Hammer ins will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds shop on the 4th Saturday of each month.

The Rocky Forge group is seeking assistance with their building fund. The subject will be discussed in detail at the March business meeting.

Sutton-Terock is planning to hold a work detail to re-side the Fulton County shop. Material will be provided, but volunteers will be needed for labor.

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 Hoopengartner (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

Rural Smiths of Mid-America

The Rural Smith Of Mid-American had our meeting January 3rd. We talked about up coming events and projects, we talked about the IBA contest project which is a little slow in getting off the ground, but we have a start.the tool box project is also going slow but is picking up.the blacksmith shop in Johnson Co. is coming along, we will meet there in April to finish up the doors and windows.the next meeting will be at Conner Prairie on February 7th. Everyone is welcome. We will have the chilie cook off, so bring your best recipe. We will also be having an auction again this year, so we need some items made for this.

We are looking for this to be a very good year for the RSMA, and we hope for a good year for everyone else, and good hammering.

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watts. Jim gave us an interesting demonstration on the process of making brine quenching solution, of which he made a little over five gallons of this stuff! Gerald Williams and Kenny Dettmer, together ,finished a pinch bar , which was a sought after item in the iron-in-the-hat. John Cummins made a striker to test the brine solution. It made enough sparks to light several fires. Great job by both smiths. We had several first time visitors and some not so first timers. We had 13 to show up for the meeting.Many thanks to our Hosts. The January meeting will be at the home of Paul and Judy Bray, 139 South Park Drive, in Seymour. Food supplied. Come early and eat breakfast with us. February and March meetings will be announced. Paul Bray

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

One-Armed Blacksmith's Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on January 3rd at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Members Charlie Helton, Jim Jesse, John McDaniel, and Tim Metz Shaw were in attendance.

No forge fire was lighted, but great progress was made on the new ceiling for the smithy. Interfering equipment was relocated and installation of the ceiling joists (donated by Gerald Williams) began. By early afternoon, all the joists had been cut, wrestled into place, and anchored. We discovered that Jim Jesse is allergic to ladders!

The next steps in the new-ceiling project will be correction of a number of roof leaks, installation of the ceiling itself, and relocation of existing lighting fixtures. Both selection and funding of the ceiling material will require further discussion among OABS members.

Some minor maintenance issues were addressed (opening the smithy entrance door no longer requires a pry bar!). By midafternoon, the floor was swept, tools were gathered, and everyone traipsed through the incessant rain to regroup at the local hamburger joint for famous menu item #1.



L to R: *Jim Jesse, Tim Metz, and Charlie Helton erect ceiling joists in the group's smithy.*
(Photo by John McDaniel)

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

The December 13th meeting was a combined meeting of the IBA and Rocky Forge at Ted Stout's shop. Eric Shotwell not only gave a good demo on making stone cutting tools he gave a lot useful tips on tempering the metal. Tempering was done in used fish fry oil from the fall fish fry at the West Point Fire Dept. In the afternoon he had several members outside with pieces of limestone he had provided and was teaching how to use the stone carving tools he made. Thanks Eric, we really appreciated your demo. Along with his demo we had two gentlemen from the Tippecanoe County wood carvers on hand. One of them, Richard Gordon, brought in a very nice display of wood and stone carvings. As Eric pointed out in his presentation, making stone cutting tools is basically the same for wood carving tools.

Lunch for the day consisted of baked ham and many, many covered dishes brought in by the members. It was an enjoyable time for visit and reconnecting with old friends.

After lunch we had an auction. The auction was of items contributed by the Rocky Forge members for sale to offset the cost of our building expansion. It was a great success and we appreciate and thank all those who contributed items to the sale and to all those who made healthy bids. Hats off Randy Padish for being our in house auctioneer, he did a great job. With the help of the Illiana Antique Power Association (\$3000), the proceeds from the auction (\$2511), \$60 from Jim and Diane Bolen for bean soup sales at our annual Christmas in the Village event and cash donations from members, we are now out of debt and have money left for our next step in the building plans. Thanks again to all who helped make this milestone possible.

Kurt Fahrenbach and others did some nice power hammer work on the 100# little giant after lunch. Kurt is always such a pleasure to be around and he is an excellent teacher of the craft. His wife also fits that description, she too likes working with metal. After everyone had left for the day and 4 days later I found a beautiful pair of tongs made from spring steel laid near the power hammer, I assume Kurt made them.

As for the January meeting, with the extreme cold weather and flu epidemic the meeting has been cancelled. The Stout's have been hard hit with chest colds (flu?). Ted is now in the midst of it and Carol is recuperating. So many of our family and friends are afflicted with it lasting anywhere from a few days to over 10 days. We feel no reason to potentially spread germs by having a meeting. Hopefully, we can commence with the February meeting.

On January 23rd, TriCounty Auctions, Arcola, Illinois, will have an auction starting at 3:00 P.M. The auction will feature blacksmithing tools and related items. Keep watching his listing and photo gallery on auctionzip as he will continue to add consigned items. So far he has some pretty nice items consigned. Google Auctionzip and enter 14498 in the upper right hand corner of the screen under auctionzip ID. This is a large facility out in the country and run by an Amish family. Overnight accommodations may be found at Tuscola or Arcola. There is a large discount mall at Tuscola and I-57 in case mom is not interested in the auction.

Ted Stout

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on January 3, 2015. another great day blacksmithing was had by all. We had about 50 people in attendance. So I guess the rain didn't keep anyone away. Jerry Robinette is working on a mid evil broad axe for a friend. Alan Brazzel is working on teaching how to make roses. Blayr Foster is making spoons for her family and made a knife for her mom's Christmas.. Blayr is 9 years old.

Tom Merkley and Tracy Burch had some exciting news. Tom is from st. Anthony, in the national guard and a police officer and builds and repairs muzzle loaders. Tracy is from Logootee and owns and operates Burchs Garden Center. Both Tom and Tracy lost their spouses to cancer two years ago and They recently got the engaged!

Thanks to all came and shared food and their lives with us. See u next month.

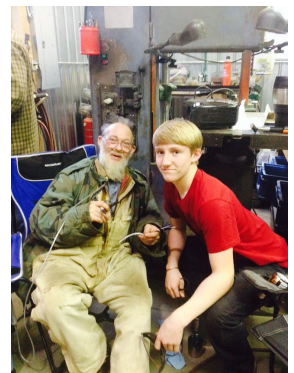


The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Our December meeting was held at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville. Attendance was very good this close to the holidays. Pete Riddle made several split crosses from 1" stock. They came out very nicely. Christopher Baker made an S-hook as did Butch Sparks. Then Jeff reinhardt did a drive hook and guided a beginner as he made one. Dave Kunkler made a tiny aluminum nickle bronze split cross. Then Aaron Baker made a drive hook with a twist. The Jeff demonstrated for the beginner how to use a pein as a fuller and then how to use the edge of the anvil and the pein to really squirt out metal.



A good layout of food was presented and Donna Kunkler provided a very nice pot of chili, which on a dreary rainy day really hit the spot.



The next meeting will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs on Saturday the 31st of January.



INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION BLACKSMITH OF THE YEAR - GUIDELINES

Nominations for Blacksmith of the Year must be returned to the chairperson of the Awards Committee no later than April 1st

The candidate must be an IBA member in good standing and must be nominated by one of the satellite groups or have a petition signed by three (3) members of the IBA in good standing.

The nominating group should describe the candidate's history, accomplishments, outstanding skills, contribution to blacksmithing and/or the IBA, and reasons for why the candidate should be Blacksmith of the Year. A nomination form can be found at the IBA web site (<http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/>).

Examples of work (and/or photographs of work) demonstrating the candidate's workmanship should be placed on display at the annual IBA Conference. We encourage the candidate to donate some or all of these items for auction at the Conference. All items must be clearly marked as either "For Auction" or "Not for Auction." Items submitted for auction should be given to the auction coordinator by noon on Saturday of the Conference.

The Blacksmith of the Year will be selected by the Awards Committee together with the Education chairperson and the current Blacksmith of the Year. Selection will be based upon the nomination material specified above, the workmanship demonstrated in the submitted examples of work, and the selection committee's direct experience of the candidate.

Announcement of the winner will be made at the Saturday evening auction at the Conference.

The Blacksmith of the Year winner will receive a plaque and free registration at the next IBA Conference. The recipient is encouraged to write an article for the Forge Fire on a topic of his/her choosing. Alternatively, the recipient is encouraged to be interviewed by the IBA for an article in the Forge Fire.

Send completed forms to:

Charlie Helton—Chairperson of the Awards Committee
2703 South Water Plant Road
Westport, IN 47283
Email: heltoncs@frontier.com
Phone: 812-591-3119

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, outstanding skills, contribution to blacksmithing and/or the IBA, and reasons for why the candidate should be Blacksmith 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.

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

INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - GUIDELINES

Nominations for Rookie of the Year must be returned to the chairperson of the Awards Committee no later than April 1st

The candidate must be an IBA member in good standing and must be nominated by one of the satellite groups or have a petition signed by three (3) members of the IBA in good standing.

The candidate must have been blacksmithing for three years or less at the time of the application.

The nominating group complete the Rookie of the Year Nomination Form found at the IBA web site (<http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/>).

Examples of work (and/or photographs of work) demonstrating the candidate's workmanship should be placed on display at the annual IBA Conference. We encourage the candidate to donate some or all of these items for auction at the Conference. All items must be clearly marked as either "For Auction" or "Not for Auction." Items submitted for auction should be given to the auction coordinator by noon on Saturday of the Conference.

The Rookie of the Year will be selected by the Awards Committee together with the Education chairperson and the current Rookie of the Year. Selection will be based upon the Rookie of the Year Application Form and upon the workmanship demonstrated in the submitted examples of work.

Announcement of the winner will be made at the Saturday evening auction at the Conference.

The Rookie of the Year winner will receive a plaque and items from the IBA store with value not exceeding \$50. In addition, the recipient will receive a 2-3 day training session with an established IBA blacksmith. The recipient is strongly encouraged to report back to the IBA the ways in which the training session improved his/her blacksmithing skills or capabilities. This could involve a demonstration at a future IBA meeting or an article in the Forge Fire.

Send completed forms to:

Charlie Helton -Chairperson of the Awards Committee
2703 South Water Plant Road
Westport, IN 47283
Email: heltoncs@frontier.com
Phone: 812-591-3119



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

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested
If Undeliverable return to
sender

January 17 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.

February 21 Hammer In

Bill Conyer's Shop: 50964 Lilac Rd, South Bend, IN

From the south: Go through South Bend on US 933 to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

From the toll road: Get off at exit # 77 this will put you on US 933. Go north to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right