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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.

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 Moe Handy
(317) 862-5647 for details.

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the latest *Forge Fire* for monthly IBA revisions.

Apr 20 2013	ROCKY FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD
May 18 2013	MAUMEE VALLEY
May 31 2013	IBA CONFERENCE TIPTON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
Jun 15 2013	BOARD MEETING

**INDEX**

- PGS 3-7
SATELLITE NEWS
- PGS 8-9
IBA DEMONSTRATION BENCHES
- PG 10
IBA BUSINESS MEETING REPORT
- PG 11
NOTICES OF INTEREST

Dates to Remember

- Apr 20 Knife Making at Rocky Forge
- May 31—Jun 2 IBA Conference
- July 19—21 UMRBC (Pontiac)

Editors Message

We have quite a bit of information in this months Forge Fire.

Lots of satellite group news. It appears the satellites are actively working on projects for this years Conference.

The conference brochure has been sent to the printer. Expect a copy in the mail shortly. For an advanced copy visit the IBA web site: www.indianablacksmithing.org

KNIFE MAKING PROGRAM

The next meeting of the IBA will be at Ted Stout's shop on April 20th. The program for day will be to make a Norwegian sheath knife as taught to us by our Norwegian friend, K. J. Groven (KJ). It is not known yet whether KJ will be here or not. He is in the process of moving back to South Dakota where his wife has a job with the Bureau of Mines. We will go ahead with the program as planed and Ted will demonstrate how the knife blade is made, the importance of the tang design and 1075 blanks will be available for forge welding to mild steel or wrought iron. The annealing and tempering processes will also be shown. Anyone wishing to go home with a Norwegian sheath knife will be able to do so. Dick Fisher, an accomplished blade smith, will be available to lead the blade profiling, edging and to answer other important issues. If time permits we will also address making the handle and sheath. If his schedule will allow a leather worker will be on hand for demonstrating how to wet the leather and draw the shape needed over a mandrel and how to stitch the sheath on a stitching horse. If you do not go home with a completed knife you certainly can take home one that is well on the way to be a knife and the knowledge to finish it at home. A lot of the plans are still being firmed up, so I apologize for not having a concrete agenda. You can at least go home with a blade, the rest may be questionable.

Lunch will be a pitch in with Carol and Ted providing the table service, iced tea, coffee and water. If you want pop to drink bring your own. Please bring a covered dish to pass around.

There will be a quality iron in the hat so bring some nice treasures to contribute to the pile. Bring your favorite tools for working on the knife. Dan Michael will have bagged coal available for sale at the meeting, otherwise bring some coal. Forges, anvils and three power hammers will be available. I hope to see all of you on April 20th, coffee and doughnuts will be ready at about 8:30.

Ted Stout

8525 West 700 South

West Point, Indiana 47992

765-491-2194

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: 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

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met in March at the forge of Kenny Dettmer. Kenny, assisted by John Cummins, started out by making a hook-a-roo, a basket twist handled walking cane, embellished with a few odd-and- end variations, like a basket with a marble inserted. Anyone in need of a cane(or not) would be proud to sport this work of art. Ray Sease mentored Carson Harrel while demonstrating one method of leaf making. After the substantial iron-in-the-hat, we broke for lunch. Moe Handy had a chance to do his handy work on a pair of calipers. Attending were 21 who signed in. We had a great day. Thanks goes out to Kenny for volunteering the use of his shop in this emergency. Paul Bray

The April hammer-in will be back at our shop in Vernon. Hope to see you there!

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

The Reeves Pancake Breakfast, July 27, is on our calendar this year. This is turning into a nice event.

The shop will be open, so any and all are welcome to come and play. The IBA Hammer should be in place by then.

There is a silent auction and any donations are greatly appreciated and also comes with free pancakes.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

The Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop met on March 23rd. 10 smiths showed up. John Zile had the coffee brewing and Gary Phillips brought the donuts. Eric Shotwell and Dave Wells brought some of the fire screen items they worked on at home. After discussing on what needed to be done, everybody got busy. Dave Kline, Dan Sales, and Dave Wells started forging pieces. John Zile, Gary Phillips, and Eric started cutting, deburring and welding on the project. While most of us went to lunch in town, Moe Handy (a visitor) worked on making a Bill Hook from an old rasp. After lunch and the forge became available, Kim Soladine made some fire strikers. Dan made a pair of tongs for a friend. Eric and Don Kern discussed what Don could make at home using copper for the fire screen. The rest of us worked on putting the fire screen together. Gary left around 3. When Eric and I left around 3:30 the rest was still working. A good day had by all.



Pictured is another piece Eric did in bronze at the art museum. Taking a drawing class, using a live model, then making the mold and pouring it in bronze.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

The group met at Ted Stout's shop with coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 and "no meeting", just socializing then forging. Attendance was 30 metal smiths from all walks of life. It is always interesting to go around the group and realize the diversity of the individuals. Our official mascot "Leo" the "small munsterlander" (dog) was ill and Dominick had to leave early and take him to the vet. With good weather we had a pretty nice day allowing outside forges to be used.

Some really neat items were forged during the meeting and several new members were learning the "Art of Blacksmithing". Tom Craft, after his 3rd meeting and had never done any prior blacksmithing, made a very nice axe from a railroad spike (Shown in photograph).



Tom Craft with railroad spike toma-hawk.

Except for the finish grinding and polishing it looked as good as those they sell on EBAY for large sums of money. Carol provided sliced ham and buns for lunch with others bringing a covered dish to pass. We had a good meal.

John Bennett and John Vanada came to invite the Rocky Forge group to have joint meetings with the Wabash Valley group at the new 4H Blacksmith shop being erected on the grounds at the Parke County Fair. It so happens, the site is about half way between the two groups, so we are looking forward to that time.

Our next meeting will be at the Camp Rotary Boy Scout Camp, on April 13th, about 5 miles west of Crawfordsville. For that meeting we will be working with Scouts from the "Sugar Creek District Boy Scout Spring Camporee" helping individual Scouts qualify for their "Blacksmith Merit Badge". The attendance is usually around 120 Scouts with 20 different troops represented. This is open to anyone in the IBA who would like to participate in this memorable event. Dan Michael is our contact person and can be reached on 765-376-7840. It is best to text him and wait for a response. The more help the better.

Rocky Forge is looking forward to hosting the IBA for the April 20 meeting. See follow up story in the Forge Fire.

Ted Stout Reporting



John Bennett showing his flower and forming tool.



David Childress forging!

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on March 2, 2013. Weather was rather chilly for this meeting, but that



didn't deter attendance or work on the outside forges.

This month we hosted a local Boy Scout Troup working on getting their metal working badges. We had a good turn-out of boys and adults with around 30 in attendance. The boys had a good time making s hooks and some other fun things of their choosing. The guys of our group did a good job mentoring and instructing the boys. Everyone went above and beyond making and bringing food for the meeting since we were having extra mouths to feed. Everything was scrumptious and we appreciate all that contributed.



It was a great day and I think fun was had by all. I was a little haphazard with the picture taking. I didn't get here until lunchtime, so if I missed some of the boys I am sorry. It was good to see the excitement of the boys. I think that they took something away from the experience that they will remember for a lifetime. Until next time... don't lose your temper!

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers held the March meeting at Hidden Hill Nursery and Gardens in Utica Indiana. A good number of regulars came as well as a beginner and a local Blacksmith, Mick Cain. The beginner flew all the way from Seattle Washington to take the beginners class. Well not really, Jim Reinhardt Jeff's nephew was in town visiting and made time to get started in black smithing. When he returns to Seattle, he plans to build a forge and go to work:) Steve King and Mick worked a forge that Steve brought, with Dave Kunkler and his lovely young bride Donna present as well. The weather was a little strange at first with a heavy fog that did not totally lift till 1:00pm. A good time was had by all.

Next meeting is April 27th at Jeff Reinhardt's shop.

The KBA is starting to meet again, and we will invite them for a joint meeting, perhaps on the 27th, but details are not yet set for the joint meeting.



Making the IBA Demonstration Work Benches

By John Zile

The Indiana Blacksmithing Association does not have a central site, so each Conference we have to take our tools from storage to the County Fair Grounds and set up 3 demonstration stations. We were in need of stable bases for large leg vises. The table is a side benefit. This bench is heavy but that adds to the stability. The whole thing can be assembled and taken down in 10 minutes with an adjustable wrench and 2 people.

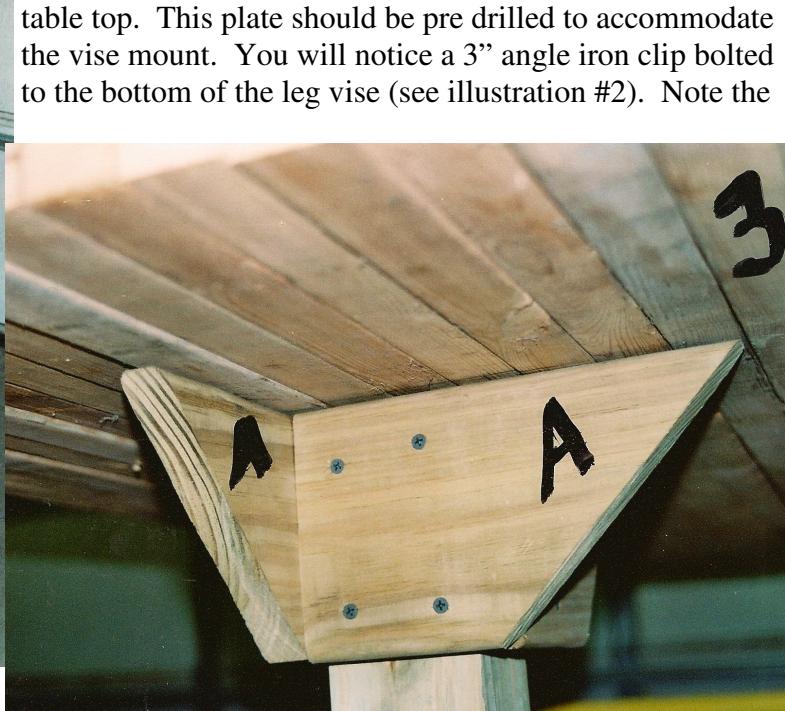
This is 10, 12 ft 2x4's cut in half. This makes a 6ft by 2.5 ft table. Cut to length and drill holes at 18" spacing to accommodate the 3/8" all thread rod that holds the top together. After cutting and drilling is done, all boards are glued and the rods are inserted with nuts recessed, see figure 2. Compress the



boards on a flat surface by tightening the nuts. Let set overnight. Do not finish or plane the top, but use the flatter side as the top surface. This surface helps keep tools from rolling off. Recess a 1/2" plate in the top surface, and permanently mount in table top. This plate should be pre drilled to accommodate the vise mount. You will notice a 3" angle iron clip bolted to the bottom of the leg vise (see illustration #2). Note the



pipe nipple welded to the angle iron to hold the vise leg.



This is a 3 leg bench. It sets better on uneven surfaces. Two legs are tied together permanently (see illustration #5C). Note the legs are set in, so the gussets are flush with the edge of the top. They are connected to the third leg with a u-shaped 1" pipe. Three pieces of 4" channel iron 8" long are center drilled, and a 3/8 x 6" bolt is welded in the hole. Threads go through the legs to assemble. The weld channel iron to the pipe (see illustrations #5 and #6). At each leg the bolt goes through the leg and is held by a 1/4 x 2 x 3 crs and a wagon nut, as shown in illustrations #6 and #7. Cut the hex head from three 5" or 6" lag screws. Round off the cut ends and screw into the tops of the three legs, leaving 2.5" exposed. The bottom of the bench is



is all that keeps the top in place. It is not secured in any other way. The top just sits on the pins. With the top now on the legs you are ready to install gussets. A gusset is glued and screwed to each of the two legs as shown in illustration #4b. Four gussets are glued and screwed to the single leg as shown in illustration #3a.

To assemble take the U-shaped pipe and loosely connect the three legs, set the top onto the legs, and tighten the wagon bolts. Then use an adjustable wrench to install the leg vise. This is a very stable bench that is easy to assemble and disassemble for portability.

drilled to receive the ends of these lag screws. This



Annual I.B.A. Business meeting Report

The meeting was March 16 2013 at the Kelly Farm (DOC RAMSEYER SHOP) in Sharpsville In.

The two Board of Director Positions up for election this year was those of Jim Johnston and Keith Hicks. There were no other nominations or write in votes and both were reelected.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: President Gary Phillips, Vice President Bill Conyers, Secretary Keith Hicks and Treasurer Farrel Wells, all agreed to serve again if reelected. There were no other nominations, and all were elected again.

APPOINTED POSITIONS: Bill Kendrick will be the Editor of the Forge Fire. Jim Johnston will be the Education Chairman. Larry Rosentrader will be the Librarian. Ken Dettmer will be the Election Chairman. Farrel Wells will be the Membership Secretary. Steve King was appointed to the position on the Board pro tem to fill out the opening left by the resignation of Michael wolloski (this position is up for election in 2014).

TREASURERS REPORT: The Fourth Quarter Treasurers report was prepared by Farrel Wells, and read in detail by Gary Phillips, showed a balance on hand of \$46830.56. The report was filed for audit, and a copy is attached to the original of the meeting minutes. All the Board Members compliment Farrel for a very well done report.

OTHER BUSINESS: Fred Oden presented a three ring binder to the Board, containing a history of the I.B.A. beginning in 1988 for the possible publication of hard copy books and C.D.s to be sold, with the proceedings going to the I.B.A. It is very well done and took countless hours to compile. It is divided into three sections. "Tooling how to" "Shop Tips" and "Projects".

All of the Board Members, on behalf of the entire Indiana Blacksmithing Association wish to express a heartfelt thank you to Fred for his tireless efforts and a job well done.

I.B.A. CONFERENCE REPORT: Jim Johnston announced that two of the 2013 Demonstrators will be Bob Patrick and John Bennet. This year the spouse's project will be basket weaving, by Connie Ritter.

PONTIAC CONFERENCE REPORT: Bill Conyers announced that this year the Pontiac conference will be July 19-20-21 at Pontiac Ill. This year the I.B.A. is host there. Two of the demonstrators will be Jeff Farmer of Kentucky and Michael Bendley of Ohio. Bill said there will also be good quality coal for sale there.

LIBRARY REPORT: Larry Rosentrader expressed concern that some people are keeping borrowed books and CDs too long. Larry said the library fund had \$146.45. A motion to add \$200.00 to the Library fund passed.

Report by Keith Hicks

NEWS OF INTEREST

On **June 14 & 15** **Shipshewana Area Historical Society** has a event call Reminisces of Shipshewana. What it is a demonstration of OLD TRADES. This is the 2nd year for the event, and bigger then last year. No Charge, set up is on a parking lot. In need of Blacksmiths, Tinsmiths, candle making, etc. If you are a member of IBA and would like to hammer but no tools please contact me.

Also see information on web site wwwsahs.us email:alforgeiron@gmail.com

Best Regard

Al Yoder

Blacksmith & Historian

Ph.260-768-4768

SBA conference in Madison Georgia. It occurs from May 16th through the 18th. Its featured demonstrators are **Ernie Dorrill and Steve Williamson**. There is a ambitious schedule of class, painting, broom tying, chainmail jewelry and green coal blacksmithing. More information is available on their website <http://www.sbaconference.org/index.html>

Northeast Blacksmiths Association - SPRING MEET 2013 May 3, 4, 5, 2013

Frank Turley, demonstrator

Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Rd., Olivebridge, NY

For more info, online registration, go to: www.northeastblacksmiths.org

IBA Conference: Tipton Co Fairgrounds May 31—June 2

Feature demonstrators:

Bob Patrick, John Bennett, Michael Wollowski, Brotherhood of Friendly Hammermen, Dick Fisher

Spouses program: Baskets with Connie Ritter

Feature project: fireplace screen and tools

Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference: Pontiac, IL July 19—21

Feature demonstrators:

Jeff Farmer, Michael Bendele, Pat Nowack

Feature project: flowers and flower arrangements



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Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

April 20

8525 West 700 South, West Point, In.

From I-74, exit at Waynetown (9 miles west of Crawfordville). 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).

Please bring a dish to share

August 20 Hammer In Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Maumee Valley Antique
Steam & Gas Association

1720 South Webster Road, New Haven, IN

