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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 Ron Gill
317-374-8323 for details.

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Apr 19 2014	SUTTON-TEROCK FULTON COUNTY
May 17 2014	TBD
June 21 2014	TBD
July 19 2014	TBD



INDEX

PGS 3-6
SATELLITE
NEWS

PG 7
RURAL SMITHS
NEWS

PG 8
METALURGY &
HEAT TREAT

PG 9
CONFERENCE
FLYER

PG 10
RAY PHELPS

PG 11
AXE MAKING
WITH
TOM LATANE

Dates to Remember

June 6-8 IBA Conference

June 13-15 Illinois
Valley Conference

Aug 1-17 2014
Indiana State Fair

Editors Message

I start by announcing the sad news that Ray Phelps passed away earlier this month. Ray was an ardent blacksmith, but more importantly he was a fine gentleman. All of the IBA wish to extend our condolences to Ray's wife, Tina, and the rest of the family.

The IBA annual business meeting was held last month at Kelley Farms in Sharpsville. Gary Phillips and Steve King were re-elected to the board of directors. Ken Dettmer announced that he would be stepping down from his position on the board. Bill Newman was selected to fill out the remainder of Ken's term.

Larry Rosentrader provided a library update during the business meeting. A number of new materials were acquired last year. Also Larry has begun transferring the older VHS video tapes to DVD format. A listing of library materials can be found on the IBA website in the "Readers Corner" area.

Due to the high degree of overlap in membership, we are now including Rural Smith of Mid-America news in the Forge Fire. Check out page 7 to see what is going on with Rural Smiths.

The 2014 IBA Conference coming together quickly. Jim Johnston again has done a great job planning and preparing. The Conference brochure and registration form have been finalized and being printed. You should see your copy coming in the mail very soon. Here are a few highlights:

- Tom Latane and Allan Kress are the featured demonstrators "from away".
- Jamie DePriest and Charlie Helton are the featured demonstrators from Indiana.
- Connie Retter is returning to lead the spouses program.
- There will be a special surprise demonstration on Friday night.

Jim Johnston has arranged for a pre Conference class on Norse Style axe making with Tom Latane instructing. This is an excellent opportunity to make a high quality axe. Be sure to sign up soon as space is limited. More details are shown on page 11.

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

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the forge of Kenny Dettmer at Jonesville. The shop was opened at 7:00 am and the forge fire was lit at 8:30 am. Kenny started the meeting by forge welding two RR spikes to make a walking cane. Charlie Helton experimented with different media to test the results of various parts of our chandelier for the conference. Bill Kendrick formed a traditional fork from 1/4" round. As we had suspected last month, Harry Husby actually did make a "walking chain" and used different media for each chain. One was steel, one silver, one brass-- and, well, you get the idea. We are gifted to have talented people like him in our group. A very substantial Iron-in-the-hat was followed by a great meal. The pitch-in meal was quite good, and thanks Kenny for all your help. We kept amused with the chains while we went over our various parts for the project.

April will find us back at Vernon. You may have to wear your "woolies", so hunker down and come on out.

Paul Bray

Kick Shear For Sale:

31 inch metal shear Price: \$300

Contact Bob Lloyd 812-546-4020

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on March 1. I didn't get our notes sent in about our February meeting, must be getting old or something. It was quite a chilly day for our meeting but we still had a great turn out of people. We had several of the guys and gals working on varying items. I know Jerry Robinette and Steve Stoll were working on a sword. There was a little dispute over that. Jerry told me that Steve was supposed to be working on it but he wasn't around anytime I took pictures. I guess that dispute has to be settled between them, I just hope the sword isn't involved. Garrett Pickett was



Kryder was working on a cart puller, if not this month then last. Had some new folks, Adam Cissell, Skylar and Calvin and Adam was working on a railroad spike knife. We enjoyed a lunch of chili and all the fixins. We had fun with



making another weapon. If the zombie apocalypse ever really happens he will be prepared. Doug Neukam was straightening a draw bar. Aaron and Vicki Baker were working on something, but I'm not sure what. Last month they were making rams heads. Not sure, but I think Chuck



iron in the hat and as usual I think CJ Sauer was the big winner he is one lucky feller. Just a note, CJ and Pat Sauer will be demonstrating at Angel Mounds next weekend for the annual Spring Farm Fest. It was really great to have Carol Baker back with us this month. She had been absent due to health reasons and was missed. We did a lot of chat-tin and chewin and enjoying one another's company. We always look forward to our meetings. We have a great bunch of fun loving people that are a pleasure to be around. Until next time.....Kathy Malone secretary.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

8 smiths showed up. No coffee nor donuts was ready because Gary showed up last. That's ok because we started business anyway. Most of us started working on Johns cemetery sign. Max Gentry and Wesley Hale worked on final details



to the conference contest piece. While the rest of us went to town for lunch, Joe went to the cemetery to get details on the



sign foundation. After lunch we textured the vine branches that goes on the sign. Pictured is Joe Goebel, Dave Kline, and J.J. checking out J.J.'s new cold cutting metal saw on a piece of square tubing. Around 4 o'clock the remaining smiths Charlie Gruell, Joe Goebel, J.J. and I headed to NewCastle to see John Zile. Dave Kline closed the shop. Reported by Dave Wells. P.S. We forgive you Garry because we know that you are a busy man, but we expect donuts next month.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers



The March meeting was held at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyd's Knobs Indiana. We had a number of visitors for this meeting. Garret Green Grandson of Micheal Best who works with Jeff came for his first blacksmithing lesson, he did very well. Arron Baker, and his wife Victoria brought their son, they are from the Bunkum group. Victoria was interested in wizard tools so Jeff made her some eye punches and displayed the rest of a set for her to copy. Jeff Williams from Bedford came and forged. He brought some very interesting tool points from a stone operation and Steve King forged one into a hatchet drift on the powerhammer. Jeff forged one into a hot cut. Jerry robinette came bringing Chicken and Noodles prepared by his lovely young bride Bobbi. Jef was prepared and had broom stick and rope in case he foundered. Jerry also brought a very nice sword to display. Aron Baker had a nice big iron nickel meteorite that Steve King cut into chunks and then Steve and others bought chunks. Billy Merritt, the original Indiana meteorite masher proclaimed the meteorite a nice one. Butch Sparks brought a Capitan Hook style hook made from polished brass with a Damascus hook. While we had a very rainy day, no one got stuck, all had plenty of fine food, a warm place to meet and great fellowship.



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Victoria Baker made a number of fine black and white photos, which I have included.

Next months meeting is at Dave Knunkler's fine shop in Perry County.



Rural Smiths of Mid-America News

March Meeting

The March meeting of the Rural Smiths of Mid America was held at Conner Prairie on March 1st. Elections were held and Ron Gill was elected president. Congratulations Ron.

At the January meeting there was a discussion on doing more projects. Ron Gill suggested that we do a chandelier for the IBA Conference. There was a planning meeting set up and a design was chosen. At the February meeting there was a demo on welding chain links, and more talk about what needs to be done on the chandelier. There was a 5th Saturday meeting in March and more work was done on the chandelier.

One of the main ideals of doing these projects is to show how to do different things by doing demos, and to create articles for The Traditionalist, the publication for the RSMA.

The April meeting will be at Ray Phelps shop. We will continue work on the chandelier project.

April Meeting

The April meeting was held at Ray and Tina Phelps. There was a good turn out with about 35 people there. Iron in the hat was held after a good lunch with plenty to eat. We got a lot done on the chandelier project, it is starting to look very good.

There was some talk about the blacksmith shop at the Johnson County Tractor show grounds. We will be doing more there in the next month or so to get the building ready for the tractor show in mid June.

This was my first meeting as the new President of RSMA and it seemed to go very good. We will be talking about new projects and new ideals in the coming months.

The May meeting will be May 3rd at Gary Phillip's shop in Albany, In.

Thank You
Ron Gill

Here are a couple of pictures sent in showing some well crafted dividers (blacksmith unknown, to me)



UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES OF METALLURGY AND HEAT TREAT

Saturday June 7 or 28

MIDWEST ART CO-OP at 1405 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, In

How to make your own tools and alloys used in jewelry making
by **Professor Robert M. Bentz A.A., B.F.A., M.S., M.A.**

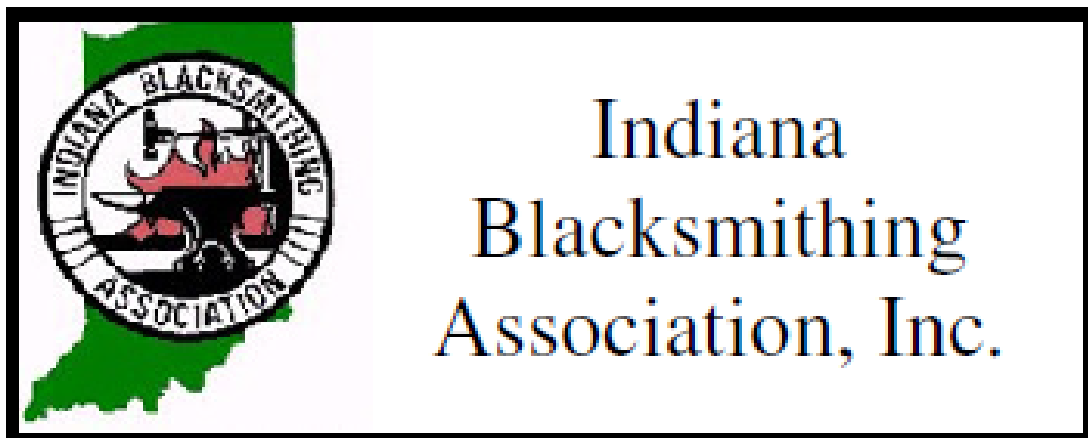
I will conduct a one day seminar on the Principles of Metallurgy and the Heat Treatment of Metals both Ferrous (Morning) and Non-Ferrous (afternoon) and show you how to select a metal for the job from junk yard steel or from a steel makers catalog. This seminar will take you thru the basics of metallurgy involving Ferrous (Steel), and Non-Ferrous Metals (Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.) and Alloys (Stainless Steels and Specialty Metals) and give you an understanding of how to select the proper metal for the job (in Industry or at Home). I will take you thru a history of metals and then explain the basic chemistry of metallurgy and how it works to get the different metals we need to complete the work we want to do. Whether it is building a ship, a building, , in industry, jewelry making, or the appliances and tools you have at work and at home.

In the morning's lessons I will show you how to select steel from a catalog or take ordinary tools and steel, Allen Wrenches, chisels, and punches, etc. ("Junk Yard Steel"), and "spark" test them to see approximately what they are made of. Then I will show you how to remove the heat treat that is already there so you can make the tool you want (Knives, Repousse & Chasing Tools, Hammers, Gravers, etc.), and then I will show you how to reheat treat it to make it a useable tool again.

In the afternoon I will discuss non ferrous metals and alloys and show you how to create your own alloys for use in jewelry making in order to get the best working characteristics, colors, and surface finish that you want. There are a lot more alloys useful in jewelry making than just fine silver, Sterling, and 14K gold. And they are easy to make! You can make your own material for reticulation (an 80/20 silver/copper alloy), silver for wire work (2 to 5% copper/silver), and a whole host of copper based alloys used in Mokume Gane (Japanese Wood grained metals, another seminar). Once again I will talk about these characteristics and demonstrate how to make some various, non ferrous, metals (alloys).

For Details Contact:

Professor Robert M. Bentz A.A., B.F.A. (Blacksmith/Silversmith), M.S., M.A. in Studio Metals
MIDWEST ART CO-OP at 1405 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, In
(260) 449-9800 or email me at: bentzrm@yahoo.com for a copy of the syllabus



Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

34'th

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TIPTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
TIPTON, INDIANA
JUNE 6-8, 2014

Featured Demonstrators

Tom Latane Pepin, Wisconsin
Allan Kress Cullman, Alabama
with
Jamie DePriest and Charlie Helton

- ◊ Tailgaters welcome
- ◊ Exhibit Gallery

More Details at: www.indianablacksmithing.com

Passing of Ray Phelps

Raymond Gordon Phelps died at home April 7, 2014. Preceding him in death are his father Raymond LeRoy Phelps, his mother Violet Emeline (Ford) Phelps, three brothers; Rodney E., David W., Ernest L., two sisters in law; Pat and Janie Phelps.

He is survived by his loving wife Tina and two sisters in law Shirley and Ruth Phelps.

He took forge shop at Arsenal Technical High School and graduated in 1940. He then attended Lincoln School of Arc Welding in Cleveland, OH. He worked for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft in Lindbergh Field, San Diego, CA working on B24 planes until May of 1942 when he joined the Navy. Ray was a WWII veteran proudly joining and serving in the U.S. Navy in 1942 right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 where his brother Rodney was stationed and received a purple heart.



He started at Bunker Hill Naval Air Station and then joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Air Force Squadron (VC92) assigned to the USS Brenton Air Craft carrier (CVE-23) faring planes back and forth to Pearl Harbor.

At wars end, 1945, Ray took part in bringing home over 3,000 G.I.'s from Tokyo, Japan. He was an aviation metalsmith I/C.

After the war he built and ran his own shop on Bonna Avenue, Irvington Welding for Arc and Gas Welding and Forge Work, from 1947 through 1949. In 1950 he joined Eli Lilly & Co. and was a supervisor of the pipe shop at McCarty St. and then an engineering coordinator in plant and corporate engineering, retiring in December 1986.

He was a past member of Linwood Christian Church, Irvington Blue Lodge No. 666, American Legion, Irvington Post No. 38, Scottish Rite and had been a Shriner.

Presently he held memberships in Rural Smiths of Mid-America, Indiana Blacksmithing Association, and Artist Blacksmith Association of North America and attended St. Johns United Church of Christ when health permitted.

Ray loved fishing, some golfing, and going to flea markets; but his lifelong passion from high school on was blacksmithing. Even in his later years he still loved every aspect of blacksmithing.

Ray lived an exemplary life of integrity. He was the perfect husband. He was also a true friend and gentleman. All who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Ray will have many fond memories of him. His word was his bond. He was a joy and honor to be around.



Norse Style Axe or Hatchet Class



June 2-5
At Conner Prairie
Instructed by
Tom Latané



Cost: \$400 / Student

Contact: Jim Johnston
kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net
765-452-8165

Request for Help with Buffalo Forge Restoration

Saltfork Craftsmen ABA member Mike Schroeder from Perkins, OK has one of these Buffalo forges that he wants to restore.

Mike's forge is missing some parts; he would like to find someone that also has this same forge so he can get pictures to use as a restoration guide. Please ask your contacts for help in finding a forge and owner willing to help.

My guess says this is before 1900 as it is a pump handle type forge. This one is a fairly large forge; the pan is cast iron and is about 20 x 40". The drive mechanism is ratchet gear inside a larger gear. The fan is belt driven from the fly-wheel. The fan (about 10") and tuyere bolt under the pan.

The tuyere, ash dump, mounting of the fan are missing from Mike's forge.

contact Dave Wells oldtrailforge40@aol.com if you have one of these

Some interesting information on the web

Viking Age iron production: http://www.hurstwic.org/history/articles/manufacturing/text/bog_iron.htm

German file making: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJkvCqms9Fo&feature=share>

Hot Pressing Steam Engine Parts: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGjBD7YQG_k&feature=related&hd=1



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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

April 19 Hammer In Sutton-Terock Shop

At the Fulton County Historical Society

Located off US-31 about 4 miles North of Rochester, IN

Barbara Berry will demonstrate the Diacro bender and Robert Wolfe will demonstrate making a bottle opener. Then there will be open forging afterwards.

We will have a carry in dinner the Sutton - Terock Shop will furnish sloppy joe and bread. Please bring something to go with this for dinner. We will have coffee and sweet tea.

Hammered in Friendship

Fred Oden