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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.

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.

July
17-19
2015

UMRBC (PONTIAC)

August
7-23
2015

**INDIANA STATE FAIR
PIONEER VILLAGE**

**INDEX**

- PGS 3-6 SATELLITE NEWS
- PGS 7-9 2015 IBA CONFERENCE PHOTOS
- PGS 10-11 ANVIL REPAIR

Dates to Remember

- July 17-19 UMRBC (Pontiac)
- August 7-23 Indiana State Fair
- September 25-27 SOFA Quad State

Editors Message

This issue includes a good number of photographs from our recent conference. Thanks to Jim Johnston, Jamie Johnston and Dominick Andrisani for their contributions. It was a great conference as noted by all of the smiling faces.

Congratulations to:

- Terry Walls: Paul Moffett Service Award
- Wesley Hale: Rookie of the Year
- John Cummins: Blacksmith of the Year.

I this time I do not have any information about scheduled hammer ins. For the month of July we have the Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference in Pontiac, IL. UMRBC is co-sponsored by IBA, IVBA and UMBA. Bill Conyers is the IBA chairman. Contact Bill if you are interested in helping. In August the IBA will be supporting the Indiana State Fair. Bill Newman is the IBA co-ordinator for that event. Contact Bill for information and scheduling.

As noted in last months Forge Fire the Pioneer Engineers are looking for a blacksmith to demonstrate in their new shop at the Rushville steam show August 6-9. Anyone interested should contact Phil Barnard (ph: 317-710-4337, E-mail pbarnard56@gmail.com).

Harley Harley Chandler has invited anyone interested to come to his shop on July 11th to see the carriage he and his brothers have built for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The carriage is finished and will soon be transported to Colonial Williamsburg. They have worked on this carriage a number of years. He said this will be a good time to have fun, see the finished carriage and talk with friends. Details on Harley's shop can be found at the following site: http://www.chandlercoach.net/18th_Century_Phæton.html

Friends Becks Mill are in the process of building a blacksmith shop and carpenter shop combination at the Beck's Mill outside Salem, Indiana. Donations of older carpenter tools and blacksmith tools would be appreciated. For example a pedal lave.

People can contact Raymond Lee at 812-883-4009 his home or office or cell number 812-620-6290.

The building they are putting up is 20 feet by 30 feet. Half is the carpenter shop and half is the blacksmith shop.

submitted by Ray Sease

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

Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday
Contact: Bill Newman (317) 690-2455

Satellite 13

Well the weather held up better than expected on Saturday, and despite an unusually low turnout, we had a good ol' time making some noise. Daniel Sutton came out and made a few items, the last of which was a bottle opener from flat bar. Bill Corey was in attendance, giving helpful hints and keeping the humor alive and well. Don Reitzel forged a bit and assisted Tom Peters (a relative newcomer) in making some leaf pendants and a bottle opener that he was planning to give to some friends who are moving elsewhere. Forgemaster Bill Newman was there for helpful tips as well as entertainment, and made some marvelous mustaches to adorn the faces his wife put on their trees. Harry Averett tried out a new slitter made by Steve King. The slitter performed admirably, and a drift was made to stretch the hole. All in all, we made plenty of noise, and a good bit of smoke, a few ribald jokes, and had a great time. We're planning to have some tool-making time and maybe a class coming up later this year.

I forgot to mention that Bill showed some chemistry teachers a bit of forging as well. I would be remiss to forget that, as it was pretty entertaining.

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

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop started the fire at 9:30am . Bill Kendrick and Brad Weaver were working on tongs to be donated to the "One Armed Blacksmiths" in support of the 4 H club of Bartholomew County. They are setting up forges in the Bartholomew County 4H Fair grounds. They are also backed by The Bartholomew County Historical Society. Alex and several others (including Charlie Helton) are making tooling of various sorts to help these young people get a good start at blacksmithing. We hope they will be encouraged to continue to excel. There were 16 in attendance. Next month the Indiana State Fair will be going on. Please contact me or one of the forge masters if you can work in the blacksmith shop in Pioneer Village and when you can be available. Tickets and parking passes need to be distributed before you get there. Paul Bray

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Everybody must be on vacation. Gary, Dave Kline, Eric and I were the only ones that showed up. We talked about the conference while eating donuts and drinking coffee. Eric started working on hinges for a tool box so the two Dave's helped him. After going to Sulphur Springs to eat and returning. We started on the hinges again. No iron in the hat was held. Reported by Dave Wells.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers



The June meeting was held at Steve King's shop in Paoli. We had several new folks to visit and many of the regulars as well. The weather threatened rain many times but never a single drop fell. Billy Merritt was present and directed an experiment using 3 different people to forge a billet followed by a fourth person to heat treat. More to follow soon. There was much forging and also a little story telling. A good lunch of grilled hot dogs and fixings was followed by a good iron in the hat. The BFH tried splitting and drifting for a 1 1/4" square hole through 1 1/2" round and it worked out well. This was a tool try out for our next Steamboat days show in Jeffersonville Indiana on labor day weekend.

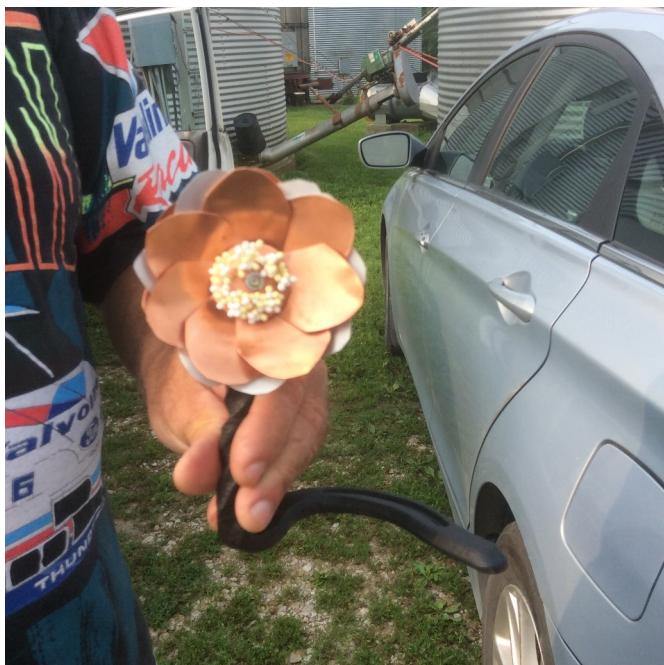
Next meeting will be at Jason Hardin's shop on Mill Creek road near Salem.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Blacksmith met on July 4 2015. The weather was great. We had about 30ish people's in attendance. Mike Priddy made some snakes. He has been working on some flowers also. Joe Reeves was working on tongs. He is close to getting them done. We had a wonderful lunch. Thanks to all that brought food.



2015 IBA Conference

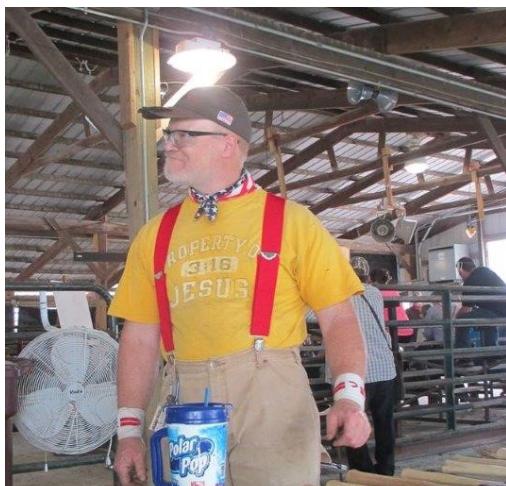
Terry Walls:
John Cummins:
Wesley Hale:

Paul Moffett Award Winner
Blacksmith of the Year
Rookie of the Year

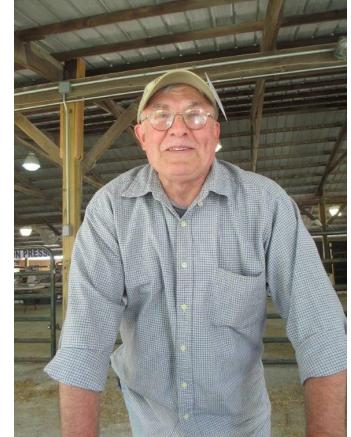
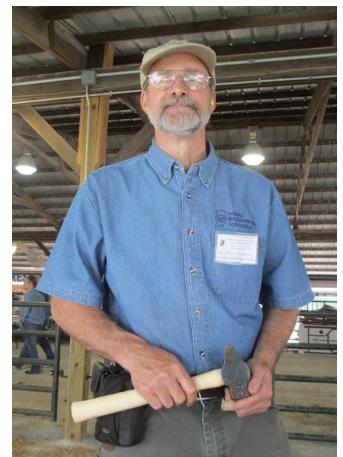


2015 IBA Conference

Demonstrators



2015 IBA Conference



Coloma Anvil Repair

Mark Kochan, Placerville

The anvil is one of a blacksmith's main tools. We have five London Pattern anvils in the Coloma blacksmith shop. That includes one anvil that we keep in the Coloma Grey's and a farm anvil that we maintain unrestored in the entry of the shop. They have been maintained by the Coloma smiths for almost 20 years. From time to time, they need dressing and, occasionally, repair. Three of our anvils are in everyday use. Two of these, the Peter Wrights, needed and got dressed. The main shop anvil, a Trenton, needed much more. The edges were chipping away, even with careful use. This is an indication that the original repair was failing and becoming dangerous to use. Weighing approximately 150 pounds, it has a Trenton logo.

Repairing a 150-pound piece of iron that is also a piece of history is not a task to be taken lightly. All repairs were made between 400° and 450°F using Stoody 2110 and 1105 hard facing rod.

Two of our Coloma smiths attended an eight-hour anvil repair training class at John McLellan's blacksmith shop in Loomis. All of the work performed in 2015 was done by lead smith Mark Kochan, John Dale and Sean Wilson. It was originally done by Bob Thompson working with Bill Curry about 15 years ago.

Many years of experience added to new skills acquired in Josh Buhlert's class were used to save our Trenton anvil. We believe we were successful, but only time will tell.

Overview of the Repair Process



Edges beveled.



Preheating to 450°F.



Edges welded.

Anvil Repair

About This Trenton Anvil

Although they look very similar, there are two distinct brands of Trenton anvils, one produced for Hermann Boker and one produced by the Columbus (Ohio) Forge & Iron Company (CF&I). H. Boker is connected to the Boker family business in Germany that produces fine-edged items. He is believed either to have had an interest in or to have been a broker for the Trenton (New Jersey) Anvil & Vise Company (TA&V). The original anvil was wroughtiron bodied with a steel plate top made in Germany and stamped TRENTON within a flattened diamond. These anvils date back to circa 1860 - 1898. It is possible that Boker began an association with TA&V about then and had the logo stamp simply changed from H. BOKER to TRENTON. This information was acquired from the Richard Postman Book, Anvils in America.

Typically, these German Trentons can be recognized by their base. The weight is usually stamped below the logo; there is no serial number on the front foot; most have flats on the front and back feet like a Peter Wright anvil, but more pronounced. Those made between about 1896 and 1898 have the word GERMANY stamped either on the side or on the front foot. In general, overall shape is just a bit different from the American Trenton, particularly the front and back feet. We believe ours is an American Trenton made around 1900.



Cleaning the welds.



Finished! After lots of grinding.

Editor's Note: Articles on this page and facing page were reprinted from July/August 2015 edition of California Blacksmith Association newsletter



The FORGE FIRE
Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

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Home  **History** **Contacts**

U M R B C
UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL BLACKSMITH CONFRENCE

<http://www.umrbc.org/Home.html>

July 17-19, 2015

This Year's Demonstrators

Daniel Widolff: Friday (1pm - 4pm) & Saturday (9am - 4pm)

Jeff Farmer: Friday (5:30pm - 7:30pm), Saturday (9am - 4pm) & Sunday (9am - ??)

Roberta Elliot: Saturday (9am - 4pm) & Sunday (9am - 12pm)