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March 2014

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.

Mar 15 2014 **IBA BUSINESS MEETING
"DOC" RAMSEYER SHOP**

Apr 19 2014 **TBD**

May 17 2014 **TBD**

Jun 6-8 2014 **IBA CONFERENCE
TIPTON**

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Dates to Remember

March 15
IBA Annual Business Meeting

April 11-13
Alabama
Bladesmithing Symposium

June 6-8
IBA
Conference

June 13-15 Illinois Valley Conference

Aug 1-17 2014
Indiana State Fair

Editors Message

I am late again. I had hoped to get the March edition to the printer by March 3 in order to get mailed copies to most people well before the March 15 Business Meeting. Hopefully this is not too late.

As I write this months message, I am struck with bittersweet emotions. I am looking out at a clear blue sky with a forecast above 50F. Certainly it is encouraging to think we may have seen our last “polar vortex” for a while. At the same time I have heard that John Zile is in failing health. John has been a stalwart supporter of the IBA. As a novice blacksmith I was able to buy a day with John through the IBA auction. John taught me a great deal in a short time. My key ring holds the leaf I made that day over 12 years ago. Please keep John and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

On pages 8 and 9 of this months Forge Fire you will find some photographs of some amazing art work created with open end wrenches. The information about this artist has been sent to me several times and I could not resist publishing some of the photographs. I hope you enjoy them as much I have. Also note that I only included about half of the total pieces of art work. Check the website listed at the top of page 8 to see more.

I have included information on several conferences that may be of interest to you . Hopefully you have already made plans to attend the IBA conference in first weekend of June. We have a strong line up of demonstrators with Tom Latane, Alan Kress and Jamie DePriest. I think many of the satellite groups are well on their way of creating their contest entries. The contest theme is a chandelier.

In closing here is an interesting tidbit. The worlds largest padlock (as certified by the Guinness Book of World Records).



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

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

ROCKY FORGE NEWS for March 2014

What a winter this has been, the Rocky Forge group has cancelled meeting after meeting and not been able to heat our shops for forging. Being snow bound, freezing temperatures, colds, flu and \$5 to \$7 a gallon propane really tests our endurance. Most of us are so afflicted with cabin fever it is a treat to go about anywhere. Finally, this Saturday, March the 8th, after paying over \$700 for 200 gallons of propane, Ted is going to heat his shop for a hammer-in. If we get lucky with the temperature there will be forges available outside for the tough guys and inside there will be one coal forge and at least 2 gas forges. If anyone wants to bring their gas forge then do so. Some of the guys have already expressed special projects they want to work on. I must warn you that my shop has a lot of extra stuff that was put there for the winter, but we can work around it.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30 and lunch will be a pitch-in with a large pot of chili. Our cook, Carol, will not be available after 12:00, so we will need to share the chore of setting up the lunch buffet.
 Iron in the hat will be held after lunch so bring some nice things for the drawing.

I for one have really missed getting together so I hope to see a lot of familiar faces and even some unfamiliar visitors. Pass the word.....

Ted Stout
 765-491-2194

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

The Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop held its monthly meeting 15 February. Thanks to Max Hoopengarner for hosting the meeting.

John Bennett demonstrated making a dragons head door knocker. Max Hoopengarner demonstrated forge welding using a nine layer billet. Max also demonstrated making forge tongs using a jig he built. It really made the process go quickly.

Members worked on various projects ranging from flint strikers to ramrods.



The Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop meets on the second Saturday of each month. Its next meeting is scheduled for Eight March. For more information contact John Bennett at 812 877 2833 or Bill Cochran at 812 864 2603.



John Bennett putting the finishing touches to a dragon's head



Using the Tong Jig to build a set of tongs.



Before and after forge welding a billet.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



first forge weld. Nice instructing Dave Kline.

Gary brought the donuts. Joe Goebel, J.J. and Charlie Gruell worked on a sign John Zile was doing for a local cemetery. We promised John that his cemetery sign would be completed. No iron in the hat was held. After lunch we all came back to forge some. J.J. Dave Kline, and Dave Wells textured about 17 leaves that John hadn't had a chance to finish. I think there's 40 some odd total leaves that's going to be on the sign.

this report from Dave Wells.

P.S. We didn't get time to work on the contest piece but Gary and I discussed some engineering changes I made on it.-----Gee Gary is easy, or is it that he just wanted to leave early.-grin-

Only 5 regular members showed up. Maybe others wasn't sure that we was going to hold a meeting due to John Zile not being there. John wanted the meetings to continue regardless. Prayers go out for John and his family during these hard times. John told me that a father and son was interested in blacksmithing, and be sure they got up to the forge. Besides the father and son we had another new member showed up Wesley Hale. Wesely met Ron Gill through another metal working group and Ron recommended Wesely to attend our group due to our location being closest to him.

I worked with Wesely making his first S hook and taking it home. Dave Kline worked with Jared, and I think he did his



Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The February meeting of The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the home of Bill Kendrick. It was opened at 6:40am and the coffee was started at 7:40am. Charlie Helton introduced the plans for our conference project and began assigning parts. Bill began forge welding a basket. Charlie brought out a new welding flux(new to us, anyway) from Iron Mountain in Alabama. This flux is said to weld at a lower temperature than most, but use sparingly for clean up is harder. Charlie welded a hatchet from scratch and it worked wonderfully . We had great food provided by Bill and his family. Thanks so very much. There was a great turn-out and also a very lucrative iron-in-the-hat. Thanks to all those who donated. Next month the meeting will be at Kenny Dettmer's. Lunch will start with chili and anything else you want to bring. Anyone who wishes may slip off to "The Brick" for a quick snack.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Meteorite Mashers met at Jason Hardin's shop this month. Jason has been improving his shop and has heat and other improvements. Jason was under the weather and so His wife Andrea was the extra gracious hostess and put up with the lot of us. She prepared a wonderful barbecue and also Rhubarb cobbler for the lunch. Mike Mills make his Pumpkin crunch. After a bit of tooling adjustment the Crew got down to forging. One group was in the blacksmith shop and the BFH crew was in the open bay. The BFH made a prototype big wizard. Tapering the hat on this big stock nearly whipped us:) But we persevered and a big wizard was indeed carved. We learned a lot from this first one, just as we did with the first big split cross. We hope to be ready to demonstrate our second item soon. The next meeting will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs



One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Hello All,

The table we started last year took another step towards completion. Although the photo of the table is upside down, the background was so beautiful , I could not resist.

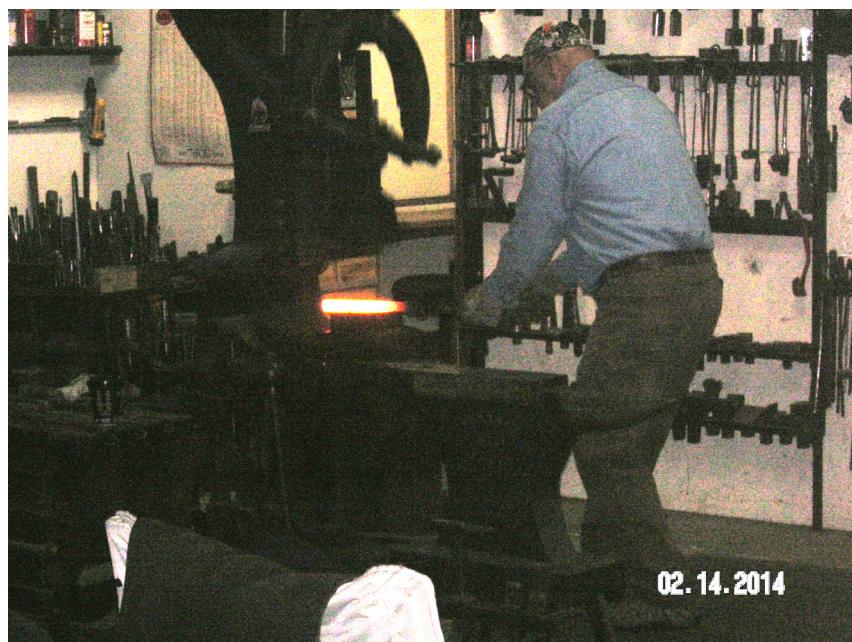
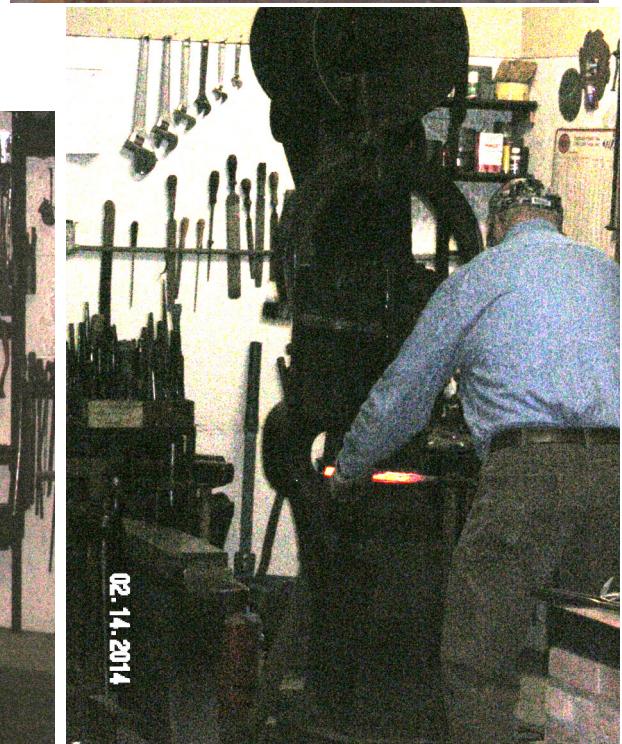
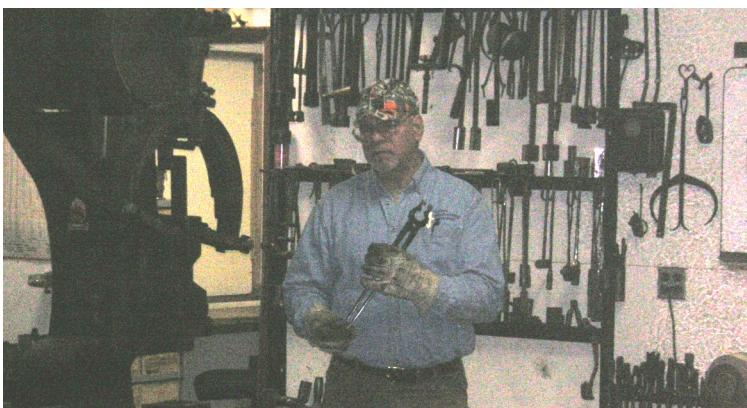
Charley Helton started the fire and forged welded the ring. And not a more complete weld to be had anywhere. They refused my Borax and insisted on using some magic dust that Jim Jessee brought. Jim Jessee brought some pattern welded blades for show and tell. They were very nice , should of taken a photo. John McDaniel came to his first IBA meeting. Thanks to all who came and brought food.

Closed up shop around 1:00pm.



IBA February Hammer In at Ken Dettmer's: John Cummins Demonstrates Damascus

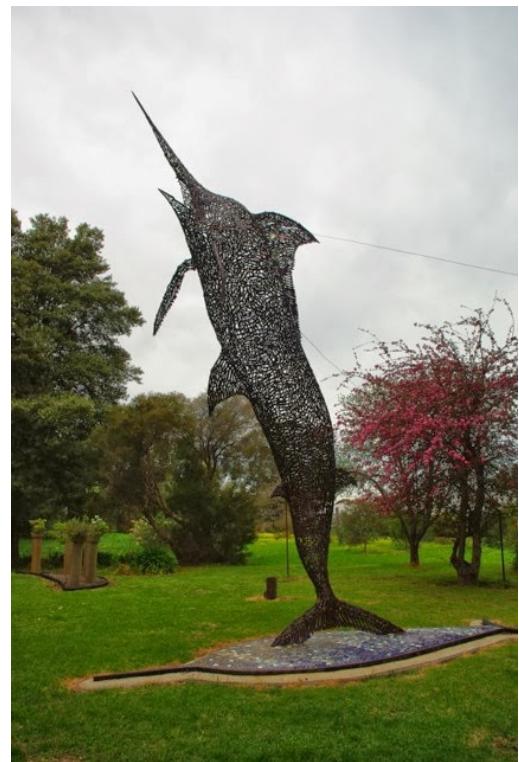
Photos courtesy of Jim Johnston



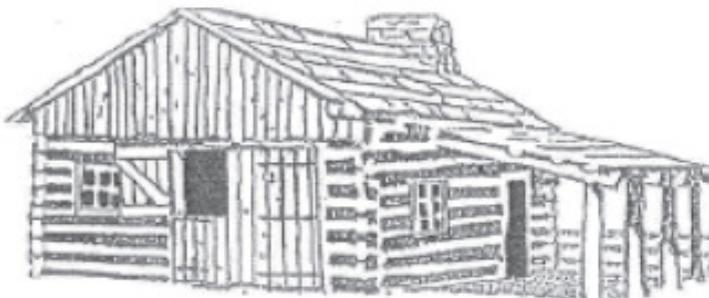
REPURPOSING OLD WRENCHES

No wonder I can never find the right size, he's got them all! How cool is this guy? He lives near Boort, Victoria, Australia and does it all by himself from a wheel chair. Amazing!





32nd Annual New Salem Hammer In



Joshua Miller's Blacksmith Shop, New Salem State Historic Site

April 12 & 13, 2014

10 A.M. - 4 P.M. each day

This Year's Demonstrator

Walt Hull began working with metal in 1974, when he hired into a small structural steel shop. By about 1980 he had discovered hot work. In 1982 he started Walt Hull Iron Work, working out of his garage while he still had a day job. In 1994 he said goodbye to the day job and went full time. He mainly does architectural work, but will "take on almost anything nobody else wants to mess with." He's done farm repair, restorations, liturgical work, and whatever else comes in the door. More recently he's also been making sculpture. A few of his pieces can be found at walthullironwork.com. He also teaches at John C. Campbell Folk School and has a course in beginning blacksmithing at the University of Kansas.

Please bring an item for our auction to help support the hammer in.

BRING YOUR OLD TOOLS AND ITEMS TO SELL ON TAILGATE ROW

///EYE PROTECTION MUST BE WORN IN THE DEMONSTRATION AREA///

New Salem State Historic Site is 20 miles northwest of Springfield, IL on Route 97.

Hammer In is in the maintenance building. Look for the anvil signs.

There is food & lodging near the demonstration area. Lunch is available on site.

New Salem has campsites available with or without electricity.

For more information email me at bluestoneforge@gmail.com

Please fill out the registration form and mail to:

Bluestone Forge
ATT'N: Hammer In
P.O. Box 1077
Galesburg, IL 61401

Yes, I plan to attend the
32nd Annual
New Salem Hammer In!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ - _____ email _____



Free doughnuts every morning

Early Registration Fee (before March 28, 2014): \$15/day _____

Late Registration or at the door: \$20/day _____

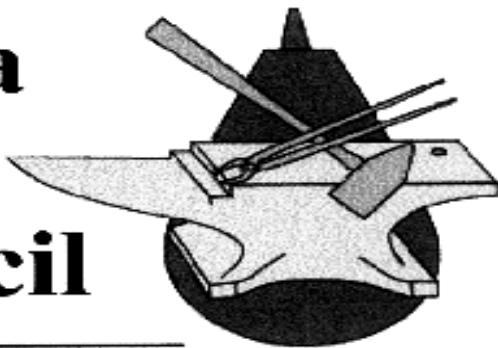
Saturday night dinner: \$5/person _____

(Dinners available with early registration only) Total _____

◆ Make checks payable to New Salem Lincoln League ◆



Alabama Forge Council



Twenty-sixth Annual **Batson Bladesmithing Symposium & Knife Show**

On April 11-13, 2014

At
TANNEHILL IRONWORKS at Exit 100 off I-20, 11 miles West of Bessemer, Alabama



Alabama Forge Council

Judd Clem
111 Yorkshire Dr.
Athens, AL 35613
phone 256/232-2645
e-mail, clem.judd@att.net.

Illinois Valley Blacksmiths Association **33rd Annual Summer Conference**

June 13th, 14th, & 15th @ Thresherman's Park, Pontiac, Illinois

This year's conference will feature a beginner training class, vendors, tailgating, a forging contest, a trade item exchange, open forges, "iron in the hat," and a public auction.

Featured Demonstrator – Steve Williamson from Tennessee

For more details contact:

Gary Riss
ottercreekforge@airlogic.net
hm. 815-673-1389
cell/text 815-257-2634



The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*
1280 N CR 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274

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Kelley Farms (Doc Ramseyer), Business Meeting

March 15

6032 W 550 N Sharpsville, IN 46060

Located just west of US-31. Approximately 6 miles north of SR-28 (Tipton) or 3 miles south of SR-26 (Kokomo).

Please bring a dish to share