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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.
Contact **John Wendel** (812) 343-1969 if you are
willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

May 15 2010	WHITEWATER VALLEY BROOKVILLE
June 25- 27	IBA CONFERENCE TIPTON
July 17 2010	SOUTHERN INDIANA METEORITE MASHERS, PAOLI
Aug 21 2010	JENNINGS COUNTY BLACKSMITHS VERNON



Editors Message

Hey, I missed a great hammer in at Fulton County. Previous commitments prevented me from attending Fred Oden's class on tong making. Fortunately Jim Johnston provided an article and photographs of the April Hammer In hosted by Sutton-Terock. See pages 9 & 10 for details.

As you look through this months edition, you will see that Jim Johnston provided most of the articles. Pages 3 and 11 include some Conference updates and other news. JJ also stopped in and got some action photos of Clifton, Steve and Kurt getting their demonstration techniques planned out.

For those of you who have not read through the Conference program, the three will be forging a post vice on a steam hammer. This is certainly a unique opportunity. Jack Brubaker will be demonstrating at another station. I had the good fortune to see Jack demonstrate at Pontiac a few years ago. Jack is both an artist and blacksmith. His demonstrations are fascinating. Charlie Helton and John Zile will be demonstrating at the third station. I do not know exactly what Charlie and John will be demonstrating. I do know they both have taught a tremendous amount about blacksmithing.

If you have not done so, be sure to contact JJ to help at the conference. We always need help setting up and packing up. The old saying about many hands make light work truly applies here. I believe we are still in need of people to video record the demonstrations. Video recorders get prime seats and copies of the demonstrations they do not attend. This year we will be without Paul Moffett's guidance on the sound system. If you are familiar with public address type sound systems please let us know.

Hopefully the table projects are well underway. Last years pot rack was a big success. I am looking forward to seeing the different styles, concepts and techniques employed by the different groups. Although far from completed our local satellite project has an exceptional design and solid details. Lets see if the other satellites have been equally as creative.

We are headed back to Whitewater Valley this month. They hosted our business meeting in March. Now we return for a true hammer in. Joyce and Bobby have a beautiful setting right on State Road 252 outside of Brookville. Be sure to carpool over and enjoy the day.

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Dates to Remember

**WHITEWATER
VALLEY
MAY 15**

**ABANA
CONFERENCE
MEMPHIS, TN
JUNE 2-5**

**IBA
CONFERENCE
JUNE 25-27**

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

A Special Message from our Conference Chairman

Well guys it has been a pleasant weekend, the Cubs won 3 in a row and I probably won't be able to say that again till next year. It is getting closer and closer to the conference, I have spoke to Clifton and Kurt and Steve and all three are getting excited and I am getting tenser and tenser. I really need to speak to Jack Brubaker also. Maybe next week.

We have a lot of activities scheduled this year including 2 spouses programs and the beginners' class. Incidentally Bill Nichols is going to need some more helpers in the beginners' area this year so keep that in mind.

Larry Whitesell and I made a trip and called on Susie Moffett last week. She showed us a 25 lbs. little giant that Paul has left to the group among other things. It is possible that the hammer and several new pairs of bib overalls and chambray work shirts will be in the auction in June. Susie has a huge amount of work ahead of her; we will have to help all we can.

I also was told tonight that Jim Caldwell had died in a boating accident this week. I have no details as yet but will pass them on when I receive them.

Some questions have come up about displays at the conference. As far as I am concerned if you want to display your work, a collection or anything else just bring your own tables as we are short of them. We would like to keep it in the realm of metalworking and I define that loosely

We always need auction items, once again just use good judgment and make your item something you would like to take home. I also should add that if you as an individual would like to make a table for the contest feel free to do one.

I am hoping that our attendance is up this year. I think we have a terrific line up this year and I have spoke to Peter Ross about coming in 2011. I don't know where you could go for a weekend and have more fun and even learn something for so little money.

Stay busy, have fun and don't sit on the anvil.

JJ



Clifton, Kurt and Steve preparing for Conference

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop**West Central Region****Vigo County**

Meetings of the Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. Meetings are held at the blacksmith shop in Fowler Park, approximately 7 miles south of Terre Haute. For detailed information contact Max Hoopengartner at (812) 249-8303 or Rick Helton at (812) 894-3172

Our April get-together was the first meeting back in our shop. The forges were humming and the anvils ringing as folks were ready to embrace spring and work on a list of projects that undoubtedly got larger over the winter. All forges were going and people were working on all sorts of projects. The weather was very pleasant and as usual, people used the time to catch up. We had a delicious lunch followed by a business meeting during which we heard a report of the most recent IBA board meeting.

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop**East Central Region****Henry County**

Meetings of the Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop are held on the fourth Saturday of the month starting at 10 a.m., with open forge at 9 a.m. at the residence of John Zile in Middletown. For more information contact John at (765) 533-4153 or Larry Singer at (765) 643-5953. Or Farrel Wells at 765-768-6235, flwells@verizon.net

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths**Northeast Region****Allen County**

The Maumee Valley Blacksmiths and Blue River Blacksmith Guild are a merger of two of our satellite groups. They Meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Maumee Valley Steam Association Grounds in New Haven, Indiana. Call Clint Casey at 1-260-627-6270 for more information.

St. Joe Valley Forgers**North Central Region****St. Joseph County**

Meetings of the St. Joe Valley Forgers are held on the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. at the residence of Bill Conyers in South Bend. For more information contact John Latowski at (574) 255-6209 or Bill Conyers at (574) 277-8729.

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers**Southern Region****Orange County**

Forgemaster Billy Merritt (812)338-2876, Treasurer Steve King (812)797-0059, Secretary Shawn Gilley(812)-486-9113

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop**Johnson County**

Meetings of the One Armed Blacksmith's Shop are held on the 1st Saturday of the month starting at 9am. For more information contact Tim Metz at (812)447-2606 or tim.metz@cummins.com.

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop**North Central Region****Fulton County**

Meetings of the Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. at the Fulton County Historical Society Museum. The museum is located four miles north of Rochester on US 31. For information, call Fred Oden, Forgemaster & Treasurer, at (574) 223-3508, or Dennis Todd Secretary/Reporter at (574) 542-4886.

April 10, 2010

Shop opened at 9am

Dan Davis worked on powder horns

Jeff and Denny Moon forged tongs with Fred Oden instructing

Charity and Jim Mussel worked on her school project a Candle Chandelier

Keith Jacobs brought his father in Wayne as a visitor

Tim Pearson demonstrated of forging steak turners

Denny Moon forged a leaf

Shop closed at 3pm

Respectfully submitted by

Dennis (Bear) Todd Secretary / Reporter

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop**Southeast Region****Jennings County**

Meetings of the Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 am in downtown Vernon. For more information contact Ray Sease at (812) 522-7722.

The Vernon Blacksmiths started their day by Charlie Helton forging conchos from different sizes. We were trying to find the right size for our conference project. Our project isn't "Top Secret" but it is going to be a darn good showing. If someone else wants to top it---we'll help you. Were just that kind of guys. It's all for IBA, right? Bill Kendrick used a short piece of 1/2" angle iron to twist into a handle. the ends were drawn to a point and forge welded. Jim Watts donated a 4 1/2" grinder to the shop. Thanks Jim. We had 20 people in attendance and a nice turnout for iron-in-the-hat. Thanks to those who bought extra tickets and dug down the extra bit to help the IBA. Bob Loyd proceeded to make a nail header, assisted by Charlie Helton. Mike Bevers then worked on a rose candle holder. Discussion was made about replacing our firepot with our newly acquired one. A workshop is being planned and those interested will be notified. Also-----a special note; May 18, at 10:00am there is going to be a workshop at the home of Jerry Williams to further our awards program to help save money for the conference. Dinner will be at Holton (a couple miles away.) and Jerry says that he's NOT buying---this time.

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meetings of the Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 4:00 p.m. They meet at Big Cedar Forge, the residence of Joyce Roell & Bobby Hoff, east of Brookville on SR 252. For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-0019.

We had another good turnout at our April Meeting. We set up more forges outside and everyone had an opportunity to get their hands dirty. Of course there was a big group effort put toward the IBA table project, and then some individual projects were worked on.

Jim Perkins made several ladles and fire tools. Henry Heinzelman brought a very cool hand forged hacksaw to show us:



This is a portable yet sturdy vise stand that Keith Hick made. The legs fold up for transporting, and the feet dig into the ground; a very stable design.



Lisa Cuneo makes a ladle with help from Keith Hicks while Jim Perkins and Dave Polewski discuss a rake design.

Our newest member, Tom Harrison, got a lot of practice making tapers and other fundamentals



Our group recently had a bit of worry with Jim Burckey having a heart attack after his knee replacement surgery. He is home now, doing good, and hopefully following the doctors' orders. Keith Hicks is also back to normal after a brief stay in the hospital. Thanks, everyone for your prayers and concern.

We hope to keep all of us healthy for a while now! Did someone say "diet & exercise!!?"

We will host May 15th will be the Hammer-In here at Big Cedar Forge. Mark Conrad will demonstrate a colonial style trivet. Bring your chairs! We will have a pitch-in breakfast & lunch, and don't forget something for the Iron In The Hat!

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild**Northwest Region****Tippecanoe County**

Meetings of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. Meetings are held at the home of Ted and Carol Stout, approximately 8 miles south of Lafayette. For more information contact Ted Stout at (765) 572-2467.

May Meeting to Make Non-trivial Trivets (5/8/10)

Most of the April meeting was spent grinding and painting the miniature anvils to be sold at the IBA Conference (6/25-27/10), Illiana

Power Show (7/16-18/10) and SOFA (9/24-26/10) to support the 30 year IBA party (10/15-17/10). Also, Carol Stout is diligently working on the quilt made from blacksmithing T-shirts. She has received several T-shirts from out of state and some rare ones as well. I think this quilt will be a very desirable item that many blacksmiths will want to own.

The May meeting will be at Ted's shop, Saturday, May 8th, at 9:00AM. Our agenda will be to work on the small anvils and the weathervane for the Women's Building at the Illiana Show Grounds. We can only have 3-4 people at time working on these projects, so the remainder of the members should be blacksmithing, hopefully outside. Let's make trivets that can be sold during the Illiana Power Show. If you have never made a trivet, now is the time to learn. There are many types and forms of trivet, it all depends on your imagination. I have some books on early American Iron that can give you some ideas. Making a trivet can exercise many blacksmithing skills that could include drawing out, bending, twisting, punching, forge welding, riveting, scrolls and mensuration. Sounds like fun to me!

Come prepared with your favorite hammer, tongs and metal.

Be sure to bring some nice things for the iron in the hat drawing. Lunch will be provided with a donation jar to cover the cost. Carol will not be here, so lunch will be a crock pot of hot dogs, another pot with baked beans. We will also have chips and any additions....

Looking forward to seeing a good turnout and having some "good ole forging time". The grass can wait, the gardening will be there the next day, the honey do list... well it just gets longer. Come on out for our next blacksmithing meet. See you all on May 8th. Coffee and crumpets will be ready by 8:30.

Ted Stout, Forgemaster

April Hammer In at Sutton-Terock

Article and Photos furnished by Jim Johnston

The hammer-in on the 17th of April was held at the Sutton-Terock Memorial shop at the Fulton County historical Society grounds near Rochester. There were 18 members present. At 9:00 A.M. Fred Odin began a tong making demo. Afterward the rest of the crowd tried their hand at it. All in all 16 pair of v jaw tongs were made and donated to the IBA auction in June.



It is a great group meeting North of Rochester every month. I urge all of you to make a trip there sooner than later.

Anyone wishing to demo at Fred's he group later in the year should give him a call.

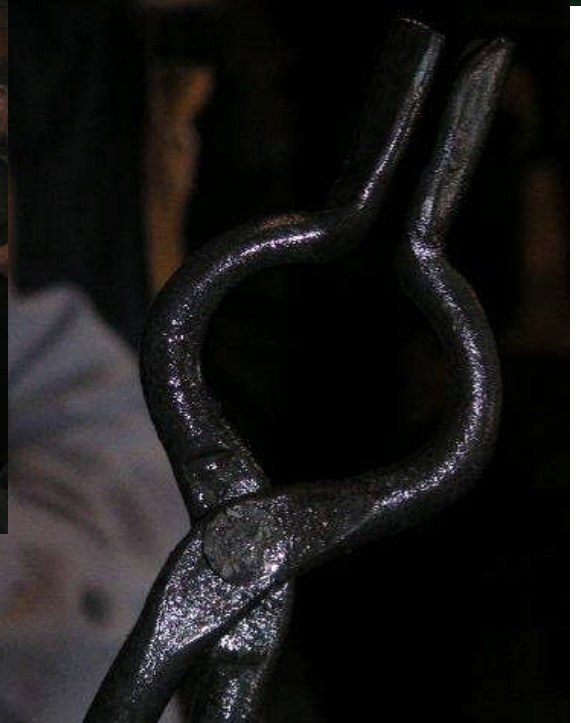
The tongs Fred demoed are easily made as follows.



The fuller is made by welding a piece of bar stock on a piece of plate and putting a handle on the off side.



To make the bend in the tong place the bar stock on the swedge leaving enough hanging over to form the v in the jaw. Drive the fuller down to make the bend. Do this twice. Then flatten the tip and fuller the jaw in them. Flatten behind the bend with a set hammer, drill holes or punch and rivet together. You have just created a masterpiece although mistakes can happen.



Remember your anvil should be too warm to sit on at the end of the day.

IBA Conference Message from Jim Johnston

I have a few things to say this month, hopefully not enough to bore you. Our conference is getting closer and closer and I am feeling more and more pressure every day. We need 3 people to take video of the demos. You must have your own equipment as we have none. Also several satellite groups have asked to have table space to display items. Several individuals have also asked about displays of antiques and things. We would welcome anyone as long as they bring their own table. We were short of tables last year and will be know better off this year. If you have a something to display please bring your own table.

I just received word that Jim Burke has had a bad turn, several days after knee surgery he had a rather severe heart attack. We hope for a speedy recovery and will keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

I have a link to several blacksmith sites to include here.

Touchstone is southeast of Pittsburgh Pa., and has a fine reputation as an educational facility. Its class schedule can be found at: <http://www.touchstonecrafts.org/>

The Rocky Mountain blacksmiths are having a conference the end of July Information is available here: <http://www.rockymountainsmiths.org/conference/index.html>

As time passes I am getting more comments about our conference from near and far, so be sure to tell all your friends about it. We really would like to have a big turnout.



More photos of Clifton, Steve & Kurt



The *FORGE FIRE*

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*

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May 15 Hammer In

**Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths
Big Cedar Forge, the residence of Joyce Roell & Bobby Hoff**

East of Brookville on SR 252.
For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-0019.

June 23-27 Tipton, IN

IBA Annual Conference

**Featuring: Jack Brubaker
Clifton Ralph, Kurt Fehrenbach, Steve Parker
Charlie Helton, John Zile**