

January 2017

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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.

Jan 21
2017

**SUTTON-TEROCK
ROCHESTER**

Feb 18
2017

**KEN DETTMER'S SHOP
COLUMBUS**

Mar 18
2017

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
KELLEY FARM**

Apr 15
2017

WHITEWATER VALLEY



Editors Message

We are starting the year with a good list of IBA hammer ins. This month we will be at the Sutton-Terock shop just north of Rochester on US-31. Next month we go to Ken Dettmer's shop in Columbus. The annual business meeting will be at Kelley Farms in March, and April will be at Joyce Roell's shop in Brookville.

Speaking of the annual meeting, we have two board of directors positions up for election. **Anyone interested in running for the board of directors should contact Steve King** (ph: (812) 797-0059 or email: kingknives@live.com). All nominations need to be in by the end of January, so the ballot can be included in the February Forge Fire.

Please work on your rookie and blacksmith of the year nominations. We have many good blacksmiths, both old and new, who deserve to be recognized. Guidelines and nomination forms are available on the IBA website.

I had a big error in last months Forge Fire. I reported that Robert Trout would be a featured demonstrator at this year's conference. The correct demonstrator is Robert Taylor. Robert Taylor is a Roycroft Master Artisan who specializes in copper work. You can see more about Robert, including some photographs of his tremendous art work, on page 9.

Jim Johnston tells me he is working on setting up a class with Ton Latane. He does not have details at this time. Jim also relayed that Nathan Allen plans to lead a tong making class just before the Conference. Right now it looks to be a 2 day class and every participant should expect to come away with several pairs of tongs as well as the knowledge to make more. I hope to have more details on these classes in a future edition.

I noticed the IBA Facebook page had a string of questions about the Conference contest. To those who are not aware, we typically have three different contests.

1.The group project, which is a free standing coat rack, is meant to be completed by several blacksmiths working as a team. The team can be a satellite group or just some blacksmiths who want to collaborate on the project. All items are judged by our conference demonstrators and are usually entered in the auction

2.The done at home project (not sure of the subject at this time) is meant to be completed by a single blacksmith or a blacksmith with a helper/striker. These items are also judged by the conference demonstrators.

3.The forging contest is held at the conference, after the auction. The subject is usually kept secret until the start of the contest.

INDEX

PGS 3-4
SATELLITE NEWS

PG 5
BOB LOYD PASSES

PG 6
SCROLLING JIG
FIXTURE

PG 7
LITTLE GIANT RE-
BUILD CLASS

PG 8
GORDON WIL-
LIAMS

PG 9
ROBERT TAYLOR

PGS 10-11
USEFUL SHOP TIPS

Dates to Remember

March 18 Annual
Business Meeting
at Kelley Farms

June 2-4
IBA Conference

IBA website: www.indianablacksmithing.org **IBA Facebook page:**
www.facebook.com/groups/IndianaBlacksmithingAssociation/

IBA Satellite Groups and News

1) Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508
 Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

3) Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Doug Moreland (217) 284-3457
 Max Hoopengartner (812) 249-8303

5) Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270

7) Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Ted Stout (765) 572-2467

9) Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

11) Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311
 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

13) Satellite 13

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

2) Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contact: Ray Sease (812) 522-7722

4) Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Gary Phillips (260) 251-4670
 Dave Kline (765) 620-9351

6) St. Joe Valley Forgers

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729
 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

8) The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Mike Mills (812) 633-4273
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

10) One-Armed Blacksmith Shop

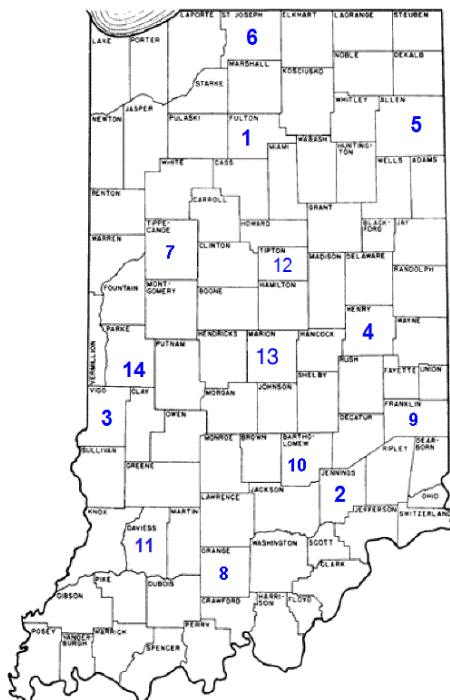
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

12) "Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060
 Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

14) Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: John Bennett (812) 877-7274



The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Decembers meeting was at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville. The shop was warm and with the heated floors so very comfortable on a chilly wet last day of 2016, Jeff Reinhardt demonstrated a small split cross to Butch Sparks friend Katie, and then she made one with Jeff helping. Then Butch Sparks tried out Dave's rope dies in the power hammer, and they do an excellent job. Then the BFH fun began. Several variations on a theme were tried, with the coming Friday night demo at Tipton in mind. The multi striking was nice with several new folks getting in practice at triple striking. The food was excellent, the fun even better. Happy New Years to all! The next meeting will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings county Historical Society Blacksmiths were hosted at the Bartholomew County fair grounds by The One Armed Blacksmiths and the Bartholomew County 4 Hers. There were four working forges going, a slew of eager young people wanting to forge, and a table full of delicious food. Once again we were warmed by the generosity of Bill Kendrick. The 4H supplied plastic to cord of the unused part of the barn. Alex Spellman, Lana Elam, and Matt Jones were working on leaves. Jonah Dement was crafting a Russian rose, Dylan Brooks worked on leaves. Garret Pevlor was working on crosses and leaves. Elijah Dement was making a Christmas ornament. Nathan Pevlor was making very nice humming birds. Kevin Welsh and Noah Lykins were making leaves. Adam Spurgeon was crafting a wall hanger. Kevin and Tim Metz were making miniature anvils from large bolts. Charlie Helton made a very nice sea horse in between mentoring and giving very important instructions for beginners and old hands alike. As usual, everyone opened their pocket books and gave us a really nice iron-in-the-hat. There were over 30 in attendance.

See you at my house January 14. Come to 139 South Park Drive, Seymour Ind. Have trouble finding it? Call 812 522 1158 (house) or 812 521 7177 (cell).



Passing of Bob Loyd

On December 10th Bob "Grumpy" Loyd passed away. Bob was a long standing member of the IBA. We will surely miss him. Below is a photograph, dated 1970, of Bob with a fireplace crane he made.



Diacro Bender for Sale

My daughter has a #2 Diacro for sale \$1000. Pictures are on my website. <http://www.mtforge.com/Personal/Diacro.htm> Anyone interested can contact me. mark@mtforge.com

260-758-2332
Mark Thomas
MT Forge
www.mtforge.com

Congratulations to Marty Mears, a member of the Rocky Forge group, who won the MABA (Michigan Artist-Blacksmith Association) Tool box.



Lud's Scrolling Jig Holder- from a Pipe Threader

Write up by Steven Spoerre, a MABA member

If you have a small shop or limited “swing” area around your vise, mount your scrolling jig into a modified ratcheting pipe threader. When this combination is clamped into the vise, long pieces of stock can be wrapped around the scrolling jig while standing in one place. Lud Lazarowicz showed this set-up at a Mankel Blacksmith Shop open house years ago.

Replace the thread cutters with spacer blocks that let you drop the scrolling jig into place like a bottom tool falls into the anvil's hardie hole. Clamp the pipe threader handle in the vise and initially set the toggle so the jig will ratchet away from you. Now, while you stand in a one place, hold the end of the stock at the starting point on the jig, pull the stock towards you until you reach the shops/areas “swing” limit, then ratchet the jig away from you and form the stock around another portion of the jig. At some point the ratchet toggle will need to be flipped to keep the stock pull direction the same – repeat until the scroll is finished.



The scrolling jig pictured was originally made to clamp in the vise jaws, so it orbits the pipe threader as it's moved for better stock alignment. Ideally the scrolling jig tail should be bent under the scroll, then bent down 90 degrees so the jig would be centered over the ratcheting head.

*Originally published in the May—June 2016 The Upsetter
Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association*

Shop Tips

Albin Drzewianowski

Matt Harris passed on this tip at his annual Principio Iron Furnace Hammer-In. ITMACO (Indiana Technology and Manufacturing Companies) provides a *Metal Weight Calculator* app for your cellphone (both android and iPhone) which is very handy for calculating metal weights based on dimension. Matt uses it all the time.

Also from the Principio Hammer-In, the featured demonstrator, Derek Kemper demonstrated a lot of forge welding, thus he spent a lot of time wire brushing the steel. He kept his wire brush soaking wet. The water on the wire brush really helped remove the scale. He would also wet his hammer to “blast” the scale off. Very impressive. It got your attention.

Editor's Note: This Shop Tips article is reprinted from the January/February 2017 edition of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland newsletter

LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR LITTLE GIANT POWER HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN EVER!

Please join us March 10-11, 2017 for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar!

This class was first taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana. We carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 25 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!

No experience is required to attend this class. Past students have ranged from age 15 to 90, and from all walks of life. Anyone who wants to learn will benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance

registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and usually ends by Saturday evening. We will be available on Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2017 REGISTRATION

Name: _____
Business name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email address: _____

PAYMENT

- ☐ Check enclosed
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover
☐ American Express
☐ Number: _____
☐ Expiration Date: _____
☐ 3 or 4 Digit Code on Back: _____

POWER HAMMER INFO

Brand: _____
Size: _____
Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6605 or Sidsshop@windstream.net.

Little Giant is located at 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

2017 IBA Conference Demonstrator—Gordon Williams

Gordon Williams has been blacksmithing since the late 1980's and full-time since 1993. In his production smithy, Victory Forge, he creates home exterior/interior hardware, lamps, fire sets, and much more, as well as architectural projects such as custom gates and the railing project he recently completed at the Grand Canyon. Gordon is an avid runner and bicyclist and in May of 2013, he performed a Demo Event in Fairbanks, Alaska. Upon completing the demo, Gordon then rode his bicycle from the event in Fairbanks, to San Francisco California... over 3000 miles.

Gordon started teaching classes at his shop, Victory Forge, in the late 1990's, and for Pieh Tool Company, at the Bill Pieh Resource for Metalwork, beginning in 2003. He is a favorite demonstrator for the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association (AABA), and other ABANA Chapters, and often provides public and private demonstrations nationwide. The Upper Midwest Blacksmith Assoc.(UMBA) Library has an outstanding video available of Gordon demonstrating at the 2007 BAM conference.



A proud father of two sons; one an Air Traffic Controller for the United States Air Force and the other a Christian Missionary currently on mission in New Guinea, Gordon finds great joy in getting his students "fired up" to unlock their artistic talents.

A number of Gordon's past students now have successful blacksmithing businesses of their own.

Blacksmithing... making what was invisible, visible. Creating an object, a tool, an item of

function or beauty, where moments before there was only raw material and the basic elements of force and fire... This is the passion that feeds my soul.



Great art comes from great technique. The process of training the hands to do what the mind and the heart sees... this is our goal at the Gordon Williams Blacksmith School.

<http://www.gwblacksmithschool.com/home.html>

2017 IBA Conference Demonstrator—Robert Taylor



Coppersmith Robert Taylor is a Roycroft Master Artisan. He is one of only five Roycroft Master Coppersmiths in the country to hold that title. On the bottom of each piece you will find two special marks, or stamps; one with his initials and one that denotes his work is made in the Roycroft style. The Roycroft tradition started in 1890. The first crafters were printers and bookbinders. In 1905 they added a copper shop and ran the shop until 1938 when the depression forced them to close. In 1976 some of the descendents of the original crafters came together and reformed the organization as the Renaissance Roycrofters. Their mission was to continue to produce the finest quality craft that could be produced by hand. One must pass a stringent jury process to become a Roycroft Artisan. After five years of growth, an Artisan is eligible to apply for Master status by submitting five flawless master level pieces to a Master jury. Roycrofters believed that every surface should be touched by the craftsman.



Website: <http://roberttaylormetalsmith.com/>





Phil Sticks It To You! By Phil Travis

Phil Travis has been a PAABA member for many years and has offered us a number of great ideas. This is his latest! This magnetic anvil hold down can be just the extra pair of hands you need when punching holes, marking material or making a chisel line. Using a simple piece of angle iron and some magnets, you can have yourself an extra helper in your shop at very little expense, will work overtime, and weekends!

1. Using a Harbor Freight #65528, 2 piece magnetic hooks. (Remove hooks and bolt)

2. 3 1/2" X 3 1/2" X 1/4" angle iron, approximately 3" long.

Place on side of anvil with top magnet level with face. Work piece can now be held with 65 lbs. of magnetic force so you can punch, chisel, or split with greater ease. Also useful to hold punch or drift at anvil for quick access.



Can You Hold Down the Noise...Please?

By Herman Leukhardt

A noisy shop can be exhausting. Herman used a common item found in all our garages to help soften the noise on a working table stand. Underneath a one inch plate he welded onto a stand, he sprayed insulation foam. It helps soften the noise of the work you are doing. If the insulation foam becomes loose, spray on more foam, it is one way to use up the "little bit" left in the can when you are winterizing your home this fall!



Editor's Note: These articles reprinted from Sept 2016 edition of Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths Association newsletter.

Jerry Darnell's new book:

My new book "Forging Colonial Ironwork" is finally here. It is a compilation of over 22 years of teaching notes at the folk school and various conferences thru out the US. It has about 120 pages both sides, divided into 4 chapters Colonial Lighting, 18th Century Hearth Equipment, Early American Hardware and Hooks and Hangers. There is a mix of projects from simple to advanced. If it is well received I'll have the next two volumes of notes printed. The cost is \$20.00 plus 6.75% tax and \$10.00 for shipping and handling

Info on how to order the book can be found on his website <http://www.millcreekforge.com/>

Drawing an Ellipse

information out of *Shortcuts for Round layouts, third edition* by Joseph J. Kaberlein

PLATE 16 ELLIPSE DRAWN BY COMPASS

To draw an ellipse to any dimension, the center lines referred to as the major and minor axis must be drawn first.

To construct an ellipse as in Plate 16, draw the major axis A to B and the minor axis C to D equal to the dimensions shown. Draw the diagonal line D to B ; then use point B as a center to draw an arc from point 1 intersecting the diagonal line at point 2. Use point 1 as a center to draw an arc from point D intersecting the diagonal line at point 3. Use the distance 2 to 3 as a radius, and points A and B as centers to draw arcs at E and F . Keep the dividers set and use point E as a center to draw an arc from A to G crossing the arc drawn from E . Use point F as a center to draw an arc from B to H crossing the arc drawn from F . Bisect the distance $D-G$ and draw a straight line through the bisecting arcs to intersect the center line at point J . Use point J as a center to draw the arc G, D, H . The same radius length will be used to draw the arc G, C, H .

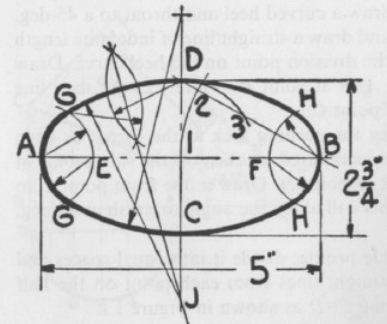
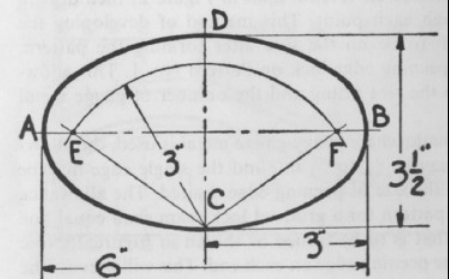


PLATE 17 ELLIPSE DRAWN BY USE OF STRING

To draw an ellipse by use of string to construct the curves, draw the major axis A to B , and the minor axis C to D , equal to the dimensions shown. Use one half of the major axis as a radius; then use point C as a center to draw an arc at E and F . Stick a sharp pin in points E and F , fasten a piece of string or fine wire to the pins, the length to equal the distance $E-C-F$. This string should be long enough, when pulled tight, to allow the center of the pencil point to rest on the center of point C . Swing the pencil (inside of the string), drawing an arc from C to A and C to B . Repeat the procedure to draw the arc from D to A and D to B completing the ellipse.



Tips and Tricks

From Allan Kress...

Need brazing wire or small rivets fast.... Try a coat hanger! Coat hanger wire is mild steel 1006 to 1008. They start with 3/16" round and roll to size.

Fun Fact: The last coat hanger plant in the United States is in Birmingham Alabama.

From Clay Spencer...

BIC White-Out Correction Pen for making corrections of printing/writing on paper is excellent for permanent marks on steel. Most of the marks were still on my steel after it had been heated in the gas forge. Shake, squeeze, press down on the steel ball and write. It is less expensive and better than other markers I have tried.

Editor's Note: Tips and Tricks and Ellipse article reprinted from September/October 2011 Bituminous Bits—Journal of the Alabama Forge Council



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

Farrel Wells *Membership Secretary*
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Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

First Class Mail

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If Undeliverable return to
sender

January 21 Hammer In

Sutton-Terock Shop

At the Fulton County Historical Society

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

Please bring a dish to share

February 18 Hammer In **Kenny Dettmer's Shop**

15721 S 250W Columbus, IN

From the North: take I 65 S to Ogilville / Walesboro (exit 64) turn. right. Go to the 1st cross-roads (300 W). Turn left. Approx 1 mile to the "T". Turn left (600s). Go to 250W. Approx. 4 miles to a brick house on your left.

From the South: I 65N to Jonesville exit 55 turn. right, go to road 950 (in Jonesville). Turn left. Go to 250W turn. right. Kenny's house is approx 1/2 mile on your right .

Please bring a dish to share.