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August 2015

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.

August 2015

INDIANA STATE FAIR

Sept 19 2015

HAYDEN MUSEUM (BOARD MEETING)

Oct 17 2015

TBD

Nov 21 2015

TBD



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GUILDRERS PASTE

Dates to Remember

Now til Aug 23
Indiana State Fair

Sept 25-27
Quad State
at SOFA

From the President

Here we are at the end of July. Our conference is over, Pontiac is past and the Indiana State Fair is coming. Bill Newman is in charge of scheduling for the Fair. If you want to demonstrate at the State Fair contact him at 1-317-690-2455. The Fair runs from August 7 through August 23. This is a good way for us to gain exposure to the general public.

The SOFA Conference is September 25-27. Mark your calendars for this event and plan to attend.

Our 2016 IBA Conference will be held at the Tipton 4-H Fair Grounds, June 3-5. Kim Thomas will be one of our demonstrators. Kim is an excellent black smith. He became a blacksmith in order to be able to make his own muzzle loading firearms. Kim enjoys making items in the Colonial Style. I don't know what Kim will be demonstrating, but I do know it will be a good demonstration.

Our contest project for next year's conference will be a wall hanging in a frame, either wood or metal frame. It is always fascinating to see what people bring to the contest. Thank you to all who have participated in our past contests.

From the editor:

This months hammer in is actually the Indiana State Fair. Be sure to stop by the Pioneer Village shop.

In September we will have a board of directors meeting and open forge at the Hayden Museum.

Last month Harley Chandler extended an invitation to visit his coach making shop. Several groups from Indiana showed up. Harley let us take a good look at the phaeton style coach that had been commissioned by Colonial Williamsburg. The phaeton was exquisite with a blend of curves and style. Pictures of our visit are posted on page 8. If you ever have a chance to stop by Harley's shop, I strongly encourage you to do so. You will truly feel like a kid in a candy store.

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

It was a beautiful Saturday on July 25th at the most recent meeting of the Satellite 13 forge group at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. As usual, Bill Newman brought his portable rivet forge, which was manned by newcomer Tim Rios. Under the guidance of Bill Corey, Tim forged a rather handsome S Hook and a few smaller items. Brad Weaver made a set of 3/8" tongs, which Tim promptly won in Iron-in-the-Hat, as well as demonstrating a few items for passers by, including a nice drive hook (we can never have enough storage space). Don Reitzel made a brief appearance in the morning, but we were all glad to see him. Brad Hewson and Mary Wright were also in attendance, with Brad Hewson convincing Brad Weaver to show us the first part of the process of forging Poz tongs. Mr. Hewson is supposed to complete the second half by next meeting. Ron Gill was also present, bringing Jerry Darnell's Colonial Ironwork books and offering sound advice to those occupying the forges. Doug Wilson forged a couple of small items as well. Tom Peters got there as soon as he could after work, and he and I stayed for a couple of hours after the crowd had gone home to practice a bit of forge welding, which resulted in a lot of sparks, a couple of nice beginner forge welds, and a decorative drive hook. We planned some exciting events for the future of Satellite 13, and we hope some more of our friends in the IBA will come check out what we have cooking at the fairgrounds. Remember, the State Fair runs August 7th through the 23rd, and Bill Newman is always looking for more smiths to demonstrate. Hope to see y'all there!

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 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)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on Saturday August 1, 2015. It was a fine day for blacksmithing. Lunch was served at high noon. We had quite a feast, ribs , beans , meat and cheese tray, way too much to name them all. Thanks to everyone.

We were all pleased to see Pat and Cj on Saturday. So glad Pat is feeling better. We will all be down at Elnora on the September 10 ,11,12,13. Can't wait to see u there.



The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

We met at the shop of Jason Hardin near Salem this month. Our new young member Isiah was there early and spent the day making 10 split crosses from 1" bar. Joseph Gehl also made a split cross. The remainder of our crew, mostly BFH team members practiced for our new project that we will roll out for Steam Boat days in Jeffersonville Indiana on the labor day weekend. Much learning and progress amid the sledging, team striking, splitting and drifting for mortise and tenon joinery of 2" round bar. We finally raked the fire in the big forge at about 8:30pm! Some tooling making has been identified but we are confident in the new projects completion. And we still have 30' of 2" round bar:)

Next meeting will again be at Jason's shop on Mill Creek Road.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

One-Armed Blacksmith Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on August 1st at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Present were Matt Roberts, Jim Jesse, John McDaniel, and Tim Metz.

Recent OABS activities included support of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's "Spring-on-the-Farm" at which approximately 650 school children were able to observe blacksmiths at work. Members Jim Jesse, John McDaniel, and Dave McNulty provided demonstrations.



In July, members Jesse and McDaniel provided skills demonstrations in support of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's annual Reeves Pancake Breakfast and fund drive. Award winning smith, Jim Jesse donated two of his well-crafted pieces to the silent auction.

Plans for the upcoming Hope Heritage Days and Indiana State Fair were discussed. Jesse and McDaniel worked through a cooking trammel while Roberts and Metz repurposed a large coil spring.

Remember to bring items for next month's "Iron-in-the-Hat". See everyone on Sept. 5th.

John McDaniel – OABS

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

40th annual Trail of Courage in 2015

Help us celebrate 40 years!
The Trail of Courage began in 1976 as a Bicentennial event.

Sept. 19-20 Open Sat. 10 am -6 pm, Sun. 10 am – 4 pm.
Fun & educational for whole family!

All Indiana Blacksmithing Association and Artists – Blacksmiths Association of North America and Rural Smiths of Mid-America and all blacksmiths everywhere are invited to come attend the Trail of Courage Living History Festival Sept. 19-20, 2015.

Earn free admission by demonstrating your favorite ironworking at Fred Oden's shop in the Trail of Courage woods or at the Sutton-Terrock shop by the round barn.

Come and enjoy the day or weekend. Bring your family.

Admission \$7 adults, \$3 kids 6-11, 5 & under free.

Foods cooked over wood fires: buffalo burgers, ham & beans, vegetable soup, chili, fry bread, chicken & noodles, barbecue, corn on the cob, popcorn, more. Homemade apple dumplings, fudge, ice cream.

Programs on two stages: frontier music, dance, history. We honor a different Potawatomi family each year that had ancestors on the 1838 Trail of Death or signed treaties in Indiana.

Fulton County Historical Society, 375 N 37 E, Rochester IN
574-223-4436 fchs@rtcol.com
www.fultoncountyhistory.org

4 miles north of Rochester on US 31.

Old Tools for Becks Mill

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

Photos from Pontiac



Courtesy of Bev Robertson



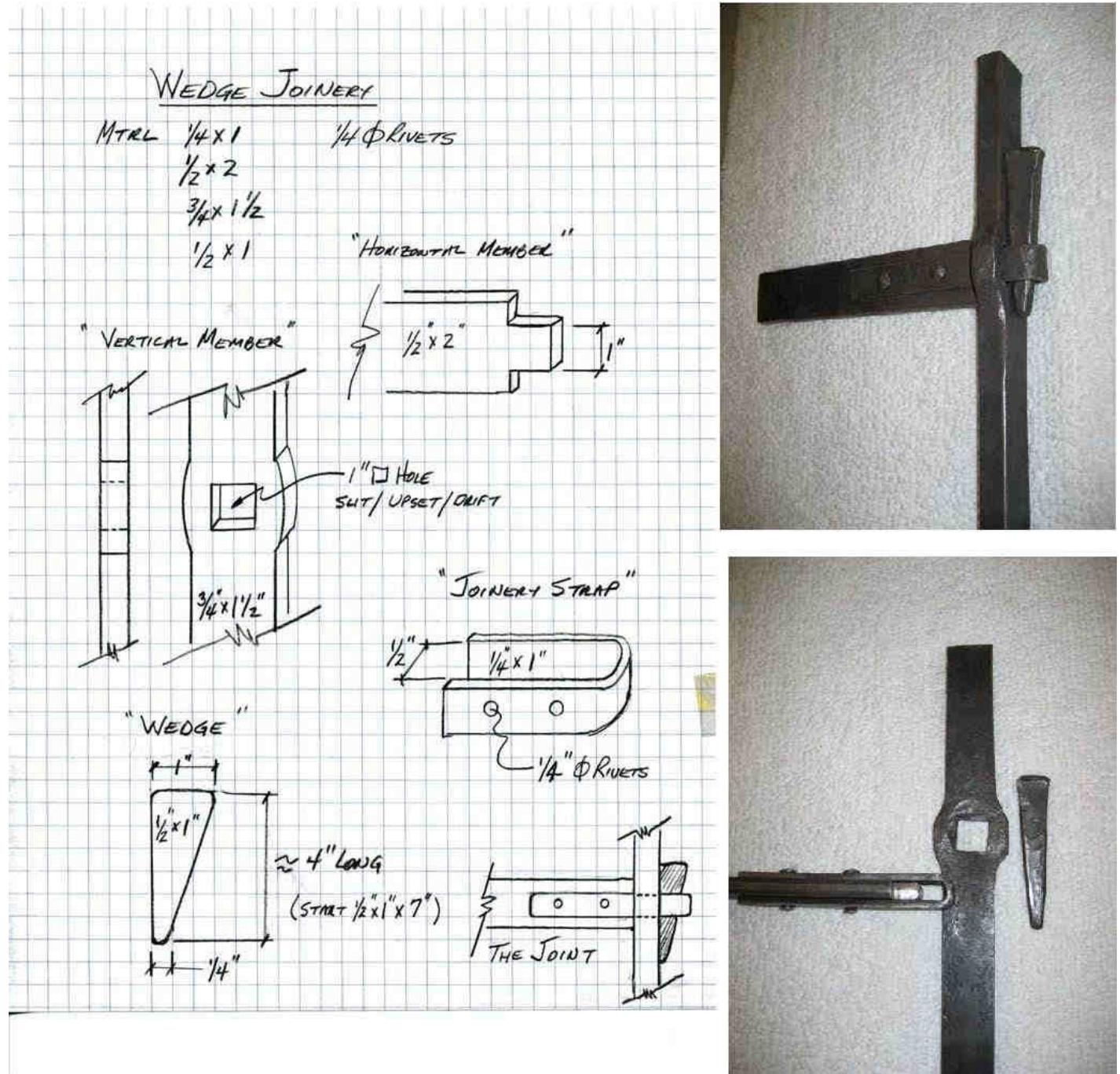
Visit to Harley Chandlers



THE WEDGE JOINT

In January Caleb Cullman conducted a "Innovating with Joinery" class (see March 2010 issue THE ANVIL'S HORN – page7) at Sahuaro Ranch Park. One of the joints discussed and constructed was a WEDGE Joint. The following illustrates the components required and the material sizes we used during the exercise. The key to understanding the join – the vertical member's square slit and drifted hold must be big enough to allow the horizontal member and the wedge strap to fit thru it. Try it, it was a very good forging exercise.

Len Ledet



GUILDER'S PASTES

While in the U.S. this summer for the A.B.A.N.A. conference and Quad-state events I had the opportunity to purchase a variety of gilders pastes at a affordable price. I like the work of finishing a piece of metal as much as designing and forging so for me to invest in paints and pastes to experiment with is pretty much S.O.P. The company I purchased the pastes from supplied a free instruction brochure regarding the use of and application techniques for the pastes. The brochure is a good starting point for anyone not used to working with a finishing product of this type.

The paste has a wide variety of uses and applications, so I am able to use them for other art projects such as wood, pottery, etched glass, polymer clays or even gourds. With a little



practice, I was able to achieve some nice results and with continued use I will be able to build my skills and be able manipulate the pastes with greater effect.

The pastes can be layered without a build up of volume. Sometimes using primer and paint on a hammered iron piece will obscure any hammered surface texture. I used the pastes both wet and dry. So straight from the pot would be considered dry and you can use a soft cloth or a toothbrush to apply. I usually apply a layer of black to a metal



The amount in the paste pots appears small for the cost, but the pigment is concentrated and a little goes a long way. Buffing with a dry cloth after the paste has dried creates a gloss finish. I have also used acrylic clear coat over the pastes as weather protection for outdoor pieces.

The Baroque Art Gilders Paste product line is available for purchase on Amazon. They are also available from Piek Tool Company Inc. product catalog. I was able to purchase the product from a vendor (at half the listed prices of the above Co.) while at the S.O.F.A. Quadstate event. I recommend this

product and intend to add more colours to my inventory every year.

Jennifer Turner

piece as a base, and then lay metallic colours over the black in what I call a wet application. A layer of paste applied at the consistency straight from the pot will dry in 10 minutes. This is a nice feature of the product, as it allows you to work successive layers of a finish quickly. With paint you could wait up to 24 hrs between applications. By adding a little paint thinner to the paste you can create a wet semi transparent fluid colour. Applied with a brush, this can be used to highlight areas or build blended colours. With the addition of paint thinner the drying time is a bit longer, I find an hour or two is sufficient for drying a wet application.



Editors Note: This article reprinted from winter 2015 edition of The IRON TRILLIUM Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association newsletter. Visit their website at: www.ontarioblacksmith.ca



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

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sender

Board of Directors Meeting and Open Forge

September 19

Hayden Historical Museum

Hayden is located in Jennings County about midway between Seymour and North Vernon, just north of US50. From US50, turn north on CR 700W. Turn right at the first cross road (CR 20 S) and proceed through the next intersection. The Museum is the third building on the right. A gravel parking lot is located behind the museum.

Please bring a dish to share.

