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August 2012

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.

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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.

Aug 18 2012	ONE ARMED BLACKSMITH SHOP
Sept 8 2012	SUTTON-TEROCK MEMORIAL BLACKSMITH SHOP
Oct 20 2012	WABASH VALLEY BLACKSMITH SHOP
Nov 17 2012	ST JOE VALLEY FORGERS

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WROUGHT
IRON SALE**Dates to Remember**August 3-19
Indiana State FairSeptember 21-23
Quad State (SOFA)

Editors Message

This months state hammer in will be at the One Armed Blacksmiths Shop. The shop is located at the Henry Breeding Farm, which is a historic site managed by the Bartholomew County Historical Society. The site and shop are very impressive. Michael Wollowski will be demonstrating the universal tongs that were featured in last months Forge Fire. The meal will be a pitch in, so bring something to share. This is the IBA's first hammer in at this satellite. I am hoping for a big turn out.

Jim Johnston has been busy. He attended the ABANA conference in Rapid City, SD. He shared some thoughts on the conference and many pictures of the great works of art in the gallery. See pages 7-11 for the photographs.

JJ also shared with me the theme for the 2013 conference contest. The theme is "Fire place screen & tools". Apparently the Fall Creek group are already working on their contest project. This should be a challenge to the other satellite groups to begin planning their projects. The last couple of years have been thin with respect to the number of contest entries, but the quality has been extremely good. Lets keep up the quality and increase the entries. The variety of designs and styles is always a big hit with conference attendees.

On closing, please note that next months hammer in at Sutton-Terock will be held on September 8th. This is a 2nd Saturday hammer in, not the usual 3rd Saturday.

Special Hammer In September 29

There will be a hammer-in and hog roast September 29, 2012, at Jerry Robinette's shop, 16139 N 500 E, Elnora, In. 47529. This event is being held to benefit Alan Brazzel who lost his blacksmith shop in a fire. Donations of tools, equipment, money, gifts, etc. will be accepted. All proceeds will go to Alan to help rebuild his shop. You don't have to donate to come and enjoy a good time and good food.

If you have any questions or need information please call Jerry Robinette at 812-698-0131 or Alan Brazzel at 812-863-4733.

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

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

10 members showed up. John Zile told us what the satellite contest piece for next years conference is. After a short discussion John started the project with Dave Cline helping. Andrew Davis made a drawing of one of the proposed pieces. Don Kern worked on one of the pieces us-



ing the air hammer. Iron in the hat was held, then some members had to leave early while the rest of us went to town for lunch. After lunch the forge was used again. Our own Gary Phillips closed the shop for John.

Report by Dave Wells

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

“Doc” Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Notes for May and June:

May 20th, I had the fire started by 1:30. Harry Williams was there. He brought iron for a fire rake, which had a very unique form.

Brandon Graham had no project with him, but was talking to Harry and me of the need or someone to work the blacksmith shop at the Howard Co. Fair.

I kept busy tending the fire and keeping the blower running. I was working on a large shepherd crook and found the shop was too narrow to work from the sides of the forge to heat stock. A deep fire and working from the end of the forge would work. A little hard to run the blower. Brandon came to my rescue at the blower.

I was asked if I could have the shop open Thursday for the 4th grade students from Western school in Howard Co. They were coming to the museum for a field day (200 plus), so checking the with Harry, he would be able to join me. Harry made a presentation of forges and forging as well as answering questions, as I kept busy at the forge. We had a good day, the groups were small so we were able to work with them. The teachers were happy with our interpreting of this period of blacksmiths.

June 17th meeting: Larry and Glenda Whitesell were at the shop before I got the electrical plug in for the shop. Larry started the forge and was working on a ladle, had iron in the fire when I was leaving for home to get wood for raising an anvil onto the iron stand.

Harry had blocked up the anvil to make it more his height for working on. I brought in an iron anvil stand, using 2x4 the anvil slid over onto the stand good. Larry then made brackets out of horse shoes to hold the anvil in place. The stump was moved to the side and the wage block placed on top of it. This would have the hardy tools close to anvil stand, since they were mounted around the stump. I had purchased an electric blower at the IBA Conference. This could be setup to draw air in through the crank blower, adjust speed of flow and turn the blower on at either side of forge. Now to get things setup and running.

Keep the Forge Fires coming! H Charles Gruell

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop Got off to a late start today. After we finally got the fire going, K.C.Reschar found an old file and wanted to make a primitive fire striker. After several heats , the file started getting smaller? Oh well, John Cummins , working out of the other forging station, began giving K.C. some helpful hints. We did end up with two functioning strikers. Moe Handy used three pieces of 1/2" round stock, approx. 5 foot in length to form three legs for a traditional tripod. Carl Baker decided to make a hay hook, which with a little advisement, came out real nice. Due to the heat, most of us were leaking pretty good. We spent some time getting reacquainted and rehashing old times. Iron-in the hat was very successful, thanks to the generosity of the 17 people who attended. The State Fair will be in full swing shortly, so remember to drink plenty of water and rest often. After all, your health and safety take priority over demonstrations. " Work smarter-not harder " still applies. Paul Bray

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on July 7, 2012. We had a pretty good turn-out especially on a day that



was hot enough to make the devil sigh. We had around 17 in attendance and kept 3 forges busy. We had some new people visiting and Tim McNelis

demonstrated s hooks and twists for some of them. Dakota Smith was making split crosses and one of the new guys was making a rose, sorry I didn't get his first name. Jim Malone and Doug Neukam were asked to do another forge welding demonstration. There was a lot of settin' on the porch drinkin' sweet tea and water with some pretty good jawin' too. We enjoyed lunch together and iron in the hat. We raffled off chances at guessing the weight of the helve hammer anvil. Gayle Mehler was the winner of the



guessing game. The proceeds of the raffle were given to Alan Brazzel to help with the loss of his blacksmith shop. It was another good day of fun and work and I think everyone had a good time despite the hot weather.

Until next time remember...if you have too many irons in the fire, don't lose your temper ;)

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

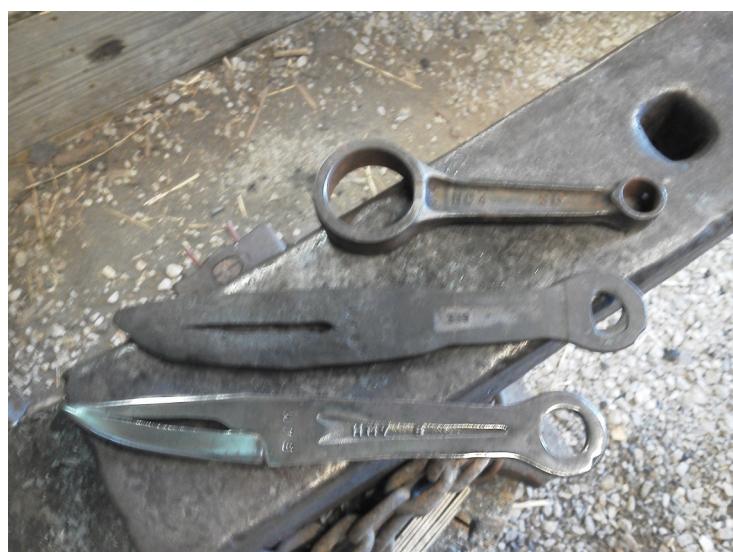
The State hammer-in for July was held at Steve King's shop in Paoli. Good attendance considering the heat. Featured demonstration was Dave Kunkler and a candle stand. As always Dave made wonderfully detailed work look easy. Jeff Reinhardt was initiated into the select club who have forged Meteorite, ably instructed by Billy Merrit. The resulting billet will be turned into jewelry for his ladies. Jeff also demonstrated a split cross for the attendees who were new. There were 3 new folks, and one spent most of the day at the beginners station.



Tool used to make design on candle stand



Next meeting at Jeff Reinhardt's shop on August 25th. The plan is to forge another large cross from 3" square stock.



Thoughts on ABANA Conference from Jim Johnston

Just some quick thoughts about ABANA, like any endeavor it had good points and bad. On reflection it was mostly good. Havard Bergland from Norway suffered heat prostration and our own KJ Groven who was assisting took over and finished the demo for that day. Very impressive. Blue Moon Press has published Mr. Bergland's book "The Art Of Traditional Blacksmithing" which I highly recommend. KJ has copies for sale if you want one and if you see it I think you will.

I met Tom Latane and Brian Brazeal and have tentatively hired them for 2014 conference. Its a long time but worth the wait. Of course in 2013 we have Bob Patrick and John Bennett scheduled.

Back to South Dakota, on Monday it was 108 degrees with a 30 to 40 mile per hour wind. Going out of air conditioning into the heat was much like standing in front of a reverberating furnace with the doors open. On Tuesday in the Black Hills national Forest we found snow, not to worry though it was 104 degrees when we got back out on the plains. The entire week it was over 100 everyday with the norm being about 104. On Saturday before the auction there was a spectacular lightning display and the rain took the temperature down into the mid 60's. It was about a 35 degree drop in an hour and I was shivering. The conference was staged on a blacktop parking lot, I really can't say how hot that blacktop was. No one was moving very fast, and everyone was taking in fluids all the time. ABANA had bottled water available for everyone for the asking which was a very good move.

All in all it was a great week but I must confess I spent more time sight seeing than at the conference. After spending time in the Black Hills I begin to see why the Lakota people consider it a sacred place.



ABANA Photos courtesy Jim Johnston



ABANA Photos courtesy Jim Johnston



ABANA Photos courtesy Jim Johnston



Dear IBA

Thank you for the award! But I have a weird sense of humor.

I laughed that I got a supportive spouse award and I wasn't even there. I laughed even harder when I saw there was a misspelled word on my plaque. An "I" was missing. "I was missing". Every time I look at the plaque I get a chuckle.

Joan Ralph



Wrought Iron Sale

Old Globe is running a sale on wrought iron that has been reclaimed from the 1887 Globe Elevator on Lake Superior.

Contact Information: Old Globe Reclaimed Wood Company
(715) 392-5110
judy@oldglobewood.com
www.oldglobewood.com

Published sale prices are:

5/8" rod, was \$6.00 per pound, now just \$3.00 per pound

7/8" rod, was \$4.08/lb, now \$2.04/lb

1" rod, was \$3.52/lb, now \$1.76/lb

1-1/4" rod, was \$2.50/lb, now \$1.25/lb

1-1/2" rod, was \$2.00/lb, now \$1.00/lb

4-1/2" square-cut nails, "as is," were \$4.00/lb, now \$2.00/lb

4-1/2" square-cut nails, "select," were \$8.00/lb, now \$4.00/lb

All prices are FOB Superior, Wisconsin. Rods are sold in whatever length they happen to be. However, if you need specific lengths, they will trim them for \$2 per cut.



The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

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

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested
If Undeliverable return to sender
With original address legible

August 18 Hammer In One Armed Blacksmith Shop

The Henry Breeding Farm
13730 North 100 West
Edinburgh, IN

Directions: I-65 take exit 76-B (US-31 North toward Edinburgh). About 3/4 of a mile turn right on CR 800 N. Turn left on CR 100 W. The Henry Breeding Farm will be on the left. Park behind the large barn.

September 8 Hammer In Sutton-Terock Shop

(note this is a 2nd Saturday Hammer In)

Located at the Fulton County Historical Society

Located off US-31 about 4 miles North of Rochester