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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 **Michael Wollowski** (812) 232-2591 if you are
willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

July 16 2011	SOUTHERN INDIANA METEORITE MASHERS, PAOLI
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Aug 20 2011	MAUMEE VALLEY BLACKSMITHS NEW HAVEN
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Sept 17 2011	GARY PHILLIPS ALBANY
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Oct 8 2011	WABASH VALEY BLACKSMITHS TERRE HAUTE
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Dates to Remember

July 16
Hammer In at
Southern Indiana
Meteorite Mashers

July 15-17
Upper Midwest
Regional at
Pontiac, IL

Sept 24-25
Quad State at
SOFA

Presidents Message

IBA Hammer In May 21, 2011

The Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths hosted the May hammer in at the shop of Jimmy Dean. Mark Conrad demonstrated a different way of making a rose by forging a taper into a piece of flat stock and folding it in such a way so the stem was covered by the flower.

\$42 was collected in iron-in-the-hat. Keith Hicks drew and called the ticket numbers. Keith Hicks got his dollar back with the last draw. We may need to re-think how we do this in the future.

Joyce Roell provided biscuits and gravy to start the day. Keith brought some vegetable soup. Doug Britt brought some meatballs and cocktail wieners. Gary Phillips provided brownies. All brought appetites.

After Mark's demonstration there was an open forge session.

We had 9 adults (loosely defined) and 3 children in attendance. A good time was had by all.

Editors Message

We just completed the 2011 IBA Conference. I have not heard any of the official numbers, but my sense was attendance was down from last year. If you did not attend this years Conference, you missed a fantastic show. Dick Fisher started us out with a Friday night discussion, demonstration and hands on introduction to engraving. Saturday we were well entertained by Harry Williams, Ray Sease, Ernie Dorrill and Peter Ross. The Saturday night auction was interrupted by a lengthy downpour that made hearing the auctioneer impossible. Check out the photos on pages 7-11.

We have some pretty significant Satellite news. On page 3 you will see our latest satellite group, Doc Ramseye, have formed and are meeting on the third Sunday of the month. On page 5 you will find the One Armed Blacksmiths are working on a new smithy located on the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Breeding Farm.

Hope to see you at Pontiac.

"Doc" Ramseye Blacksmith Shop**Central Region****Tipton Co.**

Meetings of the "Doc" Ramseye Blacksmith Shop are held on the third Sunday of the month starting at 2:00 p.m. The shop is located at the Kelley Historical Agricultural Museum in Sharpsville, IN off US-31, 2.4 miles south of IN-26. Contact Mike Kelley, forge master or Charles Gruel, president, 765-513-5390.

On May 1 a group of IBA members got together at 5615W 550N, Sharpsville. The intention was to set up guide lines for an IBA satellite for the Central Region in Tipton County between Tipton and Kokomo.

The meetings will be the third Sunday of the month starting at 2:00 PM, so those who wish can have lunch with their family.

Meetings are to be in "Doc" Ramseye Blacksmith Shop, on the grounds of KELLEY HISTORICAL AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM at 550N 600W (US-31), or 7.3 miles north of highway 28 / 2.4 miles south of highway 26.

There were nine (9) at the meeting. They wanted to keep it simple set (KISS).

Officers are Mike Kelley—Forgemaster / Charles Gruell—President.

May 15th meeting:

Shop (Doc Ramseye) had been opened earlier by Mike Kelley. When I got to the shop at 1:30, several were already to go. We unloaded the truck coal, leg vice & stand, anvil & stump, plus hand tools. Bill Nichols added several sizes of iron stock for the shop.

Everyone was anxious to get things checked out and get the fire started. Harry Williams was making a cut off plate for anvil when the duct from the blower to the fire pot started coming apart. Necessary parts and tools to repair the duct were obtained and the plate was finished.

Harry was showing the use of 3/16" instead of 1/4" for forging as well as a fixture used for S-hooks. Jim Johnston made a drive hook to add to the shop.

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.

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 our forgemaster, Doug Moreland (217)284-3457 or our librarian, Max Hoopengarner (812)249-8303.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

STAYING BUSY

As I was moaning about how busy I have been lately, with what seemed to be important stuff to me, an elderly friend reminded me of what her mother always said about being busy.

" I would rather wear out, than rust out."

Submitted by Ted Stout

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths**Southwest Region****Daviess Co.**

The Bunkum Valley Metal Workers meet the first Saturday of the month. Forgemaster Doug Neukam (812) 259-4430. Treasurer Steve Stoll (812)486-9668. Secretary Shawn Gilley (812) 486-9113.

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 Historical Society Blacksmiths began a little late , not starting until almost 8:00am. Ray Sease began with a piece of stock approx. 1/4"x 1 1/4"x 18" , working it into a nice large leaf. He then handed it over to Matt Jones and Kevin Walsh for modification. Matt and Kevin split the other end in the center about 8" or so and each made a leaf on half. It looked so nice when finished, it was decided that something useful had to be made from it. Ray suggested a door handle and away Matt and Kevin went. In no time flat the two had created a work of art for Kevin's door. Brian Simmons (a newcomer) brought in some blades and practiced straightening them. One blade was from a tiller and Brian decided to try fashioning it into a rough knife form. Tim Metz amazed us by forge welding stainless steel rods and made a twisted handle. Well done Tim. We had a good turnout and a substantial Iron-in-the-hat. Thanks to all who contributed. Once again, tales were spun and lies were told and everyone had a great time. See you at the conference!

Paul Bray

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop**South Central Region****Johnson Co.**

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.

The One Armed Blacksmiths has permission from the Bartholomew County Historical Society to install a Blacksmith Shop at the Henry Breeding Farm. This is 3 miles north of Taylorsville on the east side of I65.

Things are moving very quickly. From our diplomacy team to the brick haulers, everyone is pitching in.

We don't have any equipment yet but there is no reason to worry about that as we have plenty of other work to do.

The group is determined to get this done ASAP and there has been no shortage of helpers.

Below are photos of the progress on the masonry forge.

One of the photos shows the elusive "Ninja Blacksmith". He can only be found when there is work to be done and it is very hard to get him on film.

God is good, all the time.

Tim



Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths**Southeast Region****Franklin Co.**

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.

Just a quick update from the good folks at Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths. Starting in June, our meetings will be back at the Big Cedar Forge, East of Brookville, IN on SR 252. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month at 4:00. We want to officially thank Jimmy Dean for the use of his shop while the Big Cedar Forge was out of commission.

The May hammer-in was a success, and considering it was the first decent Saturday in approximately 4 months we were still able to gather in about 10 people. Our original demonstrator had an emergency and Keith sent out a desperate plea for a substitute on the Thursday eve before hammer-in. Mark Conrad answered the call and did a variation of a fold-over rose. Of course the food was plentiful and terrific, as was the company. We were reminded that dues were coming up and several applications were dutifully handed out. We're all looking forward to the IBA conference and hope to see everyone there.



A few of the willing observers.



Mark at the anvil



Finishing up the rose

2011 IBA Conference Highlights

Note: The following message was sent by Ernie Dorrill to Jim Johnston. It is good to hear that our demonstrators have a positive experience at our Conference.

Dear Jim,

Just a note to express my gratitude for the invitation to demonstrate at your annual conference this June, 2011 at Tipton Indiana. I am humbled and very grateful to have had the opportunity be with such a wonderful group of blacksmiths/metal smiths of whom I now consider good friends. The conference was seamless and extremely smooth, perfectly organized and I am really impressed how all of your members worked together to produce such a great event. Hospitality, kindness, and assistance I received sets a standard for other groups to follow but your group has set the bar at a very high mark.

Thanks so very much for putting up with my previous emails and communications prior to the conference and your willingness and selfless efforts to make this event possible and pleasurable for not only me, but for all the others who attended. I know the efforts required to make events such as this work so smoothly and I applaud the tremendous efforts of you and all others involved. Your members were very attentive and interested, asking questions, providing comments and engaged at an elevated level and I never felt more at home with the group.

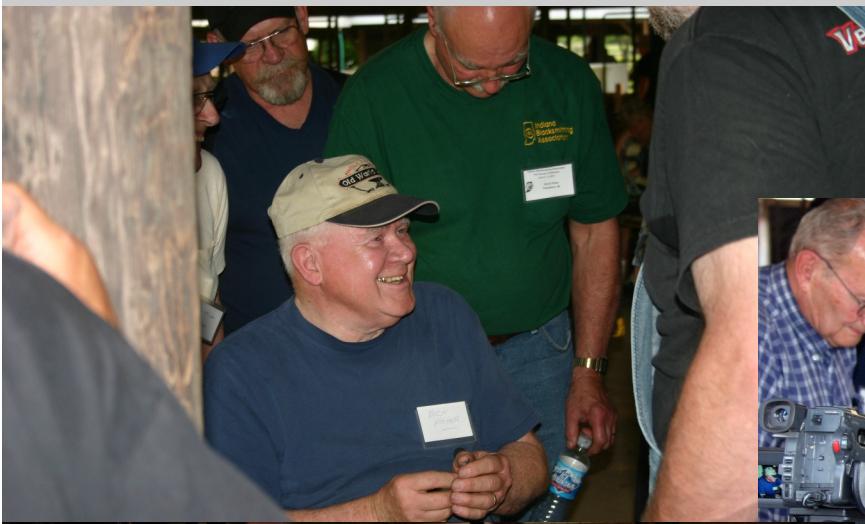
I hope I fulfilled your expectations with the demonstration but more than that, I am the one who received the benefits from so many that I've met and come to know who I now call my friends.

Again, thank you for efforts of all involved to provide such an outstanding event and if you have the opportunity, please share my sincere gratitude to all your members for the opportunity to meet and be with them.

Sincerely,

Ernie Dorrill





Dick Fisher demonstrates engraving



Jan Ryan leads the Spouse's Program



Show & Tell Items

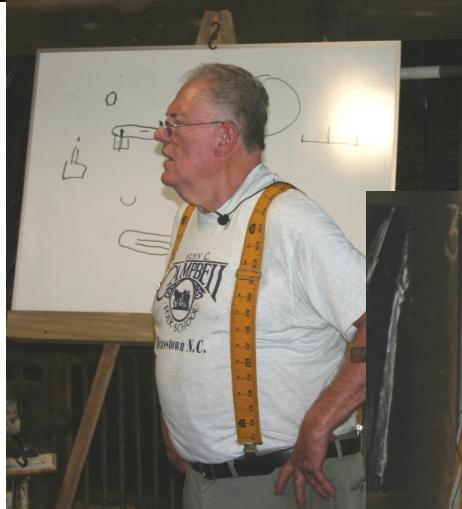


Beginners Class



Peter Ross Draws a Crowd

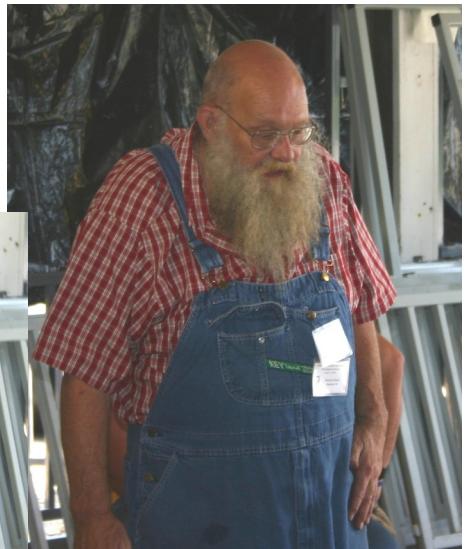




Harry Williams Demonstrating



**Ray Sease with
Kevin Walsh and Matt Jones,
featuring the pink anvil
for breast cancer awareness**





The **FORGE FIRE**

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Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
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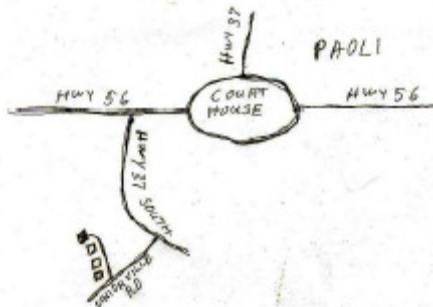
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With original address legible

First Class Mail

July 16 Hammer In Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Steve King's Shop
Paoli, IN

Home of Steve King



August 20 Hammer In Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Maumee Valley Antique
Steam & Gas Association

1720 South Webster Road, New Haven, IN

