

May 2011

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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.

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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

**May 21
2011**

WHITE WATER VALLEY BLACK-SMITHS

**June 3-5
2011**

**IBA CONFERENCE
TIPTON FAIR GROUNDS**

**JULY 16
2011**

**SOUTHERN INDIANA METEORITE
MASHERS**

**AUG 20
2011**

MAUMEE VALLEY BLACKSMITHS



Editors Message

Well Conference is just a few weeks away. Be sure to come out and enjoy the show. Jim Johnston has done a wonderful job lining up a top group of demonstrators. Demonstrations start on Friday evening with Dick Fisher covering engraving techniques. Saturday offers four demonstrators plus the spouses program.

As always the IBA needs your support to make our Conference a success:

First and foremost we need you to attend. This is all about blacksmiths getting together and having a good time.

Second we need your help with setting up and tearing down. Set up will begin on Friday (June 3) morning. Tear down will be Sunday afternoon. Set up and tear down consists of moving materials to/from storage, sweeping and general clean up.

Third we need you to participate. Bring items to show & tell. Bring items for the contest and auction. Bid at the auction.

If you have not received your conference brochure please contact Farrel Wells, an IBA board member or you local forgemaster.

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Dates to Remember

June 3-5
IBA
Conference
Tipton IN

July 15-17
Upper Midwest
(Pontiac)

Sept 24-25
Quad State
(SOFA)

In last months Forge Fire, Charles Gruell announced the intention to form a satellite group in the Tipton/Kokomo area. Jim Johnston sent the following update.

Hi guys. I just got the final in about our newest satellite group.

The Forge is the Doc Ramseyer Forge. In 1908 he opened a forge nearby. Many of the hand tools in the shop came from the original shop. So that will be our name.

Mike Kelly, owner of the property will be our forgemaster. As before the meetings will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:00 in the afternoon. Kelly Farms Agricultural Museum is located in Tipton Co. at the intersection of US 31 and 550 N. It is 7.3 miles North of highway 28 and 2.4 miles south of Highway 26.

Jim

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

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 Hoopengartner (812)249-8303.

Seven members and three guests attended our April meeting. We had a very productive morning with three forges fired up for most of the time. Doug Moreland and Dave Voges were fabricating parts for Doug's Little Giant power hammer. Bill Cochran was working on wall hooks and Rick Helton was making several pot hangers. Max Hoopengartner was straighten some mower blades and Michael Wollowski was forge welding several flowers and a frame for a water hose hanger. Jim Doyle was working on a copper pipe. For a while, it was raining hard and due to the historic nature of our shop, it was a bit of a challenge to keep the iron out of the dripping water. We broke for lunch and had a quick business meeting. Doug Moreland asked for volunteers who are willing to demonstrate during the 3rd Saturdays of the summer months when all of the Pioneer Village has demonstrators. He pointed out that this would be a good way of saying thanks to the Vigo County Parks Department for building us such a nice shop.

Our forgemaster, Doug Moreland will have a blacksmithing meeting at his place on Saturday, May 28. Doc Schertz from Tiskilwa, Ill will be demonstrating. She will do a demo on the difference between punching a hole and a pass through. The meeting will start at 9:00am C.T. and is expected to last until about 3pm. Lunch will be provided and anyone is invited to attend. For directions to Doug's place, please call him at: 217-497-0954

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.

We have started a new project called the Tree of Friendship. Thanks to artist Jenny Parks she came in and painted a large tree on the wall for us. Everyone that was at our meeting made a leaf and put it on our tree. We would like to encourage all blacksmiths to stop by and make a leaf for the tree.

Those that have made a leaf for our tree are Fred Oden, Tim Pearson, Robon Fitterling, Dan Davis, Dave Nickels, Paul Fleischman, Frank Ciccolella and Bob Riley.

Dan Davis worked on a powder horn that he promised a lad when he graduated high school. The lad is now in college. Dan are you running a little late?

We got to welcome back two old members this month. Welcome back Robon Fitterling and Dan Davis we were glad to have you back.

Bob Riley and Frank Ciccolella both made a letter opener but one of them left his letter opener at the shop. What we now have to do is find out which one is absent-minded. Sure was fun to watch Tim Pearson shut down the blowers and dig out the fire when he lost the leaf he was making in the fire good job Tim. After that Tim calmed down and made a letter opener.

Shop closed a little after 5 PM.

Hammered in Friendship

Fred Oden

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.

Our April hammer-in at Vernon began after breakfast, or donuts, or both and coffee. Kenny Dettmer took the initiative to build a fire and make very nice two-piece, hand forged, wall hanger. Bill Newman worked at forge welding a piece of cable and turning it into a usable knife. Bill Kendrick was gracious enough to demonstrate the box-tube joinery system for some who missed it at our last meeting. Bill Newman used a short length of round stock to make a one piece rose by first flattening the rod, doing some texturing, then rolling, and final touches. When the forge came open, Jim Shelby and Bill Newman practiced joining round stock with the square tubing. Many discussed future projects, goals, and just lies in general. We had a great turn-out and so much iron-in-the-hat that we almost ran out of tickets before we did "stuff". If I left anything out--sorry! I left early to try to go to Whitewater's meeting at Jimmy Dean's. I had a great day all the way around. Remember, conference in on us already. Be sure to get your conference dues in early as possible. For help contact Farrel Wells for registration. Remember that this our most important fund raiser of the year, so skimp where you can and bring your support. Although Rookie and Blacksmith of the year forms weren't sent, if you have suggestions, please inform a board member immediately to allow time for presentations. Good luck with all your projects. Paul Bray

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

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.

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 the home of Jimmy Dean. The address is 3104 Seeley Road Cedar Grove Indiana 47016. For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-0019.

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.

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.

The next blacksmith group meeting will be at the Illiana Steam and Power Show grounds near Rainsville, IN. If you need directions please call Ted at 765-491 2194. Bring your own tools, fuel, metal and food to share. Greg Searcy will cook one of his famous pork tenderloins for the main course and the rest of us will fill in with pitch in food.

The agenda for the day is to have a good time, fellowship and forging for fun. We can also concentrate on learning new techniques, making stuff for the upcoming IBA auction at the June Conference and make things for personal use.

Dan Michael will bring 50 pound bags of good quality Pocahontas coal for sale. Be sure to bring items for iron in the hat.

This past Monday, May 2nd, Rob Durrett, Peter Cooper, Dominick Andrisani, Brandon McCormick, KJ and Ted Stout participated in the annual Illiana Steam and Power History day for 4th graders. The blacksmith shop was one of nearly 18 stations demonstrating early trades or early American living conditions. We had a great time with about 320 kids participating from 9:00 until 2:30.

During clean-up one of our younger members said he is not interested in having kids in the near future. Another member was so excited about wearing his new 1836 outfit, he forgot his tools of the trade. Being compassionate blacksmiths the rest of us made sure he had tools to perform his work.

Ted

AUCTION: Rodger Gott Estate Auction May 21 Sullivan, IL

On Line posting at: <http://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/1109491.html>

BLACKSMITHING: 28 ANVILS -- 11 FORGES -- 19 POST VISES -- TOOLS

28 blacksmith anvils inc/Peter Wright 0 3 27, 156# Chicago S.D. Kimback, 172# Swedish, Juaniata, Vulcans & others; 11 forges in various sizes; Blowers; 19 post vises; Post drill; Swedge block; Hardy cone & tools;

AUCTION: Blacksmithing equipment, Machinists tools and Antiques. The estate of Charlie McKinney will be auctioned off June 4 in Bucyrus, MO. The sale bill can be viewed at www.sellersauctionservice.com Phone: 573-480-4400

Dear ABANA members and Affiliates,

I hope you have noticed the advertisement for my husband's (Charlie McKinney) blacksmith shop in the Anvil's Ring and Hammer's Blow. It is my request that you publish the information through your regional newsletter and membership. This is going to be a good auction as we collected tools for many years.

Local motels are 5 miles from the auction sight in Houston, MO and are inexpensive.

Thank you,

Marian McKinney

417-967-8390

Savannah Hammer

All,

The guy down in Savannah posted a video of the hammer that Andy and I helped him build.

Below is the link to it . It is a good video.

There were some finishing touches he had to do after we left Savannah , so I am very happy to see it running.

The video does a good job of showing the action of a well tuned lief spring hammer with a 1/3 hp motor.

Rusty is a excellent welder , so all I had to do was point and grunt and he welded it.

We made the crank, bottom rob bushing housing, belt tensioner, hammer slide, hammer dies and spring pivot here in Indiana and fabbed the rest down there.

If any of you get down to Savannah , Rusty would be glad to show you his shop.

He is not a traditional smith . He has a plasma cutter, a iron worker , a huge wire feed welder and such.

When he is not repairing Pedi Cabs for his other business, he is in his shop working with metal to make money. Interesting young man.

He was doing a job for a hotel, making hollow fish and incorporating them into a coffee table with glass sides that looked like a aquarium.

It was interesting being down there, Savannah is a very cool town. His shop is not in the best part of town and he locked us inside while we were working there.

Savannah has a Historical RR blacksmith shop with a large steam hammer that is a must see. Everywhere you look you will see historic smith work.

Many things for the ladies to do also. Great Sea Food, Tybe Island, many many thing to see there.

Timothy Metz

Link to video

http://www.youtube.com/user/hammeredsmith#p/a/u/2/VGuQXL85T_

(Editors note: See March 2011 Forge Fire for a photo of Tim and Jeff Park with their hammers)

IBA Conference Preview
Dates: June 3-5
Location: Tipton County Fairgrounds

Demonstrator
Peter Ross:



Spouses Program: Fiber Arts with Jan Ryan

Friday Demo: Engraving with Dick Fisher

Beginners Class on Saturday (Sunday if needed)

Register by May 23 to qualify for early registration prize drawing

IBA Conference Preview

**Demonstrator
Earnie Dorrill:**



**Demonstrator
Harry Williams:** Cold and hot working

**Demonstrator
Ray Sease:** Tools and fixtures for production sales.
Assisted by Kevin Walsh and Matt Jones.

Tailgate Sales are encouraged.

Contest Theme: Grille or wall hanging

Making the Patrick Pelgrom Tongs

Michael Wollowski

I made the tongs in figure 1 based on an article in the German metalworking magazine Hephaistos (<http://www.metall-aktiv.de/>). The tongs were developed by Patrick Pelgrom, a Belgian blacksmith who travels a lot by airplane. In order to reduce the weight of his luggage, he developed a pair of tongs that would be able to securely hold square, round and flat stock. This way, he was able to reduce the number of tongs he carries with him. His tongs were inspired by how one would hold a piece of (cold) metal with three fingers. The V-angled bottom takes on the functionality of the index and middle fingers and the rounded top that of the thumb. Notice the notch in the rounded top which is designed to give good grip.

While they are in essence v-bit tongs, they excel at holding flat and irregularly shaped stock. They also work well in situations where you need to hold two pieces to forge weld.



Figure 1: Three-quarter view and front view.

In this article, you will find construction notes on how to make these tongs. I find it easiest to rework old tongs as it saves time. While I like to use flat tongs as a donor, any tongs will do provided they have enough material to be reworked. I have made two pairs of tongs, the one described here started out as pick-up tongs in which the business end was approximately 1/2" square. They are going to be on the small side, to be used with 3/8" and 1/2" stock.

Start by cutting the rivet. Next, grind off any burrs and sharp edges. Now is also a good time to remove any excess materials so as to lighten the tongs. Figure 2 shows the result of this step.

In case your donor tongs are pick-up tongs, cut the business end so that you are left with about 2" of material. If you start out with flat tongs, you may skip this step. To make the V-bit bottom, draw the business end to about 1" wide, 1/8" thick and 2" long. If you start out with pick-up tongs, first spread them to about 1" wide and if they are still too thick, spread them out lengthwise. If you start out with fairly thick flat tongs, first draw the bit lengthwise so that it is equally thick. Then draw it out to a width of 1" and a thickness of about 1/8". Next cut the bit to length, about 2".

Now, it is time to form the V on a 45 degree V-groove of a swage block. It is important that the V-bit is slightly concave lengthwise, otherwise, the piece to be held by the tongs may wobble. Small imperfections can

be removed by grinding them away later on.



Figure 2: Tongs separated, sharp edges removed and trimmed for weight.

To make the rounded top, draw the business end to 1/2" wide, by 3/16" thick by about 2 1/4" long. Figure 3 shows the result of forging the top and bottom. Notice that the top is actually too long.



Figure 3: Forged business ends.

Next, clean-up the pieces with an angle grinder and cut the top to size and add a small V-notch. The length to which you cut the top determines the stock size you can hold comfortably. You may wish to experiment with that by dry fitting the tongs. The ones I made for this write-up open up to 5/8" from the inside of the top notch to the inside of the bottom V. This was measured with the ends of the reigns opened up to about 2 1/2". They hold 3/8" to 1/2" square and round stock as well as 1/2" flat stock.

The medium sized tongs that I made prior to writing this article open up to about 1 1/8", measured from inside of top notch to inside of bottom V, with the ends of the reigns opened up to 2 1/2". These tongs work well with 3/4" and 7/8" square and round stock. However, I primarily use them for knife making where I need to hold flat stock. They comfortably hold 3/4" to 1" flat stock. The medium sized tongs have the following dimensions. Bottom V: 2" long, 1 1/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Rounded top: 2 1/4" long, 5/8" wide, 1/4" thick. Notice that they have the same lengths as the smaller tongs. This is partly due to the different design of the donor tongs. Figure 4 shows the two pieces after clean-up.

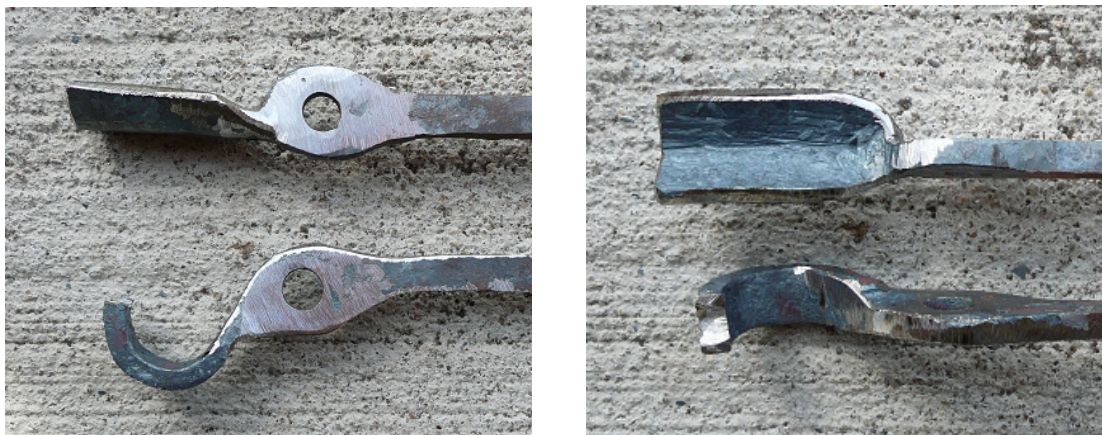


Figure 4: After clean-up.

When putting together the tongs, I like to insert a thin piece of cardboard between the pieces, such as from a cereal box. This prevents over tightening of the tongs when setting the rivet. I just burn off the cardboard piece when finished and tighten the tongs if necessary. Figure 5 shows the medium sized tongs holding the small sized ones.



Figure 5: Big brother holding little brother.



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

May 21 Hammer In Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

At the home of Jimmy Dean, 3104 Seeley Road Cedar Grove, IN 47016
For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-0019.

Directions: Coming from the west on I-74, exit 164. Turn L (north) onto Indiana state road 1 toward St. Leon about 6 miles turn R onto U.S. Hwy 52 4.1 mi. turn L onto Elkhorn Rd. 1.8 mi. turn R. onto Mueller Rd. 0.1 mi. road changes to Seeley road 0.8mi. arrive at 3104 Seeley road.

June 3-5 IBA Conference Tipton County Fairgrounds South of Tipton, IN on SR19