

May 2015

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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.

**May 16
2015**

**SUTTON TEROCK SHOP
FULTON COUNTY**

**June 5-7
2015**

**IBA CONFERENCE
TIPTON FAIRGROUNDS**

**July 18
2015**

TBD

**Aug 15
2015**

TBD



INDEX

PGS 3-6
SATELLITE NEWS

PG 7
QUICK SPRING
FULLER

PG 8
GET A HANDLE &
A 3'RD HAND

PG 9
FOLDING LEAD
SPOON

PG 10
MERIT BADGE

PG 11
IBA CONFERENCE
FLYER

Dates to Remember

**June 5-7
IBA Conference**

July 17-19
UMRBC
(Pontiac)

Editors Message

For those who have not heard, Carol Stout was diagnosed with breast cancer early this year. Ted reports that her treatment is progressing well. Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers.

This months hammer in will be hosted by the Sutton-Terock shop just north of Rochester on US-31. They will be installing new metal siding on their shop on May 9 and May 16. They are looking for volunteers to help with the project on both days. Please show up with a screw gun. Lunch will be provided by the Fulton County Historical Society. Note if the work is completed on May 9, then the forge will be lit on May 16. Campers are welcome to stay over Saturday night.

This will be the last newsletter before the Conference. It looks to be another banner year with great demonstrators and projects to show off. I know Jim Johnston will need some help. In addition to the usual set up and tear down work, Jim mentioned needing people to help with the Gallery and the Auction items. Many hands make light work. If you can help out, please contact Jim (765-513-0040).

2015 IBA Demonstrators



For more details on the IBA Conference, visit <http://indianablacksmithing.org/>.

In July, the IBA will partner several other groups to host the Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference in Pontiac, IL. Details and registration forms can be found at <http://www.umbc.org/Home.html>.

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

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 Hoopengartner (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

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

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

Dear Friends, thank you for all your concerns, well wishes and cards over the past month. Your friendship means so much during this time of our lives. Carol is doing well with periodic low white cell counts and slight fevers to put us on alert to hospitalization. We have been fortunate with only one serious event. She will continue with treatments into September.

The meeting for May 9th will again be held at the Illiana show grounds at 9:00 A.M. Be prepared to set up your forges and have a good time shaping hot metal. There may be at least 3 new guys attending the meeting so please help them become familiar with forging and safety. If you need more forges or anvils feel free to stop by and borrow what you need. Someone needs to stop by and get the iron in the hat tickets or get another roll.

Its not to early to make plans for the Illiana show July 17, 18, 19th and the June conference for the Indiana Blacksmiths. For the conference we need volunteers to step up to the plate and help with the gallery displays and the Saturday night auction. Unfortunately, Carol or I can not be of much help. We may try to make a short appearance on Saturday. Please see and discuss with Dominick how you can help with these events. Like all organizations it takes members to pitch in and make our groups most successful. Don't leave all the work to just a scant few, be part of it and pitch in.

Ted

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



It looks like everybody showed up but me. The garden bench project went with progress. Eric and I took it home last meeting. We did a little work on the ends, using Don Reitzels shop and help from Don and his son, prepping it for Aprils meeting. More work done. Hopefully we complete the ironwork and have a finish applied by the conference.

J.J., Charlie, Tom, Joe, Wesely, Eric, Dave Kline, and Garry worked at Aprils meeting. Some last minute engineering changes was made so the project might be finished.

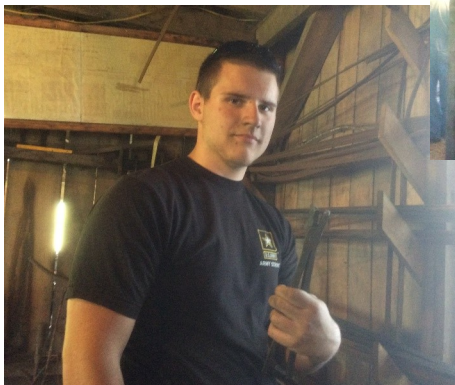
Reported by D. Wells. (pictures are from previous extra meeting we had April 11th.



Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths



The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on May 2, 2015. We had some wonderful weather. There was around 40 people in attendance. We had a delicious lunch with some great enchiladas made by Kathy Malone. Also thanks for all the tasty deserts. There was a lot of blacksmithing going on....



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

One-Armed Blacksmith's Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on May 2nd at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Present were Gordon Davis, Jim Jessee, Charlie Helton, John Mason, John McDaniel, Tim Metz, Matt Roberts, Charles Shaw, Joseph Striegel, Jason Striegel, and Brad Weaver.



In April, the OABS conducted a heritage crafts class for the Bartholomew County Historical Society. Organized by BCHS's event coordinator Adam Rediker, eight students spent a half day developing fundamental smithing skills by crafting S-hooks and decorative leaves. OABS members Jim Jessee, John McDaniel, and Tim Metz served as instructors.

The primary activity at the May 2nd meeting was the fabrication of Poz tongs for the 4-H smithy being constructed at the Bartholomew County 4-H fairgrounds. Charlie Helton and Brad Weaver guided members

through the initial tong-making steps. Work on the tongs will continue at the next monthly meeting. Plans are underway for staffing the annual mid-May two-day Spring-On-the-Farm event at which well over 1000 school students will have the chance to observe and interact with working smiths at the OABS smithy.



The meeting wrapped up with a great lunch of sausage chowder, cornbread, and brownies for dessert. A special thanks to the Striegels for sharing their recent find of metallic treasures and to Metz, McDaniel, and Shaw for the food.

John McDaniel - OABS Reporter

(Photos by J. McDaniel)

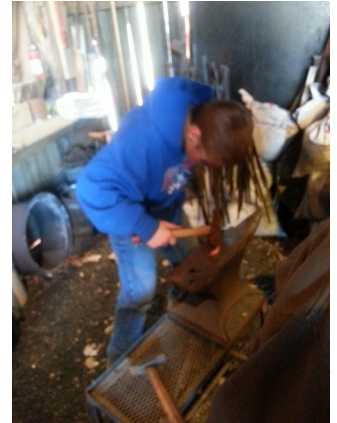
L to R: Charles Shaw, Charlie Helton, Brad Weaver, Tim Metz

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop



The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths had the pleasure of watching Charlie Helton and Brad Weaver make a pair of tongs, with the aid of a guillotine swedge, for our tool box. We had a number of smiths working on various projects of their own. We discussed various future goals and plans for the shop. We left the shop after it was cleaned and made ready for the upcoming Sassafras Festival. Items were donated



for the tool box and others volunteering to make or buy other items to try to make this conference a great experience!

Paul Bray

Rural Smiths of Mid-America

There was a good turn out at the May meeting at Gary Phillips shop in Albany. We got a little more work done on the garden bench project and we helped Jacob do a cross for a project for one of his Teacher. The potato bar was a big hit again this year. Thanks to everyone who came and helped.

We will have a 5th Saturday meet on May 30th at Ray Phelps shop in Greenwood. We will be putting the finishing touches on the garden bench. Please bring a flower, this is your last chance.

We will not have a meeting the first Saturday in June do to the IBA Conference be that weekend, but we will have a meeting and will be set up in the blacksmith shop at the Johnson County Tractor Show June 19-21. Please come down and help or just stop by and say hi.

Thank You

Ron Gill

Quick Projects – Spring Fuller

Gerald Franklin

The spring fuller, in various sizes, is a necessary tool for smiths who work alone. This version is simple and quick. It requires only one size of material since the hardy shank is forged as part of the tool.

I used 3/8" round for the example in the photographs. You will probably want to make a set of these in different sizes

Start by cutting about 29 or 30 inches of the desired sized round stock.

Take a heat and fold the piece one third the way from one end. Tighten this bend so it closes against itself but don't flatten the sides.

Turn the piece 90 degrees and take another bend about 2 1/2 inches from the first bend. Again, tighten the bend but don't over forge it. You will now have a "squarish" mass that will serve as the hardy shank when the piece is finished.

If this mass is too big for the hardy hole, forge it to size. For a mass that is close to size for the hardy hole, you can care-fully forge the sides with a good heat. If the mass is consid-erably bigger than the hardy hole, e.g. you have 1" plus of mass to fit into a 3/4" hardy hole, weld the mass so that it doesn't separate as you draw it down.

If the mass is too small to fit the hardy hole, spread the bends with a chisel until you get a good fit.

You should now have what amounts to a hardy shank with two vertical legs sticking up. Put the shank in the hardy hole (or clamp it in a vise) and bend the short leg 90 degrees. Then bend the long leg to 90 degrees and bring it back up in a curved shape to form the top leg of the fuller.

These bends should be made with the legs aligned with the axis of the anvil so that they will be aligned with each other when you finish.

You want the top leg to stick out about an inch beyond the bottom leg. This gives you something to pry against to open the tool with the hot material that is to be fullered.



Reprinted from Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

May 2015

8

*Pittsburgh Area Artist - Blacksmiths Association**April 2015*

Get a Handle on It!

Did you ever need a project you could forge in a quick amount of time? Allen Kress, from Alabama demonstrated at David Hutchison's, Annual Gitchner Memorial Hammer-In this January. He offered a wealth of information and projects. Allen demonstrated this project and it could be your next favorite! You hardly need any directions, it is almost self explanatory! Allen is also known for the dies he sells at SOFA!



Materials: 4X4X1/4" tubing, cut a thin "slice", approx. 1/4", heat and flatten, twist & shape!

Third Hand

Ted McNett

I saw this simple third hand in a Mark Aspery You Tube video and decided to make one. I was working on fireplace tool sets that were 28 inches long. This really made it simple to split the tab to attach the shovel pan as well as slit and drift the tool stand upright for the cross bar. I used 5/8" round because it fit my pritchel hole well but 1/2" would have worked as well. It should pivot easily in the pritchel hole. Since it pivots in the pritchel hole you can adjust the distance needed to support your work piece. The bar in the pritchel hole is about 4 inches long, the first leg is about 8 inches away from the anvil, and 12 inches along the anvil with a large scroll end to prevent anything from sliding off. The support bar is even with the face of the anvil.

8 HAMMER & TONG Mar/Apr 2015

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

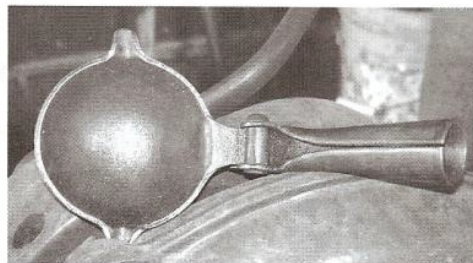


Reprinted from the Black-smith Guild of Central Maryland
Hammer & Tong
Mar/April 2015

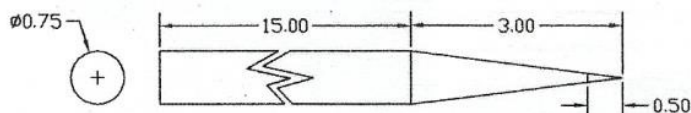
Folding a Lead Spoon

Project by Jim Stuart, a MABA member

Photo by Tim Lange



Before you can start on your lead spoon you will need to hammer out a mandrel. Start out with a piece of 3/4" diameter by 16" long bar. Hammer out a 3' long taper and then cut the first 1/2" off.



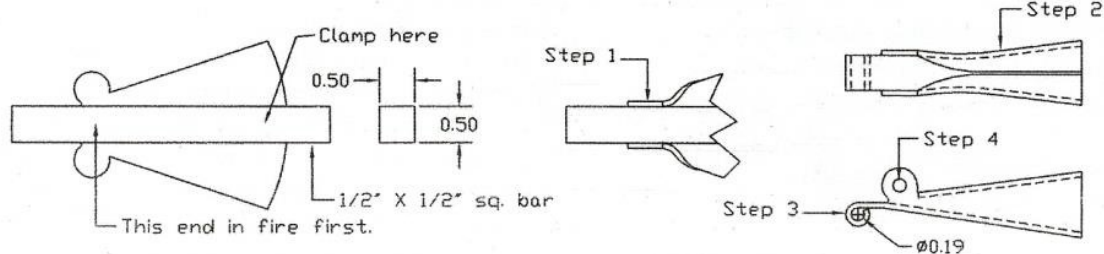
Step 1 : Down the center of your handle blank clamp a piece of 1/2" square bar. Place the end of the handle blank in to the fire, with the sq. bar on top. After the end takes on a red heat place in vice and hammer the two ears around the 1/2" square bar.

Step 2 : Place the handle blank back in to the fire.

Take on a good heat and then hammer the opposite end around the mandrel.

Step 3 : Take on a good heat and form the stop around a piece of 3/16" round bar.

Step 4 : Drill a 3/16" dia. hole through the center of both ears.

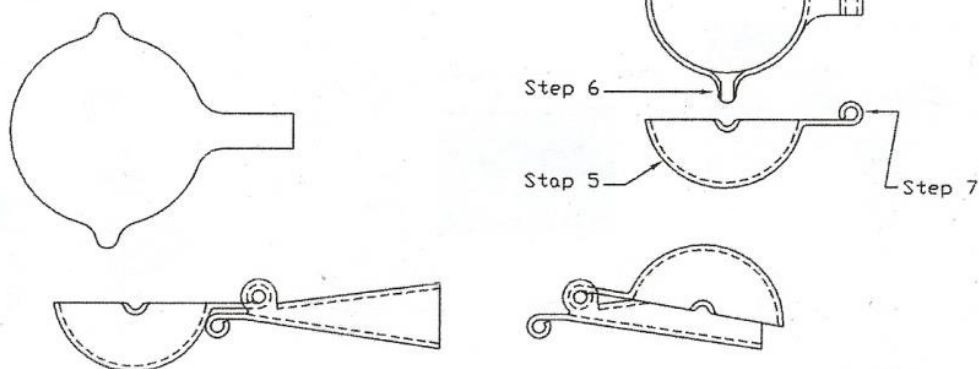


Step 5 : Take a good heat and hammer the bowl shape in to the spoon blank. This can be done with a swage block or a wood block with a bowl shaped impression and a ball peen hammer.

Step 6 : Take a good heat and form the pore spout in to the spoon blank. This can be done with a swage or a wood block with a small half round or a v shaped impression and a cross peen hammer.

Step 7 : Take a good heat and form the hinge around a piece of 3/16" round bar.

Now assemble using a 3/16" rivet.



Could You Earn the Boy Scout Blacksmithing Merit Badge of 1940?

by Boyd Holtan

Reprinted with permission from the Appalachian Blacksmiths Association Newsletter, June 2013

While looking through some of my books, I came across the Boy Scout handbook* that I used in 1942. On page 414, I found the requirements to earn the Boy Scout Blacksmithing Merit Badge. I wondered how many of our current smiths could earn that badge. The requirements were listed as follows.

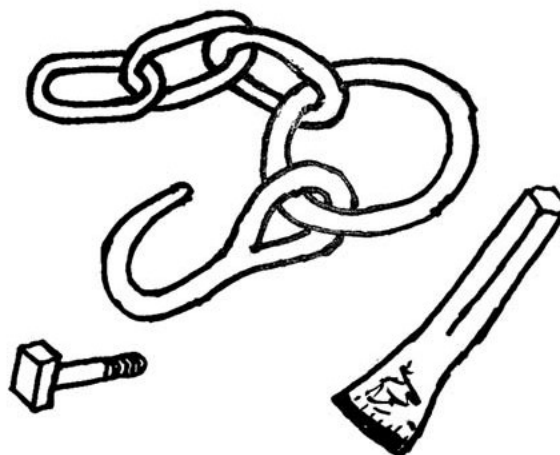
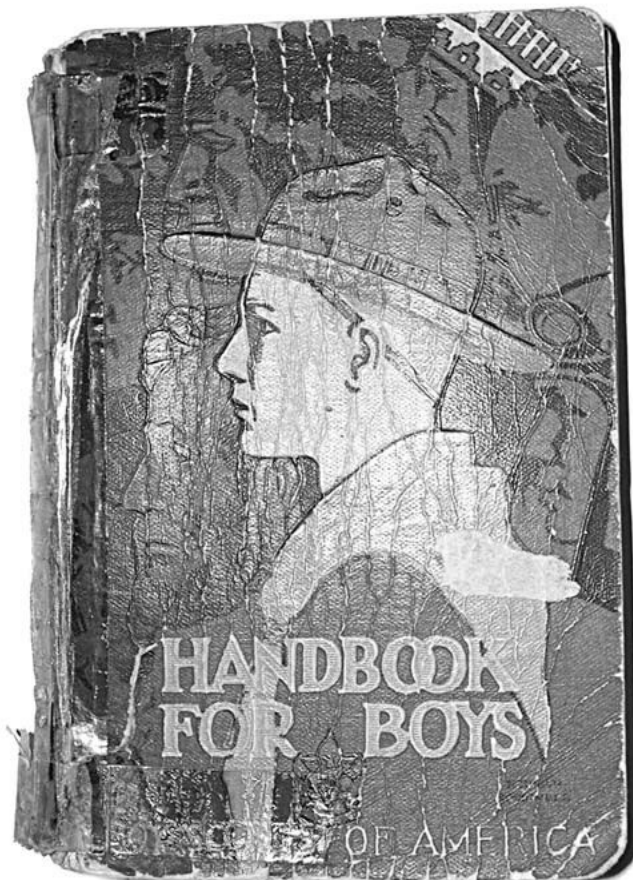
Blacksmithing. To obtain a Merit Badge for Blacksmithing, a Scout must:

1. Make an open link of 3/8" stock.
2. Forge a chain hook out of 3/4" x 1/2" soft steel or 3/4" round iron.
3. Make a bolt of 1/2" stock.
4. Bend and weld three links and form them into a chain, these links to be fastened to the hook of requirement 2 by a ring, and links and ring to be made out of 3/8" round iron.
5. Make a straight tap weld of 1/4" x 1" stock.
6. Make a cold chisel out of 5/8" hexagonal steel.
7. Temper a rock drill.
8. Explain how to harden and temper a cold chisel.

I didn't earn the badge, but I'd be pleased with a smith who can do these requirements today. Some of these skills have been incorporated into the current metal working merit badge. ☐

**Handbook for Boys*, Boy Scouts of America, Inc. 1910, 31st Printing 1939, pp. 414 - 415.

Drawings taken from *Handbook* notes.





Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

35'th Annual Conference

***TIPTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
TIPTON, INDIANA
June 5-7, 2015***

Featured Demonstrators

Michael Bendele & Nathan Robertson

With

**Dick Fisher, Phoebe Graham, Dennis Kutch
and Shane Stegmeir**

- ◇ Tailgaters welcome
- ◇ Exhibit Gallery

More Details at: www.indianablacksmithing.com



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

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First Class Mail

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sender

May 16 Hammer In

Sutton-Terock Shop

At the Fulton County Historical Society

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

Hammer In will complete shop siding project started on May 9. If work is complete the forge will be lit. Please bring a screw gun, if you have one.

Lunch provided by the Fulton County Historical Society

Overnight camping will be available.