

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Phillips '14

President:
14800 N SR 167 N
Albany, IN 47320
(765) 789-8316
bhere@netdirect.net

Bill Conyers '15

Vice President:
(574) 277-8729

Ken Dettmer '15

15721 S 250W
Columbus, IN 47201
(812) 342-4084

Dominick Andrisani '12

3608 Capilano Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906-8869
PH # (765)463-4975
andrisan@purdue.edu

Ted Stout '12

8525 W 700 S
West Point, IN 47992-9258
PH# (765) 572-2467
stout8525@tds.net

James Johnston '13

Education Chairman:
806 Twyckingham Lane
Kokomo, IN 46901-1885
(765) 452-8165
kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net

Keith Hicks '13

Secretary:
7096 Dorrel Rd.
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 914-6584
keithhicks2011@gmail.com

Michael Wollowski '14

211 Gardendale Rd.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
(812)232-2591
wollowsk@rose-hulman.edu

Librarian:

Larry Rosentrad
8715 E. 375 N
Churubusco, IN 46723-9501
260-693-3267
rosentrad@cs.com

Editor:

Bill Kendrick
1280 N 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 445-3009
bill.d.kendrick@cummins.com

Treasurer and membership secretary:

Farrel Wells
8235 E 499 S
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807
PH # (765) 768-6235
fwells@frontier.com

August 2011

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

**Aug 20
2011** **MAUMEE VALLEY BLACKSMITHS**

**Sep 17
2011** **GARY PHILLIPS
(BOARD MEETING, OPEN FORGE)**

**Oct 8
2011** **WABASH VALLEY BLACKSMITH
SHOP**

**Nov 19
2011** **ST JOE VALLEY FORGERS**

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Dates to Remember

Aug 5-21 State Fair

Sept 17
IBA Board Mtg

Sept 23-25
Quad State (SOFA)

Editors Message

For the past months I have been misspelling Ramseyer. Take a look at page 4 and see the beautiful sign at the “Doc” Ramseyer shop.

Hopefully the summer heat is breaking. We have a lot of blacksmithing events in the next few months and cooler temperatures will make the forging more enjoyable. As write this article the Indiana State Fair is underway. Next month we have SOFA. There are also multiple local festivals that we support with our “craft”.

For those who did not make it to UMRBC in Pontiac, you missed a really good time. The IBA featured demonstrator was Nathan Robertson. Nathan demonstrated making hammers and making tools to make hammers. On Friday evening Nathan worked with Lyle Wynn to produce a sledge hammer without power tools. Lyle took some serious blows with a 12 lb sledge while Nathan managed the metal. Brian Brazeal and Gordon Williams were the other feature demonstrators. Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the forging contest. Clifton Ralph and Gordon Williams teamed up for a very entertaining duo. Clifton provided the instruction while Gordon provided the muscle. I want to thank Paul Boggs who provided expert support on the sound equipment. For those of us who are hearing less and less, the sound equipment is critical.

A Special Message from Ray Sease:

Another successful conference has come and gone for yet another year and in my opinion if it were not for Paul Moffett, a very great man in the IBA who spent and gave a tremendous amount of time and his own money, there would not be an IBA today. I should have stated this when I handed out the Paul D Moffett Service Award to James JJ Johnston at the conference. It takes a lot of people to run a successful conference but JJ is one of the outstanding administrative personnel who made it possible. The Paul D Moffett Service Award is given for this part of the conference accomplishment.

Suggestion for the Paul D Moffett Service Award maybe made by contacting Ray Sease. This will be for the 2013 award as it looks like we have already selected the 2012 person for the Paul D Moffett Service Award. Thank you very much. Raymond L Sease

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: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270

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
 Shawn Gilley (812) 486-9113

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) 255-6209

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Billy Merritt (812) 338-2876
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Shawn Gilley(812) 486-9113

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruel (765) 513-5390

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop News

The Vernon Historical Society Blacksmiths opened with Bill Kendrick bringing the fire to a roar. It seem as though he has a piece of spring that broke from a power hammer. His idea was to make a skiver for leather for bookbinding. He soon discovered that the spring fragment had more stress fractures than was first thought. After some reworking, he obtained success in his endeavor. Irvin Jackson (using the back side station) began making two pieces for a wheel puller. After much effort , the two pieces came remarkably close to matching . Brian Simmons (a beginner) spent some time at the anvil learning to perfect his skills. The heat was taking its toll on everyone. Not much was done after the iron-in-the-hat. Thanks to those who helped to clean the shop. Shop repairs for a later date were discussed. Sorry if there were any omissions. Be sure to jump Paul Bray if there is. Everything that goes wrong is his fault!

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop News

July 9,2011

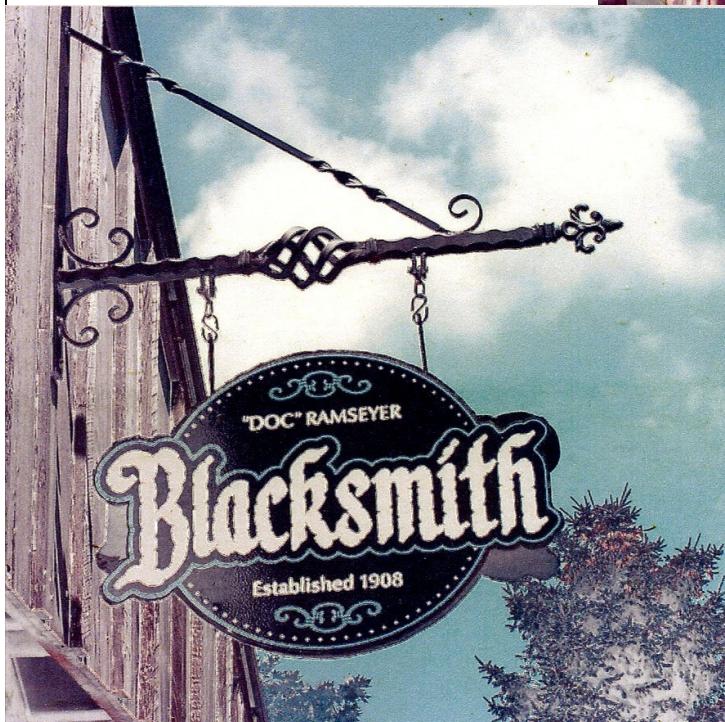
New member Wayne Hollenbaugh of Plymouth, In. made a S hook and most of a leaf Wayne said that he was looking forward to finishing the leaf next month. Last month Tim Pearson brought in a steel table that I cut into and mounted the two vices that we got from the IBA. Thank you IBA. Robin Fitterling made a motor mount for the power hammer we hope to have it up and running soon. Thank You Robin for your support on our project. Tim Pearson and Robin Fitterling put in our new 200 amp electric system then ask me to turn it on boy was that scary but it was ok. Thank You Tim and Robin. Shop closed at 4 PM.

Hammered in Friendship

Fred Oden

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop News

June 17 (Fathers Day =Poor show up) By 1:30 Jim Johnston had the fire lit and was making a poker for the forge. Jim and Brandon Graham checked out another forge in the smithy, by the time they were through it was working with very good air flow. I started working stock to make hardy tools for the anvils.



July 17: I had the fire going even though there were only three of us (? Too much heat 90+). Had plenty of chilled water. Work was continued with Jim Selby helping on the hardy tools. Now have 3 or 4 more. Steve Pyle from Jonesboro shared his concept of a fire pot. He worked with heat treating at Delphi. He observed the Satellite Group and picked up an application for IBA before leaving. Several members from the 1961 reunion stopped.

Sincerely, Charles Gruell

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild News

The blacksmiths of the Rocky Forge outdid themselves at the recent Illiana Antique Power Show near Rainsville. Our new building was filled to capacity with 3 setups outside. What a fantastic job these men did performing for our show visitors, I only wish those who missed it could have seen what went on. There were 19 Rocky Forge members represented and they were doing many facets of metal work including, blacksmithing, sheet metal, pioneer tools, Lewis and Clark, cooperage and teaching. Also, Jim Bolen had his rendezvous set up and Dan and Margie Michael set up their large teepee lodge. All together we had a wonderful, successful weekend experience.

Furthermore, Jim Bolen made a garden bench and sold tickets for several months then he and his wife sold tickets at the show. He brought in \$1046 which he donated toward our building fund, For that we are very grateful. Good job Jim.

The next meeting will be August 13th at the Rocky Forge building at Rainsville. Be sure to bring your blacksmithing tools, coal, metal and iron in the hat items. Also, pack a lunch for this one and we will go to the club house to eat our lunch.

Ted

Proposed Changes to IBA By-Laws

The board of directors of the IBA plans to make two motions at the September board meeting that change the By-Laws of the IBA. Members, **please notice that you get to vote on these two motions, but only if you are in attendance.** So please attend the September board meeting.

The first motion is designed to allow the board to approve meeting minutes by email. As meeting minutes need to be approved by the board before they can get published in the Forge Fire, it currently takes about three to four months for the membership to see them. By allowing electronic voting, we hope that meeting minutes can be published in the newsletter immediately following a board meeting. This should improve board to membership communication.

The second motion merely corrects an inconsistency when it comes to gender equal language that exists throughout the by-laws.

Below, you will see the current reading of the applicable portions of the by-laws as well as the proposed changes. If you would like a complete copy of the by-laws, you can find them online at: <http://indianablacksmithing.org/IBABylaws.pdf>. Alternatively, your forge-master should have a copy or you may ask Farrel Wells for a copy.

Current reading of ARTICLE VII, DIRECTORS, Section 5: Action by Board of Directors Without a Meeting: Unless otherwise restricted by the Certificate of Incorporation or the By-Laws, any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting if all the members of the Board or the committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing and the writings are filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors or committee, as the case may be.

Motion 1: That ARTICLE VII, DIRECTORS, Section 5 be amended to read as follows. Changes are in bold and underlined.

*Action by Board of Directors Without a Meeting: Unless otherwise restricted by the Certificate of Incorporation or the By-Laws, any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting if all the members of the Board or the committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing **or by electronic communication** and the writings **or electronic communications** are filed with the minutes of the proceedings of **the next meeting of the** Board of Directors or committee, as the case may be.*

Current reading of ARTICLE VII, DIRECTORS, Section 7: Absence: Should any member of the Board of Directors be absent unreasonably from three consecutive regular meetings of the Board or if his excuse should not be accepted by the members of the Board, his or her seat on the Board may be declared vacant, and the Board may fill the vacancy according to Section 2 of this Article.

Motion 2: That ARTICLE VII, DIRECTORS, Section 7 be amended to read as follows. Changes are in bold and underlined.

*Absence: Should any member of the Board of Directors be absent unreasonably from three consecutive regular meetings of the Board or if his or her excuse should not be accepted by the members of the Board, his **or her** seat on the Board may be declared vacant, and the Board may fill the vacancy according to Section 2 of this Article.*

The Hoop

By Clifton Ralph

I was a blacksmith at Youngstown Sheet and Tube in East Chicago, Indiana, in 1976. A 28-year old apprentice with a degree in psychology put his hand on my shoulder and asked me what a hoop was. I said, "What are you taking about?" He said "You were telling stories about KY the other day and you said something about a hoop." I did not know what I had been telling. I told him probably an ordinary old hoop. He said, "What's a hoop?" I said, "Have you never had a hoop?" He said, "No." I said "You poor bastard! I'll make you a hoop." I flattened a piece of 1090 ½" φ steel and made him a hoop about one foot in diameter and a wire hook to run with it. He ran it around the shop like a 10-year-old boy with a brand new train. Tony Buzzinca, a helper and a good man from Sicily, would take the hoop and run it in a small figure eight. I asked him if he ran in Italy. He said "What do you think, dummy?"

A few months later a woman I know told me that a blacksmith was wanted to demonstrate blacking at a steam show in Valpo. Howard Tearack, an apprentice working with me, said, "I think you ought to go." He said he thought the world needed to see

me. I told him he must think that I was some kind of freak. I told him that people pay to see bearded ladies and 3-legged men. "They don't pay to see normal people." I told him if he wanted to go, we would try it. He lived about 5 miles from the Porter County Fair Ground. I live about 25 miles from the fair ground. He told me to bring a hoop. He said that his wife, Lori, had never seen a hoop.

At the steam show they were unloading a steam tractor right in front of where we had the forge and anvil set up. Somehow the front axel broke on the steam tractor. They brought me a "ball in a box" type section of an axel and asked me if I could get the pin out of it. Then a whole lot of people wanted tent stakes. After a few hours I asked what they would do without me.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon the fire in the forge was out, and Howard said, "What are you going to do? I told him that I didn't know, but that I was not going to build another fire. They were lining up all the tractors and vehicles for a parade in front of the bleachers. I asked him if he wanted to get in the parade. He said, "With what?" I told him "With the

hoops.” He told me I was crazy. I told him, “I knew that! I asked you if you wanted to get in the parade.” My wife, Joan, and his wife, Lori, went and got us a number for the parade. We tied some straw on the end of a 3/8 rod so Howard could act like he was sweeping a path for me. I had a hunch what would happen, but my hunch was magnified 50 times when it happened. We got in line behind a tractor. The announcer said, “This is the blacksmith with his hoop.” When we got to the edge of the bleachers, we heard a “Ha, Ha, Ha” belly laugh. Then, just like someone turned the volume off, it got quiet. Then the whole bleachers stood up and started cheering and applauding.

Howard came back from the end of the parade jumping up and down like a kangaroo or a coffee pot perking. He said some old woman at the end wanted to buy the hoop. He said he did not understand why I was the only one who got a standing ovation. I told him to look at the bleachers. He said, “I am looking.” I said ‘Can’t you see?’ Howard had twenty-twenty vision, and I had thick glasses. I asked him how many 60 to 80-year old people were sitting up on the bleachers. He said, “A bunch.” I told him “If you look close you may see some with tears in their eyes. What do you think they played with when they were 10 years old?

Do you think Pepsi Cola and television have been here forever?” I told him the younger people started laughing and the older ones shut them up by standing up and cheering. That was the birth of the Clifton Ralph school bus. For the next 20 years we went to festivals and tractor shows. I would put 6 hoops and 6 handles on a rod and let the kids run with them. I would paint the hoops red, white and blue. I have had kids lined up 20 deep waiting to run the hoops. Some days they would wear the paint off them.

I sold over 300 hoops for \$8 each in the next 5 years. I told them “When I was a kid, the hoop was my school bus.”



Dominick Andrisani demonstrates hoop running at the Illiana Antique Power Show in Rainsville, IN, in July.

4-H in Kosciusko County

Blacksmithing doing very well in Kosciusko County 4-H about thirty kids showed their projects. The wooden trunk and hardware including the padlock was made by Austin Williams he also made a chain meal shirt that took him 76 hours to make. Austin has been with the program all 4 years that we have had it. About 30 kids displayed there work all of them are doing very good work in all 4 divisons.

We all need to be pushing 4-H blacksmithing in the county that we live in.

Hammered in Friendship

Fred Oden



Photos from Pontiac (Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference)



More Photos from Pontiac (Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference)



Trail of Courage Festival

Just a note to ask you to put a notice the Forge Fire inviting all your members to the Trail of Courage Living History Festival Sept. 17-18, 2011. Location: Fulton County Historical Society grounds, 4 miles north of Rochester on US 31 and Tippecanoe River.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.

Free admission for blacksmiths who help demonstrate in the Sutton – Terock blacksmith shop in the Living History Village beside the round barn at north end of the grounds. Also helping with blacksmithing in the festival area south of the river. There will be several blacksmiths set up with forges. Fred Oden has a wooden building for a blacksmith shop in Chippeway Village in the woods at south end of the grounds. Historic outfits must be worn by those working in the festival area.

Admission cost to those not demonstrating is \$6 adults, \$2 children age 6 to 11, free for children age 5 and under.

Pioneer foods are cooked over wood fires. Visitors can feast on buffalo burgers, chicken and noodles, barbecue, ham and beans, fish and chips cooked in big iron kettles, fry bread and Indian tacos, apple dumplings, corn on the cob, apple sausage, turkey legs, and more, including ice cream, one of George Washington's favorite treats. Local clubs cook and serve these historic foods to raise money for their projects. Beverly Jackson and family, Rochester, do the barbecue and sweet potato pie, and also exhibit a frontier African-American house. Mark Groppe family brings homemade fudge. Many people come to the festival just for the delicious food!

Shirley Willard, Fulton Co. Hist. Soc.

Special Hammer In October 29

A Hammer In will be held on October 29, 2011 to honor Ron Tincher for his many years in blacksmithing. A pitch-in lunch will be served so please bring a full covered dish. All are welcome friend or foe. Plan on having a good time and fellowship with good food.

The address is 16139 North 500 East, Elnora, Ind. From the map I was given you take highway 57 out of Elnora toward Newberry then you can take 1500 1600 South and the shop is located at the above address. Any questions please call Jerry Robinette at 1-812-692-5146. So mark your calendars now.

October Blacksmith Classes at Conner Prairie

There are four classes that I think would be of especial interest to the blacksmithing group. There is a basic blacksmithing class on Oct. 8 & 9 that I will be teaching. This is a great intro class, or also would be good for a beginning smith wanting to hone skills. There is also a tinsmithing class with Mike Runyon from Sauder Village in Ohio. This promises to be a great class. It is on Oct. 8 & 9 also. There are also two knife making classes. I will be teaching how to make a folding knife and Melvin Lytton will be teaching a traditional forged knife class. These are on Oct. 12-14. Additional information for these and other classes are on our website. www.connerprairie.org.

Nathan Allen

Manager of Historic Trades and Maintenance

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Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

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

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

First Class Mail

August 20 Hammer In Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Maumee Valley Antique
Steam & Gas Association

1720 South Webster Road, New Haven, IN



September 17 Hammer In & Board Meeting Gary Phillip's Shop

14800N State Road 167, Albany, IN 47320

(From Muncie take SR67 North to SR167 North. Shop
is about 3/4 mile North on SR167)

