

February 2016

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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.

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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.

**Feb 20
2016**

**KEN DETTMERS SHOP
COLUMBUS, IN**

**Mar 19
2016**

**IBA BUSINESS MEETING
KELLY FARMS**

**Apr 16
2016**

TBD

**May 21
2016**

TBD



Editors Message

Well it's getting close to the annual business meeting time. The meeting will be held next month at Kelly Farms (Doc Ramseyer) just south of Kokomo on US31. As usual we have two board of director positions set to expire. I understand that both Ted Stout and Dominick Andrisani have decided not to seek reelection. Jeff Reinhardt has agreed to run, but he is the only candidate. Check around and see if you have someone willing to serve. The ballot on page 9 does have write in spots, or you may be able nominate someone at the business meeting. Jeff, I think you are lock!

I want to thank Ted and Dominick for the contributions they have made to the IBA. We are a better, stronger organization for their efforts. I also know they will continue to be active in the IBA.

We had an outstanding hammer in last month. The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths hosted the event. Charlie Helton and Brad Weaver were the featured demonstrators. They covered a variety of slitting, punching, drifting and joining techniques that could be incorporated into the IBA conference project. In addition, Brad ran through a demonstration of the POZ tongs he has become adept at making. Later in the day a group fired up a second forge and worked several large Damascus billets on the 200lb Bradley helve hammer. I do not understand it, but the massive helve hammers just fascinate me. It was quite a sight for me.

Our February hammer in will be held in Kenny Dettmer's new shop. Last year his shop was destroyed by fire. He has the new building up and forge ready to go. The building is insulated and has good heat, so do not let cold weather keep you away. I have not heard of any specific demonstrations. If you have a project to forge, bring it with you. Ken's power hammer is down, as the babbitt all melted out in the fire. It will be a good day to work on hammer control.

Up above, I mentioned the contributions that Ted and Dominick have made to the IBA. One big contribution from Dominick was creating a group Facebook page for the IBA. The page address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IndianaBlacksmithingAssociation/>

At last count there were 377 members to the page. I confess that I am just beginning to use Facebook, but I am checking the IBA page regularly. John Bennett and Dave Wells have posted several different items in the last week. The recent subjects include tools (vise stands, tongs, forging dies), techniques (convenience bends, handle welds) and artistic items (vulture statues, heart hooks). If you have not checked it out, or if you not been there recently, it is worth your while to take a look.

For those of us who enjoyed the "Forged in Fire" shows last year, History Channel will be airing season #2 episodes starting February 16.

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Dates to Remember

February 20
IBA Hammer In
Ken Dettmer's

March 19
IBA Business
Meeting

June 3-5
IBA Conference

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: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311
 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday
 Contact: Bill Newman (317) 690-2455

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

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Jennings County Historical Society blacksmiths met at the forge of Paul Bray, and hopefully, know one went away hungry. Charlie Helton gave the financial report for the year ending 2015. The project for the IBA conference, a wall hanging, was discussed and after many suggestions, agreement was made to do this as a team with individuals making different items at home and bringing them to the April meeting for assembly. Charlie and Bill Kendrick demonstrated joinery with round stock and square tubing. Charlie helped Alex to make a hatchet from a spike, upsetting and flaring the blade, then slitting and forming the eye. Ray Dean made a fixture to pull fence posts that attaches to a "farm jack". We elected to send a monetary contribution in lieu of flowers to the church for Ron Dunbar and his wife who also passed within two months. Ron has made substantial contributions to the Vernon blacksmith shop. He will be missed by many.

The next meeting will be at Bill Kendrick's forge, 1280 N 900 W, Seymour In. He has also volunteered to furnish the food for breakfast and dinner. Hope to see you there.

Notes taken by Diana Dean and edited by Paul Bray. Don't forget iron -in-the-hat!

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Meteorite Mashers met at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs this month. While the day started out chilly it soon warmed enough to allow the shop doors to stand open. A group from the Odin area came to share in the good times. Steve King demonstrated tong making which was avidly watched by most. Isaiah spent much of the morning making bottle cap lifters. Jerry Robinette traded Jeff a nice electric motor for a wet belt sander, and a forge exhaust stack also went on the trailer that should appear at the Bumkum Valley shop soon. Jeff and Dave Kunkler left early to attend the gallery opening of their show at the Southern Indiana Arts Council in New Albany. Butch Sparks is also in the show but was out of town. Our new Forge Master Mike Mills stayed and closed the shop when all were done. The next meeting will be in February at Jason and Andrea Hardin's shop on Mill Creek road near Salem.

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths held a meeting on February 6th, 2016. There were about 30 people in attendance. Kathy made chilli.. Pam had made chicken and dumplings ...thanks to everyone who brought dishes.



We thank Randall for making this to raffle off. We are always happy to see Blair, his daughter at the meetings.



We thank everyone that showed up and shared with us.. See u next month.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

One-Armed Blacksmith's Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on February 6th at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Present were Paul Bray, Charlie Helton, Jim Jessee, Ken Dettmer, Tonya McLoed, Julie Metz, Tim Metz, John McDaniel, Charles Shaw, and Brad Weaver.



L-R: Charlie and Brad pounding out multiple pairs of very nice Poz tongs.

Charlie Helton and Brad Weaver continued their work forging Poz tongs for the local 4H blacksmith club.

Jim Jessee and Tim Metz recycled a large open-end wrench into a handy bick for one of the smithy's anvils.

Following the morning's forge work, everyone took a noon meal break to enjoy the Metz's pulled pork along with several supporting dishes provided by other members.

Iron-in-the-Hat provided both entertainment and needed funds. The March 2016 meeting will not be held because many members will be unable to attend.

John McDaniel

OABS Reporter



Iron-in-the-Hat run amok or protection again rays from space? You'll have to ask Ken.



L-R: Ken supervises while Jim strikes and Tim holds during forging of a bick for one of the OABS anvils.

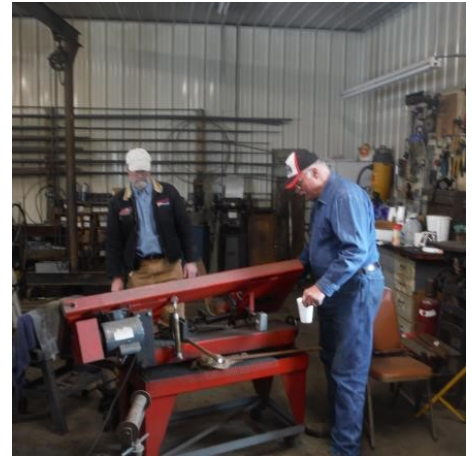
IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



9 members present at January's meeting. Eric and I stopped by Joes Salvage. It was warm inside but things frozen to the ground outside. -- -----We discussed what we might make for the IBA conference project. Decisions to be made at next meeting. We finally held a iron-in-hat and did some forging.

Reported by Dave Wells



This article reprinted from Appalachian Blacksmiths Association Winter 2016 newsletter

A Key to Your Heart!...By John Steel



John Steel, ABA Member since 1986



heat and roll end "in" with pliers with 1/2" pipe welded on one jaw of pliers, or scroll by hand (good practice and patience)! You can further customize pliers by grinding the other jaw to a point so it will grip the tiny end of the taper. The key ring will develop a hand worn patina with use.

This key ring is one of the most comfortable designs for your everyday use. It is made from 1/4" round mild steel about 5" long. Draw out each end about 3/4" to a point. End up with a total of 6 1/2". Notch in the center, heat and fold in half with notch "in". Heat and flatten 3/4" at folded area. Drill a 5/32" hole in flattened end for key ring. Put flat end in vise about 1/2", heat and spread tapers to 90°.



Ballot
IBA Board of Directors
Vote for 2 Only

Jeff Reinhardt _____

Write in. _____
(Must be willing to serve)

Write in. _____
(Must be willing to serve)

Send ballot to:

Steve King
1155 S. Paoli Unionville Rd
Paoli, IN 47454

Mark the word 'Ballot' on envelope so it will not be opened until the business meeting in March.

Ballots may be cast at the business meeting.

Mailed ballots must be received by March 16th.

Ballot
Gary Phillips
14800 N SR 167 N
Albany, IN 47320

Steve King
1155 S. Paoli Unionville Rd
Paoli, IN 47454

January IBA Hammer In hosted by Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths held a Hammer in on January 16, 2016. We had around 50 in attendance. Charlie Helton was spell binding. Showed us so many things about punches, tools, We also watched Brad Weaver make tongs. It was truly amazing. He makes it look so easy.

We had a great lunch. The beans were wonderful. The iron in the hat went well . We all had a fun time.



Blinded By the Light Be Careful How You Look

Bob Dixon Gumm

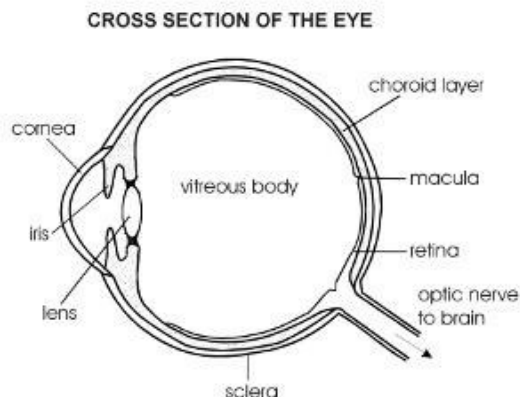
Article reprinted from February 2016
Newsletter of The Blacksmiths' Guild
of the Potomac, Inc.

Shortly before the holidays, I was working on a welding project. The object that I was MIG welding had many prongs sticking out from it. While welding another prong, I noticed what appeared to be a weak weld. Lifting up my helmet, I poked my head in for a closer examination. What I failed to do was to move the MIG gun away from the project and rest it in the table holder. The outcome is easy to imagine. The gun was near my face, and as I got even closer to the weak spot, I accidentally pushed the trigger against one of the prongs. This was followed by a bright flash, a very warm feeling against my eyes, and a wait of about five minutes before I could resume welding. Once the bright spot in my eyes had gone away, I thought everything was fine. I worked for another hour, ate a meal, and sat in front of the television to see, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'.

It was soon after when I felt that I had a small grain of sand in my left eye. I lifted my eyelid back, hoping that tearing would remove the grain. My eyes cried a river, but the irritant only seemed to grow larger and the pain more intense. It wasn't long before my right eye began to express its outrage over my failure to secure the MIG gun. Convinced that I had a flash burn, I went to the urgent care clinic. They confirmed this, and provided antibiotic ointment and an ophthalmologist appointment. After about a week, my eye felt as good as new. I was lucky.

Most of us have heard of flash burn. But what exactly is it? Flash burn can be thought of as sunburn in the eye. If you imagine yourself lying on a beach, you know that there are greater things to worry about than being chomped on by a shark. Sunglasses, sunblock, that bird doo looking stuff that lifeguards wear on their nose, and an umbrella all point to the greatest danger: sunlight. Sunlight is ultraviolet (UV) light, and UV risk comes to us in many different ways: sunlamps; nearby lightning flash; halogen lamps; reflection of sunlight off water and snow; and most important for us – any type of welding light, be it gas, SMAW, MIG, TIG, and forge. The latter causes are reason why the condition is known as 'welder's flash' or 'arc eye'.

A flash burn is a (painful) inflammation of the cornea. It produces a sensation similar to that of a corneal abrasion. But flash burn generally affects both eyes, though one eye usually is more irritated, whereas corneal abrasion takes usually occurs in one eye. The cornea is the clear tissue that covers the front of the eye. For our purposes, think of the cornea as the glass lens on the front of a camera. The cornea covers the iris (the colored part of the eye), focuses light on the retina, and protects deeper structures of the eye by acting like a windshield. Although the cornea is clear, it consists of cells that are similar to those in the skin. If you've ever had sunburn that resulted in blistered or peeling skin, then imagine the damage that UV light can do to your eyes.



Jeepers, Creepers, where'd you get that peeper?
Online, where else?



Bad news.
It hurts worse than it looks.

What do you do when you receive a flash burn? The first step is to make arrangements to get to a doctor or care center. You should never attempt to drive yourself there. In the interim, flushing your eyes with water provides some pain relief. Once your eyes have been attended to by a doctor, you must be vigilant about applying prescribed antibiotic drops or ointment to your eyes. You may also wish to use OTC artificial tears, anti-inflammatory, and pain medications. Do not wear contact lenses and do not apply topical anesthetics. They will only prolong the condition. It is important to wear sunglasses whenever you're outside, and if the doctor determines that you need to wear a patch, ask for one of the black, pirate looking ones. They're rather dashing.

If you've followed doctor's orders carefully and have refrained from the activity that caused your flash burn, you can expect the cornea to repair itself within a few days, and all irritation or discomfort to end within a week. Typically, flash burn usually heals without leaving a scar. More severe cases may take longer. Like the time in my Navy days when our ship was in the shipyard. A young seaman who was having second thoughts about his enlistment was assigned as fire watch to a welding crew. While maintaining vigilance, it occurred to him that flash burn might just be his ticket out of the Navy. And so he stared at welding arcs. Instead of getting a pirate looking patch, as one expects for a sailor, the corpsmen taped big wads of cotton and gauze on top of his eyes. So rather than Blackbeard or Barnacle Bill, the poor guy looked like a human fly. Whenever he was led past shipmates who were standing around with nothing much to do, they would yell, "Help me!", and then bust out laughing. Far be it from the Navy to provide no opportunity for fun. Several of his bunkmates waited through the night, and when they were certain he was asleep, took magic markers and drew owl eyes on his bandages. The crew thought it was a hoot!

For blacksmiths and welders, we know that working with hot metal is fraught with danger. We all fear the black hot burn that leaves an impression on our fingers of the thing we just picked up. Skin, like eyes, is an organ, but an organ with the capacity to replenish itself and go on working as if nothing happened. What's a little scar among blacksmiths, right? It may get you bragging rights or a ! cup of coffee. The eye, unfortunately, is not so capable. A severe flash burn can produce scarring, and this can obstruct vision to some degree. If the flash burn is not treated, an infection may start. This is as serious a matter as getting a shard or miniscule piece of metal stuck in your eye. If infection sets in and goes untreated, the result may be partial vision loss or a blind eye.

Remember!

- *Arc rays can injure eyes and burn skin*
- *The welding arc is brighter than the sun*
- *Precaution must be taken to protect your eyes and skin from UV radiation*
- *Wear correct eye and body protection*





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

Farrel Wells *Membership Secretary*
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Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested
If Undeliverable return to
sender

Kenny Dettmer's Shop

February 20

15721 S 250W Columbus, IN

From the North: take I 65 S to Ogilville / Walesboro (exit 64) turn. right. Go to the 1st cross-roads (300 W). Turn left. Approx 1 mile to the "T". Turn left (600s). Go to 250W. Approx. 4 miles to a brick house on your left.

From the South: I 65N to Jonesville exit 55 turn. right, go to road 950 (in Jonesville). Turn left. Go to 250W turn. right. Kenny's house is approx 1/2 mile on your right .

Please bring a dish to share.

March 19 Annual Business Meeting

Kelly Farms / Doc Ramseyer

6032 W 550 N Sharpsville, IN 46060

Located just west of US-31. Approximately 6 miles north of SR-28 (Tipton) or 3 miles south of SR-26 (Kokomo).

Please bring a dish to share