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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 **John Wendel** (812) 343-1969 if you are willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

<b>Feb 20 2010</b>	<b>KEN DETTMER'S SHOP COLUMBUS</b>
<b>Mar 20 2010</b>	<b>IBA BUSINESS MEETING WHITEWATER VALLEY</b>
<b>Apr 17 2010</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Jun 25-27</b>	<b>IBA CONFERENCE</b>



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## **Dates to Remember**

Feb 13  
Rocky Forge  
meeting at Harley  
Chandlers carriage  
shop (see pg 7)

Mar 13 Jennings  
County metal  
spinning and tool  
forging (see pg 5)

Mar 20  
IBA Business  
Meeting at White-  
water Valley

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have a horse race this year. Some years we have to persuade enough people to run for the board to fill the open board positions. This year we have three candidates; Michael Wollowski, Bill Conyers and Gary Phillips (disclaimer: the last one is me). I think each candidate brings skills and abilities to the table that will benefit the IBA.

I can and will make a prediction about who will win this election.

### ***THE WINNER IS THE IBA!***

That's right, whoever the two people with the most votes are the IBA will be well served by them and therefore the winner. The only way I can see the IBA losing is if the membership doesn't vote. So fill out your ballot and mail it to John Wendell, our election chairperson.

John is currently on the board. Due to work schedule he has decided not to seek re-election. I want to say "thank you John for your service". If you see John tell him thanks.

The brochures for our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, June 25-27, 2010, in Tipton, Indiana, will be out soon. Our demonstrators are Clifton Ralph, Jack Brubaker, Charlie Helton and John Zile. We will have a 200# Chambersburg steam hammer for Clifton to use in his demonstration. We have 2 programs for the spouses this year. Come to Tipton June 25-27 and celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Our conference chairperson, Jim "JJ" Johnston is already at work on the 2011 conference. Stay tuned for further details.

Gary Phillips, IBA President

## Editors Message

We have a lot material in this months edition. I have received more material than I can fit in one edition. Keep it coming!

On page 9 you will find the ballot for the upcoming board of directors election. I have included brief bios of the three candidates on the reverse side. Ballots may be mailed to John Wendel or brought to the business meeting at Whitewater Valley Forgers on March 20.

Jeff Reinhardt has authored several Health & Safety articles. The first article appears on Page 11. I am hoping we can continue to share safety advice in every future edition.

Visit the IBA website at: [www.indianablacksmithing.org](http://www.indianablacksmithing.org)

## PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

The meeting at **John Zile's** was attended by about a dozen people. **Joe Goebel** was the demonstrator for the morning. He made a flower door stop. He made a basket handle which could be used for lots of things. He made a long tapered poker with a leaf handle. He showed a soap stone marker attached to a retractable key chain holder.

The group then moved to the Iron Kettle restaurant in Sulfur Springs for lunch. After lunch several people worked at the forge until about 4 o'clock. Thanks to **David Wells** and **Jim McClure** for the report. Thanks to **Joe** for the demo.

\*\*\*\*

Have you ever bought Eggs Benedict at McDonalds? The man who developed the process of cooking them had the first cooking ring to control their shape and size made by a blacksmith in California. Now they cook them by the half dozen.

\*\*\*\*

Over the weekend of January 9<sup>th</sup>, Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America, Inc. (ABANA) president **Rome Hutchings** meet with ABANA 2010 Conference co-chairs **Lance Davis** and **David Hutchison** to zero in on a number of details of the 2010 ABANA Conference coming this June 2 thru 5<sup>th</sup> at the Agricenter International located at the far east side of Memphis (outside the interstate loop of I-240). The site is closer to Germantown than Memphis.

The conference registration form is available at the ABANA web site [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org) and for the thrifty be aware that the cost will increase for registering after March 31. For those without web access call the ABANA office at 1-703-680-1632 for a copy.

Camping and motor home sites are part of the facility for a fee, but motels are farther away. A list of motels is available from the linked Agricenter International web site. It will help to have access to a Memphis area map when you make your reservations at a motel.

ABANA is again organizing a ring project and detailed instructions are available on the ABANA web site. It is their hope that individuals and affiliates will contribute to this project. Some beautiful rings have been designed and made for previous ring projects and there is always some anticipation as to how this work will turn out.

The Agricenter International has a large and interesting building. It is used for a variety of public events much as your local large buildings might be. Flower shows, gift shows, and so on are part of uses for the building. It is set at the eastern end of a large tract of land. Ducks Unlimited also has a home on the grounds.

March 31 and June 2 may seem like some time away, but it will be here sooner than you think. The days drive to Memphis will give plenty of time for exchanging information with your fellow travelers.

\*\*\*\*

Please also mark you calendar for IBA's June conference June 25-26-27 at Tipton. **James Johnston** has been putting in a lot of time on arranging demonstrators – and we have some outstanding ones – and getting the conference organized. A lot of work goes into running a smooth conference and we should all thank him for his efforts. Please note the later dates made necessary by the ABANA conference dates. See you there!

## IBA Satellite News

### 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

### One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Johnson County

Meetings of the One Armed Blacksmith's Shop are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month starting at 9am. For more information contact Tim Metz at (812)447-2606 or tim.metz@cummins.com.

Damascus knife made from roller chain by Tim Metz.



**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.

January 9,2010

Shop opened at 9am

Chastity Musselman forged Leaves with Fred Oden Instructing

Dan Niedig Made a paper towel rack

Tim Pearson helped Fred Oden in instructing

Bill Martin drew up plans for a mounting bracket to mount the motor to the power hammer he also has a motor for it

Shop closed at 1pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Dennis (Bear) Todd

Secretary/Reporter

**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 Blacksmiths met 01/09/10 at the forge of Paul Bray in Seymour. The group wishes to thank Judy, Natalie and Paul for putting on a feed for everyone! After breakfast, Keven Welsh and Ray Sease fired up the forge and made leafs on opposite ends of a 1/2" sq. rod. Charlie Helton made a leaf and Kenny Dettmer added a pigtail twist to it. Charlie then made a pigtail twist on a rod. Tim Metz made a Damascas blank from a piece of roller-chain and formed it into a rough knife blade. Ray Sease tried a new etching solution which is yet to be worked out as it was inconclusive. After dinner, iron-in-the-hat was held and proceeds were picked up by Brinks Armored Car, as usual. We had 17 who attended and each gained about two pounds. Any leaving hungry was no fault but theirs. The group then worked on a design for the conference project. Jerry Williams first to volunteer material, followed by others. Charlie Helton then gave a year-to-date financial report which was VERY positive.

Don't forget--- February 's meeting will be at the forge of John Cummins in Moores Hill. You may bring drinks or what-have-you. Food will be available. Information provided by Paul Bray and Ray Sease. Here's hoping that 2010 is as prosperous as 2009. We're off to a great start!!

March meeting: Metal Spinning and Tool Forging at Jerry Williams shop, 8896 W. Baseline Rd, Holton, IN  
 Demonstrator: Dale Miner, Ohio Valley Woodturner will demonstrate metal spinning on a wood lathe. IBA blacksmiths will demonstrate tool forging, annealing, hardening.  
 Pitch in lunch—bring a dish to share.  
 Directions: US50 to Ripley County road 950W, turn north (look for IBA anvil sign), 1/4 mile to Yield sign at Base Rd, turn right, 1st house on the left. 1st drive to barn. If lost call 812-689-6545.

**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 Max Hoopengartner at (812) 249-8303 or Rick Helton at (812) 894-3172

We met at our Winter home, Max Hoopengartner's shop. About twelve people came to the meeting and as always, a lot of pleasant conversation took place. People worked on different kinds of projects, Don Reitzel made several braided twists, DJ Blanton made a rose, John Steppe worked on a spring mechanism and Michael Wollowski made a strap for a tool box. Lunch featured a rather delicious black bean soup brought by Jim Doyle.

We held an iron-in-the-hat, had a business meeting and held elections. The election results are as follows: Max Hoopengartner was reelected forgemaster and Jim Doyle was reelected treasurer. Doug Moreland is taking over the duties of our librarian and Michael Wollowski will continue to write up the meeting reports. We thank all of them, as well as our former librarian, Rick Helton for the time they volunteer to ensure a smooth running of this satellite group. During the business meeting, member's attention was raised to the February 13th trip to Harley Chandler, organized by Ted Stout. Ride and room sharing for the ABANA Conference in early June was announced. Check the January Forge Fire for details. Finally, we discussed plans to use the Fowler Park shop to teach blacksmithing classes. Among others, we discussed insurance matters.

Members, please note that the February meeting will be held at Max's shop. Please be aware of the pancake breakfast in Fowler Park on February 20 and 21 from 8-11 am. The March meeting will be held at Dennis Kutch's shop where we will practice tin-smithing. We will meet for breakfast at 8:00am at the Front Porch Restaurant in Worthington. It is located at 118 Canal St., which is on US 231.

**Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths**

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.

The weather was a bit chilly, but the fire was roaring for our January meeting.

After a big hot meal and lots of coffee we had a meeting of the minds to finalize our plans for the group project.

Although the details are classified TOP SECRET, I can divulge one detail: We are making a table.

Later, we again journeyed down the path on the quest for "The Perfect Nail."

We came to the conclusion that The Perfect Nail Making Technique is determined by the size and type of stock used, the design of the nail-header, planetary alignments, and, particularly, the skill of the person doing the forging. The quote from Vince Lombardi comes to mind: "Perfect practice makes perfect."

Enough said.

We now have a large display of "nails." It appears more to be a modern sculpture.

Maybe it IS "Art" and should be in the museum...

or maybe the scrap yard...

**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.

**February Meeting on Carriage Making (2/13/2010)**

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild will be in the carriage making shop of Harley Chandler in Petersburg (or Burlington), Kentucky. We will leave Ted Stout's shop at 6:00 A.M. for a three-hour road trip to Chandler's Coach Shop. This is a chance to go back in time a 100 years and see how fancy carriages (like the Queen of England uses) were built. He makes everything in his shop, all the metal parts are forged by hand, the wood is cut, cured and sawed for the parts. They make the wheels from scratch and do all the lacquering, striping, etc.

Don't miss this one! Harley and his brother are getting up in the years so this shop will not be open many more years. You may never get this opportunity again!

So far we are planning to drive in two cars. If we need more vehicles we could use a volunteer. If you have a GPS and want to program the travel route his address is:

Harley Chandler, 4766 Woolper Road, Petersburg (or Burlington), Kentucky 41080

We are planning to take I-74 to the Cincinnati bypass (I-275 south-west). On the southwest side of the bypass is a turnoff that would take us to Harley's shop. Travel time is estimated at 3.5 hours.

We should arrive around 9:30 AM for a time to get acquainted, have coffee and doughnuts. By 10:00 we will be on tour or see demonstrations. Bring your brown bag lunch so that we can spend the most time at his site.

We also plan to have iron-in-the-hat with the proceeds going to Harley for his effort, so be sure to bring items for that drawing.

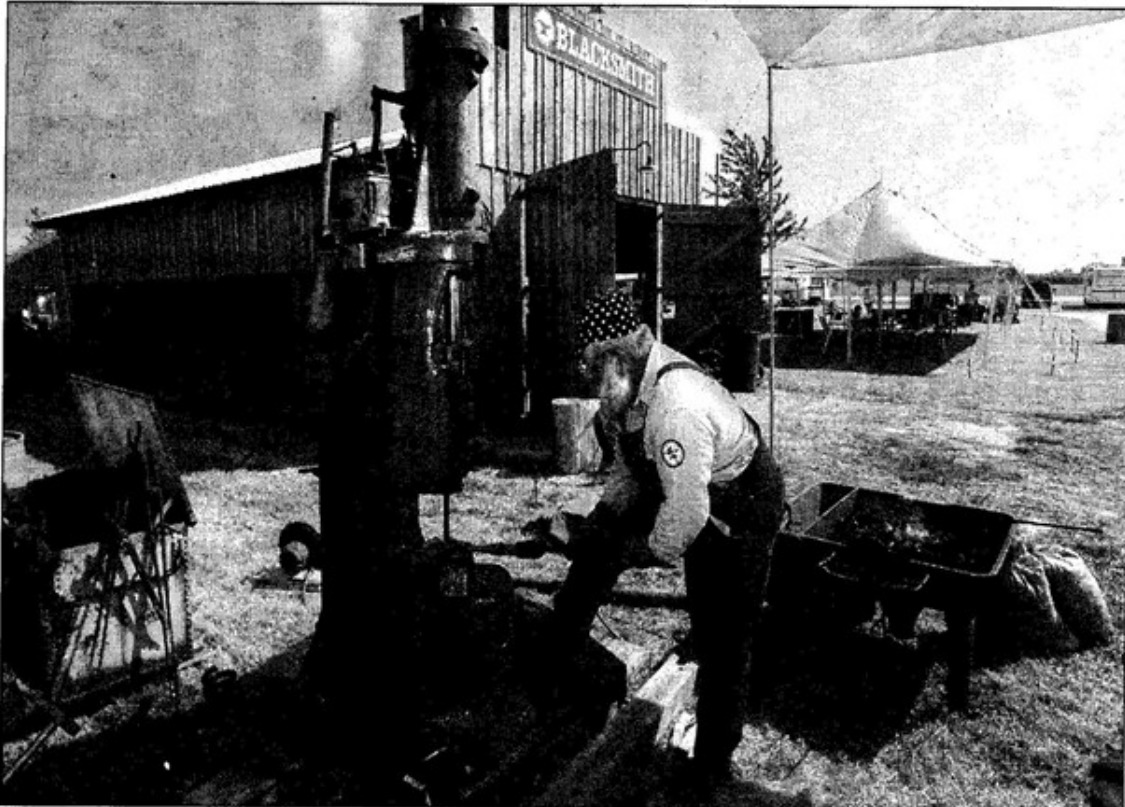
Please let Ted Stout (765-491-2194) know if you intend to make the trip. There will be some other guests going as well and we have opened it up to the IBA and RSMA.

**Last Meeting on Nail Making (1/9/2010)**

January's meeting on nail-making was a huge amount of fun. There were about 20 blacksmiths present and many made nails of various shapes and designs. Some of those nail makers placed their decorative nails in the new nail post pictured below. We hope will get decorative nails from many more blacksmiths from around the state and region. The post will become a showcase for blacksmith work that is both utilitarian and attractive. Smiths who place a nail on the post must also sign the post register and indicate which nail is theirs.



## Article of steam powered hammer that will be featured by Clifton Ralph at the 2010 IBA conference.



The Pantagraph/STEVE SMEDLEY

Larry Marek of Hinckley set up his newly restored Chambersburg 200-pound steam-powered utility hammer outside the blacksmith shop at Threshermen's Park, Illinois 23, Pontiac, on Thursday morning. The steam hammer will be on display during the 52nd annual Central States Threshermen's Reunion, being held through Labor Day.

# Restored steam hammer runs at reunion

## Boiler fired for only fourth time since restoration begun

By M.K. GUETERSLOH  
Pontiac bureau chief

PONTIAC — For only the fourth time since he started restoring a 1910 steam hammer, Larry Marek fired up the boiler Thursday during the opening day of the 52nd annual Central States Threshermen's Reunion in Pontiac.

Instead of tinkering with the steam engines this year, Marek, a regular at the reunions, brought the steam hammer out to the reunion's blacksmithing shop as a test run.

After a few years of working it back into usable condition, Marek, of Hinckley, said the Pennsylvania-built Chambersburg hammer was ready for the reunion.

The steam hammer was used in blacksmith shops to take over some of the monotonous and energy draining work of thinning out large quantities of iron and steel.

"It's still a lot of work, but definitely not as much as if we were hammering by hand," he said. At full force the hammer can drop up to 200 pounds of pressure onto a piece of metal.

Working a foot pedal that controlled the force and frequency that the hammer fell onto a red hot chunk of metal, Marek was quickly able to shape the metal into a rounded, narrow piece that was handed off to another man making pegs in the blacksmithing shed.

Marek said his friend saved it from the scrap heap but never knew quite what to do with it.

The Threshermen's Reunion will run through Monday with the largest display in Illinois of steam engines and tractors. The reunion is staged at Threshermen's Park, just north of Pontiac on Illinois 23.

### Reminder:

Rookie and Blacksmith of the Year nominations need to be submitted by April 1. See guidelines and application forms at the IBA website ([www.indianablacksmithing.org](http://www.indianablacksmithing.org))





## Indiana Blacksmithing Association BALLOT 2008

There are two positions open on the board. Please vote for 2 Candidates. Everyone's vote is important.

Bill Conyers

Gary Phillips

Michael Wollowski

Write In \_\_\_\_\_

Mailed ballots must be returned by 3-16-2010 to:

John Wendel

2232 Elm St.

Columbus, IN 47201

Please write "ballot" on the envelope.

Ballots may be hand delivered to the IBA Business Meeting on March 20 at Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

## Candidates for IBA Board of Directors

### Bill Conyers

Bill is a long time blacksmith and a long time member of the IBA. Bill served on the IBA board before stepping down in 2006. His forge hosts the St Joe Valley Forgers hammer ins.

### Gary Phillips

My name is Gary Phillips and I am running for re-election for the Board of Directors of the IBA. I have served on the board for 4 years. I have been the editor of the Forge Fire and have served as the president of the IBA for 2 years. As president I have helped the board meetings to run smoother. I have helped spread the work load by involving more people. I have helped to get the planning for the IBA conference done earlier.

I am honored to have served you on the board and would appreciate your vote for me. Thank you.

### Michael Wollowski

I am standing for election to the board of the IBA and I ask for your vote. The IBA has been good to me and I have been supporting it in several ways. I am the secretary of the Wabash Valley Blacksmith Club and the web-master of the IBA. I regularly write articles for the Forge Fire and donate items to the IBA conference auction.

If elected, I would use my communication skills to facilitate communication between the members and the board. I would use my organizational skills to continue to streamline operations. Furthermore, I would advocate that we find additional audiences with whom to share our craft.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 812-223-3000 or email me at: [wollowski@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:wollowski@rose-hulman.edu)

## Odds and Ends

### FOR SALE

25# Little Giant. In good working condition. Has been idle for the last 10 years. Needs new flat belt and a good cleaning. Can see it run by appointment. Located 35 miles west of Indianapolis.

Phone 765-522-1387 ask for Calvin

### FOR SALE

Ron Gill email: [ftdradirwk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ftdradirwk@sbcglobal.net) or call 317-374-8323

pexto 36" sheet metal brake	\$350.00	large post vise	\$125.00
150 lb anvil	\$300.00	older style slip rollers 36"	\$225.00
floor model drill press	\$100.00	#3 arbor press	\$250.00

### LITTLE GIANT POWER HAMMER REBUILDING SEMINAR: Mar 19-21

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6603 or [Sid@LittleGiantHammer.com](mailto:Sid@LittleGiantHammer.com)

Little Giant is located at 420 4<sup>th</sup> Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

### KNIFE MAKING CLASSES WITH JIM RUBLEY

Classes at Conner Prairie, Fishers IN

Dates: Feb 4-7, Feb 18-21, Mar 4-7, Mar 18-21

## [Safety Message by Jeff Reinhardt](#)

### How to Store Your PPE in the Shop and Keep it Clean and Safe to Use

In the typical blacksmith's shop, it is often hard to find a way to keep the grit, cinders, ash dust and bugs out of our PPE. What the heck is PPE you ask? That's **P**ersonal **P**rotection **E**quipment.

There is little more entertaining than watching a blacksmith discover that there is a spider in his respirator, unless you are the blacksmith and you are seeing saucer eyes reflected back at you from the inside of your respirator. I was taught years ago in a huge factory to keep my respirator in a large plastic storage container with that famous close and burp seal. Yep, Tupperware. There are now loads of choices at the house wares dept to keep all your PPE clean and critter free. Heck, if you are stealthy, you might even sneak a few from the wife's kitchen. Your welding helmet will stay clean and you won't have to scrape the crud off the lens if it is stored in a snap on lid container. Your respirator will stay much nicer as well. Your safety glasses won't get scratched as easily if nestled in a nice cotton rag inside a Tupperware container.

I have found spiders in my welding gloves and in my welding helmet. The welding helmet was a bit funny, but the one in the gloves was a little painful as I got bit. The best way to learn from experience is by learning from someone else's experience.



## **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

## **February 20 Hammer In Kenny Dettmer's Shop**

15721 S 250W Columbus, IN

**From the North:** take I 65 S to Ogilville / Walesboro (exit 64) turn. right. Go to the 1st crossroads (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 .

Pitch In Lunch

## **March 20 IBA Business Meeting Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths 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.