

# Rocky Forge News

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**Assembled blacksmiths at our January meeting after a great lunch but before Iron-In-The-Hat.**

## Next Meeting – February 11

Time sure flies when we're having fun, this month we will celebrate our first 10 years as a blacksmith club. To help make our February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting a memorable time to celebrate our 10th anniversary we will have Andrew Davis from the Mad Dwarf Work Shop (<http://maddwarfworkshop.com>) demo for us. He will demonstrate making Mokume Gane, which is like Damascus only with precious metals. After the demo he will lead us in making a knife, hands on, from cable or chainsaw chain. Also, they have made movie props, such as the sword used in the movie Thor. You will be able to wield the



sword and have your picture taken. Andrew is in his final semester at Ball State in the metal design program (jewelry construction) with a strong interest in copper work and traditional material construction and manipulation. He is especially interested in copper and Damascus. He will bring some of his work along with the sword made for the movie Thor. Hopefully, his wife will be able to

come; she works as a part time enamellist (fusing glass to copper). Also, they are bringing a couple that has taught copper work and enamel on copper at John C, Campbell and other schools across the country. They too will bring some of their work. All of these folks are very talented, so think up your questions and be prepared for one great day.

Since this is a special time let's try to make our iron in the hat a really good pile of treasures. I expect to see several guests and I also hope to get some of our charter members to the meeting.

Lunch will be a pitch in so help with the food by bringing a nice covered dish and Carol is going to make chicken and noodles.

Don't miss this meeting!!!

Ted

## Last Meeting-1/14/12

KJ Groven gave a terrific demonstration of making Norwegian knives. See photos on the next page. He demonstrated how to get a tool steel cutting edge supported on the outside with mild steel by starting with a 3-layer steel sandwich. He also showed several variations of the procedure to separate the tang of the knife. Thank you KJ for sharing your extensive knowledge with us.

## Kjetil "KJ" Groven Makes Norwegian Knives, 1/14/12



KJ getting ready to forge weld at Ted's shop. Note the flux in the white container.



Norwegian knives are small but functional. This one that KJ made has a Damascus pattern in the steel.



The starting material: a sandwich of mild, O1, then mild steel welded for convenience (1.25x.75 in).



To forge weld, get it hot but don't burn it up! Hit lightly, reflux, heat again, pray, hit lightly, and repeat till done.



Isolating the tang can be done in two ways. Here the tang is isolated over the edge of the anvil. Remember: blacksmithing involves isolating, separating, then forging to shape.



The tang can also be isolated by shearing the notches with a special shear that KJ designed and made. With the notch cleanly cut, the tang can be extended and shaped on the anvil.



After some hammer work, the piece is ready for the grinding and polishing. It helps to have patience and a good eye. Always be careful when grinding or polishing small sharp objects!

### Dates to Remember

March 10, 2012: Rocky Forge meeting.

June 1-3, 2012: IBA Conference, Tipton, IN.

July 18-21, 2012: ABANA Conf., Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, South Dakota, "Reunion on the Great Plains".

July 20-22, 2012: Illiana Antique Power Show.

September 14-16, 2012: Potawatomi Fest, Attica.

September 22-23, 2012: Feast of the Hunters' Moon

September 28-30?, 2012: SOFA Quad-state Conf.

October 5-6, 2012: Gaither Fall Festival, Alexandria, IN.

### Interesting Web Site

Black Hills Faces Magazine: "KJ Groven: A Well Crafted Life," Summer 2010.

<http://bhfaces.wordpress.com/2010/02/21/kj-groven-a-well-crafted-life/>

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**Web Site:** <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here).