

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting (7/13/13)

The group will meet at our shop on the Illiana Show grounds near RAINSVILLE, July 13th at 9:00AM. Coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Our meeting will be to get as much as we can set up for the Illiana Show which is July 19, 20, and 21. We will clean the building, put up the signs, bring in benches, do something with the big lathe, set up work stations, run electricity, etc. There will be Illiana members camping out most of the week so security should be okay. I plan on doing some blacksmithing after we get everything set. We will also have an Iron-in-the-Hat drawing so bring some goodies to add to the loot.

I hope for the show that we have the nice turnout of craftsman as we have in the past. This is a fun three-day event with lots of activity going on. It also gives us smiths a time to do some of our own work and make some of those things we have had on the back burner. The audience is always in awe at some of the things we do and really never get a chance to see such work at other times. Give some thought to what you want to make and let's make ourselves proud of what we do. We are a huge part

of the Illiana Show. I am hoping some of you newer members will be a part of the Show. You too have a lot to contribute.

Also, the Illiana sponsors a tag sale where you can bring in quality merchandise, put price on it and they will attempt to sell it during the show. They only take a small fraction to sell for you. It is a good way to get rid of some extra stuff and pass it on to your friends for a fee. I usually make several hundred dollars per year.

Lunch on July 13th will be hot dogs and whatever else you guys bring to go along with it. Fresh fruit and vegetables (blah?) are always a good choice to go along with healthy hot dogs. Bring your own drinks or use water out of the tap.

Rocky Forge will be demonstrating at the Indiana State Fair on Monday and Tuesday, August 5th and 6th. This is a nice service that the IBA provides for the State Fair. We typically have 4-6 blacksmiths pounding metal on the days assigned to us. We need volunteers for both days. Please give me a call if you are available to help. This year we will be provided with free entrance and parking tickets.

Looking forward to the 13th. Ted Stout

Photos from History Day, May 13, at Rainsville



Jim Bolen's encampment



Peter Cooper coopers.



Brad McCormick hammers.

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

Making the Zimmermann Swan

- 1 Upset end of 1/2" x 2" bar
- 2 Flatten end of bar to get this shape



- 3 Draw out neck to 1.3x length of body/wings segment and leave a knob on the end which will turn into head (1/2" x 1/2" at base tapering to 3/8" x 3/8" at base of head).
- 4 Split the wings out of the body and wing segment



- 5 Scroll the tail under.
- 6 Point the wings and gently curve then over horn or in swage block.
- 7 Then sink the base of the wings into a bowl to get them to curve up and over the body segment.
- 8 Smash the bill out of the head knob and taper it toward the end.
- 9 Curve the neck at the base of the head first then curve it back over the body.
- 10 DONE!

Reprinted from the IBA Forge Fire, August 2000 (which reprinted this from NRBA News Fall 2000).

Dates to Remember

July 19-21: Illiana Antique Power Association Show featuring Massey Harris tractors and gas engines, Rainsville Show Grounds.

August 5&6, 2013: Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild demonstrates at the Indiana State Fair Blacksmith Shop.

August 10, 2013: Rocky Forge meeting.

September 7&8, 2013: Rural Smiths of Mid-America (RSMA) at Meeting and Demo, Johnson County Park near Edinburg, IN.

September 14, 2013: Rocky Forge meeting.

September 20 - 22, 2013: SOFA QUADSTATE Conference, Troy, Ohio.

September 20 - 22, 2013: Potawatomi Festival, Attica, IN.

October 5 - 6, 2013: Feast of the Hunters' Moon, Fort Ouiatenon, West Lafayette, IN.

October 11-20, 2013: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Parke County, IN.

August 13-16, 2014: ABANA 2014 Conference, Harrington, Delaware.