

# Rocky Forge News

Volume 14, Issue 10 – October, 2015

## Next Meeting: 10/10/2015

Members of the Rocky Forge have sure been busy these past weeks, we had History day at the Illiana show grounds, SOFA in Troy , Ohio, Feast of the Hunters Moon in Lafayette, Art on the Wabash, the Farmers Market at Crawfordsville, IBA Board meeting and others I may not know about or remember. With all those events behind us now lets enjoy some metal smithing for our own pleasure.

The weather looks good for our next meeting at Ted's shop on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30 and after a "short" meeting we can start the forges. Since the bicentennial is coming up in 2016 we should prepare our skills to make things that would have been made in that period. Suggestions could include: nails, hooks, axes, knives, kitchen items, farm items, carpentry tools. etc. Most of these items would have been made with wrought iron with steel bits for edge tools. I will provide wrought iron if you need it.

Bring some nice stuff for the iron in the hat drawing. We need to kick up the quality of this fun program, we have slipped backward some. Even at that we still have one of the better drawings around.

Lunch will be a pitch in to go with a roast tenderloin. Now that I have a stove in my new kitchen I am anxious to cook something nice. Hope it is as good as what Greg Searcy has done in the past. So bring a covered dish to share with others. (Suggestion: Plan ahead).

See you all Saturday. Ted and Carol



Dominick in his booth at Art on the Wabash

## Last Meeting: 9/12/2015



New guys learn nail making.



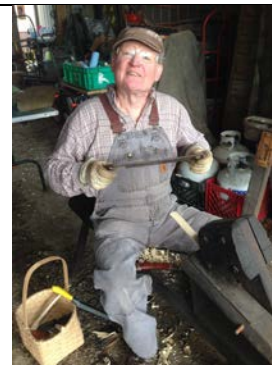
Happy forger!



Nail header



Post twister.



Wood shaver.

## Contacts

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## Common Mistakes to Avoid

Reprinted from *The Iron Trillium*, from the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association (which was reprinted in the newsletter of the Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild)

- Cutting through your work on the anvil without using a plate. Doing so will mar the face of your anvil.
- Not wearing glasses. Burns to your skin will heal, burns to your eyes are permanent.
- Gripping your hammer too tightly. Your hammer should be held loosely, so that the power comes from your body, through your shoulder, arm, wrist and hand. Grip the hammer too tightly, and you'll put too much stress on your wrist and elbow.
- Hammering on steel that is too cold. Not only are you wasting a lot of effort, you risk putting undue stress on the work. (*It is said that this is one of the two reasons a blacksmith goes to hell – the other? Not charging enough! Ed.*)
- Not cleaning the scale off your anvil between heats. If you don't, the next time you work your piece, you'll be driving that scale into your work.
- Not straightening your work as you go. If you don't straighten your work after every heat, you'll end up with a lot of unnecessary work at the end. A few seconds at the end of every heat will save you valuable minutes later on.
- Hammering all the way through your piece on your cutoff hardy. You will cause yourself unnecessary work having to redress the edge of your hardy and you'll put yourself and others at risk when the piece flies off.
- Using an improper set of tongs. If you don't have firm control of your work, you'll waste energy and even risk losing control of it completely.
- Positioning your head directly over top of your work when hammering on it. This is a simple recipe for a forehead bruise.
- Working when fatigued. Being overly tired makes you sloppy, grumpy and causes you to make poor decisions.
- Working when distracted. Unless you are very experienced, if you are about to engage in a conversation, pull your work out of the center of the fire and leave it there until you are ready to work again.
- Trying to forge weld with an oxygen-rich fire (*sic. It should have been a reducing fire—oxygen poor, Ed.*). Oxygen is the enemy.

### Dates to Remember

**October 10, 2015:** Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's.

**November 14, 2015:** Rocky Forge meeting.

**December 12, 2015:** NO ROCKY FORGE meeting.

**December 12, 2015:** IBA monthly meeting, TBA.

**July 13-16, 2016:** ABANA 2016 Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

[articles/mystery-ulfberht-viking-sword-has-archaeologists-stumped.html](http://www.snope.com/articles/mystery-ulfberht-viking-sword-has-archaeologists-stumped.html)

**“Kilroy Was Here” explained**

<http://www.snope.com/language/phrases/kilroy.asp>

### Interesting Web Sites

**Atelier Zimmermann: Forging a Rose from one piece**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZOdR0mKY5g>

**Mystery Ulfberht Viking sword has archaeologists**

**stumped:** <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war->

