

Rocky Forge News

Volume 16, Issue 11 ~ November 2017

Next Meeting: 11/11/2017

The Rocky Forge metal smiths will meet at Ted's shop on Saturday, November 11th with coffee and doughnuts at 8:30AM, followed by a short meeting, then a metal working demonstration. After that we will have an open forge time for your enjoyment. Be sure to bring Iron-in-the-Hat items and food for the pitch in meal. Carol will prepare "something" to go along with the pitch-in items.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE, at the Illiana Show grounds will be December 1st and 2nd from 5:00 to 8:00. That is always a fun time and a joy to see all the visitors. Encourage your family and friends to attend this event. Also, we need ideas for decorating the blacksmith shop, call Ted (765-491-2194). Tom Swanson, president of Illiana asked if the blacksmith group would make outlines of Christmas themed items such as reindeer, snowmen, Christmas trees, Santa Claus, etc. from 3/8" re-bar. These decorations need to have rods attached for sticking them into the ground and hold up to the winds of the Illiana Show grounds. The Illiana club will string Christmas lights around the outlines and at a distance will add to the decorations throughout the Show grounds. Look on the Internet for possible ideas and let's see if we can fulfill Tom's request. Jim Bolen has already made a couple, and Eric Smith is working on more. They need to be life size.

The mini-barn project has been completed, except for wiring and lighting. It has the shelving in and the first batch of machine shop tools on the shelves. The shelving needs to be screwed to the walls to prevent accidents. The building is now secure with lockup.

We are getting close to having enough cash to cover the machine shop end of our building, looking forward to that project. The fluorescent lights from the old Otteham Machine and Blacksmith shop, from Attica, were salvaged and two of them are being converted to LED. If that works out and we can afford it, I will be asking for help to dismantle, clean, paint and install the LED tombstones and bulbs. Having those in our machine shop will help keep the original history and ambiance of the Otteham shop.

Another project we need to track is a new electric line into the building to support a 200 amp service, and then wiring the entire building. We have a lot going and it will take time and funds, but, as I have said before, without a vision we will never progress. Long term I

hope to see this shop as a metal working and wood working area for all members to use and enjoy. It will also be a favorite place for visitors during the annual Illiana Show. I realize we have a lot going on, but you also must realize when you are a member of an organization you have to share in the responsibilities of the group. It is very easy to come to the meetings each month and enjoy the doughnuts, camaraderie, toys, etc., then go home and come back next month with no contribution. For us to be a strong organization you must do your part and participate. By doing so you will have a better feeling of acceptance and accomplishment. My shop will not be available forever.

Hope to see all your smiling faces on the 11th, with Iron-in-the-Hat and food.

Ted and Carol Stout

Dates to Remember

December 1-2: Christmas in the Village, Illiana Show Grounds, Rainsville, IN.

June 27-30, 2018: ABANA 2018 Conference will held in Richmond, Virginia at the Meadow Event Park.

Contacts

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Meeting Location

At the home of Ted and Carol Stout, 8525 W 700 S, West Point, IN 47992-9258 (765-572-2467 home). Take IN25 two miles south from West Point, IN. Take a right onto West 700 South. Ted's house is the first house on the left.

New Newsletter Feature

Each month starting now we will append to the electronic edition of our newsletter (beyond page 2) a chapter in the ABANA series called "Controlled Hand Forging". This will provide first-rate instruction to the newer members of our group. The introduction to this ABANA educational program from the ABANA web site is included on page 2 below. Ref:

<https://abana.org/education/controlled-hand-forging/>

Controlled Hand Forging

By ABANA Educational Programs

The ABANA Educational Program Committee is pleased to announce the Forging Fundamentals program. The committee consists of Bill Callaway, Arizona; Jay Close, South Carolina; Bob Fredell, Minnesota; Dereck Glaser, Maine; Tom Latané, Wisconsin; Peter Ross, Virginia; Doug Wilson, Maine; and Dan Nauman, Wisconsin, Program Chairman and ABANA Board Member.

All the individuals listed have been involved in teaching and demonstrating hand-forging techniques to a broad range of people, and most all committee members have been full-time blacksmiths for a number of years. The range of style and technique is also broad among the committee. Some of the members have been working towards this program for almost four years. Much thought, many conversations, and countless hours of planning have occupied their time towards this mission.

What is the Forging Fundamentals program? This voluntary program is a progressive set of lessons which emphasize ten forging fundamentals: Fire maintenance, drawing out, bending (including straightening), upsetting, punching (both through punching and ornamental punching), slitting, drifting, welding, twisting and joinery.

The focus of the program is five fold: To teach hand forging methods, present a curriculum which can be studied and in the home shop, explain a method for an individual to recognize his or her accomplishments, provide tolerances for comparison, and emphasize consistency in workmanship.

We want it known that this is but one path to learn how to forge, not the only path. We also want to emphasize that these lessons will teach only a process, and not a style. Our goal is to prepare the student to approach any facet of forging discipline and style armed with solid forging fundamentals.

What makes this program different? This program breaks down forging basics to its most fundamental level. The lessons will be presented step by step through words, drawings, and photographs of the various processes used in the 10 forging fundamentals listed. There will be several lessons detailed for different applications for a given fundamental, and many more lessons in some fundamentals which require more explanation. At the end of a series of lessons, a project or projects will be proposed to challenge the student. The projects may be practical, due to the fact that the finished project may have a use as a tool, or the project may be simply an exercise to train the student.

What is a good twist? What is a solid weld? What is a sharp angle bend? When is a bar straight? A self-evaluation section for each lesson which teaches the student to “see” is included. A process can be explained, but the results are often questionable for the novice. We provide some answers, and also some problems to watch out for in the forging process. “How should a taper look?” “How should the edges of the bar look?” “How many heatings in the fire will I need?”

We are specific in what we believe are “targets” for these lessons. The targets will help the student to determine when they are executing the lesson correctly, as well as expediently. The introduction to the program spells out safety precautions, hazards, and protective gear.

The “forging dynamics” are covered which illustrate how metal moves under the hammer, as well as terms and definitions. Explanations of the fundamentals are spelled out. For example, “drawing out” (reducing the cross section) includes (A) cross sections, (B) tapers, i.e. flat, square, and round, (C) points, (D) fullering.

A section explaining tools, their descriptions and uses is included. Another section discussing supplementary operations such as heat treating and knowledge of various carbon steels.