

ROCKY FORGE NEWS

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NEXT MEETING:

December 14th, 9:00 A.M., at Ted Stouts. Speaker and Demonstrator: Hunter Spoon, a metallurgical engineer, will talk about the different types of steel, annealing and tempering of steel. He will then demonstrate annealing and tempering using a small gas forge that he manufacturers. His little forge is powered with a Bernz-a-matic torch cylinder. After his talk and demonstrations we will have lunch then each of us will have a chance to practice what he has taught us. Hopefully, Hunter will be able to bring 3-4 of his forges for us to use.

Plan now to attend this event, it should prove to be one of our best yet. Bring your questions and a knife, chisel, or tool that you have made for tempering. Hunter even suggested you cut a knife from a lawn mower blade, grind it to shape and polish or sand it ready for tempering.

Carol will roast a turkey for lunch so those of you who can, bring a covered dish to share. We will have good fellowship, a good demo and good food for the day. Life is good!!!

CHEST PAIN, DON'T NEGLECT IT!!!!!!

The day after Thanksgiving I was talking to a friend while standing in the cold air (~8:15 A. M.) and began to experience slight pain in the right side of the chest. As it began to escalate I took an aspirin and called the doctor. To make a long story short I had angioplasty with two stints placed in one my heart arteries. It has been 4 days now and I am feeling well. The next few days should bring great recovery.

The meeting for December 14th will go on as planned and I hope to see all of you then. It should be a very informative meeting.

FLUX Stuff

-Mix a little sal ammoniac (ammonium chloride) in with borax (laundry soap).

-10% ground fluorite (calcium fluoride) makes good damascus flux.

-Powdered iron mixed into mostflux recipes a makes good flux.

-Do not use E-Z Weld on damascus or flux with iron filings, the iron creates specks unacceptable to damascus.

Swage Blocks

As most of you know it is very difficult to find a good swage block. At auction the old originals go very high and are often chipped or do not have useful indentations.

Metallurgy has advanced since some of those old blocks were cast. Ductile iron makes a very tough, durable block.

A very nice size and useful block is currently being made by Green and Mengel, two aspiring foundry men in Penn. I have one of their blocks that many of you have used. As Martha Stewart would say "its a good thing". Their block normally sells for \$165, plus \$35-45 shipping, I have negotiated a deal at \$130 for anyone interested. The current order is for 7 blocks. Depending on how we can get them from Penn. to Indiana we may have another \$5-10 each for pickup. I am also working on a free shipping deal with a trucker.

If you are interested I will begin collecting for these at the next meeting. We may try to get them in January. You may also have until January 11 meeting to pay. Money is so useful, but its also a darn nuisance.

