# **ROCKY FORGE NEWS**

Volume 1 Issue 5 December 2002

# **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 spects 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 Stewert 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.

# ROCKY FORGE NEWS FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild met November 9<sup>th</sup>, at **Ted Stouts** located near West Point. There were 27 smiths in attendance, 3 of which were young men under 16.

The day started with a meeting to address some of the issues of a blacksmithing group. The group has purchased a fire blanket, a well equipped first aid kit with extra burn cream (thanks **George Kerner**) and Ted has several fire extinguishers on hand. **Rob Durrett** accepted the position of safety officer. Although we all need to be aware of safety, it will be Robs job to remind us when necessary. Thanks Rob. T-shirts and hats with our groups name were available and since we ran out of most sizes, more will be available at the next meeting. Building plans were briefly discussed. The style we want to build was agreed on.

Our thanks to **Dan Michael** who brought a plastic tub with a lid and some items to start our library. Dan accepted the position of librarian. **John Young** brought an article on the cleaning of metal with a battery charger. The article will be copied and added to our local newsletter. The Rocky Forge group has grown so much that another order for the book "A Blacksmiths Primer" by Randy McDaniel will be placed. This is our second order of 15 books. We are also going to order swage blocks for many of the members.

**Mark Brier** demonstrated forging part of a gun barrel. Pete Rollet and Joe Clemens assisted Mark. Mark is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation gunsmith. That was a very interesting and historical demonstration. **Dan Michael** showed the group how he makes pokers for the campfire or fireplace. He then spent a lot of time assisting others in doing the same thing. Dan also helped others make flesh forks.

Five forges and anvils were available for all to use. Thank God for a wonderful day, the front of Ted's shop looked like a beehive of activity. We had a great day and the last fire was extinguished at about 6:30 P.M.

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# **NEWSLETTER**

At the October meeting the group was asked whether we should continue with the newsletter. The answer was a definite yes. I enjoy doing the newsletter and trust that it serves as a reminder of the the upcoming meetings, and serves as a voice for items to help promote the hobby. As you might expect it costs our group to publish, print, package and mail the newsletter. This subject was discussed at the October meeting and we decided to just send to those who have expressed interest enough to attend some meetings. However, our list of interest goes beyond those who attend. Therefore, if you would like to receive the newsletter a small donation would be appreciated to offset our costs. The November and December Newsletter will be mailed to the entire list of interested parties. If by January we have not heard from you then your name will be removed from the mailing list. If we have not received any evidence of your continued interest, starting in January the newsletter will only be mailed to those active members or those who have made a donation. If you have any questions or comment please call Ted Stout at 765-572-2467.

To make a donation mail to:

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild Ted Stout 8525 West 700 South West Point, Indiana 47992

# From "The Rural Smiths of Mid-America"

"You can no sooner show someone how to do something you have never done than you can give them directions to go somewhere you have never gone."

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Lay out the blacksmith tool catalogs and leave other hints for ole St. Nick.