

ROCKY FORGE NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 7

July 2003

NEXT MEETING: Our plans have changed, Carol and Ted will be around for the meeting. The next meeting will be 9:00 A.M., **JULY 12TH**, at Stout's. The meeting agenda will be to get the equipment ready for the upcoming "Steam and Power Show" near Rainsville. Hopefully, we can get the big stuff loaded and transported to the show grounds. Either bring your lunch or we will eat on the way.

ILLIANA STEAM AND POWER SHOW

Every July the Illiana Steam and Power Association schedules their annual show. The show is held at their show grounds just west of Rainsville or east of U.S. 41, north of Attica.

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild is a satellite group of the Indiana Blacksmith Association and we are a part of the Illiana Steam and Power group. It is on their show grounds that we will build our blacksmith shop.

The show this year will be July 18, 19, 20th. Last year we had around 9 blacksmiths from the Rocky Forge group. I am in hopes that we will have that many again, if not more. This is a good time to have 3 days of smithing with lots of hands on exposure. We always have a good time, I would encourage you to participate. If you get tired blacksmithing, just be sure the booth is well staffed and take off for a while, there are a lot of things to see and do at the show.

Also, it is good if our group members get involved with the show. It takes a lot of volunteers to make a good show and you can help.

Pie sales are a good source of income for the Illiana club and you can volunteer to donate fruit or berry pies. They are sold by the piece and right next to the pies sales is the ice cream vendor and both of these are just across the road from the blacksmiths (Good Planning).

COKE FOR YOUR FORGE

The club has acquired about 1000 # of coke for trial use in our forges. Thanks to Gene Hollingsworth, he was able to get a donation of coke for us to test (play with). Gene also bagged it in 50# trash bags and transported it to Teds. He put a lot of time and effort into this project. We will sell the coke to our members for \$7.00 per bag.

The use of coke for blacksmithing is different than coal or charcoal. It is a very clean fuel and will make a hot fire. A coke fire is harder to light than fire than a coal fire, but still not all that difficult. I have had good success adding it to a normal coal fire. This technique maintained a hot and clean fire. You may have other ideas for how to use this stuff, good luck.

CAMPING AND HOOK-UPS

If you plan on camping during the show there are hook-ups at the west end of the show grounds. If any are available you can rent them for \$25 each. Please call Carol, and provided there are still places available, she can make your reservations. There are plenty of primitive camping sites.

HOOF-PAK IS NOW AVAILABLE

Remember when Charley Helton used a black goeey stuff to lubricate his cutting and drilling tools. The stuff he used is called Forshners Hoof-Pak. Jim Keith located a 24# container for us to distribute. Ted happens to have a bunch of new tins with lids that will hold about 1/2 pound. We will be filling these tins and making the Hoof-Pak available to members for \$3.00 each. One tin should last for a long time.