

Rocky Forge News

Volume 4, issue 9 – September, 2005

“Working at the coal forge is like a sauna, only less healthy. A nice dry heat complete with smoke.”

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at Ted's on September 10th, at 9:00 A. M. The meeting theme, if weather permits, will be forging in the woods. We will set up our forges in the woods behind the house where it is shady. If the weather is bad we will go inside. Bring your tools, forge, anvil, coal and metal. Bring enough to go for the day, it should be fun and we can make whatever we want. Maybe we can teach each other some new techniques. I will have power for those needing their electric blowers or angle grinders. Also, I will have a couple extra set-ups if you need it.

Lunch will be at the West Point Steak House, which has been working very well for the past meetings. Be sure to bring some nice iron in the hat items.

If anyone who worked on the tractor wants to work on reassembly we can pull it down into the trees where there is plenty of shade.

Give me a call if you have any questions. Hope to see a lot of you for this fun day in the woods.

Ted

Last Month's Meeting

The August meeting was hot. This is why frequently there is no August meeting. There were about 18 attendees, including short timers. A business meeting was held. The Treasurer's report showed that we have \$4736 in the treasury. We made \$812 on the welder raffle and \$28 on smith work at the Show. We made \$48 on Iron in the Hat at the August meeting.

The building at the Illiana Show Grounds was discussed. If agreement among John Dillman's heirs about what will happen with the show grounds when he dies can be reached, we

can start on a building. We need something and even a modest start gives us something to build from. Who knows; it might grow in the doing, not only the telling.

Billy Creek Village is considering Blacksmithing classes. I have heard rumor that they may be serious enough to think they can compete with Conner Prairie. Maybe all that will happen is a beginner's class. Rumor is all I have heard though.

November Meeting

Rocky Forge is hosting the IBA. Right now the plan is to invite the Montgomery County woodworkers again and demonstrate making woodworking tools.

Projects

The West Point cemetery arch is ready for final assembly and erection. All of the parts are made and need to be attached to the arch. We discussed using meeting time to put the completed arch in place. When, we still do not know. But it may happen that way.

The Allis Chalmers WD tractor was worked on. We got enough cleaned up that the engine will now turn. It was a mighty effort and involved the 42-lbs. sledges. Now it needs reassembly.

Future Activities

- National Meet of North American Black Powder Rifle Assoc., Friendship IN - Sept. 10-18.
- -SOFA- Sept. 24-26.
- Shane's Medieval Fest - October 8th meeting.
- October meeting of IBA(Oct. 15) Wabash Valley blacksmith Assoc. Fowler Park Terre Haute IN
- Nov IBA Nov.19 Rocky Forge.

Projects with continuing reports:

Newsletter

My wife said that I never get the newsletter ready in time to use a method that takes any longer. This month she is right. I did not get my formatting right and the newsletter bounced. This is sent the old way. I am going to get it yet. It should be easier. Right now I am printing this at work and feel guilty about it.

Bloomery

The group is going to try putting a bloomery together. The method to our madness is the question. Ted asks that you find out what you can about "how" and bring what you find to the meeting. We will sort through the methods and determine how we will proceed.

4-H

I talked to John Steppi about the curriculum that he used to teach his blacksmithing unit and how he ran the classes. He sent me an email of the curriculum and told me several things that I had not thought of about his methods. I have not got started in Vermillion County yet, but will soon. At least in the first year everyone is doing the same things at beginner level. If anyone has checked with his county about a 4H class. I would like to know.

Announcements

The Rocky Forge News is now available by E-mail as well as on our website (<http://www.rockyforge.org/>). If you wish to receive the newsletter via E-mail sent Dave Childress a note at trollkeep@ccsdana.net, or write directly to the guild at rocky@rockyforge.org.