

Rocky Forge News

Volume 4, issue 10 – October, 2005

I was looking at the first newsletters I produced and I am getting better even if I still leave much to be desired. I am sure the best, from your point of view, is "better thee than me"

Next Meeting:

A medieval themed hammer in, Shane will demo making some Viking household goods and talk about medieval materials and techniques. Shane and Karen's library of medieval and blacksmithing research books will be available to pursue during the day (we also have a photocopier available...) Bring your tools, toys, forges, and some metal (to play with as well as for iron in the hat) and share some fellowship with us. Don't have any of your own tools yet? Come anyway we'll share. If you are looking to make something specific it is suggested to bring appropriate metal, we have a sizable scrap pile, but it is not suitable for all projects. It is suggested that all experienced Blacksmiths be prepared to teach some aspect of their art, be it is your favorite method for making tent stakes, or kitchen utensils. The meeting will be at Shane and Karen's home; contact them for directions.

Last Month's Meeting

The Rocky Forge group met on Saturday, September 10th, at Ted Stout's. About 18 brave souls attended even though it was another hot day. We had a good time forging in the woods. There is just something kind of poetic about blacksmithing under the spreading limbs of the trees.

Those who did not forge worked on the Allis Chalmers tractor project. The engine is now free, thanks to Ted's 30# sledgehammer. Reassembly is the next step.

One of our members, Jim Keith, a professional farrier, will be making a two-week mission trip to Romania. The purpose of the trip, sponsored by the Christian Veterinary Mission, is to teach the farrier trade to farriers and students and to spread Christianity

November Meeting

We will be hosting the November 19th IBA meeting in my shop. The theme for this

Meeting will be "Blacksmithing for the Woodworker". The meeting will also include members of the Montgomery County woodworkers. The tools made that day will be handled and demonstrated by the woodworkers. I have had some very good encouragement from IBA members and the woodworkers are very excited about the prospects. See the October IBA (delayed and still not out) newsletter for more information. Projects

Future Activities

- 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: Bloomery

I hope you are all doing your research. I am at least getting some done and am coming to realize how much can go wrong. I have some samples that are approximately what an inferior bloom would be like and maybe we can practice consolidation.

4-H

Since I have had too much to do even to get started, I am going to need some help. Now accepting volunteers and suggestions.

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.