

Rocky Forge News

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It is time for our tours and classes because it is too cold for outside coal forges and Ted's shop is too nice for inside coal forges.

Next Meeting:

The February 11th meeting will be at the ALCOA plant in Lafayette. Meet at the Main Street entrance (3131 Main Street) at 9:00 A.M. We will enter from that entrance for a plant tour that should last until noon. Please be on time!



This tour will be for adults only and you must be able to walk. Spouse or guests are also welcome. We should learn about the other major metal that makes up the earth's crust. Some of you have had experience working with aluminum. There are people who claim to forge this metal into shapes. This is very difficult because of the narrow working temperature between forge and the melting point.

This should be an interesting tour and I hope we have a very good turnout. ALCOA is going out of their way to entertain us on a weekend.

Illiana Show Grounds

The Illiana Steam and Power Assoc. has a excellent opportunity before them. Mr. Dillman, who owns the show grounds land, has offered to sell the 15 acre parcel for \$10,000. The club of course has voted to consummate the deal and is now on a fund raising venture. The ramifications of owning our own show grounds are incredible. One important point is that we will be in a position to receive grants and we can be our own judge of building programs. Also, this will put the blacksmith group in a better position for a building. (We may even have a benefactor to help fund a building.)

Now is the time to step up to the plate and help the Illiana group with their fundraising. It will ultimately help the Rocky Forge group. Any offering would be greatly appreciated and may be mailed to Doris Manllief, (Please note on the offering that you are a member of the Rocky Forge group.) Her address is 3618 Donna Drive, Lafayette, IN 47905.

January IBA

I attended the January IBA meeting at John Zile's shop. He really has a very nice shop, though not as nice as Ted's for holding a meeting and demo. A wire handled hot cut of the form found in the Congo was made. After lunch a bowl was made from a piece of plate that was welded to the end of a piece of pipe. The pipe provided the form, and the only tools needed were a hammer, tongs, anvil and forge.

IBA Board Election

As I hope you know, I am running for the IBA board. Besides learning, socializing and getting out of the house, I hoped to learn what the IBA needed from someone on the board. I learned that someone needs to bring the members of the IBA and the members of the Satellite Groups together. It does not seem that either group understands what the other wants out of this joint venture. I intend to try

and make it to all of the Satellite groups and also talk to as many of the IBA-only members as I can, to find out what is desired by both. Whether I make the board or not this time, I think the IBA can be a force in spreading the Art of Blacksmithing. But we need to all make the effort.

David Childress

Announcements

Labor Exchange and barter

I have belonged to groups that carried out cashless trade. Labor and goods were directly exchanged. Maybe I need a carpenter and some carpenter needs to use a tractor and I have one. A deal is made and both have what they need. We could use this newsletter and the website as a clearinghouse to put people in touch with what they need. Is there interest in setting up such a system?

Example: I have a disassembled metal grain bin that I want to set up as a shop and I need some more hands. As most of you know I am a packrat and have a huge amount of "stuff". I am willing to trade if idle hands need some tool or just something to do. Contact David Childress.