

Rocky Forge News

Volume 10, Issue 2 – February 2011

Next Meeting: (2/12/11)

Mother Nature has sure thrown us in a tizzy this winter!!! Snow, cold, sleet, wind and then more snow. All that white reflects the sun's heat and as long as it's covering the ground it's not going to warm up very fast and I can't find things under all that white stuff.

Looking ahead to February 12th, the date of our next meeting, the national weather service is predicting the temperature to be in the 30's. That means Searcy and others will be forging outside.

For the next meeting we will have a short business session, then let's go around the table and everyone bring some information about metalwork to share. That information could be written info, some tool you have found useful, something you have made and want to tell how it was done, a metal coating you like, where we can buy something useful, etc. If we all participate this could be a very useful learning experience. Please plan on sharing your information.

After that session we will light the forges and do whatever you want, maybe try something you learned in the information sharing session. Bring your bucket of favorite tools and metal to use. I am willing to share some metal, so if a special project comes your way we can surely find what you need (except copper and some tool steels).

Carol will prepare a pot of chili, so if you all bring a dish to go along with chili we will not go hungry. Remember, the Rocky Forge group has a reputation of having good lunches. Don't let our reputation slide. Also, bring some good iron-in-the-hat items so we can keep up that good reputation.

Anyone wanting to see our newsletters can find them by Googling Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild or www.rockyforge.org/. That is another good reputation we are building, we get a lot of positive feedback on our newsletter and website. Thanks to Jeff Rattray and Dominick Andrisani.

Coffee and doughnuts should be ready by 8:30, hope to see many of you there on February 12th for some good friendship, good conversation, updates on what you have been doing and information sharing. If you know someone

interested in blacksmithing, call them up and invite them to the meeting. That is how "we" grow and how "they" will grow in their blacksmithing interest and skills.
Ted

Last Meeting: (1/8/11)

The January meeting was in conjunction with the Rural Smiths of Mid-America. 36 people were in attendance. The trade item was a coal shovel. Several smiths made trade items for the auction.

	
Gene Hollingsworth demonstrating how to sink a steel fireplace shovel.	Gene obtained from somewhere a thick hollow cylinder that he uses to push metal into.
	
He uses a trailer hitch ball welded to a pipe as a hammer.	The final result is a custom shaped shovel made in fairly thick steel.

Nathan Allen Has Twins

Nathan Allen reported that his twin daughters were born January 3rd and are named Adeline and McKinsey. Mother suffered some set backs, but is okay now. Congratulations and the best of luck for the new parents and the baby girls.



Amber and Josh work in the foreground as RSMA members Bob and friend chat in background.



Rocky Forge and RSMA members chat together.



Randy Padish shows some great recent work.



Peter Cooper and Jeff Rattray work together.

Dates to Remember

- February 12, 2011: **Rocky Forge** meeting at Ted's.
- March 12, 2011: **Rocky Forge** meeting at Ted's.
- June 3-5, 2011: **IBA Conference**, Tipton.
- July 15-17, 2011: Illiana Antique Power Exhibition.
- July 15-17, 2011: Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmithing Conference, Pontiac, Illinois.
- Sept. 24-25, 2011: Feast of the Hunter's Moon.
- Sept. 23-25, 2011: SOFA QuadState Conference.
- July 18-21, 2012: ABANA Conf., Rapid City, South Dakota, "Reunion on the Great Plains".

Interesting Web Sites

- The Blacksmith Shop at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (www.nps.gov/heho/historyculture/blacksmith-shop.htm).
- Cambria Iron Company Blacksmith shop, Johnstown, PA, a National Historic Lndmk (www.jaha.org/BlacksmithShop/history.html).
- Willard Richardson's Old Blksmith Shp, Galena, IL (www.galenahistorymuseum.org/blacksmithhistory.htm)

Contacts

- Forgemaster: Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-572-2467 home).
- Newsletter Editor: Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975 home).
- Web Site: <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here).

Meeting photo below contains some ugly dudes.

