

Rocky Forge News

Volume 10, Issue 5 – May 2011

Next Meeting: Rainsville (5/14/11)

The next blacksmith group meeting will be at the Illiana Steam and Power Show grounds near Rainsville, IN. If you need directions, please call Ted at 765-491 2194. Bring your own tools, fuel, metal and food to share. Greg Searcy will cook one of his famous pork tenderloins for the main course and the rest of us will fill in with pitch in food.



The agenda for the day is to have a good time, fellowship and forging for fun. We can also concentrate on learning new techniques, making stuff for the upcoming IBA auction at the June Conference and make things for personal use.

Dan Michael will bring 50 pound bags of good quality Pocahontas coal for sale.

Be sure to bring items for iron in the hat.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30, see you then. Ted

Last Meeting: (4/9/11)

Dan Michael gave a presentation about a conference he went to about the preservation of historical metal bridges, many of which are made of wrought iron. The conference was held at Lansing Community College at Lansing Michigan and featured several interesting talks about how old structures are analyzed, repaired and restored. One interesting fact he presented was to weld wrought iron you should use 7018 welding rod. Thank you Dan!

New Nearby Satellite Group

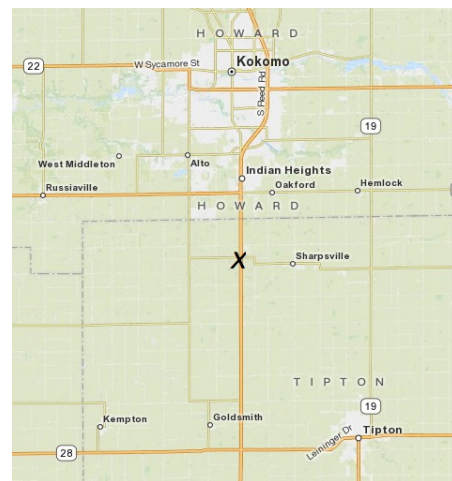
A new IBA satellite group is being formed in the Kokomo/Tipton area. The meetings will be on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 in the afternoon. Meetings will be held at Kelley Farms Agricultural Museum located in Tipton County at the intersection of US 31 and 550 N. It is 7.3 miles North of highway 28 and 2.4 miles south of Highway 26.

The Forge is the Doc Ramseyer Forge. In 1908 he opened a forge nearby. Many of the hand tools in the shop came from the original shop.

Mike Kelley, owner of the property, will be our forgemaster.

The first meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Jim Johnston (kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net)



Jim Keith Gets Award

The Indiana Farriers' Association has recently honored Jim Keith with the Al Morgan Service Award for his service to the organization.

Al Morgan, an old time blacksmith, was Jim's mentor and friend for many years. Al served in the horse cavalry in World War II.



History Day: Pleasant Memory

On Monday, May 2nd, Rob Durrett, Peter Cooper, Dominick Andrisani, Brandon McCormick, Kjetil Groven (KJ) and Ted Stout participated in the annual Illiana Steam and Power History Day for 4th graders.



Peter Cooper explains coopering (the art of making wooden staved vessels of a conical form)



Lewis & Clark come to life with Rob Durrett.



Ted Stout shows how hot the red metal really is.

The blacksmith shop was one of nearly 18 stations demonstrating early trades or early American living conditions. We had a great time with about 320 kids participating from 9:00 until 2:30.

During clean-up one of our younger members said he is not interested in having kids in the near future. Another member was so excited about wearing his new 1736 outfit, he forgot his tools of the trade. Being compassionate blacksmiths, the rest of us made sure he had tools to perform his work.



Interesting Web Sites

An article about the differences between normalizing and annealing steel:

http://www.forgemag.com/Articles/Feature_Article/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_10000000000001029820

Indiana Farriers' Association: <http://www.indianafarriers.org/>

Dates to Remember

May 14, 2011: Rocky Forge meeting in Rainsville.

June 3-5, 2011: IBA Conference, Tipton.

June 11, 2011: Rocky Forge meeting in Rainsville.

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.

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)



Jim Bolin and the bench he made to raise funds for Rocky Forge.