

Rocky Forge News

Volume 10, Issue 10 – November 2011

Next Meeting - November 12

Our next meeting will be November 12th at Ted's shop. Let's forge something! As usual the coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30. Bring your favorite blacksmithing tools to work with and a bucket of coal to keep the fire hot. Our iron-in-the-hat needs to be enhanced, so bring some goodies for the drawing. We will provide a pot of bean soup for lunch, so bring a dish to go with the soup.

Hope everyone is well and biting at the bit to get some blacksmithing done. It has been awhile since we met as a group and it has been even longer since I have done any significant blacksmithing. I don't know about you guys, but I am ready to pound some hot metal. These past few months have been nothing but work, work and more work. With my grandson's help I finally got those piles of metal around the field all cleaned-up. Some metal went to Winski and some went on the rack.

Two weeks ago we had 24 seniors from a church in Indianapolis; they really enjoyed the visit and were impressed by blacksmithing. They claim it was their best trip yet. The Tuesday after our meeting my brother is bringing 35 of his men's group to be entertained by a blacksmith and Carol is fixing them breakfast. Talk about having the word "sucker" on your forehead.

Meeting time is approaching, so let's get ready and have a good attendance, a good time and do some creative blacksmithing. Let's hope to see some of those who have not been to a meeting in a while.

Ted

2012 IBA Conference

The next IBA conference, June 1-3, 2012, will feature Elmer Roush and Clay Spencer. Jim Perkins will do the Friday night demo and Jennifer Hayden and her father Bill Conyers will do a Saturday demo. Bob Cruickshank (the working man's friend) will round out Saturday. Make plans now to attend.

Last Meeting – October 8

Our last Rocky Forge meeting was held at **FOWLER PARK** in Terre Haute. This was an IBA meeting hosted by the Wabash Valley satellite group. The demonstrator, John Bennett, gave a very detailed demonstration of how to forge antlers. Some people prefer forged antlers made of metal in order to be sensitive to the constitutional rights of wild animals.



Seven of our members attended the meeting at Fowler Park. John Bennett demonstrated how to forge metal antlers.

John carefully demonstrated the many steps along the way in making the metal antlers. At every key point in the process, John had a partially completed piece to show us that he made ahead of time to allow his demonstration to proceed more quickly and with greater clarity. He did a lot of work getting ready for this demonstration, and this was much appreciated by the audience. The fabrication process includes forging, bending, welding, and grinding.

The blacksmith shop in Fowler Park, the Conley Blacksmith Shop, was built from tulip-yellow poplar logs that were donated by J.A. Sears. The logs were hand-hewn by Keith Ruble. Construction of the building was completed in 2008. Five forges - one primitive, three coal, and one gas - demonstrate the progression from the early hand powered bellows to the modern gas forge.

John Bennett: Forging Metal Antlers



IBA president, Gary Philips, introduces John.



John shows special hammer with textured face (wavy ribs).



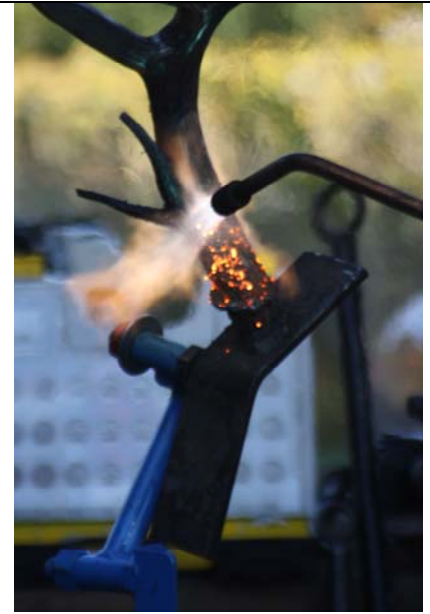
First get the basic shape with the main antler.



Weld on the spokes and fill-in and grind the joints.



Add texture with special hammer and abrasive cutting wheel.



Move welder fast. Heat with torch to bead welding wire into globs.

Dates to Remember

- 11/11/11: Armistice Day: Say thanks to a serviceman.
- December 10, 2011: Rocky Forge meeting.
- July 13-15, 2012: Illiana Power Show
- July 18-21, 2012: ABANA Conf., Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, South Dakota, "Reunion on the Great Plains".

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