

Rocky Forge News

Volume 10, Issue 11 – December 2011

Next Meeting – December 10 in Batesville, Indiana

Hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health, spirit and standing in front of an anvil or forge having a great time. Pete Rollet, a member from the Independence community, is recovering from a mild stroke. It happened about 6 weeks ago and he is now able to walk and getting along very well. I am very pleased to too hear such a positive report.

The Attica blacksmith shop is nearly empty except for the bolt racks and the heavy machine items. The power hammers, now that they are uncovered, look pretty good and the machine tools have lots of tooling to go with them. We removed numerous 5-gallon buckets of morse taper drill bits up to 3 inch in diameter. Some of the bits are still new in the packages. I hope to find a fork truck to load the heavy items in the near future. This adventure turned out to be an archeological excavation beyond what I had estimated. It has been expensive and time consuming. I am sure it was meant to be. Carol is yet to be convinced.

We will ***NOT have a normal December meeting*** due to the IBA meeting on the second Saturday, December 10th, at Chaz Kaiser's shop in Batesville, Indiana. You are all invited to attend that meeting. The IBA always has a good demonstrator for the December meeting. Chaz's shop is a very interesting adventure. He does some commercial work and has a lot in imagination in both his creations and the tools he has built. I would suggest this trip as ***do not miss***. His underground house is his own creation with lots of metal work on display. We will car pool from my shop leaving about 7:00 A.M., with breakfast at McDonalds on the way. Let us try to make a good showing of the Rocky Forge group. Be sure to take something for the pitch in meal and items for iron in the hat. A folding chair is also a good idea as they are usually short on seating capacity. Hope to see you all on December 10th.

Ted

Chaz Kaiser's Place

Each December meeting of the IBA in recent years has been held on the second Saturday of the month at Chaz Kaiser's shop in Batesville, about 130 miles from Lafayette along Interstate 74 in south-east Indiana.

Chaz is a professional welder and blacksmith who has used his many talents to assemble a fascinating shop, build a fabulous underground dome home that was featured in Home and Garden's TV show, and a tremendously creative body of metalwork. Please take a few moments to check out his web site at <http://amstudio.us/>.

When it comes to imagination, Chaz has it. His metalwork is spectacular in size and color. The Fountain Tree pictured on the next page is an example of large-scale public metalwork that will knock your socks off. The Beech Tree Gate combines whimsy, steel, and visual simplicity to delight the eye and measure the passage. The Pyramid Light suggests an ancient power using copper, bronze and stained glass.

Walking around his shop reveals creative tooling in every corner. The power-hammer, planishing hammer and sand blast cabinet pictured on the next page are only three examples.

You owe it to yourself to visit his shop and home.



Chaz Kaiser's unique underground home is the site of our December meeting (also an IBA meeting)

Chaz Kaiser's Shop in Batesville, Indiana



Chaz grinds a piece of steel.



Home made planishing air-hammer.



Chaz's Fountain tree for the City of Rising Sun, IN



Chaz's Pyramid Light



Chaz shows sand blast cabinet to Ted & Gene in December 2006



Beech Tree Gate made by Chaz.

Interesting Web Site

Chaz's Shop, *Aesthetic Metal Studio*,
<http://amstudio.us/>

Dates to Remember

January 14, 2012: 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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