

Rocky Forge News

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Next Activity –May 12 Preparation for History Day

Rocky Forgers are asked to help set up for History Day at the Illiana Show Ground in Rainsville. Please try to be at the Show Ground by 9:00 AM. This will not be a regular meeting of our group. That will happen the following Saturday, May 19, at Ted's shop.

May 14 - History Day

The annual "History Day" at the Show Grounds will be May 14th, next Monday. The Rocky Forge members must be prepared. Illiana has invited the fourth graders from Warren, Fountain and Benton counties. The most recent count that I have heard was over 250 kids. We need to prepare for May 14th and instead of having a regular meeting on Saturday, May 12th, we need to gather at the Rocky Forge show building for a clean up and set up day. If we get it all cleaned and set up we will forge for fun afterward. Bring a sack lunch so you can your energy level high.

The kids will arrive at about 9:00AM on the 14th so we need to be set up and ready by 8:45. Last year some of them were there by 8:45, so take that into account. Your lunch for that day will be provided.

Originally, we had cancelled our meeting for May 12th in favor of the May 19th meeting to host the IBA. I goofed by not taking the history day into account, so we need your help preparing and demonstrating for the history day. Ted



Rob Durrett at History Day last year.

May 19 - Regular Meeting with the IBA at Ted's

The May meeting of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild will also host the May IBA meeting at Ted Stout's shop on May 19th. Our feature demonstrator will be Melvin Lytton, who was a blacksmith for Conner Prairie for several years. Melvin said he hopes for a good turnout so that he can see some of his old friends.

Also, that day we will have an Iron-in-the-Hat drawing followed by a short auction of shop items donated by club members to support an addition to the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Shop at Rainsville. Remember to bring some quality items for Iron-in-the-Hat and for the auction.

If time permits after Melvin's demo there will be several forging stations available with power hammers for your use. Bring your favorite hammer to shape hot iron with a friend.

The meal will be a pitch in with the drinks, table service and meat provided. Bring a covered dish (with something in it) to share. Coffee and doughnuts will be available after 8:30 so come early for time to visit.

Swift and the Blacksmith

It happened that Swift, having been dining at some little distance from Laracor, his residence, was returning home on horseback, in the evening, which was pretty dark; just before he reached a neighboring village his horse lost a shoe. Unwilling to run the risk of laming the animal by continuing his ride in that condition, he stopped at one Kelly's, the blacksmith of the village, where, having called the man, he asked him if he could shoe the horse with a candle. "No," replied the son of Vulcan; "but I can with a hammer."

(The Book of Humor, Wit, and Wisdom: A Manual of Table-talk, George Routledge and Sons, 1887)

Last Meeting-April 14

The Rocky Forge group planned to have our April meeting at the Boy Scout Camp Krietenstien, southeast of Brazil, to give the scouts hands on blacksmithing instruction. Mother nature did not cooperate. We were notified at about the halfway point of the trip to Brazil to turn around and go back home. Three blacksmiths were already there, but I did not know if any instruction was actually done before cancellation. Ted

Wood Lathe Wanted

Ted has a young Amish friend who was in Lancaster Penn. for speech rehabilitation, and during that time they taught him to use a wood lathe. He fell in love with what could be done with scraps of wood, and he sees something he can do well. He called Ted to ask for help in finding a 10 to 14 inch lathe with about a 42-inch bed. We blacksmiths are a good resource for tools. So if anyone knows of a lathe, no motor needed, please give Ted a call at 765-491-2194.

Dates to Remember

May 14, 2012: Rocky Forge participates in History Day at the Illiana Show Ground.
May 19, 2012: Rocky Forge meeting on the third Saturday with the IBA at Ted's.
June 1-3, 2012: IBA Conference, Tipton, IN.
July 18-21, 2012: ABANA Conf., Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, South Dakota, "Reunion on the Great Plains".
July 20-22, 2012: Illiana Antique Power Show in Rainsville, Indiana.
August 6-7, 2012: Rocky Forge works at Indiana State Fair.
September 14-16, 2012: Potawatomi Fest, Attica.
September 22-23, 2012: Feast of the Hunters' Moon
September 21-23, 2012: SOFA Quad-state Conf.
October 5-6, 2012: Gaither Fall Festival, Alexandria, IN.

Interesting Web Sites

Goggle "Hebo Videos" and watch some incredible machines do "blacksmithing". King Architectural and others must have rooms full of these machines.

Watch a Swedish blacksmith make a nail in 12 seconds:
http://svtplay.se/v/1371061/spik-och_oxskosmide_samt_enbladig_ramsag_utan_ljud_1923

Blacksmithing T-Shirts:
<http://shop.cafepress.com/blacksmith>

Jewelry Artist Allison Bohorfoush:
<http://www.alabamadesignercraftsmen.com/pages/artists/bohorfoush.htm>

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Web Site: <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here).

Calling All Members to the IBA Conference GALLERY

Want to see a spectacular gallery at the IBA conference this year? Then let's do it. If we all pitch in, we can indeed show the "Indiana Blacksmiths in Action" by bringing in your items to show at the Gallery display. Eligible things to show are those items you made at home, whether recently or 30 years ago. We want to see what you have made. We also want to see what tools or tooling you have made so there will be a space to display those items. Hopefully, this will give those looking at it some "take home" ideas. The gallery can be an educational experience. We also will provide a display area for antique items made by the blacksmith. It is always interesting see those items and figure out how they were made. A limited number of glass cases will be available to protect those special items.

Please help us make this the very best gallery we have had yet!! We have a lot of talent in Indiana so let's show it.