

Rocky Forge News

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No Meeting This Month

Due to the effects of our snap of cold weather, our January meeting has been cancelled. Many of us are behind in our work or have to work on Saturday because of plant closings this week. The weather forecast for this weekend is questionable as well. So we ask our members to be careful outside, and while driving. Don't forget your coat and gloves! We look forward to our February 8th meeting.

It's Cold Outside

During cold weather, FEMA suggests the following precautions:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit your exposure to the cold;
- Dress in layers and keep dry;
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who are at risk and may need additional assistance;
- Know the symptoms of cold-related health issues such as frostbite and hypothermia and seek medical attention if health conditions are severe;
- Bring your pets indoors or ensure they have a warm shelter area with unfrozen water;
- Make sure your vehicle has an emergency kit that includes an ice scraper, blanket and flashlight – and keep the fuel tank above half full.



Ted and Gene with John Bennett at our November meeting in Park County Fairgrounds.

Advice From An Old Farmer

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong. Keep skunks and bankers at a distance. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump. A bumblebee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled. Meanness don't jes' happen overnight. Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads. Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge. You cannot unsay a cruel word. Every path has a few puddles. When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached. Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway. Don't judge folks by their relatives. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time. Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got. The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every mornin'. Always drink upstream from the herd. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in. If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

Most times, it just gets down to common sense.

(<http://littlepigfarm.com/advice-from-an-old-farmer-2/>)

John Bennett's Portable Vertical Band Saw



This DeWalt portable band saw modified to mount vertically in a vice and has a convenient work table. The blue steel bracket in the vice holds the saw.

The work table has a jig clamped to it. The jig allows for easy and repeatable cuts to be made for the snowflake featured in our last newsletter.



Detail of the blue steel bracket that fits into the saw and mounts in the jaws of the vice.



Another view of the blue steel bracket. This saw was featured at our November meeting.

Interesting Web Sites

Hundreds of projects:

<http://www.anvilfire.com/iForge/>

ABANA Bookstore featuring back issues of the Anvil's Ring (\$8) and The Hammer's Blow (\$4):

<http://www.abana.org/store/ABANASTore.shtml>

Dates to Remember

February 1, 2014: Rural Smiths of Mid-America meeting at location TBA.

February 8, 2014: Rocky Forge meeting.

June 6-8, 2014: Indiana Blacksmithing Association Annual Conference in Tipton, IN.

August 13-16, 2014: ABANA 2014 Conference, Delaware State Fairgrounds.

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