

Rocky Forge News

Volume 13, Issue 3 – March, 2014

Next Meeting (3/8/14)

What a winter this has been, the Rocky Forge group has cancelled meeting after meeting and not been able to heat our shops for forging. Being snow bound, freezing temperatures, colds, flu and \$5 to \$7 per gallon propane really tests our endurance. Most of us are so afflicted with cabin fever it is a treat to go about anywhere. Finally, this Saturday, March the 8th, after paying over \$700 for 200 gallons of propane, Ted is going to heat his shop for a hammer-in. If we get lucky with the temperature there will be forges available outside for the tough guys and inside there will be one coal forge and at least 2 gas forges. If anyone wants to bring their gas forge then do so. Some of the guys have already expressed special projects they want to work on. I must warn you that my shop has a lot of extra stuff that was put there for the winter, but we can work around it.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30 and lunch will be a pitch-in with a large pot of chili. Bring a dish to share. Our cook, Carol, will not be available after 12:00, so we will need to share the chore of setting up the lunch buffet. Iron in the hat will be held after lunch so bring some nice things for the drawing.

I for one have really missed getting together so I hope to see a lot of familiar faces and even some unfamiliar visitors. Pass the word.... Ted

SADNESS AMONG OUR FRIENDS

This has been a rough time for friends, neighbors and members, so bad that we sometimes hesitate reading the obituaries or answering the phone. Some of our mutual friends who need our support are:

John Young, one of our Rocky Forge founding members, lost his wife Lucille on February 14th. She was buried next to her family in Vienna, Mo.

Lucille and John were the ones who had the Illiana t-shirts made and sold them at the show.

There will be an informal calling for family and friends at Janice Morgan's house on Lake Holiday on Saturday, March 15th, at 2:00PM. The address is 5012 S. Wellington Blvd., Crawfordsville, IN.

Also, John Schneider, age 59, of Attica passed away on Sunday March 2nd. Though John was not a member, he had occasionally attended our meetings. He was a great collector of anything old and particularly enjoyed machine shop tools and blacksmithing tools.

John Zile a prominent member of the IBA has terminal cancer and has only a short time to live.

Our prayers and thoughts are with each family during this difficult time.

Ted Stout

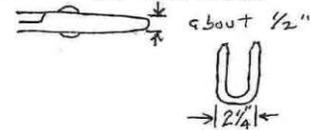
Last Meeting (2/8/14)

We met at Ted's basement where it was warm. Gene Hollingsworth demonstrated a sheet metal fabrication technique. He sandwiched some sheet metal between two sheets of plywood containing the pattern. He then hammered the metal with a selection of soft hammers.



Making Chain by Joel Clark

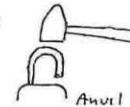
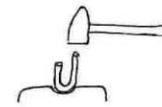
A) Special Tools -

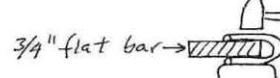
- 1) Make or modify tongs  groove in jaws to fit link stock
- 2) "U" tool to clamp in vise and use to shape links.  about 1/2"  2 1/4"

3) Material - 3/8" round bar cut in 7" length

C) Method -

1) Heat middle of 3/8"x7" bar and bend to form link 

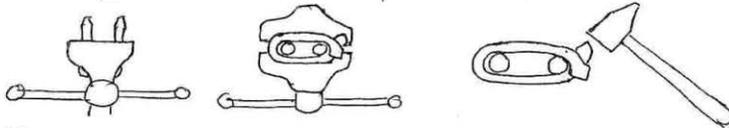
2) Even up ends if uneven  Anvil or 

3) I use a piece of 3/4" thick flat bar and straighten arms of link;  3/4" flat bar

4) Reheat and scarf ends of link on anvil. I scarf one end then turn over the link and do the other so the scarfs will mate when joined.



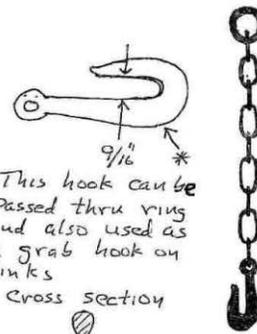
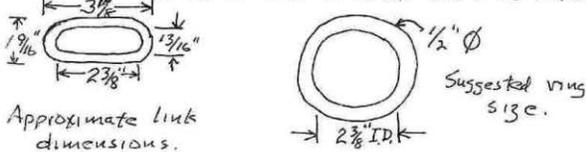
5) In the same heat the scarfed ends are bent to overlap using the "U" Tool clamped in vise.



6) Flux and weld. Start weld on face of anvil and finish on horn and/or "U" tool. If necessary, re-heat and finish weld in second heat. While still hot, true up link on "U" tool.

7) Make 2 links, then join with another. Make chain in 3 link segments, then join segments. After a few feet of chain is completed, moving it from fire to anvil becomes awkward, and is facilitated by using a hook to suspend the chain from overhead.

8) One way to finish chain is by forging a ring on one end and a hook on the other.



Dates to Remember

March 8, 2014: Rocky Forge meeting.

March 15, 2014: Lucille Young Memorial.

April 12, 2014: Rocky Forge meeting.

June 6-8, 2014: IBA Annual Conference in Tipton, IN.

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

SOFA QuadState: September 26-28, 2014.

Feast of the Hunters' Moon: October 4-5, 2014



Gene's chicken and tools

Reprinted from the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Newsletter of June, 1999 and from The Newsletter of the Central States Metal Artisans, January, 2014

Interesting Web Sites

- Making Chain:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRPos5uyy0A>
- Forging of chain by smiths:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLlObCltfQ>
- Hand forging chains:**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_LA_R4ifYk

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