

Rocky Forge News

Volume 13, Issue 10 – October 2014

Next Meeting (10/11/14)

The past two weeks for me has been a real challenge, in and out of the hospital and Dr. appointments. Laying flat for days is not my idea of a way to spend time. As a result, I became very weak but am beginning to regain my strength.

We will still have a meeting this coming Saturday, October 11th, if for no other reason than my desire to get out to the shop with my friends. You will have to live with the mess. Another reason: Kaaren Parsell, a member of the Illiana Antique Power Assoc. asked if I could make two sunflower plants to be placed in the show grounds. Being a person who finds it hard to say no, I said “of course”, and we can make it a project for our blacksmith group. So guess what guys, we can start with making two sunflower plants, full size, on Saturday. This will be another test of our skills. For the blossom we will use rotary hoe sections and for the leaves, sheet metal. Peter Cooper provided real leaves and stalks for patterns. The stalks can be made by using a texturing die and maybe solid shaft. We may want to experiment using heavy wall pipe with the texturing die. Anyway, we will do the best we can and make them look cool. Kaaren Parsell will paint them the appropriate colors for a sunflower.



As for lunch, we will cook hamburgers on my new 8-burner grill (probably only need 2 burners). You guys bring food to share and we should have a good meal.

We will also have an Iron-in-the-hat drawing so bring goodies for that event. Iron-in-the-hat is very important to us at this time. We have a debt for the building expansion that needs to be paid and so far the drawing and donations are our only income.

Next month, Brad McCormick has arranged for a professional demonstrator, which should draw a good crowd. At that meeting we intend to have an auction of blacksmith related items. Be thinking of what you can donate for that auction and save up some money to spend. You never know what might be in the auction. Our own Randy Padish will be the auctioneer. (Thanks Randy).

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready at 8:30 on October 11th, see you then. Ted

SOFA Quadstate 2014

What a fine blacksmithing meeting! The tailgating sales were great and the demonstrations were interesting. I was particularly interested in the high relief copper demonstration by Heather McLarty and Jan Aijian from Los Angeles, CA. They showed an interesting array of soft and hard top tools for working copper. The demo included roughing the piece using plastic-headed mallets where the sheet copper was supported by 2 or 3 pieces of loose 2x4 wood. They called this raising over air with soft tools. Then they added some pitch on the backside to fill in the relief and give some support to the copper for doing some more conventional chasing and repousse' with smaller hard top tools (e.g. chisels). They made a fish on a piece of 18 gage copper sheet metal about 2x3 feet in size. As the piece is roughed out they stressed flattening the background metal often. Failure to do so will result in a piece later on that is nearly impossible to flatten. Annealing was done with a propane-fueled weed burner and a 55-gallon drum filled with water. See the photos on the next page.

Dominick

High Relief Copper: by Heather McLarty and Jan Aijian



Heather shows piece roughed out with large soft tools.



Large soft hammers for roughing out work.



Annealing after heating with a propane weed burner.



Adding pitch lumps to back with small propane burner.

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

Dates to Remember

November 8, 2014: Rocky Forge Meeting at Ted's with demonstrator Tom Willoughby

December 13, 2014: Combined Rocky Forge and IBA meeting at Ted's.

Interesting Web Sites

Period Images of Blacksmiths:

gulfcoastblacksmith.com/discoveries-gallery/paintings-and-sketches/

Willoughby Forge and Studio: Iron Work and Wood Carving (Nov. Demo):
www.willoughbyforge.com/
Making a Clayton Knot, by Hans Peot:



www.sofablacksmiths.org/peotthompson/peotthompson.htm

Indiana Blacksmithing Association (IBA) on Facebook.