

Rocky Forge News

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No January Meeting

With the extreme cold weather and flu epidemic the January Rocky Forge meeting has been cancelled. The Stout's have been hard hit with chest colds (flu?). Ted is now in the midst of it and Carol is recuperating. So many of our family and friends are afflicted with it lasting anywhere from a few days to over 10 days. We feel no reason to potentially spread germs by having a meeting. Hopefully, we can commence with the February 14th meeting.

Last Meeting

The December 13th meeting was a combined meeting of the IBA and Rocky Forge at Ted Stout's shop. Eric Shotwell not only gave a good demo on making stone cutting tools; he also gave a lot of useful tips on tempering the metal. Tempering was done in used fish fry oil from the fall fish fry at the West Point Fire Dept. In the afternoon he had several members outside with pieces of limestone he had provided and was teaching how to use the stone carving tools he made. Thanks Eric, we really appreciated your demo. Along with his demo we had two gentlemen from the Tippecanoe County wood carvers on hand. One of them, Richard Gordon, brought in a very nice display of wood and stone carvings. As Eric pointed out in his presentation, making stone cutting tools is basically the same for wood carving tools.

Lunch for the day consisted of baked ham and many, many covered dishes brought in by the members. It was an enjoyable time for visit and reconnecting with old friends.

After lunch we had an auction. The auction was of items contributed by the Rocky Forge members for sale to offset the cost of our building expansion. It was a great success and we appreciate and thank all those who contributed items to the sale and to all those who made healthy bids. Hats off Randy Padish for being our in house auctioneer, he did a great job. With the help of the Illiana Antique Power Association (\$3000), the proceeds from the auction (\$2511), \$60 from Jim and Diane Bolen for

bean soup sales at our annual "Christmas in the Village" event and cash donations from members, we are now out of debt and have money left for our next step in the building plans. Thanks again to all who helped make this milestone possible.

Kurt Fehrenbach and others did some nice power hammer work on the 100-pound Little Giant after lunch. Kurt is always such a pleasure to be around and he is an excellent teacher of the craft. His wife also fits that description; she too likes working with metal. After everyone had left for the day and 4 days later I found a beautiful pair of tongs made from spring steel laid near the power hammer, I assume Kurt made them.

Blacksmith Auction

On Friday, January 23rd, TriCounty Auctions, Arcola, Illinois, will have an auction starting at 3:00 P.M. The auction will feature blacksmithing tools and related items. Keep watching his listing and



photo gallery on auctionzip as he will continue to add consigned items. So far he has some pretty nice items

consigned. Google Auctionzip and enter 14498 in the upper right hand corner of the screen under auctionzip ID. This is a large facility out in the country and run by an Amish family.



Overnight accommodations may be found at Tuscola or Arcola. There is a large discount mall at Tuscola and I-57 in case mom is not interested in the auction.

Ted Stout

Photographs from our Auction in December



Randy Padish was the auctioneer. Ted Stout was the MC.



Dan Michael was the recorder.



It was a nice day in December.



Notable smiths from around Indiana attended our auction.

Mike Smyth Boone – Blacksmith – Paonia, CO

Smyth Boone is an eighteenth generation blacksmith - a family legacy that goes back to the time of the Vikings and includes noted explorer Daniel Boone.

Smyth has been forging for over twenty two years creating large architectural commissions, teaching the art and craft of blacksmithing internationally, displaying work in invitational art exhibits and has recently launched a successful international hand-forged product line, Boone's Hooks. Smyth has published works in numerous books, periodicals, and on the internet.

abana.org/Conferences/2014/ConferenceDemonstrators.shtml#Boone

booneshooks.com



Blacksmiths forging blacksmiths, a story of life.

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

Check out Indiana Blacksmithing Association (IBA) on Facebook.

Dates to Remember

January 19, 2015: Martin Luther King Day.

February 14, 2015: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's shop.

Interesting Web Sites

From Iron Ore to Iron Hoe: Smelting Iron in Africa:

<http://youtu.be/RuCnZCIWwpQ>

M Smyth Boone, Boone's Hooks: booneshooks.com