

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting (5/9/2015)

At the Illiana Show Grounds

Thank you, dear friends, for all your concerns, well wishes and cards over the past month. Your friendship means so much during this time of our lives. Carol is doing well with periodic low white cell counts and slight fevers to put us on alert to hospitalization. We have been fortunate with only one serious event. She will continue with treatments into September.

The meeting for May 9th will again be held at the Illiana Show Grounds at 9:00AM. Be prepared to set up your forges and have a good time shaping hot metal. There may be at least 3 new guys attending the meeting, so please help them become familiar with forging and safety. If you need more forges or anvils feel free to stop by and borrow what you need. Someone needs to stop by and get the Iron-in-the-Hat tickets or get another roll.

It's not too early to make plans for the Illiana show July 17, 18, 19th and the June conference for the Indiana Blacksmiths. **For the conference, we need volunteers to step up to the plate and help with the gallery displays and the Saturday night auction. Unfortunately, Carol or I cannot be of much help. We may try to make a short appearance on Saturday. Please see and discuss with Dominick how you can help with these events.** Like all organizations it takes members to pitch in and make our groups most successful. Don't leave all the work to just a scant few, be part of it and pitch in.

Ted

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

2015 IBA Conference

Tipton Fair Grounds

June 5-7, 2015

Get ready! Plan ahead! Be there! The IBA Conference is less than 30 days away and it's a doozy!

Demonstrators include our own Shane Stegmeier, Michael Bendele, Phoebe Gram, Dick Fisher, and Nathan Robertson.

Shane's Friday Night Demo will be an updated and expanded version of the 1-hour class he did years ago at SOFA. "What to do with a Farrier's Rasp: other than make an Asp..." The demo will begin with a discussion of psychology and design philosophy, and then will use rasps to explore these concepts. There are lots of creative uses that an old rasp can be turned into. Shane is really hoping he can inspire you with some of the ideas and applications he has come up with.

Michael Bendele's demonstration will focus on tips and techniques he has developed, adapted, borrowed, and stolen over the past 38 years working full time with ferrous and nonferrous metals.



Michael nonferrous metals, mainly, 464 naval brass, 377 forging brass, 655 silicon bronze, and 260 cartridge brass, and copper, on Sunday.



Phoebe Graham is the IBA 2014 Rookie of the Year. Phoebe hails from Greentown, IN. Her love of blacksmithing stems from the ability to express herself combined with the ability to exercise frustrations.

The content of her demonstration will be a surprise, but it is guaranteed to be fun with plenty of joking and laughter.

Dick Fisher of Speedway, IN will be offering a demonstration and discussion on engraving. Dick has taken engraving classes at GRS in Kansas and at NRA engraving class. He has also studied the styles of Mike

Dick will discuss various pneumatic and hand engraving systems. He will also discuss forging your own engraving tools.

Nathan Robertson's has taught classes all over the country. His main interest is flat die forging and tooling with power hammers. He has gathered information over the years from smiths like Clifton Ralph, Bob Bergman, Steve Parker, and Phil Cox.

Nathan demonstration will cover tool making drifts, numerous ways in some power hammer tooling, some hot plate bowl raising, stamping, and some simpler quick and dirty projects to break up the monotony.

plans



Gallery Exhibition Items

The exhibition gallery at the IBA Conference is a popular venue. Be sure to bring blacksmith work, antique tools and related items from your collection for others to view.

Dubber and John Shipper.

Dates to Remember

May 9, 2015: Rocky Forge meeting at Illiana Show Grounds.

June 5-7, 2015: IBA Conference, Tipton, IN

design, putting holes hand led tools



Nathan Robertson at the power hammer.