

Rocky Forge News

Volume 14, Issue 11 – November, 2015

Next Meeting: 11/14/2015

November 14th is the next meeting of the Rocky Forge blacksmith group, but it is also the first day of deer hunting season. I know some of you are avid deer hunters so come in later if you can and be careful during your hunt.

For those of you who will make it to the meeting we will have a **demo by Melvin Lytton on making early American hinges**. Melvin was the lead blacksmith at Conner Prairie for years and was responsible making most of the hardware on the existing Conner Prairie buildings. He is a member of Rocky Forge and will be demonstrating at 9:00 A.M. and has to leave by 1:00. I encourage you to attend this meeting as Melvin is an excellent demonstrator and teacher. After his demonstration we will have an open forge time if anyone wishes to make something or would like some hands on experience.

For lunch we will have ham salad sandwiches, chips and iced tea. We expect you to bring other food to add to the meal. Hope to see you on the 14th. As usual coffee and doughnuts will be available around 8:30 with the demo starting at 9:00.

Also, please bring items for our Iron-in-the Hat drawing. We had a good one last month that added generously to our coffers for more building improvements. The next addition to our building will be the half wall between the blacksmith area and the machine shop side. After that we will build the "cage" for machine shop and blacksmith shop tooling. That room will be totally enclosed and secure with minimal heat to reduce tool rusting. Bottom line: let's keep up the good work on having a productive Iron-in-the Hat drawings. It pays our bills and benefits all of us.

Update on Carol: She has gone thru diagnosis, surgery, grueling chemotherapy, and will complete radiation treatments this next Thursday November 12th. At this time she is tolerating the radiation as

expected. There is burning and blistering of the skin with some raw areas beginning to appear. Those should heal within two weeks of her last treatment. After that she will take a cancer drug every day for 5 years (or more). Two PET scans have indicated no cancer anywhere in the body below her head. Her spirits have been amazing throughout this whole ordeal which makes me very proud of her. Even the doctors have said she's a "tough ole gal." I guess she has to be to live with me!!

Be there on Saturday, November 14th, at Ted's shop, 8:30 A. M. Ted



Randy shows handiwork at last meeting.

Contacts

Forgemaster: Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-572-2467 home).

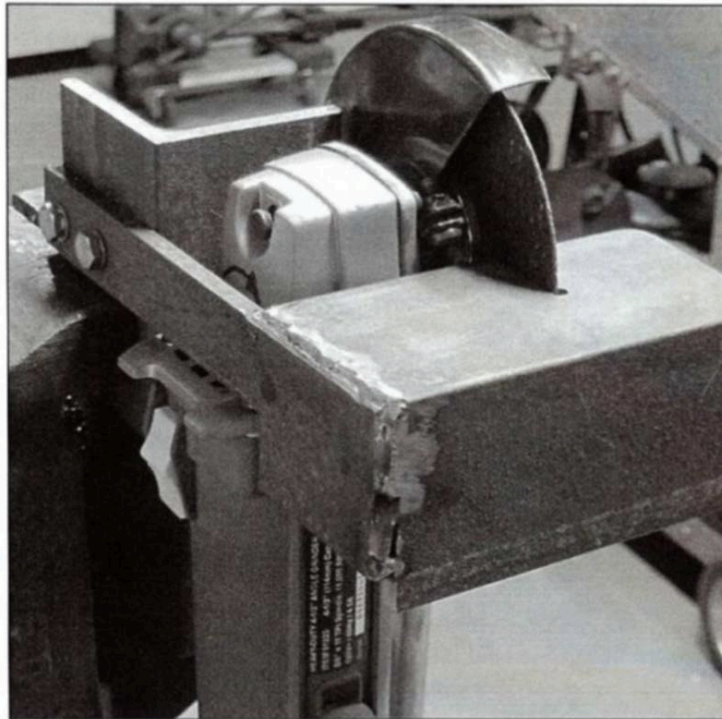
Newsletter Editor: Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975 home).

Cool High Speed Metal Cutter (but be careful with this!)

Mario Baggiolini, Sonora

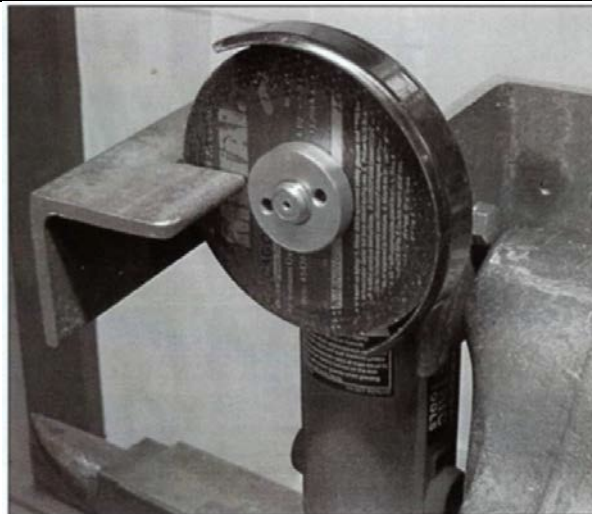
I came up with this idea because I needed to cut out 38 oak leaves from 16 gauge steel. I have no plasma torch; chisel cutting would take forever, and water jet was out of the question. So with \$21 for a 4½" Harbor Freight HD angle grinder Item #91223, some bits of 2½" x 2½" x ¼" angle iron, a piece of flat bar and some bolts, I came up with this mini abrasive-wheel table that uses ⅙" x 4½" abrasive cut off wheels (Harbor Freight also, item #454300). The nice thing about this grinder is it has a slide switch on/off instead of a paddle switch with spring return, so it can be kept running.

When using this tool, follow all the grinder safety rules including hearing protection.



To make the leaves, I made a pattern out of 16 gauge steel. Using this pattern, I traced the outline onto the sheet steel. Then I rough sheared the blank out with a plate shear. Moving over to the mini abrasive-wheel table saw, I followed the scribed lines of the leaf. Go slowly. The wheel can be very aggressive and can cut quickly. Next, wire brush the burrs and touch up with a file. I then used my veining tool to give the leaf some character.

A sketch of the parts and assembly (see page 21) shows dimensions are close, so some fitting may be required. Ideally, the top of the table should be at the center line of the grinder or slightly below. ♣



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Interesting Web Sites

Chaz Kaiser: An Indiana Artisan

<http://www.indianaartisan.org/artisans/artists/chaz-kaiser/>

John Bennett: An Indiana Artisan

<http://www.indianaartisan.org/artisans/artists/john-bennett/>

Dates to Remember

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

December 12, 2015: NO ROCKY FORGE meeting. **December 12, 2015:** IBA monthly meeting, TBA.

July 13-16, 2016: ABANA 2016 Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah