

Rocky Forge News

Volume 14, Issue 12 – December, 2015

Next Rocky Meeting: 1/9/2016

There will "NO" Rocky Forge meeting for December. However, you are encouraged to attend the IBA meeting at Don Reitzel's on December 12th. For more information about that meeting go to the "Forge Fire", December issue. Don has a very interesting shop and is not so far away. He is just off highway 40 south of Indianapolis near Stilesville.

As for the Rocky Forge we will plan a meeting for January 9. More about that meeting will be in the January newsletter.

Our thanks to Melvin Layton for his demonstration at the November meeting. Melvin is a very good demonstrator and has a great talent for conveying his skill to others. We hope to see him at future meetings for an organized teaching agenda.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Illiana Christmas in the Village, we had between 7-10 volunteers. The show was a huge success this year with record crowds. I know some of you had to drive an hour to make it there and that was greatly appreciated. We had a good time forging and displaying our work. The audience was most interested and at times the building was crowded. The weather cooperated very well. Even though it was a big success, think about changes or additions to improve our presentation even more for next Christmas.

Also, be thinking and planning for the IBA conference the first of June, the Illiana show the 3rd weekend of July and History Day in the fall. For all three events we should find ways to showcase the State's 200th anniversary. The blacksmith was a very important tradesman during that part of our history. The anniversary torch that will travel throughout the state will actually pass through the Illiana show grounds during History day so we should make a special effort to all participate that day. We are very fortunate to have such exposure on such a historic event. I am open to any ideas you all have to offer for these events, just give me a call. Jim Bolen has already started preparation to build

another bench for raffle. His bench will highlight the state and the 200th anniversary. Hats off to Jim and our thanks to him.

Hope to see you at Don Reitzel's this Saturday, December 12th. Bring a covered dish to pass and items for Iron-in-the-Hat.

Ted



Dan Michael makes a nail at
"Christmas in the Village" at our shop in Rainsville.

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An Explosion Averted by Luck

By Dominick Andrisani

Upon returning this year from a weeklong Thanksgiving vacation, my wife and I quickly discovered that throughout our home there was a distinct smell like nail polish remover. After quite a few anxious minutes of hunting for the source of the volatile smell I found in the basement a 1-gallon can of lacquer thinner had developed a pinhole leak in the bottom and was slowly leaking its contents onto the wooden workbench upon which it was resting. Within twelve feet of that leaking can of flammable solvent in the same room were both our gas-fired furnace and gas-fired hot water heater, two active ignition sources. Needless to say, we were quite lucky that the flammable vapors of the leaked lacquer thinner that were being circulated around our home by the forced air furnace had not exploded.



A Few Take-Aways:

- Don't create unnecessary containers of solvents (or chemicals) that then have to be safely stored on your property. Properly dispose unneeded solvents and other chemicals.
- Store solvents and chemicals out of your home, if possible.
- Store solvents or chemicals away from ignition sources (forges, torches, other flames) and combustible materials such as boxes, rags, and towels.
- Solvents should be stored in the "flammable" storage cabinets provided for that purpose. The cabinets should be located in areas with temperatures 80°F or lower.
- Do not store dissimilar chemicals in the same storage cabinet. The vapors from these

chemicals could mix and set off a reaction with devastating results.

- Solvents or chemicals that have only limited future use (such as old paint) should be properly disposed of rather than stored.
- Solvents must be stored and used below eye level in order to reduce the chances of getting solvents in the eyes.
- Dispose of solvents or chemicals properly. Around the City of Lafayette I suggest using the waste drop-off run by the Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District (2770 N 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47904, 765-423-2858. M,W,F: 7am to 4pm | T,TH 7am to 6pm | Sat 7am to 1pm). This staffed drop off collection site takes 60 kinds of leftover products that can pollute or hurt people. Bring products riding upright in a box, lids on tight. Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District Staff will unload your materials.

Interesting Web Sites

The Blacksmith's 12 Days of Christmas

<http://www.anvilfire.com/21centbs/stories/>

The Blacksmith's Christmas Gift

<http://www.anvilfire.com/21centbs/stories/>

Dates to Remember

December 12, 2015: NO ROCKY FORGE meeting.

December 12, 2015: IBA monthly meeting at Don Reitzel's.

December 25: Christmas Day.

January 9, 2016: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's.

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

