

Rocky Forge News

Volume 15, Issue 3 ~ March, 2016

Next Rocky Meeting: 3/12/16

Get ready for another meeting of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild on March 12th at Ted's shop. We have been very fortunate to have Melvin Lytton as a demonstrator in recent months. He may return again this month to either demonstrate making another project and passing his wisdom to us, or we will have an open forge with Melvin instructing. It all depends on his schedule and the weather. We want to encourage the attendance of our younger generation to learn the Art of Blacksmithing. With the new TV series on the History channel: "Forged in Fire" there seems to be more interest in blacksmithing. If you know someone interested, ask them to come along.

We will provide a ham for lunch so please bring a covered dish to pass. At the last meeting we had such a wonderful meal with the lamb and beef tenderloin cooked by Melvin that it is going to be hard to beat that performance. Having a ham with nice dishes provided by you members can also be a memorable meal.

To me the meal is a large part of our social gathering that helps bind us as true friends. It is evident by the camaraderie that



we see during the meal. Bottom line: bring a nice dish to share during the meal.

Be sure to bring items for Iron-in-the-Hat. Also bring your favorite tools to do some smithing.

We are looking to finish the walnut toolbox made by KJ and to be filled with tools of our making for a raffle along with the bench being constructed by Jim Bolen.

Coffee and doughnuts begin at 8:30 followed by a short business meeting then down to the business of blacksmithing. See you all on March 12.

Bring a friend!

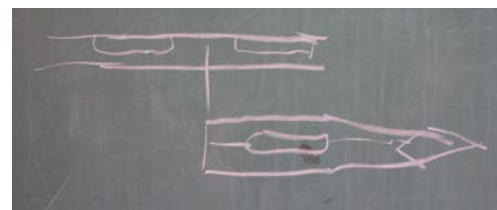
Ted Stout

Melvin Lytton Hatchet Demo

At our last meeting Melvin gave a great demo of making a hatchet head wherein the eye is formed by creating identical indentations in the metal,



partially cutting through the metal, and



folding the head around the void that becomes the eye. See sketch.

The front portion is then welded together to form the striking portion of the head. A piece of high carbon steel is shaped to fit inside the rear portion of the head in order to provide hard metal for the cutting edge. This is forge welded in place. See photo.



The eye of the head is shaped to be larger at the top and at the bottom. This ensures that the head will stay firmly attached to the handle. See sketch.



Melvin also graciously provided several legs of lamb and cooked them for our lunch meal. Wow! Was that terrific!

Melvin Lytton Demonstrates Making a Folded Hatchet Head



Forming the indentions for the eye.



Cutting the piece from the stock.



The hatchet head prior to the folding (side view).



The hatchet head prior to the folding (edge view).



Forge welding the front.

Rocky Forge Facebook Group

A new public Facebook *group* has been created to facilitate communication among our members about our blacksmithing activities and concerns. The name of this new *group* is **Rocky Forge Blacksmiths**. The old Facebook *page* called Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild will be deleted soon after most of the images that were posted there have been moved to our new *group*. Any member of this *group* can approve someone else to become a member.

Please feel free to post photographs of your work on this *group*. The best way to do this is to create a named album of photos. This way the photos are always there in a place where you can always find them (in the Photo Albums area for the *group*).

On Facebook please search for the *group* **Rocky Forge Blacksmiths** and request to join.

Contacts

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

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

Dates to Remember

March 19, 2016: IBA annual business meeting at Kelly Farms in Sharpville, IN.

June 3-5, 2016: IBA Conference, Tipton, IN.

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

July 15-17, 2016: Illiana Antique Power Association Exhibition, Rainsville, IN.

September 23-25, 2016: SOFA Quad-state Conf., Troy, OH.

October 1-2, 2016: Feast of the Hunters' Moon, Fort Ouiatenon, West Lafayette, IN.