

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting: 7/8/2017

The time for the Illiana Antique Power Association's annual show is here, July 21, 22, 23<sup>rd</sup>. In the past the Rocky Forge group has made an impressive presence at the show. For several years we have had 18 to 22 blacksmiths working on and off at this show. That is impressive because I know of no other tractor show having such a large exhibit of working metal smiths and artisans.

Rob Durrett's presentation of the Lewis and Clark history is monumental as is Gene Hollingsworth and his copper and aluminum work. It's always a good show when Peter Cooper presents his cooperage demonstrations with explanations. Last year we had Roger Davis with his interpretation of hammer work using no forge or fire, very well attended. Then Dominick and his famous crosses that everyone looks forward to seeing and buying. John Bennett really had a great setup last year and hopefully sold a lot of items. It's okay to sell so long as you demonstrate in the process. Jim Bolen's encampment always draws a crowd with lots of questions.

The rest of us are the core group demonstrating and explaining blacksmithing. Our building sometimes will be packed with the curious public hungry to see and learn more about what we do and some want to become members of the Rocky Forge. I suppose the TV series "Forged in Fire" (<http://www.history.com/shows/forged-in-fire>) will also have big impact on the interest level this year. Having items to display adds to the interest of the public and gives us a chance to interact with them about what we do and how we do it. With display items it kind of makes a metalsmithing gallery for our show.

There will be several new things at the show this year including the "341 Band" entertaining on Friday night and a chicken and noodle dinner Saturday afternoon and evening. You might go on the Illiana website and facebook site to check out the agenda.

Rocky Forge will have two get-togethers (workdays) at the Illiana show grounds in Rainsville over the next weeks. The first will be Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, (8:30AM) for the purpose of cleaning the building, orienting some of the machine shop tools, and work on the mini-barn and maybe adding a wall (half height) between the blacksmith area and the machine shop. Lots to be done, but if you have a burning desire to forge hot metal there

are two forges available, so have at it, just bring your anvil and tools.

The second meeting will be Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, as another workday on the blacksmith building. For both meetings bring tools to clean up leaves, attach insulation, nail plywood, move heavy equipment and do electrical work. We are looking for a 200-amp breaker box either free or at a good deal. I will have an air compressor, nail guns, miter saw and leaf blower among other tools.

Please try to attend these meetings. We have had such a good time for the last several months at my shop. Now its time to do some work for the Guild. At both of these meetings we will do a bag lunch. In other words, you are responsible for your own food and drink.

At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting we will also have an "Iron-In-The-Hat" drawing, so bring goodies. "Iron-In-The-Hat" is always good entertainment and a helpful source of funds for our building.

We will have coffee and doughnuts by 9:00AM so come on over to the Illiana show grounds at Rainsville, north of Attica off of US 41, for a day of work. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about how to get to the show grounds, the show or our scheduled workdays (765-491-2194).

Ted

## Dates to Remember

**July 21-23:** Illiana Show, Rainsville, IN

**Sept. 24, 2017:** Art on the Wabash, 10AM-4PM, Tapawingo Park, West Lafayette.

**Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017:** Feast of the Hunters' Moon.

**October 9, 10, or 11:** Pre-Conference Classes with Mark Asbury, "Making Your Own Tools", \$150/pay, each day is separate and different.

**October 13-14:** Upper Midwest Regional (Pontiac) Blacksmith Conf. Pontiac, Illinois.

**June 27-30, 2018:** ABANA 2018 Conference will held in Richmond, Virginia at the Meadow Event Park.

## Contacts

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**Beautiful Ornamental Ironwork on a Bank Door in Volos, Greece**  
(Photos by Dominick Andrisani)

