

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting: 8/12/2017

Thanks to all those who participated in the Illiana Antique Power show in July. I am happy to report we had 19 working smiths on Saturday. There was a lot of talent expressed in the blacksmith shop all three days. At times the building was packed and many compliments were passed on. Good job to all of you!! Also, many thanks to all those who have helped with the upgrade of the mini barn. Insulation and a vapor barrier were added and the interior was sheathed in plywood. Now we need to paint the interior and bring in the metal shelves to store the tooling for the machine shop tools.

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith (metalsmiths) Guild will meet Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, at Ted's shop. The time will be 8:30 for coffee, doughnuts and socializing. Around 9:15 we will have a meeting of the minds, then start the forges.

The agenda for the day will be to finish the knives you started at the June meeting. If you are finished and would like to make another knife we can give you instruction on making one from a billet, that by the way requires some blacksmithing skill.

My advice to the beginners who have great aspirations of making knives: first learn some basic blacksmithing skills, then apply those skills to make your knife. By the way, a railroad spike is not a good choice of metal for a knife. If you are looking



to make a wall hanger then fine, a spike might work.

At this meeting there will be seasoned smiths who can guide you in the right direction whether it be blacksmithing, blade-smithing, sheet metal work, copper or bronze work and machine shop practice. Rocky Forge is very fortunate to have a versatile membership who is willing to share their specific talents and Ted's shop, though meager (?), is equipped to support all these interests.

There will be an "Iron-in-the-Hat" so bring some goodies for the drawing; the club needs money for the future of our building on the grounds of the Illiana Antique Power Association. We have a lot of projects over there that need to be done, and they all take funds to do it and the "Iron-in-the-Hat" drawing if our main fund raiser.

Carol is going to fix chicken and noodles for lunch. So bring a covered dish to pass. (Potato chips don't go well with chicken and noodles.)

Looking forward to the 12<sup>th</sup>. See you all then.

Ted and Carol

## Dates to Remember

**September 22-24:** SOFA Quad-State, Troy Ohio,  
**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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## Illiana Antique Power Association Show, 2017



Jeff Rattray

Brad McCormick

Gene Hollingsworth



Dominick Andrisani

Marty Mears

John Bennett



Trudi Ratican

Josh Shumate

Mike Farrell and Peter Cooper