



Volume 16, Issue 12 ~ December 2017

## Next Meeting: 1/13/2018

Hello everyone, we now know we live in Indiana, the weather has changed again: it's wintertime, a time to work in the shop and catch up on the projects that were put aside months ago. It's also time to get into the Holiday spirit (or if you prefer the Holiday spirits). We will not have a December meeting, traditionally the Indiana Blacksmiths Association will celebrate the second Saturday, instead of their normal third Saturday, with a mini conference. This year that conference will be held at Don Reitzel's shop close to Stilesville, Indiana. See directions below. Kurt Fahrenbach will demonstrate making a Damascus knife to completion. For those who do not know Kurt, he is an expert power hammer trainer and operator. You are strongly urged to attend this meeting. Please bring items for Iron-in-the-Hat and a covered dish for the noon meal. Rocky Forge meetings will resume the second Saturday of January (January 13<sup>th</sup>).

The Illiana Antique Power Association had their annual "Christmas in the Village" on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The building was cleaned and prepared mainly by Brad McCormick with others helping later. The building was decorated by Brad and Dominick. During the two evenings of the show Brad McCormick, Dominick Andrisani, Ted Stout, Marty Mears, Joe Fiali, Ian Limoli and Jim Bolen entertained the large crowds. Both nights were record crowds and they all seemed to migrate to the Blacksmith Shop. The evenings were topped off with Carol Stout and Nancy Mears who laid out a spread of food for us hungry smiths to feast on. We even had some uninvited guest work on the food: The spirit of the Holidays!!!

After the show Brad again stepped up to the plate and took down the decorations and stored them in

the mini-barn. We owe Brad a huge thank you!! Rocky Forge has received a generous gift of 8 LED fluorescent lights, brand new still in the box with enough tubes and some left over. These are 4' long and each fixture holds 4 bulbs. These lights will be used in center of the blacksmith area and in the east addition. Thank you John Kummins, a true friend to the Rocky Forge group.

Have a nice Holiday and be safe. Hope to see many of you at the IBA meeting this Saturday. Ted

## Dates to Remember

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

## Contacts

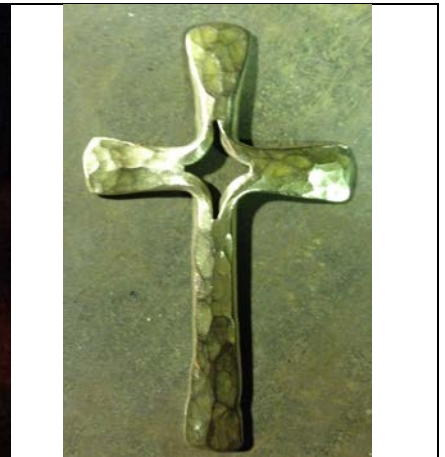
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## New Newsletter Feature

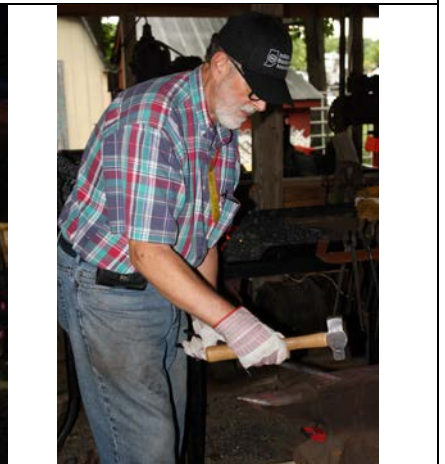
Each month we will append to the electronic edition of our newsletter (beyond page 2) a chapter in the ABANA series called "Controlled Hand Forging". This will provide first-rate instruction to the newer members of our group. See the ABANA web for the entire series of chapters.





Metal frames made by our members and decorates for Christmas in Village

Dominick work naval brass.



Blacksmith Shop at Christmas in the village

Marty Mears forges (7/22/17).



Gene Hollingsworth made this repousse' horse from copper sheet.

Gene at the state fair (2017)