

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting, 7/14

At the Blacksmith Shop In Rainsville

Show time is fast approaching for July 20th, 21st and 22nd at the Illiana Antique Power show grounds near Rainsville (north of Attica off U.S. 41). Several of you committed to participation in the show, and I trust others will also be involved. This is a good opportunity to show the public the strength of our Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild. We have a lot of new members who would benefit by blacksmithing in public. You don't have to be an expert! In fact, being a novice has its merit with some of the audience because they are interested in getting started and would enjoy chatting with you for guidance in starting out. So please, I am asking that as many members as possible participate in the show, whether it be one day or all three days. Coal will be provided by the guild, and if you need an anvil and forge there will be several extras on site. My thanks in advance to those of you who help out. This will be my 25th year. Come hell or high water I plan to do some forging to complete this anniversary.

Next Saturday, July 14th, we will have our monthly meeting at the show grounds in Rainsville to clean up our site and prepare for the show. That really should not take too long so there may be some time for forging. This will also be a good time for our new members to find the show grounds and become familiar with the layout and get any questions answered regarding the show. Tools for the day include rakes, leaf blowers, step ladder, wiring (12-3), conduit and connectors, 20 amp breakers, baling wire and pliers, etc.

The guild will provide cold meat and buns for lunch. Please bring whatever to compliment you need the sandwiches. Lettuce, tomatoes, onion, fruit, munchi-vegetables, casseroles, baked beans are all possibilities. Bring your own pop or water.

We will have an Iron-In-The-Hat drawing so bring some iron to donate. Also bring your bucket of tools.

There are t-shirts and hats that have been paid for in my shop. I will bring them to the meeting. They belong to Randy Padish, Ryan Steiner, Trudi Ratican and Matt Gasemeyer.

Dr. D. James Morre' trained and led the Fort Quiatenon blacksmiths for years and was a very respected individual. He passed away last year and is greatly

missed. James authored a book "Blacksmithing for Beginners" during his long tenure at the Fort. His book is one of the best for beginning blacksmiths and the seasoned smith. It is well illustrated with many how-to projects and techniques. His book sells for \$60 to \$82 on Amazon and EBAY. The Morre' family has given us a really good deal on the books for \$15 each. The understanding is that no one shall buy one of these books with the idea of resale. No profit is to be made on these books. We shall honor that request. I will bring some to the meeting Saturday.

Be sure to thank Dominick and Marty for painting our mini-barn red during some very hot weather. It is interesting that when we ask for volunteers how so few step forward. Dominick and Mary took, not a step, but a leap to get the building painted during adverse weather conditions. Thanks my friends. It looks great!

Coffee and doughnuts should be ready by 9:00 on Saturday. Hope to see a whole bunch at the show grounds. The Illiana members have also scheduled a workday for Saturday.

Ted and Carol

Contacts

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Dates to Remember

July 20-22: Illiana Power Show, Rainsville, IN.

September 21-23: SOFA Quad-State, Troy Ohio.

September 23: Art on the Wabash, Tapawingo Park, West Lafayette.

October 6-7: Feat of the Hunters' Moon, Fort Quiatenon, West Lafayette, IN.

Interesting Web Sites

Dean Mook, Blacksmith: deanmook.com

Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association azblacksmiths.org

Next Meeting Location

GPS coordinates for Google Maps

40.418659, -87.337360

Club show grounds in the Pine Creek Valley, 8 miles south of Boswell, IN or 12 miles north of Attica on U.S. 41, then east on Warren County Road 650



Shop lighting

Doug Kluender

Lately it has become harder to see in my shop. This is becoming a real problem when doing detailed work, and especially when TIG welding. Discussing this with a few friends, I found that I was not the only one with this problem. Several of us have tried close up lighting such as halogen and LED devices without much success. The Ah-ha moment came when I learned that one of my friends had been routinely re-lighting his customer's facilities with T-8 fluorescent fixtures.

I shared this info with Dan Jennings and he went to work investigating the problem. What Dan found was that the light output of all florescent lights declines significantly over time. [This is why I gave up on CFLs for use in my home and started hoarding incandescent bulbs years ago. Ed.] This is due to the inherent properties of the lamps themselves as well as environmental conditions such as temperature and dirt on the tubes. In addition, most of us opt for the low cost cool white replacement tubes putting us at a disadvantage from the start.

Armed with this info I began looking more closely at the available florescent tubes. As a photographer I knew that color temperature (as measured in degrees Kelvin) was one of the keys to better lighting. Higher

temperature florescent tubes are available at home improvement stores, but at much greater cost. Four-foot 6000k tubes were selling for nearly \$10 each. The problem with declining light output over time still remained.

The big breakthrough came when Dan found reasonably priced LED replacements for florescent tubes on line. Heretofore, cost was the biggest drawback. He tried a few with good results. The ones he found cost about \$22 each, they have a color temperature of 6000k (bright daylight), and have an advertised lifespan of about 20 years. They fit existing fixtures and eliminate the need for a ballast. So far I have installed 20 of them in my shop. They come with a wiring diagram and good instructions. If you have questions after reading the instructions, you should call a licensed electrician for help.

The difference is amazing! I just might have to start wearing shades when I go to work.

Note that I installed under-cabinet LED fixtures in the kitchen during the remodeling of my house. They have been in continuous 24 hour operation since October 2010