

Rocky Forge News

Volume 18, Issue 1 – January, 2019

Next Meeting, January 12

At Ted's Shop

The holidays are over and its time to start a new year. Hope you all had a nice Christmas and looking forward to a New Year. Congratulations to the Kemble family on the birth of their new daughter, Viola Ellenore Kemble, 8 pounds, 11 ounces and 21 inches long.

I had the great pleasure of spending an evening with Kurt Fehrenbach playing with his 600# steam hammer. It was using

375 CFM to operate. He made a top die for a larger hammer.

That die was very heavy and had been in the gas forge since 3:00 in the afternoon,

he forged it to shape at around 6:30. He also had a 30# piece of 3" round stock in the forge. Kurt made a 30# sledge hammer like you and I would make an "S" hook. See the videos on Carol's facebook page. He is so good at power hammer work.

Kurt's family owned a forge works in Indianapolis so he grew up around heavy, hot metal. He was also coached by one of the best, Clifton Ralph. **Unfortunately, we lost Clifton Ralph on December 24.** He had a wealth of knowledge about blacksmithing and power hammer work in particular. He knew the principles of moving metal and was always willing to share it. Our condolences to the family, he will be missed by many. Rest in peace my friend.



Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 12th at Ted's shop. Once again Mother Nature may or may not cooperate. We may or may not have snow or icy mix. We will just have to wait and see. It is Indiana so we don't usually let a little snow stop us.

Since you have been cooped up by the Holidays and weather lets have an open forge time to catch up on your blacksmith's skills. Think of a project that will be new to you, maybe an anvil tool or handled tool like a hot cut or hole punch. Maybe make some punches or drifts. Be creative!

We will start at 8:30 with coffee, tea, and doughnuts with a short meeting and firing the forges at 9:30. Yes, Brad, at 9:30....

I did get an estimate for covering the west part of our Illiana shop. Covering would include: one overhead door, two nice windows, one passage door to the outside and metal on all three sides. The Amish estimate without actually seeing the site is between \$5000 and \$6000. Think about it.

Lunch for Saturday will be ham and bean soup so bring something to go with the bean soup. Also, bring your tools and items for Iron-In-The-Hat.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on Saturday.

Ted and Carol Stout

Contacts

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Dates to Remember

January 12: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's Shop.

February 16: IBA Meeting at Kenny Dettmer's in Stilesville, IN (second Saturday).

March 9: Celebration of the Life of Clifton Ralph, K of C Hall 1400 S Broad Street Griffith, Indiana

June 3-6, 2020: ABANA Conference, Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY (east of Saratoga Springs and north of Albany).

Clifton Ralph, Power Hammer Expert and Friend, RIP



Our friend, Clifton Ralph



Clifton always had a lot of wisdom to impart.



Joanne, Clifton, and Ted



Clifton and Clay Spenser



Clifton mentors KJ.



He spoke with tons of emotion



Having fun with a hoop!



He did this so well for so long