

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting - April 13

### at Ted's Shop

Hello to all of you metalworkers in the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild. It's been awhile since we have had a meeting without illness or death interfering. Even the weather has caused some cancellations. We better change all that bad luck starting with the April meeting at Ted's shop this coming Saturday, April 13 at 8:30AM.

Let me back up a little and give you some updates: some of us attended Clifton Ralph's Celebration of Life near Griffith, Indiana on March 9th (our normal meeting time). The event was well attended with several major blacksmiths from across the country, over 200 in all. We were glad we went. Clifton would have loved it. Then Carol had both knees replaced on March 18 and to date is doing very well with her roll around walker. She will probably get off it pretty soon. No fear now is that she can out pace me

The meeting Saturday should be well attended since so many of you been aching to forge. There will be 2 gas forges and numerous coal forges available and I should be able to supply your metal needs. The Iron-in-the-Hat is also a good source of metal. Maybe we should have that drawing before the forges are even fired up. That could be a new twist!! I am going to shorten our meeting as much as possible so here is a list of items for your information to be thinking about:

1. We have \$5,000.39 in the treasury.
2. We have several hundred pounds of coke for sale.
3. We are in desperate need for someone to make a coal run. I have been supplying the coal and propane at recent meetings.
4. The IBA is asking the Satellite groups (such as Rocky Forge) to make tools for the conference iron-in-the-hat drawing.

5. There are six of Jim Moore's books remaining. They cost \$20 each.

6. As per the last two meetings attendance sheets, 37% of our attendees do not belong to the IBA. Please join.

7. Only a very few of you belong the [Illiana Antique Power Association \(Illiana\)](#). That needs to change.

Dan Thayer, one of our members who is a professional blade smith, has offered to donate one of his very nice knives for raffle to help raise funds to further develop the blacksmith shop at Illiana. If we do this raffle correctly we stand to make a lot of profit, but to do so we will need volunteers at various shows and conferences to sell tickets. Currently, our thoughts are the following shows: IBA conference in June, Illiana show in July and SOFA in September. Please give this some thought for further discussion at the meeting.

Dan's donation is very gracious and each of you should give him nice thank you. It's members like him that make our group an outstanding organization. Our mission is to socialize, learn, do community service, and practice the aspects of metal working.

**Lunch on Saturday will be pulled pork, smoked and prepared by Dan and Margie Michael. Thanks to the both of them for such an offering. The rest of you need to bring covered dishes to pass around.** As usual we are proud of our lunches, it is always something we look forward to having.

Ted and Carol Stout (765-491-2194)

## Dates to Remember

**April 13:** Rocky Forge Meeting at Ted's.

**May 31-June 2:** IBA Meeting, Tipton, IN.

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

## Ruler for Measuring Hot Steel

by David Osmundsen, Arrowhead Forge School of Blacksmithing, Buffalo, WY

From the ABANA Facebook Page: “Tips and Tricks from the Forge”

"Measuring hot steel during the process of forging something can be a delicate operation sometimes. Burned fingers and tape measures are no fun. You can buy a steel ruler which helps, but some of those can be spendy. Here's one I made by cutting a framing square. The hook on one end makes measuring faster and accurate. Use a zip wheel in an angle grinder or a plasma torch. The left-over portion of the square is a handy steel ruler/straight edge so you end up with two measuring tools from one. Steel framing squares can be had for a dollar at yard sales or about ten bucks at the hardware store."

More “Tips and Tricks from the Forge” are coming as they present themselves. Our ABANA Board members and ABANA members have worked hard to contribute so far. Please let them know how they have done! And bring in younger members so they can learn from the earlier content. The Artist Blacksmith Association of North America wants to Advance, Educate, and Improve everyone's pursuit of Blacksmithing.

