

Rocky Forge News

Volume 18, Issue 7 – July, 2019

Next Meeting, July 13 At Illiana Show Grounds

Illiana Show time is fast approaching so we need to busy ourselves to prepare for a great show, July 19th, 20th and 21st. For you new members, it is a good time to have fun, hone your skills, work on your projects, interact with the other blacksmiths and entertain the public. Some of our artisans also sell their products. The show is located on the grounds of the Illiana Antique Power Association (Illiana), located between Rainsville and US41. Follow 41 north of Attica to where it joins in with the dual lane IN63. Keep going for a few miles till you see the road to Rainsville. Follow that road east about 1.5 miles and you will see the show grounds on the left. Our building is the first one on the right side as you go through the gate

This next Saturday, July 13th we will have a working meeting to prepare for the show. We usually try to get set up by Thursday afternoon (July 18). You can bring your hand tools and small items early Friday morning (July 19), so long as we have our setups ready with fires going by 8:30AM, when visitors start coming. I'll have my Polaris Ranger to haul your tools in if needed. The gate closes to vehicles about 8:00PM. At the meeting Saturday (July 13) we have a lot of work to prepare the building:

- Remove Christmas lights
- Clean up remaining leaves (Tyler Figg has already removed a lot of the leaves; thank you Tyler)
- Get rid of all weeds, etc. in and around the building
- Remove excess lumber and shelving from our mini- barn
- Remove posts and 2" by 8" lumber from west side of the building
- Oil and clean some of the machine shop equipment
- Decide where in the building you want to be located and stake your claim
- Set up forges for the show. There will be people from Illiana staying there during the next week for security, so you should be okay to leave forges. If you need a forge, give me a call and I'll bring extras.

If we get all that accomplished Saturday (which we will) feel free to light up and do some blacksmithing.

I will need help bringing Rocky Forge items from my shop to the building this coming week. Volunteers can call me to arrange times. The big sign, extra forges and anvils, coal, metal, etc. need to be moved.

Tools for Saturday would include: rakes, hoes, shovels, ladder, leaf blowers, Roundup, etc.

Lunch for the day will be provided by Dan and Margie Michael. It will be roast pork tacos (specifically Tacos al Pastor de Trompo). Dan is showing off his culinary expertise, so you better Google it so you know what we are eating. It sounds delicious.

So, for the rest of us we need to bring a side dish to complement the tacos.

Be aware there is no refrigeration available in our building and all is pretty primitive.

Hope see you all this Saturday. Carol and I will try to be there by 9:00AM with the coffee pot and doughnuts. If you have any questions, give me a call at 765-491-2194.

Ted and Carol

PS: The Illiana members will also be on the grounds for a work day Saturday. Take time to introduce yourself and get to know them.

Dates to Remember

July 13: Rocky Forge Meeting, Illiana Showgrounds, Rainsville, IN

July 19-21: Illiana Show, Illiana Showgrounds, Rainsville, IN.

September 26-29: SOFA QuadState Meeting: Troy, Ohio.

October 5-6: Feast of the Hunters' Moon, West Lafayette, IN

October 11-12: UMRBC Pontiac Conference, Pontiac, IL.

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

A Simple Way to Determine the Hardness of a Knife Blade



Fowler's Hardness Tester File Set is an inexpensive, easy-to-use method for determining material hardness by sliding the file across the object's surface. Six color coded files indicate hardness from 40 to 65 HRC*. Conveniently packaged in a leather-like case with a Velcro lined flap, the files are approximately .157" in diameter and 7" in length (4.3Ø x 175mm).

Testing Procedure:

- Run the Black file (65 HRC) over test material. If it marks the material, the material is less than 65 HRC.
- Try the Blue file (60 HRC). If it does not mark the material, it indicates that the file is softer than the material and is between 60 and 65 HRC.
- If the Blue file (60 HRC) marked the material, continue testing with the Green (55 HRC), Light-Green (50 HRC), etc. until the material is not marked. The approximate hardness of the material is between the file that marks the material and the file that slides over the material.

Color	Indication*	File Hardness*
Red	40HRC	40-42 HRC
Yellow	45 HRC	45-47 HRC
Light Green	50 HRC	50-52 HRC
Green	55 HRC	55-57 HRC
Blue	60 HRC	60-62 HRC
Black	65 HRC	64-66 HRC

<http://www.fowlerprecision.com/Products/Hardness-Testing/527600000.html>

YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=C10myPdnZ_g

Also available from Amazon for \$83.39. Search "TTC 6 Piece Hardness Tester File Set"

*HRC stands for Rockwell Hardness C, a measure of the indentation hardness of a material.