

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting, January 11 At Ted's Shop

The Holidays are over, all the shows have come to an end for now, so let's get down to the business of blacksmithing. We all have so much to learn. To do the blacksmithing or metalsmithing we need heat. So one good option is using a gas forge to heat the metal. As a group we have a large number of members signed up for building a gas forge and the list is still growing. Over the past couple months numerous burners have been tested using a pyrometer that measures up to 3250 degrees Fahrenheit. Also, several forges were tested. All these tests were at 5, 10 and 15 psi propane pressure. Forge designs have been studied and some tested for peak temperature. Those variables and others have been incorporated into a forge design that will be shared this Saturday, January 11, at our normally scheduled meeting. This will also be a good time to get started with preparing the 20 pound propane cylinders for the build. The valves have all been removed, vented and the top rings removed. When you get here the next step will be to make cuts in the cylinders and remove paint. If we can accomplish that, it will have been a successful day.

To prepare please bring a 4-1/2" angle grinder, 36-40 grit wheels, paint eater wheel (optional) and thin metal cutting wheels. Rural King or Harbor Freight may be good sources. Have a dust respirator, gloves, safety glasses and safety shield. Please do not depend on using my supplies. When we talk about preparing 25 tanks that is going to add up to a lot of expendable parts. Most of this work will be done outside so dress accordingly.

Since we cannot all work on the tanks it will be fine if some of you want to blacksmith or other metalworking.

As usual the meeting will start around 9:15AM with coffee, doughnuts and socializing starting about 8:15. We are going to have a

busy day and hopefully a very productive day. Plan on having the shop and breezeway cleaned and ready to shut down around 3:00.

In case you have not heard we lost a very dear friend in the arena of blacksmithing and the craft of carriage building. Harley Chandler of Petersburg, Kentucky died December 27th. There will be a TV running with a video made by the National Carriage Association of America honoring Harley.



Lunch will be ham and cheese sandwiches and anything the rest of you pitch in to share. Please try to bring food to share. Sometimes we have a lot of members who do not bring food, and that's okay on occasion, but not on a routine basis. Sharing a good meal with all our blacksmith friends is really a good part of the experience. Very often good ideas are exchanged through conversations at the meal.

Be sure to bring items to support the "Iron-in-the-Hat" drawing. If you plan to blacksmith, bring your bucket of favorite tools. There will two other exciting announcements that will affect Rocky Forge, so try to make the meeting to hear what's coming.

See you all Saturday.

Ted and Carol

Dates to Remember

January 11: Rocky Forge Meeting at Ted's.

June 5-7: IBA Conference, Tipton, IN.

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

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Harley Chandler

Master Carriage Maker

Rest in Peace

