

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting, TBD

The past 2-3 months have been a historical time that none of will ever forget. The loss of life has been very sad and our normal way of living may never be the same again. I trust that all of you have come this far without illness and are doing as best you can under the current circumstances. Who knows what the next week, month or year might bring? As you might expect we will not meet this next Saturday. Unfortunately, we don't know when we can meet again. All we can we do is wait and see what transpires. We have to keep safety in mind with any decision we make. Like many of you, Carol and I are in the age bracket where we have to be very cautious due to our vulnerability.

I do have some things to report for your interest and information. Since ABANA cancelled their conference that was scheduled for June, several ABANA members are doing videos of what would have been their demonstrations at the conference. I would suggest you visit the ABANA site and scroll through just to learn more about their activities. By joining ABANA you receive a very nice magazine, ANVILS RING, showing what the professionals and hobbyist blacksmiths are doing across the country. Also, you will receive the HAMMERS BLOW, a compilation of how-to projects and techniques for the blacksmith and metal smiths. Along that same line, had the conference continued we would have had Mark Aspery as a demonstrator at one of our meetings. Since, he will not be here, I suggest you Google "mark aspery blacksmith youtube" and spend time watching his videos. Mark is an outstanding blacksmith who has published 3 books detailing the science and art of blacksmithing. Highly recommended!

Also, I have been in contact with ABANA and asked what they can do for an abandoned group here in western Indiana. The response was a box of complimentary "Anvil Ring" and "Hammers Blow" magazines, a real nice blacksmithing book and a couple ABANA T-shirts. The ABANA president (who is a friend) has been in contact.

The Indiana Blacksmith Conference has also been cancelled for 2020. This decision, like many others, has been difficult, but necessary due to the virus and the age of so many in our blacksmith community. As for the Illiana Antique Power Association (Illiana) show in July, while it is not official this also will probably be cancelled. Many other tractor and power groups have already cancelled, and I suspect Illiana will do the same. There again this is due to the age group of the members falling into the more vulnerable category.

The gas forge project obviously has been put on hold. That really saddens me for two reasons: I want to get them out of my shop and you members really need them so you can continue to develop your skills. Once things settle down a bit I plan on having 3-4 select individuals come in and help work on them. All the metal is cut, templates made, and jigs are ready. Some construction has occurred so it should not take more than 2-3 sessions to get all the assembly ready for the burners and insulation. Please bear with us. That is a top priority, and we will do our best when the time is agreeably safe to work together in a small group.

Gene Hollingsworth, if you will recall, brought in a bunch of stuff a machine shop friend of his was going to pitch. In that pile was a large 10", 3 jaw chuck. I was able to get \$130 for it from Facebook market place. There are other items I am trying to sell from his donation. Hats off to Gene for his diligence and thinking of our group. Thanks Gene.

I am in the process of sorting a lot of "stuff" and marketing through Facebook marketplace. At some point I hope to be able to lay out a lot metal, tools, parts for punk art, etc. for sale. When and if I can it will be advertised to Rocky Forge members.

Stay safe, wash your hands, use a mask in public and hope that we can once again come together as group.

Ted and Carol Stout

## Coal Available

Marty Mears has 45-pound bags of coal available for \$18 a bag. To buy this coal call or text Marty at 765-201-2836.

## Dates to Remember

**June 5-7:** IBA Conference, Tipton, IN, CANCELLED

**June 3-6, 2020:** ABANA Conference CANCELLED.

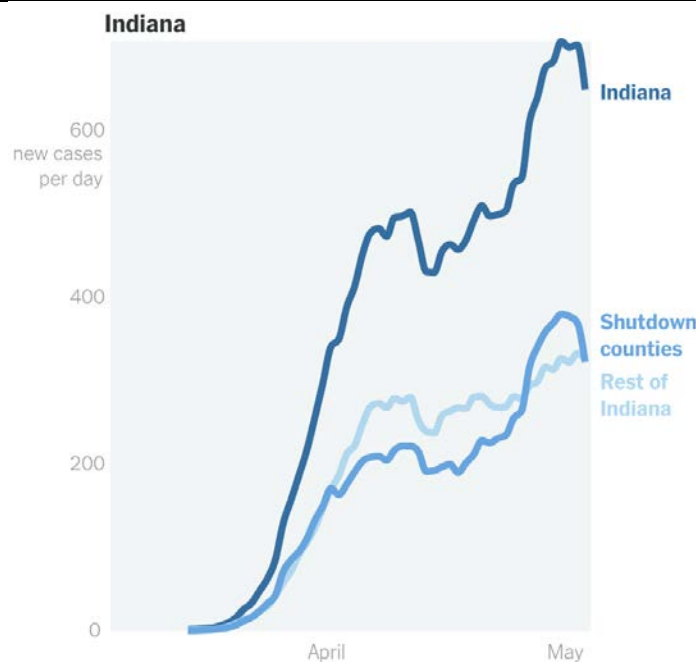
**July 17-20:** Illiana Show, probably cancelled.

**September 18-20:** SOFA Quad-state, Troy, Ohio.

## Contacts

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This figure shows new cases per day of COVID19 infections in Indiana (top curve). The lower two curves show the new cases per day in the three counties that are still shutdown (Cass, Lake, and Marion counties) and the new cases per day in the rest of Indiana that are no longer shutdown (including Tippecanoe county). It is clear that in the 89 counties that are no longer shutdown the COVID19 emergency is not over and the situation is still getting worse! **Be careful, wear a mask in public, practice social distancing, and wash your hands thoroughly and often.**

Ref: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/05/06/opinion/coronavirus-deaths-statistics.html?searchResultPosition=6>