

ROCKY FORGE NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 2

September 2002

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge Blacksmithing Guild will be at 9:00 on September 14th at Teds. Carol will not be here so bring your lunch or plan on going to West Point.

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 10TH MEETING

We had a short meeting then started three forges. Rob Durret, with help and coaching from the group, made brackets to hold a post vise to the bench. Russ Neild made some real nice hooks. Ted made some hooks from old square nails and started a snake from a farriers rasp.

Jeff Rattray, currently employed at Purdue as a computer expert joined the group. A very interesting young man with a wife, new baby and numerous degrees from Purdue (including PhD's). He took to blacksmithing very quickly and was a joy to be around. After about 30 minutes of instruction he made several hooks.

Carol provided ham and beans, cold meat sandwiches, fruit and a pie made from fresh blackberries brought by Russ. Our thanks to both Carol and Russ.

Iron in the hat was the also enjoyed by all and generated funds for our treasury.

We all had a good day and by 4:00 P.M. we had things cleaned up and adjourned for the day.

ROCKY FORGE AT THE STEAM AND POWER SHOW

The show is over and those of you who were involved deserve a medal. We had one of the best, and possibly "the best", blacksmithing exhibit of any power show in the midwest. At one time there were nine smiths working. With heat from the sun and the heat from the fire we were very hot, but still put on a show. Numerous people commented on such a fine demonstration. Even though it was dreadfully hot I had a great time and hope you all did as well.

We had a lot compliments on the wrought iron fence, it looked great and served its purpose. Thanks for all the hard work to restore the fence and especially to John and Lucile Young for their gracious donation. Perhaps over the next year or two we will have a permanent building for our blacksmith shop.

FREE METAL

At the steam and power show a gentleman approached me and proceeded to compliment our group on helping to promote blacksmithing and having such a fine display. Then he said he owns a fabrication shop that generates 20,000 pounds of scrap per week or month and that we could have whatever we want. Thinking it would be cutoffs and just small pieces we might be able to use, I went to his factory and was pleasantly surprised, he has long pieces and short pieces of a lot of stock that we can use. On that first visit I brought back 200 sticks of 1/2 inch round 10 feet long. Pieces of strap from 1 1/2 to 4" wide, sticks of 3/4" square stock and many other items. My truck was dragging the ground. I will continue to salvage what I can for the group. A rack has been setup to store the metal and will be available to you members as needed. We also have the tool steel donated by the Purdue foundry group. We must be very grateful to our benefactors. More about this at the next meeting.

WANTED TO BUY OR ITEMS FOR SALE (Club Recieves 10 of all sales.)

*Dennis Lane has a cast iron pump forge for sale at \$200.

* A gentleman brought in a nice 160# Peter Wright anvil on a good stump. Asking price \$225.

AN OLD SAYING

"You can no sooner show someone how to make something you have never made than you can give directions to go somewhere you have never gone."

COMING EVENTS

Sept 27-29 Quad State Roundup at Troy, Ohio. This is one of the largest gatherings of Blacksmiths in the country and it is well known for the very large area covered by tailgate sales. They also have many of the large vendors, such as "Centaur Forge". Their demonstrators are top notch.

BLACKSMITH COAL FOR SALE

The club now has blacksmith coal for sale. To club members it is 15 cents per pound and to non members it is 20 cents. At 15 cents we put about 3-4 cents into our treasury.