

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting, May 15, Illiana Show Grounds, Rainsville, IN.

Hello everyone. With COVID cases on the downside and most people vaccinated it's time to get our Rocky Forge group back together. This next Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> there be a meeting at the Illiana show grounds. Plan on a 9:00 meeting time. One purpose of the meeting is to reacquaint ourselves to the other members. After all, our last meetings occurred a year ago last February.

Bring your forge, anvil and tools. I think there are two forges available in the shop. No coal or anvils are available. Bring your own lunch or munchies. Some rakes and leaf blowers may be needed to clean the building.

Tyler Figg will preside over the meeting in my absence. There will be an Illiana Show the third week of July, so we need as many volunteers as possible for that weekend.

Have fun and I hope to see all of you at a June meeting.

Ted and Carol Stout

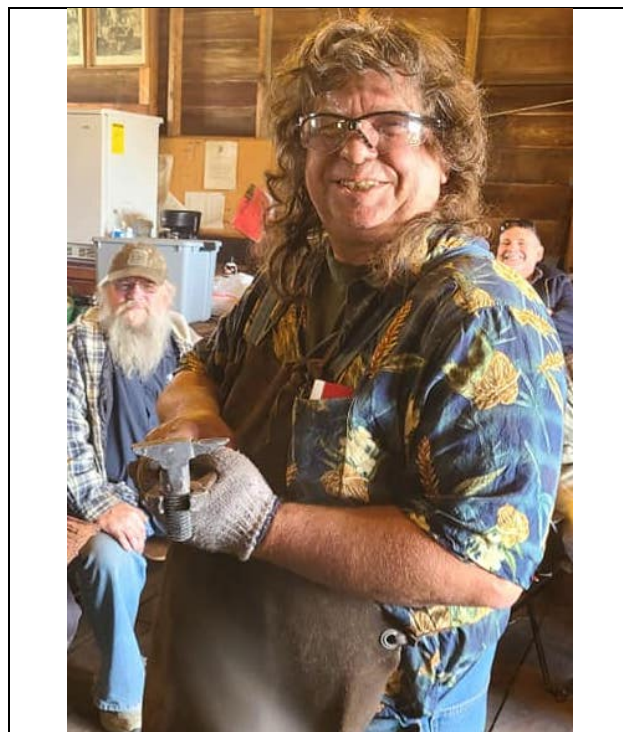
## Coal Available

Marty Mears has 50-pound bags of coal available for \$18 a bag. To buy this coal call or text Marty at 765-201-2836.

## IBA Conference Planning

This year the IBA is planning three smaller regional conferences, one in the middle of the state, one in the south, and one in the north. Each will be modeled after the Tipton conference schedule of a Friday night short demo, Saturday demo's, perhaps a gallery, etc. These plans are evolving rapidly so stay tuned.

The second of these regional conferences will put on by the Bunkum Valley Metal Workers and will be take place on June 23-24, 2021, in Oden (Davies County), IN. Details should be posted in the IBA Facebook page and in the Forge Fire newsletter.



Jeff Farmer demonstrates at the first IBA Regional Conference held on May 8 at the Sutton-Terock Shop in Rochester, IN,

## Dates to Remember

**June 19:** IBA Hammer-In, Snake Road Forge, Valparaiso, IN.

**June 20:** Father's Day.

**June 23-24:** 2<sup>nd</sup> IBA Regional Conference, Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths, Odon, IN.

**July 16-18, 2021:** Illiana Show, Rainsville, IN.

**September 3-5:** 3<sup>rd</sup> IBA Regional Conference, Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild, Parke County 4-H Fairgrounds, Rockville, IN.

**September 24-26, 2021:** SOFA Quad-state, Troy, Ohio.

**May 11-14, 2022:** ABANA Biennial Conference, North Fort Worth, Texas.

## Contacts

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## How to MIG Weld Stainless Steel (adapted from [homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com))

### Understand the Basics of Welding Stainless Steel

Many people new to the idea of welding want to know one simple question: Can you MIG weld stainless steel? While stainless steel can be a hearty material to weld, it is a project you can tackle with the right process and equipment.

### Gather Welding Tools and Supplies

- **MIG Welding machine.**
- **Welding wire.** When welding stainless steel, you'll want to use the appropriate stainless steel welding wire from your welding machine.
- **Cleaning brush.** A metal cleaning and scraping brush will help you prepare your workpiece for a better, more durable weld.
- **Shielding gas.** For MIG welding stainless steel, a shielding gas mixture (Tri-Mix gas) of helium (90%), argon (7.5%) and carbon dioxide (2.5%) is common.

### Prepare the Metal

- To make a clean weld, you'll need to remove any dirt, dust, oil and grease from your workpiece. Use your metal brush after removing debris or wet contaminants to prepare the work surface properly.

### Choose a Wire and Shielding Gas

- For most jobs welding stainless steel, you'll want to use .030-inch diameter stainless steel welding wire. For thicker base pieces, step up to .035-inch to .045-inch welding wire.
- For MIG welding stainless steel, a shielding gas mixture that's 90 percent helium, 7.5 percent argon and 2.5 percent carbon dioxide is generally ideal.

### Weld the Stainless Steel

- Use the push technique for MIG welding stainless steel whenever possible. If deeper penetration is required, use the pull technique.
- Do this by pushing the welding gun away from the weld puddle instead of pulling it, or by using a push-pull method. This technique produces less beading and offers a better view of your work.
- Use the proper travel angle for your position. This can vary depending on the work you're doing, but holding your gun at a 90-degree(deg) angle with a travel angle of 5 deg to 15 deg is often best. For T-joints and lap joints, you'll want a greater angle of 45 deg to 70 deg.

### Take Your Time

- Take plenty of time to learn how to weld stainless steel the right way.
- Practice makes perfect, so start with scrap metal or practice tasks before jumping into more complex MIG welding work.

### Tips for Welding Stainless Steel

- Check your equipment, welding machine amperage and voltage and wire supply before you begin. Keep extra wire, consumables and gun tips handy.
- Make sure you've got ample lighting.
- Work in a well-ventilated area.
- Never weld when you're tired.
- Ref: [Home Depot](https://www.homedepot.com).