

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting, October 9, At Ted's Shop

The trees are turning and the leaves are dropping. Fall is here! The temperatures are mellowing to more comfortable ranges, my favorite time of the year and a good time to work around hot metal.

We will meet at Ted's shop this coming Saturday, October 9th, at our usual time: coffee and doughnuts at 8:30AM, meeting at 9:00, and start the fires at approximately 9:15 to 9:30.

This month we will continue with making and embellishing a flesh fork. Making a fork exposes you to many blacksmithing steps. So, practice, practice and more practice sets the stage for your ability to make other items and improve as blacksmiths.

I am excited to say that Gary Lehman, an accomplished blacksmith, will demonstrate his way of making and embellishing a flesh fork.

Looking forward to seeing all of you and learning more about moving hot metal.

Be sure to bring items for Iron-in-the-Hat, most of which goes into our building fund.

Also, please bring a covered dish to pass. Carol and I do a lot behind the scenes to prepare for these meetings and keeping the group organized. At our age it does get harder. So, your bringing food for the meal would be greatly appreciated. An important part of our meeting day involves taking the time to share our thoughts and to experience the camaraderie with each other at the lunch table.

If you want, you can bring your own gas forge and propane tank. If you use my gas forges, bring propane.

We had such a good time at the last meeting, let's do the same at this one. See you all Saturday.

Ted and Carol

Gas Forge Project

We are making steady progress on the 25 propane forges for Rocky Forge members. The team of fabricators consists of Ted Stout, Marty Mears, Randy Padish, Gene Hollingsworth, and Dominick Andrisani.

Wednesday usually finds the five of them working away to complete this project that started before the pandemic. Only 4 of the forges still need the coating applied to the interior insulation. When this insulating material is applied all of the forges will be ready for their burners.

We are still awaiting the delivery of some hose and regulator parts, and we need to do final assembly of the burner/hose/regulator systems. Then, we will be done and can distribute these forges to the members!



These 22 gas forges are insulated and are awaiting the installation of the burner, hose and regulator. Some of these may be ready for distribution at the October 9th meeting.

Dates to Remember

October 9-10: Feast of the Hunters' Moon

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

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Meeting Review From September 11th

By Dave Dillman

Our September meeting started with a large group in attendance. It was noted how many new people were at the meeting. Even more notably

how many young people we had attending. We discussed the new format to be



used at the meeting. This new format will be after general announcement discussions we would break into groups to work on the day's assignment. Trying to partner up someone with a lot of knowledge with those who are new to forging. The goal of the assignments is to help everyone new and old at either gaining or refining skills. As an example, Randy and Caleb pictured above splitting iron to create the forks.

Making the flesh fork created a lot of opportunity for learning, practice, and discussion.

Craig is pictured here checking his quality between steps.



As you will see in some of the final pictures Craig did a good job on making his fork.

I personally found making this fork challenging being my second time at the forge. I am pictured here stretching the metal to make the fork longer and to taper the neck of the fork.



All and all, we were able to work on quite a few skills including but not limited to drawing out, bending, fulling, chisel cutting, rounding, and decorating.



As seen with Steve and Marty working metal.

A key takeaway in all of us coming together is the opportunity to meet, discuss, debate, share knowledge, experiences, and stories with each other.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this Saturday, October 9th.



Finished flesh forks by Craig, Eric, and Steve