

Rocky Forge News

Volume 20, Issue 8 – November, 2021

Next Meeting, November 13, At Ted's Shop

We're going to have a fun group meeting this Saturday! Gary Leeman will show us how make a touch mark of our initials. I will provide the metal for this project.



The forecasters are calling for a blustery Saturday, cold, windy and possibly snow. I doubt anyone will want to work a coal forge out in the breezeway, but if you do, it's available.

We have all the parts for the gas forges, except the propane hoses. They are stuck out in the ocean in a shipping container. I am investigating a local supplier who can make stainless hoses. Though more expensive, the stainless can withstand up to 1200 degrees. I suspect some of you will opt for that higher price option.

After Gary's demo, if you want to do any forging bring a propane tank. The price of propane, like everything else is going through the roof.

Carol is going to fix hot dogs for lunch. We would appreciate each of you to bring a covered dish to share. Chili would be a good option.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on Saturday.

Ted and Carol (765-491-2194)

Burners for the Gas Forge Project

Ted has spent a bunch of time designing the burners for the 25 gas forges we are making for our members. He has been working to find the best trade-off between performance and cost.

Ted determines burner performance by measuring how hot a certain burner can get a test piece of steel in the prototype forge. To make this measurement he uses a non-contact thermometer gun.

Following a suggestion from Rex Oteham, Ted determined that the body of the burner could be effectively made from a tee-shaped pipe fitting containing two openings for inflowing air rather than the reducing type pipe fitting having only one larger opening for inflowing air. This saved many dollars in the cost of the burner.

The two photos below show his final design with the tee-shaped pipe fitting and the stainless-steel nozzle.



Dates to Remember

November 13: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's shop in West Point.
May 11-14, 2022: ABANA Biennial Conference, North Fort Worth, Texas.

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Rocky Forge News

Volume 20, Issue 6 – September, 2021

Meeting Review, October 9th

By Dave Dillman

What a great meeting we had on October 9! I want to thank Gary Leeman so much for sharing his knowledge and experiences with us. Pictured below you see Gary and Will helping him out working on the flesh fork Gary was using for his example.



Some key take aways I got from Gary's demonstration was to think about anything you can do to make your heat last longer while working your metal.

One example he gave was not letting the hot metal rest against the anvil until you were ready to start working it.

This way the anvil would not be drawing heat from your metal too early.

As someone new to forging I also appreciated Gary's advise about not losing track of the whole project, remembering that you can usually go back to improve on something later, and to see in your mind the finished project before you start.

And lastly...

Square, Octagon, Round - Square, Octagon, Round - Square, Octagon, Round!

This Rocky Forger on the right is doing a good job at keeping his fire high while he is working on his first forging project.



Just look at how nice those tines look on Eric's fork.

Tim showing proper safety while grinding a new handle for his hammer

All and all we were able to work and improve on quite a few skills from the



last meeting including but not limited to drawing out, bending, fullering, chisel cutting, rounding, and decorating

Any well-run guild needs leaders and planning. Pictured below you see Gary, Gene, and Ted planning the November meeting

project. I am very excited to see what they will have us work on next.

