

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting, February 12, At Ted's Shop

Mother Nature sure threw us a curve ball this last week or so. You'll see mounds of snow around my place, and I sure hope to get some thawing relief this week.

We're planning a meeting this Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at Ted's Shop. As usual we will have coffee and doughnuts at 8:30AM.

Gary Leman will be teaching how to make, quench and temper chisels and punches from good steel.

A guest, IBA director, Steve King, from Paola, will also attend. Steve is known for his high-quality chisels and punches. His greatest recognition are his hammers. Hopefully, he will bring some examples.

Whoever worked on the forges in the breezeway at the last meeting may have inadvertently put a short-handled hammer in their tool bucket. The handle is a cream color. Please check if you have it. It was one of my favorites.

Bring your tool bucket and Iron-in-the-Hat items.

David Dillman is cooking a brisket for lunch. I'm asking you to bring a covered dish to go along with his brisket. In the past we have been able to eat well because there were many who brought food, but there are some who never bring food and don't contribute to the cost. I trust your conscience allows you to do this, but it is not right. Our organization is only as good as the participation by its members.

Guess how old the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild is. We first met 20 years ago this month! Help us to celebrate our 20-year anniversary with good camaraderie, good blacksmithing and good food.

Looking forward to another social gathering of like-minded members and a learning session with the Rocky Forge group.

Ted and Carol,  
765-491-2194

## Gas Forges Are Available

There are several gas forges available for sale from the batch of 25 forges we made for our members. So if you have an interest they are \$265 each. Bring cash or check if you're interested. This is a very good deal since these forges sell for \$600-\$700 on the Internet.

## Interesting Web Resources

### Hot Punching for Blacksmiths:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWcNn4PhFIY>

### How to Forge Punches, Bolsters and Drifts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePEbhWmiVyc>

### Forging a Blacksmith hole punch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhzEjXVxb5c>

### Chisels, Punches, Splitting, and Drifting:

<http://www.mooseforge.com/Tools/punches.html>

### How to Forge a Drift Punch:

<https://blacksmithcode.com/how-to-forge-a-drift-punch/>

### ABANA Controlled Hand Forging - Lesson 2:

#### Hot Punching (YouTube video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq33SB0KwM>

### ABANA Controlled Hand Forging - Lesson 2:

#### Hot Punching (pdf):

[https://abana.org/wp-content/uploads/controlled-hand-forgint/CHF\\_2.pdf](https://abana.org/wp-content/uploads/controlled-hand-forgint/CHF_2.pdf)

### ABANA Controlled Hand Forging - Lesson 24:

#### Making a Round Drift (pdf):

[https://abana.org/wp-content/uploads/controlled-hand-forgint/CHF\\_24.pdf](https://abana.org/wp-content/uploads/controlled-hand-forgint/CHF_24.pdf)

### Blacksmithing tools, forging a hot chisel and round punch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpSP25fQEuA>

## Dates to Remember

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

## Contacts

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## Meeting Review

### January 8<sup>th</sup>

By Dave Dillman

How exciting, this was my first time meeting Kurt, and I really enjoyed what he had to share with us. Lets start with some Trivia we got from



Kurt. How much does steel stretch when hot? How much does steel shrink when cool? And last trivia question, when using a punch what will it be drawn towards? Answers will be found later in the summary.

Our main project was making tongs but within that process Kurt made several other pieces to help making additional tongs in the future. Kurt was full of useful information and tips, and I appreciated him sharing those with us. One thing that caught my attention was that he was making tongs from hardenable steel. As I found this curious I asked him about it. He explained when using a power hammer you really wanted to use tongs made from hardened

steel as they will reduce the risk of a failure and having a piece of hot steel come back at you. Along with the fact that hardened steel tongs can be smaller than soft steel tongs so they are lighter to use. Of course, like any good teacher Kurt reinforced the blacksmith mantra with us to always work our metal square, octogon, round. In the two power hammer pictures Kurt is first



working by self and then Craig helping in a later step to create a step tool for making the jaws of the tongs. The step tool assists in making a pair of tongs without having to twist the jaw. The reasoning behind this is to avoid the twist to help make the tong jaws stronger.

Things to remember when making your tongs:

Rein and jaw tip should be on the same plane (Center Top of the rein to bottom of jaw cross line). Now it's time to set the two halves together but first we will need to punch some holes. For a little while I had wondered the difference



between a punch and a drift so I asked. Kurt explained that a punch is designed to punch a hole where a drift is designed to widen a hole. He also recommended to make them slightly larger to allow for the shrink.

Which brings us to our trivia questions. The answer to the stretch and expand question is 1/8 inch per foot.

Punch part way thru on one side. Then flip it over. Kurt tells us to not to worry about being perfect as the punch will be drawn to the weakest point which is the indentation is on the other side. Kurt prefers to use a 3/8<sup>th</sup> rivet for the pivot.

A couple of notes if you making Bolt Jaw Tongs/ Industrial Tongs. You don't want a big loop at the end as all that does is push coal out of the way when you are trying to get something out of the fire. And that you want the tong to come in and be on the top.

And lastly, one of my favorite pieces of advice from Kurt that day was when he dropped a piece of hot metal on the floor. He picked it up with the tongs, smiled, and told us not to worry - Dirt Tempering is always good!