

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting, March 12, At Ted's Shop

Steve King will be our demonstrator this coming Saturday. For those of you who don't know, Steve has built a strong reputation for forging hammers, and he will demonstrate making a hammer at our meeting. This should be an excellent presentation.



The time will be March 12th at 8:30 for a social time with coffee and doughnuts. After donuts and a brief meeting Steve will start his demo.

Our friend, Tim Lee, is moving east to be closer to family and starting a new job. As a result, Tim has brought out two loads of Iron-in-the-Hat-items. Ironically, Ted did some sorting and already had a table full of items. **This will be the largest Iron-in-the-Hat we have ever had!**

The weather outlook is calling for a chili lunch. Carol will make one crock pot so we need more. Also, we need side dishes to compliment the chili. We are depending on you guys to bring some food item to share.

We will miss Dominick at this meeting as he will be having knee replacement surgery the day before. Our thoughts and prayers for Dominick.

Looking forward to seeing a good turnout for this meeting. See you all Saturday.

Ted and Carol, 765-491-2194

Safe Use of Gas Forges By Dominick Andrisani

Many Rocky Forgers now have gas forges, in part because of our recent Rocky Forge project to build 25 gas forges especially for our membership.

Each of us own the responsibility to ensure that our gas forges are used in a safe and effective manner. The first thing to realize that gas forges are potentially dangerous and need to be used in a careful, cautious, and correct way.

I have found on-line two excellent gas forge user manuals that stress safety and proper use of propane gas forges. Please take the time to download and read one or both of these manuals. Links to these pdf format manuals are given below.

[Manual from SimondStore.com](#)

[Manual from NC Tool](#)

In addition, there are numerous resources available on the Internet regarding gas forge safety and usage such as [this one from the New Jersey Blacksmith Association](#) and [this one from Tharawa Valley Forge in Australia](#) .

For our visual learners, YouTube has some excellent videos on gas forge safety such as this one entitled "[Gas Forges for Knife Making - Everything You Need to Know!](#)" or this one entitled "[Shop safety for the blacksmith](#)".

I would like to stress the importance of having adequate ventilation in your shop when running the forge. You and your forge are both using the same oxygen in your shop and there is only a finite supply of it. Furthermore, any forge can give off toxic gases from the heated metal that can be lethal. I suggest you invest in a combined explosive gas detector and carbon monoxide detector. They are not expensive and can be found in stores like Home Depot.

Gas Forges Availability

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. This is a very good deal since there forges sell for \$600-\$700 on the Internet.