

Rocky Forge News

Volume 21, Issue 4 – April, 2022

Next Meeting, April 9, At Ted's Shop

Our next meeting will this coming Saturday, April 9th, at Ted's shop. Weather wise it looks like partly cloudy with a high around 44. Maybe some of you can work in the breezeway.

The agenda will center around making tooling to fit your anvil hardy. Note: be sure to know your anvil's hardy size. There are a number of fairly easy, but very useful hardy tools that we can make. You might even get some MIG welding experience. Everyone who participates should go home with one or more hardy tools. Gary Leeman and others will assist in this build.



Tim Lee make a big donation to last meetings Iron-in-the Hat.



Gary Leeman will help make hardy tools is shown here with Steve King.

Be sure to bring Iron-in-the-Hat donations. The last few drawings have been legendary, thanks to Tim Lee. So let's try to keep it going.

Carol will cook ham for lunch so bring a covered dish to compliment the ham.

Hope to see a good turnout for this fun meeting. See you all on Saturday for coffee and doughnuts around 8:30AM.

Ted and Carol,
765-491-2194

Gas Forges Are Available

There is one gas forge 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 to claim your gas forge. This is a very good deal since similar forges sell for \$600-\$700 on the Internet.

Coal Available

Marty Mears has 50-pound bags of coal available for \$20 a bag. To buy this coal call or text Marty at 765-201-2836.

Interesting Web Resources

How Bolts are Made in a Factory:

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

Making Hardy Tools The Easy Way

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htjw2AK7SVQ>

Forging simple hardies for the blacksmith shop

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDub_2JxjDU

Dates to Remember

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

Contacts

Forgemaster: Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-491-2194 cell).

Newsletter Editor: Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975)



Steve King and Randy Padish finish a tool at the Bader belt sander at our last meeting.

March 12th Meeting Review

By Dave Dillman

So I always wondered what it took to make a hammer.

And what I found out is it is a lot more work than those

Internet videos make it out to be!!!!



Thanks so much to Steve King for his demonstration of hammer making. And thanks to much to Eric Smith for being his assistant power hammer.

First let's talk steel that Steve would recommend for creating a hammer. His preference is to use 1045. Some of Steve's reasoning behind this choice is that 1045 is cheaper. Now if you don't want to buy 1045 steel he said you can also use Hydraulic Cylinder as they are typically made from it. Another advantage of the 1045 is that it can be water quenched. Steve suggests starting all hammers with the eye.

Trivia question: Which end of a hammer should you use to hit a punch or chisel and why?



Steve was full of really great advice for not only making a hammer but some general

blacksmith items. He taught us that when using a punch if you hover the punch just slightly when it is struck by the hammer, hovering the punch will cause it to bounce. And by bouncing your punch will not stick as much.

Next, he talked about how to really get your power and strikes with a big hammer. Step one: choke up on the handle as this will give you better control. Step two: put your feet together as this will give you

25% more striking power. Step three: look at the top of the punch you are trying to hit, as this will increase your accuracy. (Please not his hand holding the punch) And Step four: to take 3 strikes in a row as this really adds power.



Now that we have punched the eye we are now ready to drift. Drifting it is important to do a little different than punching. Where the punch we wanted to hover to cause the bounce when drifting we want to fill the eye with the drift and make it tight. And remember its not important how many heats it takes to drift your eye. Its not a race. Steve did suggest he likes to keep forging scale on his drift as he believe it will not stick as much.



Lastly, when weighting out a piece of metal for your new hammer Steve suggests using the weight you want the hammer plus 6%. The 6% will be lost in punching the plug plus forging scale.

Answer: The round end of the hammer should be used when hitting a punch or a chisel. The flat end will typically cause glancing blows.

