

# Rocky Forge News

Volume 21, Issue 6 – June, 2022

## Next Meeting, June 11, At Ted's Shop

There will be a hammer-in at Ted's shop this coming Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. After attending the IBA conference at Tipton I'm all pumped up for moving metal.

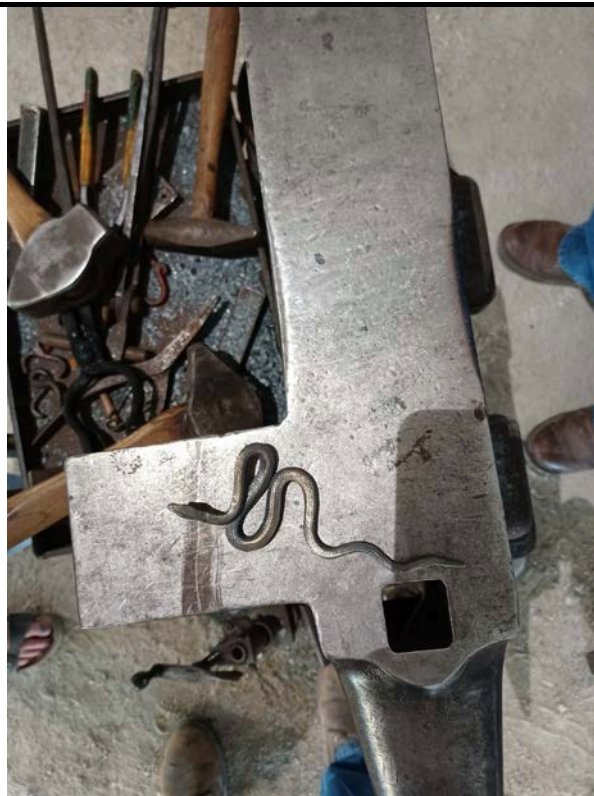
The weather is looking good for Saturday, so we can work in the breeze-way and inside the shop.

Be sure to bring your tool bucket and items for Iron-in-the-Hat.

Carol is making pulled pork so bring a covered dish to compliment the meal.

Looking forward to another gathering of like-minded metal-movers. See you Saturday.

Ted and Carol Stout, 765-491-2194



A creature seen at the 2022 IBA Conference in Tipton, Indiana. (Photo by Dave Wells)

## 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.

## Dates to Remember

**Illiana Show:** Friday-Sunday, July 15-17  
Wife's Birthday.

**Illiana Fall Festival/Craft Fair/Swap Meet:**  
Saturday, September 17.

**History Day #2 at Rainsville:** Friday, September 23

**Christmas in the Village:** Friday and Saturday, December 2-3.

## Contacts

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Pat McCarty Demonstrates at the 2022 IBA Conference in Tipton. (Photo by Dave Wells)

## Meeting Review from May 14<sup>th</sup>

By Dave Dillman



First, a big thank you to John Bennett. That morning John woke up and decided to visit with the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild. This was quite the fortunate turn of events as John was able to demonstrate

making tongs from flat stock. John likes to start with 1 ¼ inch stock. The first step is to mark where the jaws, boss, and reins will be located. The jaws will be about 1.1/2 inches, your boss should be the same size as the stock being used, and lastly you will need about 7 inches for the reins if you plan to draw them out. If you will be forge welding a rein you can use less. A proper rein length is about 14 inches. This will help to keep your fingers from

burning as you are using the tongs with gas forge. After you have your marks on where the fullers will go it is best to use the anvil to mark it cold.



This cold mark will allow you to find it when the piece is hot. Next comes putting the fuller marks in the piece. The fullers will need to be half

the thickness of the stock. This is accomplished by using a bar fuller as shown in the picture. Fuller down until stock meets the anvil. As you move the metal you should think about the hot metal like moving cow poop.

Keep track of the piece as you are moving the metal. Otherwise it will get away from you. One of John's big pet peeves is hitting away at metal without inspecting it. His recommendation is striking the piece 3-5 times then inspect it. This will make sure you are controlling the pooch so it doesn't become a cold shut. Keep beating down the pooch to the same width of the parent stock.

Once the fullers are established now begins the real work.

Reducing the 7 inches of rein stock to 14 inches. At the end of the first



rein I started I wished I knew how to forge weld. 😊

However the advantage of this now is that there is a long handle to work the other side making the other tong. After both tongs reins have been drawn out its time to cut them apart.

Twisting the jaws are done by bringing the metal up to forging heat. This will help to reduce the change of a crack being created when the metal is twisted. Both Jaws should be twisted in the same direction.

The tongs now need to be rivitted together. After this you can heat them to make final adjustments to the jaws.