

Rocky Forge News

Volume 21, Issue 7 – July, 2022

Next Meeting, July 9, At the Illiana Showgrounds

It's time for the Illiana Antique Power Show and the Rocky Forge group is a big part of that show. In past years we have had 18-22 blacksmiths involved. The show will occur July 15, 16, 17th. We need to be there with our fires going by 8:00-8:30 or earlier if possible. The club will provide our coal.

This year we will be very short of blacksmiths, so PLEASE consider participating in the show; we need all the help we can get.

We will meet at the show grounds this next Saturday, July 9th to clean the building and set up some work stations.

This year we will have a break area to rest, drink liquids and cool off.

There will probably be Illiana members camping the whole week for security.

Bring your tool bucket and we can do some blacksmithing to finish out the day.

Also, bring a brown bag lunch.

We will also do an Iron-in-the-Hat drawing, so bring items for it.

If you have any questions feel free to call me.

Ted Stout: 765-491-2194

Dick Fontaine

Please keep Dick Fontaine and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Dick is one of our founding members of Rocky Forge and Illiana and is in very poor health. He is currently in the Williamsport nursing home.

Interesting Web Sites

John Bennett & Traditional Arts Indiana:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNjvVxuLD2A>

John Bennett: Easy Tongs for Beginners:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXwS3ZHif1k>

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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**ILLIANA ANTIQUE
POWER ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL ANTIQUE POWER EXHIBITION
July 15-16-17, 2022
GPS address: 944 W. Briscoe Road, Williamsport, IN
Friday & Saturday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Featuring
International Harvester
Tractors and Engines

Parade Daily - 2:00 PM

SATURDAY
Tractor Games - 10:00 AM

SUNDAY
Church Service - 8:00 AM

Kiddie Pedal Tractor Parade
11:00 AM - Registration
1:00 PM - Parade



Gate Fee - \$5.00 Daily
Children 12 and Under FREE

Things to See and Do:

Gas Engines; Steam Engines; Woodworking;
Tractors; Farm Machinery; Corn Shelling;
Threshing; Grist Mill; Historic Village; Railroad
Museum; Blacksmith; Sawmill; Half-Mile
Miniature Operating Railroad; Old Cars and
Trucks; Quilters Cottage; Flea Market



Meeting Review from June 11th

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 fortunatue turn of events as John was able to

demonstrate making tongs from flat stock. John likes to start with 1¼ in stock. The first step is to mark where the jaws, boss, and reins will be located. The jaws will be about 1.5 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 allos 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 thinkness of the stock. This is accomplished by using 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 and that is staying correct 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. Draw out the 7 inches of rein stock to 14 inchs. 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 riveted together. After this you can heat them to make final adjustments to the jaws.

