

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting July 8 (at the Illiana Shop in Rainsville)

It's been a while since we've met to practice blacksmithing. Unfortunately, it will be even longer, and I apologize for that. It has been a long road, but we will soon be able to work in one of the Midwest's finest blacksmith shops. Over time it will be equipped to do many different projects. To do this I'm asking you to continue with your allegiance to this great group of individuals so that we may have not a good blacksmithing group, but a *great one*. One that we can all be proud of and continue to learn and to share new and different techniques of all forms of metal working.



Over the past month a lot has been accomplished by several members. Two more forge tables were completed and eleven ash dumps fabricated and attached to the fire pots. We now have six super-suckers done and four of them painted. There are five of the six roof penetrations completed. One more to go.

All this work, lots and lots of work, have been from volunteer labor from Charles Kemble, Eric Smith, Dan Michael, Dominick Andrisani, Randy Padish, Gene Hollingsworth and Marty Mears.

It must be said that Charles and Eric worked until about 8:00PM several evenings after working an early shift from their jobs.

My sincere THANK YOU to these heroes of Rocky Forge. Because of their efforts we are so much closer

to our goal of being able to demonstrate blacksmithing at the Illiana Show July 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

Our next meeting will be this next Saturday, July 8th, at the Illiana shop in Rainsville.

Hopefully, we will have coffee and doughnuts available. Let's plan on a 9:00AM start time.

This will be a work day with the following punch list:

1. Set forge tables and fire pots in place.
2. Cut the final roof penetration (Dan Michael and Eric Smith).
3. Begin the task of hooking up the fire pots to the super-sucker and exhaust duct.
4. Begin arranging the existing tables and benches.
5. Reinstalling the railings for crowd control.
6. Other things that may come up.

There will be no Iron-in-the-Hat.

Fried chicken and sides from the Attica grocery will be provided. If anyone wants to pitch in with a covered dish, please feel free.

Hopefully, we can accomplish a lot this Saturday. Remember, any organization such as ours is only as good as its dedicated membership.

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Dates to Remember

Illiana Show at Rainsville: July 21-23, 2023.

ABANA Conference: June 6-9, 2024, Johnstown, PA (Note: this date conflicts with the traditional date for our 2024 IBA Conference).

Work Continues at the Illiana Shop in Rainsville



New forge table, fire pot, super-sucker, and vent pipe that exits through the roof.



Underside of the fire pot showing the ash dump and air pipe. We have 11 of these.



Our Rainsville shop showing 2 of the 3 new chimneys on the west side.



Super-suckers in various stages of completion made from propane tanks.