

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting August 12

(at Illiana Shop in Rainsville)

The Illiana Show appears to have been a success. It certainly was for us blacksmiths. We had 18 smiths working on Saturday and the crowds loved it.

Our newly enclosed building with new lighting, new electrical wiring and new vent systems all worked out just fine. The vents worked so well they constantly sucked fresh air into the building.



Two of the seven installed forging stations in our newly renovated blacksmith shop in Rainsville. Space is available for five more forging stations. The smoke handling system designed by Ted worked great. The side draft smoke collectors shown in this photo were designed and constructed by Gene Hollingsworth. Other super sucker side draft smoke collectors were made from small propane tanks. Six chimneys were installed through holes in the roof, each capable of handling two forges.

We should all be very proud and excited for our group. Each of you did a great job. I was so pleased to Jennifer Kemble being tutored by Gene Hollingsworth on copper work. Keep practicing Jen, make us proud, especially Gene.

As for the next meeting, we will meet at the Illiana shop at 9:00 am. There will be a discussion regarding the building and future plans for direction of our blacksmith guild. The [ABANA National Curriculum](#) will be discussed with some detail. Bring a notebook, your bucket of tools and a brown bag lunch.

Please try to make this important meeting to help us sort out the future direction we may want to follow.

If you have any questions or input please call or text.

Ted 765-491-2194

Many Thanks

We are very thankful to North Central Health Services for the \$50,000 grant that made renovations of our shop possible. It would have taken years for us to have accomplished that goal, especially at \$5 for six tickets in Iron-In-The-Hat.

Tippecanoe Arts Federation administered the grant and we also thank them. If at all possible we should individually donate to them.

Many thanks also go out to the several companies who contributed brains, muscle and hardware to our renovation project. These organizations include King Builders (walls and doors), Cheesman Inc. (electrical), Snyder and Lehnen Sheet Metal (ventilation), and The Kelly Group (materials).

Contacts

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Dates to Remember

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

From the Illiana Steam and Power Show in Rainsville, July 2023



Charles has fun at the forge.



Eric breaks in Gene's smoke collector



Dan shows his lucky horseshoe to a youngster.



Young guest blacksmith.



The crowd loved new shop.



Dave and Son heats metal.



John Bennett demonstrates.



Gene talks copper.



Charles hits metal.