

ROCKY FORGE NEWS

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NEXT MEETING of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild will be at **1:00 P.M. Saturday December 13th** at Ted and Carol Stout's. Due to the holidays, mud, muck and piles of our usual blacksmithing forges and stuff under architecturally chosen tarps we will have an armchair blacksmithing afternoon, followed by a pitch in dinner at around 5:30. Ted has acquired numerous blacksmithing tapes of demonstrations at SOFA and ABANA. We will have at least two VCRs set up. Also, the women may have some projects going. Plan on coming at 1:00 and staying into the evening, bring the family for a fun time. Ted and Carol will provide the table service and drinks so bring in covered dishes. Also, we will have an iron in-the-hat. This may be one of our best iron-in-the hats, while dismantling the shop Ted has found a lot of things to give away..... Don't miss this one!!! Please RSVP for this meeting. Thanks.

LAST MEETING REPORT

The last meeting was sponsored by Dan and Margie Michael and hosted by Dan's mother and stepfather. Southwest of Crawfordsville. Dan has a new shop located in one end of a pole barn. He has a real nice setup that should allow him make a lot of neat items. We had a good turn out with several blacksmiths and their wives. Two newcomers were also in attendance. Dan demonstrated in the morning and some others also tried out his new setup. In the afternoon several folks including the kids tried their hand at blacksmithing.

The noon meal was outstanding with all kinds of food available. We have some really good cooks in this group. Our thanks to all those involved in preparation of the meal. Dans wife Margie, his mother Marilyn, stepdad Dave Hendrickson and sister Michel Enlow worked very hard getting things setup to accommodate our crowd.

Iron-in-the-hat was also a great success. We not only took in some funds, but we each went home with some treasures. Some had more treasures than others, but that is how iron-in the-hat works. Thanks again to Dan, Margie, Michel, Maryilyn and Dave for a great day.

BLACKSMITHING TIPS

- If you leave the forge unattended for a while and want to have fire when you return, simply open the ash gate to allow air to flow through. Some ash gates will need to be propped open. Because of the heat in the forge air will continue to be drawn through and keep the fire going.
- Right handers face the anvil horn to the right and left handers faced to the left. This will minimize your getting hurt if the hardy tool is inadvertently left in the hole.
- To bend a piece of flat stock in the direction of the flat, place the edge down into the fire that will be stretched the most.
- To point a piece of tubing draw down a slightly larger piece and use it as a dye for pointing the smaller piece. This works great if you have a lot of pieces to draw down.
- Scale is extremely hard, never try to file scale always grind it off first, then file.
- To keep the hacksaw from sliding around before it