

Rocky Forge News

Volume 3, issue 10 – October, 2004

Announcements

Lost tongs: Shane Stegmeier lost track of a set of Paz tongs at the Illiana show. They were sized for 1/4" stock. Since he made them you know that they are nice, but he would like them back. Look through your tools please. If you find them call Ted or even better bring them to the October meeting, which will be at Shane's.

Stamps: I know of a tool-maker that is interested in making custom stamps for marking your ironwork. (Similar to Ted's most important tool) Any pattern, letters, symbols, or signs are possible within the limits of the medium. Prices are not set yet and will be affected by number of units. This is a new enterprise for him and I would like to see this service available to members of Rocky Forge. The more interest there is, the easier it will be to arrange. So get the word out and get back in touch.

Rocky Forge Logo: The officers of the guild would like to have a unique logo for the Guild. This is a matter of identity and group support. No logo has been selected and any ideas from members or associates would be appreciated.

This Month's Meeting

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild will meet Saturday, October 9 at Shane Stegmier's outside Attica, IN. The same as last October, this will be in conjunction with Shane's non-sanctioned Society for Creative Anachronism-style event.

Those who made last year's event immensely enjoyed themselves and this year looks to be no different. Planned activities are cheese making and a demonstration of hinge making. Anyone and everyone can share what skills and knowledge they have. The SCA members can open a vastly different vista on "traditional" skills for most of us. Bring your forges, tools and equipment or at least curiosity and willingness to learn. Details, schedule,

directions and a map are on the web at http://www.rockyforge.org/hammer-in_2004.pdf.

For questions, to RSVP, or for directions; e-mail isabeaup@purdue.edu or phone (765) 764-0819.

Iron in the Hat

Bring items for the Iron in the Hat. This event with more and different attendees brings more and different trash/treasures.

Future Meetings

The Rocky Forge group will be host to the IBA meeting November 20th. We are looking for a guest demonstrator and if you have any ideas please let Ted know. Your help and support for that meeting will be greatly appreciated. Our goal is to make this a memorable time for both the Rocky Forge members and the IBA members. (Ted)

There will be a work day in preparation for the IBA on the usual meeting day (Nov. 13). I doubt that it will be much different from usual except no business meeting and the added bonus of getting to handle Ted's toys.

Last Month's Meeting

The September meeting was an open forge session and had ten attendees. A number of important topics were covered in the business meeting that will be presented here on an ongoing basis. Much of the terminology is mine and I would like to hear any objections or suggestions for improvement.

Treasurer's Report: As of July 30, 2004 the Guild had \$3,807 on account. The Kentucky Blacksmith Supply sent the Guild a check for \$150 as a contribution from sales at the Illiana show. September's Iron in the hat brought in \$68.

The attending membership of the September meeting approved spending up to \$500 of Guild funds to obtain a demonstrator for the IBA meeting. Ted is willing to commit \$200 of

personal funds toward this expense. Other contributions accepted.

Guildhall Update: The form and placement of a building at the Illiana show grounds (our Guild Hall) is still not settled. The present suggested form is as a shelter type building with a central powered vent, to which solid walls can be added later.

Outside Events

Pumpkinfest in Carmel IN: Oct, 2,3,9,10- A good fund raiser for us, looking for volunteers; call Ted.

ABANA: Best smiths in the world. Detailed in IBA newsletter. Ted and Carol are going.

Covered Bridge Festival: Oct 8-17: We are not doing anything here, but I would like to in the future. A lot of work but immense exposure and potential for profit.

Bite-Sized Knowledge

This space I intend to be educational. I will start with the most basic subjects and build up. Any subject that you would like to see addressed can be covered. If you have no input the choice is mine. Someone will answer any questions submitted. I cannot guarantee how soon there will be an answer, but I will not give up.

Fuel for the Forge

This is one of the most basic essentials for the smith. There are three traditional forge fuels: Coal, Coke, and Charcoal. This is an introduction to fire and will be continued next month.

Coal: Coal is a mineral that is formed from ancient plants and animals by heat and pressure. It is mostly carbon with whatever impurities were in the plants, animals, or whatever was supplying the heat and pressure.

Coke: Coke is coal that has been heated without exposure to Oxygen. The impurities have boiled out to some extent.

Charcoal: Charcoal is wood that has been treated as coke has been treated.

Both coke and charcoal have to be heated above the temperature they were made at to start to burn. When coal is ignited the lower burn temperature impurities are what starts to burn. When the more volatile impurities are already gone the fire burns at a higher temperature but has to get to a higher temperature to start to burn. Coal lights at the lowest temperature, but burns at the lowest temperature. Charcoal and coke are harder to light but burn hotter. How much harder to light and burn depends on processing temperature.

Important Note

Rocky Forge is going to host the monthly meeting of the Indiana Blacksmith Association on November 20. We want this meeting to be very professional and memorable. Any help, either creative or physical, is appreciated. We still need a demonstrator and to finish Ted's shop setup. Please lend a hand if you can.

Newsletter

The Rocky Forge News is going to be available by E-mail as well as on our website (<http://www.rockyforge.org/>). If you wish to receive the newsletter via E-mail sent Dave Childress a note at trollkeep@ccsdana.net.