

Rocky Forge News

Volume 3, issue 11 – November, 2004

Announcements

Newsletters: If there is an asterisk (*) after your name on the address label this will be your last newsletter that you will receive if we do not hear from you before next month. The newsletter is available at our website (<http://www.rockyforge.org>).

It bothers me to spend the Guilds money; beyond postage, I do not think there is a way around that, on the newsletter, besides my lack of office skills making for greater inefficiency. If anyone knows of a print shop or equivalent that could sponsor the newsletter or cut us a deal let me know.

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 group will be host to the IBA meeting November 20th. We are going to have Charlie Helton, General smith, and Billy Merritt, Knife maker, demonstrating. 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) it will

be not be much different from usual except no business meeting and the added bonus of getting to admire Ted's toys.

"The November 20th meeting of the IBA will be hosted by the Rocky Forge group, located at Ted Stout's shop near West Point. Ted is located 16 miles north of I-74, exit at Waynetown (9 miles west of Crawfordville) Take highway 25 north thru Wingate. Proceed north to the flashing light where highway 28 intersects with 25 (at Odel. The sign reads Odel on both sides). Continue north for 2.5 miles to county road 700 south, turn west (left) on 700 south, Ted's shop is the first building on the left. There will a sign on 25.

If you are coming from the Lafayette direction follow highway 25 west to West Point. Proceed on 25 for 2.0 miles to road 700 south, turn west (right).

If you get lost or need information Ted's phone number is 765-572-2467, (cell 765-491-2194), he always has his cell phone on.

For lunch, the meat, drinks and table service will be provided. It is a pitch in dinner so if you can bring a dish that can be shared by others, we will have a fine meal. If it is not convenient, don't worry about it and come anyway. Rocky Forge is known for having good food; sometimes the meals can be called feasts."
TED

Iron in the Hat

An Iron-In-The-Hat will be done to benefit the IBA, so please bring some good items for contribution to the drawing. It is for a good cause so come prepared." Ted.

Bring something good and/or interesting for the iron in the hat. I may even find something my daughters would call a "big, ugly, heavy metal things". This event with more and different attendees brings more and different trash/treasures. DEC

IBA News

The IBA board of directors passed a resolution that all satellite groups will be required to host at least one IBA meeting per year. It was requested that we (namely ME?) provide a statement of the purpose, organization, and activities of the group. We need to discuss both the statement and requirement. I have never heard a mission statement for the Guild and would not feel comfortable making a mission statement for the entire group. The requirement has a noble, or at least practical purpose, I just do not know if we as a group agree with it.

Future Meetings

Christmas Feast - December 11, if any change everyone will be notified besides being announced in the December newsletter.

Last Month's Meeting



Last month's meeting was Saturday, October 9 at Shane Stegmier's, outside Attica, IN. This was in conjunction with Shane's non-sanctioned Society for Creative Anachronism event. Attendance was light, but most of the truly hard core were there, as seen above. We did not have a business meeting and a good time was had by all. Shane's timing was a little off, he got his road "fixed" the weekend after the meeting. I have not been down the road since it's repair, but any work has to be an improvement and the lane truly needed it.

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.

Fire for your iron

In order to mold iron without tons of force it has to be heated. The fuel, discussed last month, is burned to provide that heat. When oxygen meets other materials that have the correct chemical properties and enough energy the oxygen combines with them and produces fire. How much heat depends on what the material is and how much material and oxygen is present. In your forge there is always much more fuel than oxygen until you start the blower. The more air blown in the more fuel burned and the more heat. Specifics next time-out of time this time.

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.