

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting:

The Rocky Forge Blacksmiths will meet at 9:00 A. M. on Saturday May 14th at Ted Stout's shop. The agenda will include a short meeting, work on the West Point Cemetery arch, and continued work on the bellows for the Independence shop. If anyone wants we can also do open forge. So come prepared to do any one of the above projects, participate, teach or learn as we go. Should be a fun day... weather permitting.

Lunch will be sandwiches and pitch in dishes from the members. Don't forget to support iron-in-the-hat. How about some of you stragglers who have not been in attendance for awhile plan on attending this meeting.

We can report that on April 29th Pete Rollett, Dick Fontaine and Ted Stout entertained two bus loads of students from Warren County Schools at the Independence Blacksmith shop. A good time was had by us and the students. May 2 at the Illiana Steam Show grounds several of us entertained nearly 300 students. Its a lot of work, but these are good community projects that make us all proud to be able to help educate the younger generations with our knowledge.

See you all on the 14th; bring food, iron and whatever toys you want to play with. We also encourage anyone to bring items for sale or to show and tell, that is how we learn.

Ted

Last Month's Meeting

The April meeting was held at the Independence Blacksmith shop since Ted had to be out of town due to a death in the family (his nephew). The business meeting was skillfully handled by Jim Keith. There were about 20 members and two gas forges besides the forge in the shop. Lunch was at the Cafe. I had a good time and everyone else seemed to also. Pete Rollett said that if anyone wants

to use the shop there to give him a call and it probably can be arranged.

Future Activities

-Illiana Steam Show plans, two July meetings, Second Saturday work to set up and third Saturday for the Show.

-Independence Heritage Festival (June meeting), June 18-19

-IBA conference- Tipton IN- June 3-5.

-Pioneer Village with blacksmith shop at Fowler Park, Terre Haute IN- May 21-22.

-Skinner Farm Museum Steam and Gas Show- Mid-August

-Shane's MedievalFest-October meeting.

Projects with continuing reports:

Forge and anvil from salvaged parts.

I am building a forge with a deep firepot, 8" deep and 8" diameter made out of two truck brake rotors stacked. This should be a very hot forge and will easily come apart to help in make it portable. I would like it to come apart enough to fit in my car trunk. I am planning, even though the parts have not moved an inch since last month. I ought to find a blower on a stand as I do not have one. I have several good blowers, but no stands; does anyone have interest in a trade?

I also have some pieces of tool steel I plan to use as an anvil. I now have a block with a channel that will make a 1" Hardy hole when I get it attached. I also have some pieces that will make hardies to stand in for not having a horn. I will bring them to the next meeting.

Use of charcoal for the forge.

I took 2 bags (40 lbs) of charcoal to Independence last month and got to try using charcoal in their 1840s style forge and had some success. It worked at least as well as my little rivet forge and coal. By weight, we used

about the same amount of fuel, but of course a much larger volume. The ash was not much of a problem as long as the blast was slow. I did not try anything very complicated and got enough heat that I burned through a flat spring while having too many irons in the fire. When the blower was cranked with more energy it looked like a fireworks display, in a wooden building where you can see the bottom of the weed shingle roof!!! I had visions of the building burning like the original did in the Fifties. I think that you need a larger, slower blast, and you can enough heat. Since charcoal does not pack or clump, the air can just go through and does not need much of a push. I will try to design to this.

Announcements

The Rocky Forge News is now 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, or write directly to the guild at rocky@rockyforge.org.