

Rocky Forge News

Volume 4, issue 8 – August, 2005

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the ROCKY FORGE group will be August 13th at 9:00 A.M. at Ted's shop. We will have a short business meeting followed by a team to work on the cemetery arch and a team can work on the Allis Chalmers tractor donated by Dick Fontaine. We will need to remove the sheet metal hood, the head and attempt to free the engine. Also, the forge or forges will be available for those who want to do some forging.

Some of you made some really neat items for sale at the show. We may want to teach others in the group how these items were made. Also, we sold several items at the show.

Welder ticket sales were brisk throughout the show. We did very well with that fund raiser. The Millermatic welder was won by a member of the Illiana Steam and Power group, Larry Sturgeon. He is the one who brings the animals to the show. It was good to see someone local get it.

T-shirts and hats with the group name and logo will be available at the meeting.

Lunch will be at the West Point Cafe, which has a good lunch menu.

Ted

Last Month's Meeting

The Illiana Steam and Power Show was a success for us. There were always smiths working. By Sunday afternoon a lot of us were feeling the heat and more hammer swings than we are used to. Jim Bolin and his Civil War setup drew the attention of many; if not most. Overall, we were well represented, and many members that can not make the majority of meetings stopped by at least for awhile and enjoyed themselves.

Projects

The West Point cemetery arch is really progressing. As of this writing we should begin welding it together in a couple days. Thanks to

Dominick A., Gene H., Russ N. and Ted S. a lot of work has gone into this project. There is still a lot to do. So if you have time, please call to see what can be done.

Another project coming up is work on an Allis Chalmers WD tractor and plow donated by our member Dick Fontaine as a fund raising project. Please thank Dick, as this should raise our treasury several hundred dollars.

Future Activities

- Skinner Farm Museum Steam and Gas Show- August 20 & 21, Perrysville, IN.
- Shane's Medieval Fest - October 8th meeting.
- October meeting of IBA(Oct. 15) Wabash Valley blacksmith Assoc. Fowler Park Terre Haute IN
- Nov IBA Nov.19 Rocky Forge.

Projects with continuing reports: Newsletter

I have been found a way to get out the newsletter that sounds to be cheaper, of higher quality, and less work. Since I could not say "if you do not receive this, call me", the trial issue was not this month. If you do not receive a newsletter by Sept. 7 call me (765 492 4904). They say "if it sounds too good to be true; it probably is". I hope this is not. Any comment or suggestions once you have seen the trial issue would be appreciated.

Bloomery

I have not yet tried making iron or charcoal, but have started to gather materials and fuel. I have several piles of brush of various types of wood and have some idea of the better types of ore that I have available. Old resource maps show iron ore on Dick Fontaine's place. Someone will check this out. Darrell Schultze thinks he has some barrels set up for retort

charcoal making. We at least have made a start.

4-H

The August Forge Fire, which I received Saturday, had a page about John Steffi teaching a unit on blacksmithing in Vigo County 4-H. I have talked to the 4-H coordinator in Vermillion County about teaching such a unit and received genuine interest and was told to get back in touch after the State Fair. I am sure that we could get such units going in several counties. John had his students meeting once a week for a couple of hours. While I have not seen the projects produced, to have these kids making anything is encouraging. John said most who signed up were girls and several were among the younger 4-Hers. I do not know what they covered, but the basics are always the same. I am going to try and put such a unit together. If several of us can coordinate and assist each other, this is a chance to spread our art to another generation. We have some amount of time because the new 4-H year begins in Sept. most clubs are not active until Feb. or March. I will have more information before the meeting. I hope to put something of substance together.

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.