

Rocky Forge News

Volume 4, issue 11 – November, 2005

While trying to get something out for a deadline is not the time to try and learn a new technology. So the pictures that I had hoped to include will not be here. I will have to settle for just words.

In the past there has been some feeling that we should have someone on the IBA Board of Directors. The Forge Fire has announced that there are two vacancies. Last year I was tempted and if I can get a clear idea of what is involved I would consider applying. Please help me to clarify and determine support.

David Childress

Next Meeting:

We will be hosting the November 19th IBA meeting in Ted's shop. The theme for this meeting will be "Blacksmithing for the Woodworker". The meeting will also include members of the Montgomery County woodworkers. The tools made that day will be handled and demonstrated by the woodworkers. I have had some very good encouragement from IBA members and the woodworkers are very excited about the prospects. Outside is the announcement from the Forge Fire.

Sunday, Oct. 20 Ted and Carol are hosting the Illiana Steam and Power Club meeting and dinner. Dinner will be at 5:00 PM. The doors will open at 3:00 PM. We are all members by extension and so are invited. Bring a covered dish.

Last Month's Meeting

The October meeting was at Shane Stegmier's place. As always the meal and the company were wonderful and most of us did little or no smithing. Blacksmithing equipment is just not really portable. We did learn that even Shane can not make sheet metal out of a wrought iron bar without a forge that will weld.

Rebar

(more complete article available on request)

The cheapest and most common source for steel rod is concrete reinforcing rod commonly called rebar. Almost any concrete job ends up with pounds of scrap and a big job can have hundreds of pounds. This scrap is usually just thrown away.

Rebar has a poor image and many people scoff at using it. If you are rich enough or what you are making is important enough buy specified steel. If you are poor or cheap any concrete contractor can supply you with more rebar pieces than you can ever use for the hauling or at least for next to nothing. Rebar is made of all scrap steel and there is not any knowing what is in it. Unfortunately, most steel today is little better. In the last few years the quality of steel that you get for your money has declined immensely and even specified steel is as cheap as the specification will allow. Just like rebar steel is scrap with enough additions to meet minimum specs.

The only specification of rebar is its yield strength. With modern rebar there are three common grades by minimum yield strength and they are easily identified by the pattern of ridges cast in the bar:

Grade 40- 40,000 PSI yield, equivalent to about 1017 (mild steel). The ridges form parallel slashes

Grade 60- 60,000 PSI yield, equivalent to about 1070 (medium-high carbon steel). The ridges form X's. This will make good chisels or punches.

Grade 75- 75,000 PSI yield (equivalent to a oil quench tool steel). The ridges form Xs with small circles on the ends of the bars. This can be too hard to hand work and is seldom seem.

Blacksmithing for the Woodworker

at Ted Stouts shop near West Point.

There will be demonstrations of making woodworking tools, tempering, adding handles, sharpening and use of the tools.

The facility is heated with plenty of space, good fellowship, iron-in-the-hat and tailgate sales table or space outside for back of the truck sales are available. There will be a very nice program for the women (or men if interested). It will be after lunch and is about how quilts were used during the Underground Railroad days to signal safe houses.

Come to enjoy the day, bring your spouse, things for iron-in-the-hat, things to sell, and show and tell items. Lunch will be provided, however, if you wish to bring a covered dish it will not doubt be consumed. Looking forward to seeing all of you on November 19th

Ted Stout

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.