

Rocky Forge News

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It is time for our tours and classes because it is too cold for outside coal forges and Ted's shop is too nice for inside coal forges.

Next Meeting:

Happy New Year!

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith meeting will be January 14th, 9:00 A. M., at Delta Welding. They are located at the intersection of U.S. 41 and State Road 28, just north of Williamsport. The program will be on TIG welding, what it is, how it is used and the equipment available. We will go to lunch at the some location in Attica. Be prepared to test drive the equipment. Instruction will be given by Delta Welding and our own Russ Neild. You must be 16 or older to participate in this program.

We will hold an iron in the hat drawing, so be sure to bring items for that event.

The February meeting will be a tour of the ALCOA facility at Lafayette.

Last Month's Meeting

Our volunteer demonstration was a success. Shane Stegmier made a Stafford Style door handle from a Farrier's rasp and Jim Keith made a hoof pick from a horseshoe.

Tip of the Month

If you have an arbor with a wire wheel, it is very useful to place a small wire wheel next a larger one. This creates a niche to lay stock for cleaning. Also, layering two or more wire wheels makes an easy surface for working flat stock. The wire wheel is my most frequently used tool in the whole shop.

Ted

IBA Board Election

I am running for the IBA Board. There are two open positions. The election is in March and how to vote will be in the Forge Fire. If we want our voice heard in IBA policy, we need someone on the board. To achieve this we

need everyone to vote. As they said in my youth "It is election day in Chicago, vote early and vote often."

David Childress

For Sale – Sold

The anvil I had is sold and I think its sale may help make the world a better place even if it did not make me much profit. John Huffman ended up with the anvil and I am sure that he and his grandsons got a good deal and will get much use out of the anvil. We will have to get John to bring in his low budget setup and show how well you can do for very little money. Maybe we can maybe help him to improve his equipment a little more.

Too late it was brought to my attention that Jim Keith is looking for a shop anvil. His is not his, but borrowed. If anyone has a heavy anvil that they do not use, I am sure he would like to hear.

Spark Test

In talking after the December meeting, Ted mentioned that he could not determine what a piece of metal is with the Spark Test. He went on to say that he did not know anyone who could. Maybe it is an urban legend. I personally can not determine much from a spark test, but I am sure that it can be done. My Elementary Forge Practice book by Robert H Harcourt (1917) says:

"The Emery-Wheel Test.- The most satisfactory shop method for distinguishing between the different kinds and grades of iron and steel consists in observing the sparks given off when a bar of the material is brought in contact with a rapidly revolving emery-wheel. In general it is found that the more carbon there is present the brighter the sparks will be.

"Sparks obtained from wrought iron are light-straw color, and follow straight lines. Machine steel gives off sparks that are much the same in character except that they

explode, or fork, to some extent. White sparks which explode much more frequently are obtained from high-carbon steel. Those given off by high-speed steel follow straight lines, similarly to sparks from wrought iron, but give off much light, and end abruptly in a chrome-yellow, pear-shaped flame."

Any comments or additions from experience would be appreciated.