

Rocky Forge News

Volume 5, issue 4 – April, 2006

Incoherence: not just a state of mind but sometimes a way of life. Time seems to have gotten away from me again.

Next Meeting:

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith group will meet at Ted's on April 8th, at 9:00 A.M. Our agenda will be an open forge so bring your equipment and plan on a fun day of blacksmithing. Think of some projects to make or some ideas of something we could all make that would give us a chance to develop our skills. We have not had an open forge for a long time so let's hope for good weather and a good time.

Be sure to bring iron-in-the-hat items that will make everyone want to buy tickets. This is our way of adding to the treasury in hopes of building a shop. The Illiana Steam and Power land acquisition is going along so we need to discuss our building plans.

Carol will be gone so plan lunch at the West Point grill. See you all at the meeting, Ted

Last Meeting

Shane Steigmier and Jim Keith were supposed to make a sword for Jim's son's wedding present. Jim was sick and Shane carried the show alone. He roughed out a two-handed sword from a 24" X 1.125" piece of buggy axle. The sword was over six feet long even after he cut 8" off to make it less awkward. It was an impressive demo of power hammer work. Shane had specialized fullers for the shape and the steel moved almost like toothpaste out of the tube. I hope pictures will soon be available on RockyForge.org.

A lot of "junk" changed hands between "Iron in Hat" and Ted's consignment of estate items. The A. C. Tractor and plow have been sold at more than the expected profit. Maybe next year we will have a building at the Illiana show grounds.

March IBA Meeting

I attended the March IBA Business meeting at Vernon, IN. Vernon is a beautiful old town. The Jennings County Blacksmiths meet next door to the Historical Museum on the Courthouse Square. There is a Sassafras festival the end of April with Civil War reenactment. It was a nice trip once clear of Indianapolis.

The meeting was different. The difference between Rocky Forge and the IBA is almost startling. The membership at the meeting was even older than we are. I was one of the young guys. They try to follow Robert's Rules of Order but it is apparent that no one present makes regular use of that format. John Zile was asked if the IBA would provide demonstrators for the State Fair Pioneer Village Blacksmith shop. There was much hesitation about the commitment. I volunteered to gather information about what the Fair Board expects and provides and the level of interest from the satellite groups. I realize that we were treated poorly when we offered, but I think that it would be a worthwhile endeavor. With six satellite groups and maybe some help from the Rural Smiths there should not be too much of a burden. Further info at the [Rocky Forge] meeting.

Blacksmith of the Year and Rookie Blacksmith of the Year award recognition nominations are being accepted. Awards will be presented at the Tipton Conference and nominations must be submitted by May 1. I have the forms and qualification sheets. Ted will have them also.

David Childress

IBA Election Results

The results of the election were about as expected even with my unexpected showing. Almost four times as many ballots were received as last year and while I did not get elected, I almost did, and I am sure I can next time. Thank you those who voted.

Vote totals:

John Wendel --24

Gary Phillips-- 22

David Childress-- 20

There are almost 300 members and less than 50 cast ballots. All Offices were uncontested.

President- John Wendel

Vice President- John Zile

Treasurer- Farrel Wells

Secretary-William Kendrick

Education Chairman-James Johnston

Forge Fire Editor- Gary Phillips