

Rocky Forge News

Volume 5, issue 6 – June, 2006

Excuses by David Childress:

I now have too many projects coming due. So this newsletter is mostly Ted's.

State Fair

Submitted by David Childress

The IBA approved providing demonstrators for the State Fair and appointed me (David Childress) coordinator. I now need to arrange and coordinate. If you would like to demonstrate for at least part of a day at the Fair I need to know. I need preference 1st and 2nd of day and how many hours you are good for. You will only need to bring hand tools and secure storage is available. Either Satellite Groups or individuals are eligible. Groups will be given scheduling preference. Several people will be needed each day. I will try to get everyone the times they prefer as long as all times are covered.

Rocky Forge News

Submitted by Ted Stout

The annual IBA conference was a success with two talented demonstrators. It was difficult to chose which demonstrator to watch.

The Rocky Forge group was well represented at the conference with 7 or more attendees. My thanks to all of you, it makes our group stronger. Also, our group was well represented in the awards section: Dominick Andrisani won the "Rookie of the Year" award. His prize was a nice plaque, two IBA hats with "Rookie of the Year" on them, and a \$500 scholarship to a blacksmithing school of his choice. Shane Stegmierer won the forging contest on Saturday night. The contestants were asked to forge a 90 degree bend with a minimum radius inside and outside. Also, read the news release about Jim Kieth's award in this newsletter.

These guys make us proud, so be sure to congratulate them when you get a chance.

Our next meeting will be June 17th at the Independence Heritage Festival. We should be

there and setup by 9:30. As for food we can eat at the food vendors or bring your own lunch.

Be thinking and preparing for the Illiana Show July 20-23rd. Both of these shows will be a good time for us to get some forging time under our belts. You might want to think about what you want to make and round up the metal needed.

Rocky Forge Farrier and Blacksmith Awarded Coveted Position

Submitted by Ted Stout

Jim Keith, a professional FARRIER from Wingate, Indiana and member of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild, was inducted into a prestigious national group called the "Anvil 21 Club". He was inducted into the group at the national convention of the American Farriers Association held in Omaha, Nebraska. The club is reserved for those in the trade who make outstanding contributions to the farriers of America. Jim who has been a professional since 1972 has made numerous contributions by educating the younger generation. He is a resident farrier teaching the trade at the Purdue School of Veterinary Science. Jim is active in many organizations that promote farrier education. During the fall of 2005 he made a missionary and farrier education trip to Romania. Several lectures and hands on sessions were held to educate farriers of the region. On that trip the group passed out over 700 Bibles. In Romania a Bible costs approximately 1.5 weeks wages. To his knowledge there are no Bibles printed in Romania.

Jim has personally experience the benefits of the "Anvil 21Club". In 1989 he had a severe wreck where he was critically injured and sustained 3rd degree burns over one third of his body. After two months of hospitalization and nearly one year recovery and therapy he was

ready to go back to work. Since all his tools of the trade were destroyed in the fire he had no tools for his work. The "Anvil 21 Club" came to his rescue and supplied all the necessary equipment for Jim to return to work. Most of the time the club is anonymous about their philanthropy, this is the kind of work they do.

The "Anvil 21 Club" started out with only allowing 21 members, but was later changed to allow 39 members. To be inducted into the club there has to be a death to make a vacancy. It is a national group, which makes Jim's appointment a very prestigious award among his peers.

Upcoming Meetings

The June meeting will be June 17, during "Independence Days" in Independence IN.

The July meeting will at the Illiana Steam and Power Show, July 22.

There was no August meeting last year and input is needed as to interest in an August meeting this year.

Events

August 9-20 -- Indiana State Fair, the IBA will be demonstrating at the Pioneer Village, get your schedule request in.

August 19-20 -- Skinner's Historic Farm Days. Perrysville IN.