

Rocky Forge News

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"If I can make it for ten dollars or buy it for five dollars, I will make it."- D. J. Blansford, Wabash Valley Blacksmiths

Meetings

June

The June meeting was at the Independence Blacksmith Shop during Independence Days. This is the first meeting that I have missed in about three years. Ted said everyone had a good time Saturday and Sunday was rained out. Somehow that is as specific of a report as I have received. I was demonstrating at Billie Creek Village and they pay even though I have not received the check yet.

July

The July meeting will be at the Illiana Steam and Power Show at the show grounds outside Rainsville (Flyer enclosed). Set up on Thursday and the show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There will be a pitch-in dinner on Friday night. Every year this is a good event. Carol requests donations of fruit pies for the Pie Tent.

August

The regular meeting would be Aug. 12 and Rocky Forge is tentatively scheduled for the Indiana State Fair Pioneer Village Blacksmith Demonstration on Aug 14 and 15, and possibly Aug 13 more info next column. Whatever is arranged will be in the August Rocky Forge News.

State Fair

Getting this arranged and all of the seemingly thousands of things to making an all volunteer event work is about all I am getting done.

The tentative Schedule for the State Fair Demonstrations is:

Date	Group Scheduled	Contact
Aug. 9,10-	Fall Creek -	John Zile
Aug. 11, 12-	Various Volunteers-	David Childress
Aug. 13-	Rocky Forge (?)	
Aug. 14,15-	Rocky Forge-	Ted Stout
Aug. 16-	(?)	
Aug. 17,18,19	Vernon Group-	Ray Seese
Aug. 20-	Vernon (?)	

I will answer any questions as soon as I can. Methodology and duration of demonstration I am leaving to the various groups. I can tell you what the Fair Board expects, which is very general.

ABANA Hand Forging Class

ABANA is offering a class in forging fundamentals. Here is the beginning of the Introduction to see the level of interest. It is available online (I have not yet seen all) at: <http://abana.org/resources/chf.shtml>

Forging Fundamentals:

Controlled Hand Forging Lessons by the ABANA Educational Programs Committee

The ABANA Educational Program Committee is pleased to announce the Forging Fundamentals program. The committee consists of Bill Callaway, Arizona; Jay Close, South Carolina; Bob Fredell, Minnesota; Dereck Glaser, Maine; Tom Latané, Wisconsin; Peter Ross, Virginia; Doug Wilson, Maine; and Dan Nauman, Wisconsin, Program Chairman and ABANA Board Member.

All the individuals listed have been involved in teaching and demonstrating hand-forging techniques to a broad range of people, and most all committee members have been full-time blacksmiths for a number of years. The range of style and technique is also broad among the committee. Some of the members

have been working towards this program for almost four years. Much thought, many conversations, and countless hours of planning have occupied their time towards this mission.

What is the Forging Fundamentals program?

This voluntary program is a progressive set of lessons which emphasize ten forging fundamentals: Fire maintenance, drawing out, bending (including straightening), upsetting, punching (both through punching and ornamental punching), slitting, drifting, welding, twisting and joinery.

The focus of the program is five fold: To teach hand forging methods, present a curriculum which can be studied and in the home shop, explain a method for an individual to recognize his or her accomplishments, provide tolerances for comparison, and emphasize consistency in workmanship.

We want it known that this is but one path to learn how to forge, not the only path. We also want to emphasize that these lessons will teach only a process, and not a style. Our goal is to prepare the student to approach any facet of forging discipline and style armed with solid forging fundamentals.