

# Rocky Forge News

Volume 5, issue 8 – August, 2006

---

"This thing keeps growing. The State Fair is trying to eat my life." David Childress, IBA state Fair Coordinator

## Meetings

### July

The July meeting was at the Illiana Show and nothing spectacular happened. The weather was beautiful, and we all had a good time. Dominick and Gene built Dominick's life size dancer sculpture, which I have heard sold for \$1000 last week. Dominick just may be the best of us someday.

### August

No August Meeting - 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. David Childress, our editor, is covering Aug 11-13.

### September

We don't know yet; between the Illiana show and the State Fair, no one is looking that far ahead. Historically, we will probably meet at Ted's, rehash what happened at these 2 events, and plan for next year.

## State Fair

### Indiana State Fair Pioneer Village Blacksmith Demonstrations

The Indiana Blacksmith Association will be providing Demonstrations for the amusement of Fairgoers. We hope to attract Blacksmiths and more importantly want to-be Smiths to join our ranks and help to continue our art. This is a volunteer effort. Demonstrators get show off, instruct, and if they wish to sell the products of their efforts. Finding information and scheduling of interest to volunteers. Anyone interested in helping can still come forward and no one will be turned away.

With that said, specifics of organization follow. This information is the latest I have as of July 30 PM.

The Fair runs 8 AM Aug. 9 till 8 PM Aug. 2006. David Childress is coordinator for the IBA. Each Daily demonstration team has a contact person who will oversee smooth daily operation. Names and contact information included in Schedule (to follow). Each day the Fair Board would like continuous demonstrations from 8 AM till 7 PM. Demonstration is most important during "Living History Farming Demonstrations" in the Pioneer Village, i.e.- 10 -11 am, 2-3-pm, and 4-5 pm. What we are to demonstrate is left to the individual demonstrator. We need to answer questions and make smoke and noise for the tourist. Demonstrators can sell smithed items at their own discretion.

### Important Details

- **Clothing:** This is the Pioneer Village. Clothing should not be anything inappropriate. Period clothing preferred Jeans or overalls and cotton shirts OK. No tennis shoes, T-shirts or ball caps. Appropriate forge attire is probably appropriate.
- **Admission:** Passes will be issued. They will be sent to the contact people for each day. Any one who will work 5 days or more will receive a photo ID badge rather than tickets. We can have these made when worker is present, but will need ticket first day of arrival, if can not be here before fair to have made
- **Parking:** We want to get about 6 parking passes and keep them overnight at the Smith stand and have the next days demonstrators pick them up in the AM. Participants should enter Gate 10 off of 42nd street and will be directed to parking in lot 9. We have one golf cart assigned to Pioneer Village and access to a couple of others. We can provide assistance to members to haul their tools & supplies from their vehicles to the demo area. Also we can provide

unloading passes to get vehicles unloaded in the demo area.

- Lodging: what is available is two open halls, segregated by sex. The only occupants are people from the Pioneer Village. Breakfast and showers provided. Free.
- Tools: Demonstrators only need to bring hand tools. Anvils, forges, vises, and coal provided. Some steel may be available but arrangements still being made. Plan on bringing your own materials
- Sales: Demonstrators can sell their smithed items. The Concession Board wants 8% commission and daily sale amounts reported. The IBA will pay the commission after the Fair and collect the commission from demonstrators later.
- Meals: Pioneer Village will feed 1-2 smiths noon meal each day at our threshing dinner. We would like to allow regular participants to experience at least one of our daily threshing dinners, and there are often evening meals available (donation jar).

### Schedule for the State Fair Demonstrations

Date	Group	Contact
Aug. 9	Fall Creek (Joe Goebel, John Zile, David Kline, Don Kern, Dave Wells)	John Zile
Aug. 10	Fall Creek (Gary Phillips, Alvin Kline)	John Zile
Aug. 11	Various Volunteers (Harold Frost, Tom White, LeAnna White, Lorene Childress)	David Childress
Aug. 12	Various Volunteers (Jim Bolin, Lawrence Smith, Tom White, LeAnna White, Lorene Childress)	David Childress
Aug. 13	Various Volunteers (Jim Bolin, Charlie Terrill, Lorene Childress, Jim McClure)	David Childress
Aug. 14-	Rocky Forge (David Childress, Dick Fontaine, Jim Hale, Jim Keith, Lorene Childress)	Ted Stout
Aug. 15	Rocky Forge (Dick Fontaine, Jim Hale, Jim Keith, Dominick Andrisani)	Ted Stout

- Aug. 16 Vernon Group Ray Seese  
(Charles Hilton, Kenneth Dettmer, James Johnston, John Wendel)
- Aug. 17 Vernon Group Ray Seese  
(Charles Hilton, Kenneth Dettmer, James Johnston, John Wendel)
- Aug. 18 Vernon Group Ray Seese  
(Charles Hilton, Kenneth Dettmer, James Johnston, John Wendel)
- Aug. 19 Various Volunteers Harold Frost  
(Bob Hafong, Mathew Wordell, Jim McClure, Kim Saladine)
- Aug. 20 Various Volunteers John Wendel  
(Lawrence Smith, Tom White, LeAnna White, Alvin Kline, David Childress)

## 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.