

Rocky Forge News

Volume 8, issue 9 – October, 2009

October Meeting (10/10)

By Ted Stout

Our next meeting of the Rocky Forge group will be in our building located at the Illiana Antique Power Association show grounds. Meeting time will be October 10th at 9:00 A.M. with coffee (maybe) at 8:30.

A short meeting will be followed by our usual hammer-in so bring your stuff so we can share ideas and continue to learn metalsmithing. It was interesting to watch Gene and Dominick beat on aluminum and copper at the last hammer-in. Dan and Margie Michaels should have been there. It was also fun to watch young Brandon McCormick, who is developing his skills as a blacksmith.

Jim Bolen will prepare a pot of soup and Jim Keith is going to make burgers or something. So bring whatever you want that will go with those two dishes. Sounds like fun to me.

Lets try to kick up the quality of our iron-in-the-hat drawing this time. I know we can do better. See you all at the meeting.

September Meeting (9/12)

By Dominick Andrisani

The Rocky Forge Blacksmith Group met for a hammer-in on September 12 at our blacksmith shop on the Illiana Show Grounds in Rainsville. About a dozen smiths pounded iron, copper, or aluminum. Greg Searcy made three decorative shelf brackets. Ted Stout made some boot scrapers. I made a two-piece copper bowl. Gene Hollingsworth slapped out an aluminum bowl.

At the business meeting a number of items were discussed. Ted floated the opportunity to participate in the IBA contest to make a table for the next IBA Annual Conference in Tipton in June 25-27, 2010. Further discussion on was deferred till the next meeting.

The Illiana Antique Power Association has informally asked Rocky Forge if we would like to make a weathervane for the Ladies Building at the

Show Grounds. After some discussion, the group agreed to make the weathervane.

I agreed to take over the publication of the newsletter in a slimmed down one-page format. In addition, I agreed to post an article about Rocky Forge in the IBA newsletter, The Forge Fire, each month.

Many thanks are extended to David Childress for his work in publishing the newsletter for the past several years.

Jewels of Wisdom

A teaspoon of salt in a half pint of vinegar will clean copper (Gene).

Dates to Remember

- October 3-4: Pioneer Days, Fowler Park, Terre Haute
- October 9-18: 2009: Parke County Covered Bridge Festival
- October 10: next Rocky Forge meeting at Illiana Show Grounds, Rainsville
- October 10-11: Feast of the Hunter's Moon, Fort Ouiatenon, W. Lafayette
- October 17: IBA Meeting, Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop - Fowler Park, Terre Haute
- November 14: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's with demonstrator Don Neuenschwander, coppersmith
- June 2-5, 2010: ABANA Conference, Memphis, Tennessee
- June 25-27, 2010: IBA Conference, Tipton
- July 16-18, 2010: Illiana Antique Power Association Show, Rainsville

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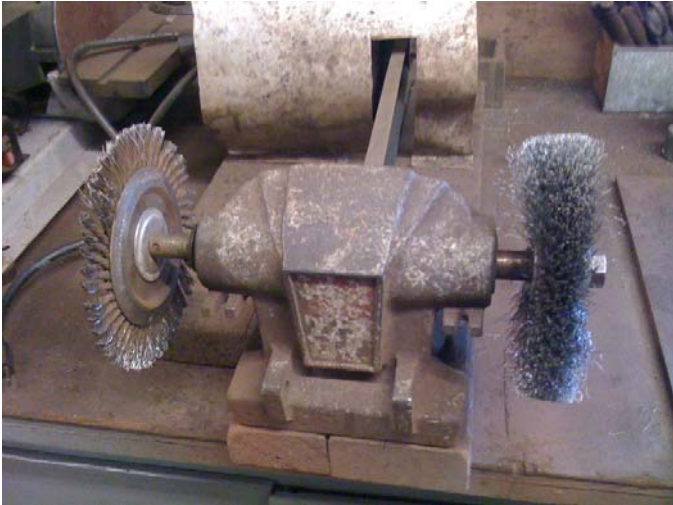
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Wire Wheel Safety

By Dominick Andrisani

Portable and bench wire wheels that we use on a routine basis to clean or buff metal are **very dangerous tools**. There are hundreds of ways to get hurt with a wire wheel, as one of our members recently discovered. Some of us own unsafe wire wheels in pairs mounted on a belt-driven shaft as pictured below.



This arrangement is dangerous because the clothing or fingers can be pulled into the belt. Even worse, clothing or fingers can be pulled into or abraded by the rapidly rotating wire wheel. Worse yet, since the wheels shown have no tool rest or guard, the metal piece being brushed can be pulled out of your hands, travel around the wheel and fly off in the direction of your body, face, eyes or, as one of our members found out, forehead. This type of injury is pictured below.



I recommend that you put guards on the belt and around each wheel and wear a full face shield.

ABANA 2010 Conference

Start making plans to attend the next ABANA Conference to be held June 2-5, 2010 at the AgriCenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. The 2010 ABANA Conference Committee is pleased to announce the first group of confirmed demonstrators. Stay tuned.

JOE ANDERSON (of NC), one demo on forged kitchen ware and 2 sessions on sculpture.

MARK ASPERY (of CA), tool-making demos.

GERALD BOGGS (of VA), demonstration TBD.

DAN BOONE (of VA), demo sessions on dragon's heads and his other products.

DAN AND JUDY BOONE, a round table talk and question session on how they market their wares.

PHIL COX (of MO), a session "power hammers - getting the most out of them" including both mechanical and air hammers, he will also cover tips on checking used hammers and rebuilding them.

DAN NAUMAN (of WI), repoussé.

DARRYL NELSON (of WA), demonstration forging of animal heads.

STEVE PARKER (of IL), power hammer tools and forging.

TOM LATANTE (of WI) will lead the "Meticulous Metalsmiths" forging a lock during the conference.

MARK ASPERY will run the "Green Coal" teaching station, with DARRYL NELSON and GERALD BOGGS.

AMIT HAR-LEV and TSUR SADAN (of Israel), demo topic has not been confirmed.

