

Rocky Forge News

Volume 9, issue 4 – April, 2010

Next Meeting (4/10/2010)

The countdown is less than two weeks away, and we can get together again for a fun day of blacksmithing. At the last meeting you guys really came a long way toward making nail headers and nails. Everyone now seems to understand how a header is designed and how to use it. The only thing left is practice, practice and some more practice.



A good time to practice is at the History Day for the Illiana, we will be entertaining the 4th graders from the Benton County schools. The date is Monday May 3rd. We should be set up and ready to go by 8:30 AM.

You guys always do a good job during that time. A light lunch will be provided, if you want more, bring more. In the afternoon we will have groups of senior citizens coming through. Does that mean I can be a spectator then?

Our meeting on April 10th will be at my shop since we have some projects requiring extra equipment. Coffee and doughnuts will begin around 8:30 AM.

We have over 500 miniature anvils to paint different colors. These anvils will be sold to finance our 30th year IBA party (October 15-17). We also will get started on a weather vane for the women's building. Furthermore, if weather permits some of you can set up outside and pound away.

Bring some lunch, a sandwich or whatever you want. We will provide a pot of bean soup to go with whatever you bring.

After attending the IBA meeting in March, I am further convinced that we have a great iron-in-the-hat drawing. You guys keep up the quality so I can continue to brag about your drawing. Our treasury is showing the results. As our treasury grows it is really exciting to think we may be able to make the additions to our building. Those additions will come

with good iron-in-the-hat drawings, raffles, endowments and sales at the Illiana show. Remember, we decided to make and sell trivets at the Illiana show this year, so lets see what we can make. Be optimistic about the building completion, look what we accomplished in only 6 or 7 years.

The photo at right is Jeff Rattray selling tickets for iron-in-the-hat.

Help our group grow, bring a friend who is interested in blacksmithing.

See all of you on April 10th. Come prepared with a lunch bag, iron in the hat, an eagerness to visit with fellow blacksmiths and a desire to have a fun day.

Ted



Last Meeting (3/13/2010)

Our April meeting was held at Ted's shop on the theme of "Really Making Nails This Time." It was quite apparent that our members are now equipped to make nails, having made or otherwise obtained nail headers, and are better skilled in the making of nails.



The photo on the previous page is Greg Searcy demonstrating how he always wears safety glasses when he works on rotating machinery. Greg was in the process of making a wizard head on a nail made out of a railroad spike. His creation is shown on the first page of this newsletter and was added to our Rocky Forge Nail Header.

Peter Cooper to teach at Tillers International

Tillers International is a craft school in Michigan whose mission is to preserve, study and exchange low-capital technologies that increase the sustainability and productivity of people in rural communities. Of particular interest to us are courses in coopering, blacksmithing and casting. One of our members, **Peter Cooper**, is teaching a course on the making of coopering tools Thursday and Friday, May 13-14, 2010.



Coopering is the art of making and repairing casks and barrels. A related course on the art of coopering will be presented Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16. This one-two punch should be a great way to get started in the traditional craft of coopering.

A third interesting course coming up is “Small Foundry Work and Pattern Making. This will also be presented May 15-16. Another one of our members, **Davey Hall**, will be attending this course.

Tillers International (www.tillersinternational.org) is located in Scotts, MI, just east of Kalamazoo.

Paul Moffett: 1931-2010

The Indiana blacksmithing community mourns the loss of one of their most active members. Paul Moffett passed away on March 3. He will be missed.

Dates to Remember

April 10, 2010: **Rocky Forge** meeting at Ted’s on “Making Lots of Little Anvils.”

Monday, May 3, 2010: **History Day** at the Illiana Show Grounds in Rainsville.

May 8, 2010: **Rocky Forge** meeting of May.

June 2-5, 2010: **ABANA Conf.**, Memphis, TN.

June 12, 2010: **Rocky Forge** meeting of June??.

June 25-27, 2010: **IBA Conference**, Tipton.

July 10, 2010: **Rocky Forge** meeting of July??.

July 16-18, 2010, 2010: **Illiana Antique Power Association Show**, Rainsville, IN.

August 6-22, 2010: **Indiana State Fair**.

August 14, 2010: **Rocky Forge** meeting of August.

September 24-26, 2010: **SOFA QuadState Conference**, Troy, Ohio.

October 2-3, 2010: **Feast of the Hunter’s Moon**, at Historic Fort Ouiatenon Park near West Lafayette.

October 15, 16, 17, 2010: **IBA 30th Anniversary Party** at Ted’s.

Interesting Web Sites

Susan Hutchinson: This lady blacksmith produces contemporary, functional items for the home and garden made from metal, and sometimes mixed media.

www.southernhighlandguild.org/susanhutchinson/

David Roberson: This guy publishes a newsletter for free on email and tells how to make an object, then includes a video to further explain the process.

It seems to be a very useful site that others could benefit. You will need to join to see the full benefit.

www.artistblacksmith.com/

Solomon’s Castle: a cool place with lots of creative metalwork, www.solomonscastle.org/

Top 50 Blacksmithing Sites

<http://www.blacksmithsjournal.com/top/>

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Web Site: <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here).