

Rocky Forge News

Volume 9, issue 7 – July, 2010

Next Meeting: Prepare for Illiana (7/10/10)

Our next meeting will be July 10th at the Illiana Show grounds. The IBA conference is behind us now and we can concentrate on the Illiana Show coming up July 16th, 17th and 18th. I am getting excited about the show because it is a good time to do some blacksmithing and visit with friends.

The coffee pot and treats should be ready by 9:00 so bring your forges, metal, coal, tools and ideas so we can set up for the show which starts on Friday. There will be Illiana members there most of the week so I am planning on leaving most of my stuff there after the meeting. Some time will be spent cleaning our building, setting the iron fence and just getting ready for the show.

I sure hope to see a lot of you guys set up for show this year, we make such an impression and have a good time over that three day period. It gives us a chance to get in some real blacksmithing time.

For the meeting please bring your iron in the hat and lunch. Don't forget lunch because there will be no other alternative unless you drive to Attica or Boswell. For those who plan to camp or RV remember to call for reservations.

See you all on July 10th to make some smoke noise and iron goodies. Ted

Last Meeting: (6/19/10)

At the last meeting someone brought in a motor scooter for the iron in the hat. Toward the end of the drawing it did not look like anyone wanted to take the thing home. So instead of leaving it for Ted to dispose we decided to photograph the scooter and dismantle it with a challenge for all those taking parts to bring something to future meetings that has been made from the scooter metal. There are still a few remnants available for those who missed the meeting or those wanting more metal to work.

Once we have the results of your scooter blacksmithing projects they will be photographed

and a report published showing the results. I am looking forward to see the creativity that comes from this project. A good book that shows what the African blacksmiths make from junk vehicles is "The Mande Blacksmiths Knowledge, Power and Art in West Africa" by Patrick McNaughton. Ted



Happy smiths and the scooter before dissection.



Jeff Rattray dissects the scooter.

Brandon McCormick is Grand

Sixteen-year-old Brandon McCormick won the grand prize at the recent Warren County Fair 4-H "Do Your Own Thing" contest for his blacksmithing project. Brandon made a camp rack and graciously acknowledged the help provided to him by the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild. His accomplishment was reported in the Commercial-News of Danville, IL (see web links below). We can all be proud of Brandon and of the help we provided to him. This is an important role we have

to educate the young people in the historical and modern art of blacksmithing. Good job Brandon and good job Rocky Forge!

IBA Conference

The IBA conference (June 25-27) had some impressive things going on with good demonstrations, tailgate sales and vendors new to our show. Rocky Forge sure had a good showing at the conference, sorry for those who missed it. One of the most impressive demonstrations involved Kurt Fahrenbach, Steve Parker and Clifton Ralph making a post vice.



Steve Parker and Clifton Ralph examine the vice jaw under the two hundred pound Chambersburg steam-driven power hammer.

In contrast, Jack Brubaker gave an excellent demonstration of delicate blacksmithing. He made a heart-shaped trivet with finesse and precision.



Jack Brubaker examines his handiwork.

Many blacksmithed objects were on display at the conference. Some were for auction and some were for display. The winner of the table contest was a

table made by the Vernon group (Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop). It was also the hit of the auction, bringing in over \$2000.



Winning table made by the Vernon group.

Charlie Helton and John Zile also gave fine demonstrations.

ABANA Conference

The ABANA Conference in Memphis (June 2-5) was also an informative and inspiring series of events. The gallery contained many marvelous pieces of metalwork and proved how vigorous and alive blacksmithing is in this country. The demonstrators were also excellent.



Tsur Sadan demonstrates the right way to taper.



A forged face in the ABANA Gallery



Well known author Mark Asbury works at post vice



This repousse piece in the gallery was fantastic.

What To Do?

Winter months with more blacksmithing time will help me whittle my to-do list down. Every time I go to blacksmithing conferences, ABANA in Memphis and IBA at Tipton, I end up with more ideas and more stuff to use, enough to keep one busy for a long time. Did you ever think about collecting stamps? Ted

Congratulations

Congratulations to Elizabeth Brim, the ABANA 2010 Bealer award Winner!

Congratulations to Jim Johnston, the IBA Blacksmith of the Year!

Delta Welding Openhouse

Several of the Rocky Forge members attended Rex Otteham's tenth anniversary open house at Delta Welding on June 24. Rex really rolled out the red carpet for this one with free lunch, numerous vendors, give-aways, drawings and an overall good time. The big drawing was for a Miller 140 wire welder and an Evolution saw. The welder drawing was won by no other than our own Rob Durrett!!! Congratulations Rob.

Carol Stout won a candle and Ted Stout won a \$369 golf bag. Now what in the world will Ted do with a golf bag? It is long enough to carry a wad of metal or maybe a bunch of hammers.

There were several ah ha moments with items being hawked by the vendors. One that stands out in my mind was the AO Safety Minimizer safety glasses. These glasses give nearly 100% protection from UV

light, the kind that is so hard on our eyes. They will easily go over my regular glasses or worn without glasses. After some discussion the salesman said they could be used for plasma cutting and looking into the forge fire. Looking directly into the forge fire without protection is not a safe thing to do. These glasses run about \$15 and can be purchased from Delta Welding.

I brought home several free samples of new 4 1/2 inch wheels and some wrapped sanding spindles for trial. Ted

Gas Forge Construction

Here are a few Internet sites with instructions on gas forge construction. The first two are Peot style but the theory can be converted to the small forges that you want to build.

Jymm Hoffman from Pennsylvania (see link below) had the first I ever saw. He welded out of his with just a hand held burner mounted adjacent to the forge fueled by mapp gas. Doug Markle also uses one made from a freon or helium tank. Very thick insulation on the walls retains the heat and allow welding heat to be reached, at least on small pieces.

Jim "JJ" Johnston

<http://www.spaco.org/Blacksmithing/PipeForge/PipeForgeAndPropane.htm>

http://www.abana.org/downloads/pipeforge_plans.pdf

<http://www.arscives.com/bladesign/forge.tutorial.htm>

<http://www.cyphertext.net/~gfish/forge.html>

<http://www.zoellerforge.com/sidearm.html>



Simple gas forge at IBA Conference

Carol's IBA Quilt

Carol Stout has finished the blacksmithing quilt made from multiple blacksmithing tee shirts. Raffle tickets are still available. Plan to buy some at our Rocky Forge meeting or at the Illiana Show. Proceeds go to fund the IBA 30th Anniversary party.



Raffle tickets for Carol's IBA Quilt are still on sale!

Deanna Durrett Recognized for Volunteer Work

Rob Durrett's wife, Deanna, was recognized as the 2010 Volunteer of the Year by the Montgomery County Community Foundation on May 27 at Wabash College. For her volunteering efforts Deanna was presented with a plaque by MCCF President Roy Kaser. She has served the community as a policy analyst on health and drainage issues in Montgomery County. See link below.

Interesting Web Sites

Brandon McCormick:

<http://commercial-news.com/local/x1617554784/Youth-does-it-his-way-with-camp-rack-project>

Photo of Brandon's Project:

<http://commercial-news.com/archive/x383274598>

Deanna Durrett Recognized:

<http://www.journalreview.com/articles/2010/05/27/news/03durrett.txt>

Elizabeth Brim (2010 Bealer Award Winner):

<http://www.abana.org/resources/galleries/members/ebrim.shtml>

Jymm Hoffman: <http://www.hoffmansforge.com>

Clifton, Steve and Kurt making vice:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8h5cPcYhKek>

Jack Brubaker:

<http://www.bloomingtononline.net/directory/pages/mini/892/info/abt.html>

Dates to Remember

July 10, 2010: **Rocky Forge** meeting at our shop in Rainsville to prepare for the show.

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

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

August 9-10, 2010: Rocky Forge demos at **Fair**.

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

August 17, 2010: Dominick demos at State **Fair**.

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.

June 3-5, 2011: **IBA Conference**, Tipton.

2012: ABANA Conf., Rapid City, South Dakota.

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