

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting: Wizards (9/11/10)

Seems like yesterday we were talking about the Illiana Show and the State Fair, now they are all behind us. This summer just flew by! Now its September and time to start our fall and winter fun time blacksmithing for ourselves. (I know that sounds so selfish.) I always enjoy the cooler weather when working around a hot forge.

Our next meeting is September 11th at Ted's shop with our featured demonstrator being Greg Searcy who will show us how to make wizard heads and the tools to do the job. Greg is a good blacksmith and a good teacher so we should learn a lot. After his demonstration we can then adjourn to the forges and practice what Greg was teaching. He makes his tools from 1/2 inch spring so if you have any laying around bring it along. Also, be sure to bring iron-in-the-hat material.

Carol is going to make barbecue sandwiches for lunch and would like for you all to bring a covered dish to share.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by about 8:30 and a short meeting at around 9:15 followed by Greg's demonstration. See you all on the 11th.

Ted

Last Meeting: (State Fair)

The Rocky Forge group did not meet in August because of our participation at the Indiana State Fair. Seven members of Rocky Forge helped demonstrate the art and craft of blacksmithing. Many thanks go to Matt Marziale, Gene Holligsworth, Rob Durrett, Peter Cooper, David Childress, Dominick Andrisani, and Ted Stout. In addition, Bill Newman and Kim Soladine joined in on the blacksmithing fun.

IBA 30th Anniversary Party: (10/15-18/10)

As the date nears for the IBA 30th Anniversary party, preparations continue at an accelerating pace.

Things around Ted's shop are changing every day. It would be helpful if some Rocky Forge members would give Ted a hand in setting up and checking out the several forging stations that will be available at the party. Perhaps some of us could do this following Greg's demonstration on the 11th.

We still need input from our membership on what they would like for the 30-year party. Please call Ted or Carol with your ideas. While the blacksmiths are working (or playing) we need some ideas on spouse programs. Remember, this event will go on Friday October 15, Saturday and Sunday.

Dominick

Feast of the Hunter's Moon (10/2-3/10)

Jean Tijou LaForge, the son of a blacksmith who worked with French master blacksmith, Jean Tijou, will again be blacksmithing at this year's Feast of the Hunter's Moon. The man he is named after, Jean Tijou (1689-1712) taught the English how to blacksmith and then in 1693 wrote a popular book about blacksmithing called *New Book of Drawings*. This first English book on ironwork contained engraved illustrations of his work and had a large impact on English speaking blacksmiths of the time. His works in England are marvels of the extravagantly ornate French Baroque style of blacksmithing as represented by the Hampton Court Palace screen pictured below.



Jean Tijou LaForge, pictured here in 2007, will again be at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon



Hampton Court Palace screen by Jean Tijou completed in 1701 (photo courtesy of Wikipedia)

Tools From Road Milling Bits

By Dominick Andrisani

It is sometimes possible to obtain used road milling bits and to forge them into useful blacksmith tools.



Fig. 1. Raw road milling bits on the left and partially finished tools on the right.



Fig. 2. Top view of finished tools.



Fig. 3. Front view of finished tools.



Fig. 4. Tong re-made to hold tooling.

Road milling bits are made of very tough material in order to survive in the difficult task of milling the asphalt surface off of a road. Different companies use different alloys. The two companies willing to share this information with me noted that they used 4140 or 4130 to make the bit.

Ted and I did a test on a tool I forged from a milling bit (the second tool from the left in Fig 2 and 3). We heated the tool to a bright red color, quenched it in water, put it in a vice, and hit it hard with several glancing blows from a hammer. Nothing happened to the tool indicating that the alloy did not get brittle from the quenching and was tough enough to sustain unusually severe punishing hammer blows.

Bits come in various sizes as shown in Fig. 1. The three objects on the left of Fig. 1 show the three sizes I have found. The medium and small sizes I forged into several tools as shown in Fig. 2 and 3. The third, fourth and fifth objects in Fig. 1 show partially completed tools made from the smallest bits. The sixth and seventh objects in Fig. 1 show partially completed tools made from medium size bits. Fig. 4 shows a tong that was reworked to hold the tools.

My conclusion is that used road milling bits are a great source of material for tough forged tooling.

Dates to Remember

September 11, 2010: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's shop featuring the wizard head of Greg Searcy.

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.

October 9, 2010: Rocky Forge meeting at Ted's

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

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

Contacts

Forgemaster: Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-572-2467 home).

Newsletter Editor: Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975 home).

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