

Rocky Forge News

Volume 9, issue 12 – December 2010

Next Meeting: (12/11/10)

Harold Frost Demonstrates

IBA Meeting with IBA Board Meeting

For the December 11th, Rocky Forge meeting, the group will be hosting the IBA. As you know the 3rd Saturday is normally reserved for the IBA meetings, except December because the 3rd Saturday gets close to Christmas. The meeting this year was scheduled to be held at Chaz Kiser's shop but Chaz had an accident and kinda broke (maybe even crushed) his shoulder and/or arm. Therefore, the December meeting will be held in Ted's shop with Harold Frost as the demonstrator. I hope you can attend because Harold is a good demonstrator. I am so glad to have Harold be able to do this for the IBA; you see he is a bone cancer survivor, the one we were all rooting for during his treatments.

Be sure to bring a covered dish (with food) and we will provide ham, drinks and table service. Don't forget iron in the hat drawing.

Also, a heads up, for the January meeting we will be hosting the Rural Smiths of Mid America (RSMA). That will be the second Saturday of January. One of the things the RSMA do is to make a trade item. Those who participate bring the homemade trade item to the meeting and lay it on the table then draw tickets. Each ticket winner can chose a trade item made by other members.

It is really a neat opportunity to show off your skills and to take home an item made by a peer. **The January trade item is a fire shovel (coal shovel).** Think about a design and participate in this event, it will be fun. Some of the RSMA will demonstrate



Jeff's son at Oct. meeting

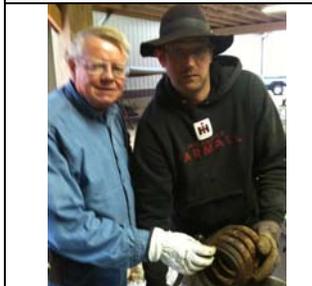
their skills that day and open the forges for your participation. Let's hope for a January thaw so Greg S. and other brave souls can work on the outside forges!!

Hope to see all of you on December 11th. The coffee pot will be ready by 8:30 and sweets arriving about the same time. Should be a fun meeting (Except Dominick, David and Ted have to set through an IBA Board meeting.)

Ted

Last Meeting: (11/13/10)

Crosses, bells, and candlestick holders were the theme of our November meeting. More than 15 smiths attended. After the business meeting we broke up into several smaller groups. I showed a few members how to make crosses out of copper pipe and tubing. Gene did something but I didn't see what it was. KJ needed a flat piece of wrought iron so Ted found a piece for him. This started a flattening extravaganza. It seemed that everything that was odd-shaped, bent, twisted or coiled in Ted's shop got straightened out. The four person team of Jostein (KJ's father), KJ, Ted and Randy used the four burner gas forge and the 100 pound Little Giant power hammer in the breezeway to forge magnificent flatness. Dominick



Jostein, KJ, Ted and Randy flattened everything in sight.



Amber Reaves and her brother Josh Turner had fun forging together.

Beware: Electric Finger Eaters

A grinder, wire wheel, or buffing wheel can grab the work-piece you are holding, spin it around, and throw it at you in a tiny fraction of a second, too fast for your to say “Oh snot!” Many bad things can happen next. The work-piece can hit your finger and mercilessly cut your skin and bone, hit you in the face, or in a worse place, if you catch my drift. The wheel can also grab your clothing or hair and pull you into to its rotating hell. When something like this happens you better hope that the wheel is mounted on a ¼ horsepower motor and not a bigger one, because it helps if you can stop the motor before your limb, face, or hair is consumed. **Pay attention, wear face protection, don't wear loose clothing, stow long hair and beards.**



Randy was lucky not to lose a finger in a wire wheel

Interesting Web Sites

“2011 Shops of the IBA” Wall Calendar by Michael Wollowski

<http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/calendar/2011Calendar.html>

ABANA Forging Fundamentals

<http://www.abana.org/resources/education/chf.shtml>

ABANA Members **Grainger** Discount Program

<http://www.abana.org/resources/granger-program.shtml>

A Christmas Blessing

May your Christmas be filled
 With beautiful hours
 And memories lovely to hold,
 To enhance and embellish
 The days of your years,
 Like angel wings sprinkled with gold.
 May Christmas spirit,
 In all of its joy,
 Touch the depths of your soul with delight,
 And may blessings in bushels,
 Abundant and rich,
 Light every path of your life.

Written by Frankie Davis Oviatt



A wreath holder with a forged ribbon made by Dave Wells

Dates to Remember

December 11: **Rocky Forge** meeting with IBA.

January 8, 2011: **Rocky Forge** meeting with Rural Smiths of Mid America.

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).