conversations with questions, answers, and free advise on blacksmithing subjects.

Thanks to our host Ray and to our demonstrator John Butler for an interesting and informative day.

Southeast Regional News

Charile Stemmann, Southeast Coordinator

The June southeast region meeting was held at Gerry Jamison's shop in West Palm Beach. Gerry covered some of the things he learned at a class he took at the Campbell Folk School. The first thing that he covered was how to make a tenon. He used an anvil helper that he made for producing the square edges on the piece. After reheating Gerry than used the blacksmith's helper he had set up in his treadle hammer to start the drawing out of the tenon. he then finished out the tenon with a hammer on the anvil. At this time is when he stress the importance of a radius at the base of the tenon. If at the base of the tenon has a sharp corner it will crack and break off. The radius at the base helps to prevent that. The use of the monkey tool was covered. The monkey tool should have a lead in radius to into the hold this will match the base radius and the tool is to insure a square at the base of the tenon. The next thing Gerry covered was how to make a square corner by upsetting. Gerry used a piece of 1/2 inch. square stock. After bring the metal to temp, he bent the metal at about a 45 degree angle. He said it make's it a lot easier to produce a square corner this way. After heating again he

hit the end of the piece square on and upset the mat'l to where it was needed. Then it was put on a sharp edge of the anvil and the bend was finished. It was then reheated and the corner was trued up. Another thing that was covered, making of scrolls. Gerry showed us how he makes scrolls by anvil and hammer. As he was doing that, he was also explaining that if you are making more than three scrolls you should make a scrolling fixture. Mainly because it becomes more difficult to make them all the same. The last thing that was covered was punching holes. This brought up a discussion of the type of material to make the punches out of. The materials that were mentioned, H13 and S7. I think both are good for hot work tools. It can depend what you are doing with them. Gerry served lunch it was very good and seemed to be more than enough. Thank you Gerry for a good lunch and a very informative meeting.

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