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February 24, 1997

To: Distribution

Re: February 22, 1997 Meeting Of The Proposed Houston Area Blacksmiths' Association

Seventeen people very interested in art and craft of blacksmithing met at the Tudor Forge near Magnolia, Texas on Saturday February 22.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine the amount of interest in forming a Houston Area Blacksmith's Association. After about three hours of discussion with everyone involved a consensus seemed to evolve around the following issues:

- The Houston area should have a blacksmith's organization.
- The name of the organization will be the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association...until we all agree on something better.
- The focus of the group should be the learning and teaching of general blacksmithing skills.
- Meetings should focus on hands-on demonstrations where everyone has a chance to try out some new technique at the forge.
- There seemed to be a particular interest in learning how to make tools.
- Meeting locations were discussed. There appear to be several that can be used now or in the future. They are: The Tudor Forge, George Ranch, Jesse Jones State Park, The French Museum in Beaumont, and possibly some other local shops. Dave Koenig will explore the possibilities of the George Ranch in more detail.
- The group will meet again on Saturday, April 19, 1997, at the Tudor Forge in Magnolia, TX.

There were a couple of things discussed for which no consensus was reached. These issues are:

- How should HABA be organized? There are several ways this could be done like: 1. No formal organization, 2. Affiliate with TABA or ABANA, 3. Become a new and separate organization all together. Dave Koenig and Kip Coe will explore these options and make a recommendation to the group.
- How should the group be financed? To what degree should the group be financed? This issue is still to be resolved. The *Seed \$ Can* managed to bring in \$10.

I think the meeting was a wonderful success. We accomplished a number of things as noted above and we have a number of issues to work on. As we get more involved and understand the resources of the group, the workload can be divided up more.

Please send any questions or comments about this meeting summary to me in one of the ways below:

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Sincerely,

Dave Koenig

/dw

Enclosure

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CLIP THIS OUT AND PUT IT ON THE REFRIGERATOR

**HABA MEETING
APRIL 19, 1997**

9:00 AM

TUDOR FORGE

Bring your own curiosity, willingness to learn and teach, something to eat and drink, someone else interested in smithing, etc. If you have a forge, coal and tools, bring those too and enjoy the day. Directions to the Tudor Forge attached.

Please bring safety glasses with side shields!

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Revised: 2/24/97

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