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To: HABA Distribution List

Re: June 21, 1997 Meeting Of The Proposed Houston Area Blacksmiths' Association  
(HABA)

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

Thirty one people attended the fifth HABA meeting. It was the best attended to date. The venue was Tudor Forge near Magnolia, TX. Things got started about 9:00. We had a short business meeting just as the forges were lit and most people arrived. Camp Stew was the order of the day around noon. Demonstrations, conversations, scanning catalogs and books, looking over Show-And-Tell items and a Raffle consumed the day.

There was lightning and thunder to the right of us and thunder and lightning to the left of us from late morning through mid afternoon. Just as our guest demonstrator, Bill Epps, was putting the finishing touches on a beautiful wizard head and the last of the four forges were packed for the trip home, the thunder and rain descended upon Tudor Forge. With everyone relatively dry and captive within the shop, the Raffle began of items accumulated during the day. The net proceeds from the HABA Hat, Camp Stew and the Raffle were \$196. The shop got closed about 5:00.

### **HANDS-ON SMITHING**

Marilyn Koenig welcomed everyone, completed the paperwork that included releases, new and changed addresses, collecting the Camp Stew money and name tags. The name tags had a lot of trouble sticking to the damp clothing.

Howard Owen was the first to arrive again and was put to work getting the forge ready for everyone. I hoped to have a couple of the Tudor Forge forges ready for use when people arrived but did not manage to get that done. A learning here is to have someone arrive early and be dedicated to attending the forges and supporting those who want to get an early start. Would anyone like to take on this responsibility for the August meeting at Tudor Forge? Please give me a call if you do and we will get something set up.

Larry Hoff, Paul Bonner, Charles and Sharon Heathcock and Kip Coe with Bill Epps soon had fires going. Before everyone got too involved in their projects we took a break to welcome everyone, especially Bill Epps, from Mesquite, TX and those who were there for the first time. Since we were all gathered up we went right into the business meeting.

Forging resumed right after the meeting with a majority of the activity around Kip's forge where Bill Epps began to work. Bill had the majority of the groups attention throughout the day, however, activity continued at the other forges, the Resource and the Show-And-Tell tables, and in small groups here and there.

It is probably safe to say that our meetings can be characterized as very creative and self driven. We seem to be able to create a learning environment that offers a productive mix of hands-on and spontaneous discussion.

Gary Hilton managed to work the crowd with a bag full of different forging hammers. He purchased the hammers a while back and now decided to turn them into cash. The prices seemed to be right and I for one really enjoy the one I got.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

The business meeting began about 9:30 as a follow-on to a welcome and orientation to Tudor Forge. Here are the highlights:

1. Everyone was reminded to wear safety glasses with side shields while forging and observing. We did a pretty good job. There were a few reminders and no one incurred any personal injury. That's the really good part!
2. Kip Coe introduced Bill Epps to the group and Bill gave us an overview of what he had planned for the day.
3. The group was reminded that the accounting of HABA funds is open to examination at any time. A report of receipts and expenditures was posted on a bulletin board for all to review.
4. A request was made for someone to volunteer to take over the task of accounting for income and expenses.

No volunteer came forward.

5. The cash balance as of the date of the meeting was \$45.54. Included in the balance is a \$28.58 expense credit from Dave Koenig. The reason for the credit was a reproduction error. The news letter was printed on one side and not two sides. The cost to print and send the June news letter is the same as the cost in May.

6. Heiner Zimmermann, a German smith, will be at the Coe Forge in Pinehurst for a two day workshop August 23 and 24. As we get closer to the date, we will probably be asking for a couple of volunteers to help get things organized for the event. The cost of the workshop will be \$50 per person. Kip Coe has agreed to donate \$10 per person to HABA.

Right now the plan is to limit the workshop to 50 people. The limit is based on the number of people Kip's new shop can accommodate. If we can round up some portable bleachers more people may be able to attend. If you know of any bleachers we might be able to move to Kip's shop for the occasion, please give Kip or me a call.

The following people indicated they plan to attend Heiner's Workshop: Larry Newbern, Vance Burns, Dave Koenig, Reynolds Cushman, Ed Cotten, Billy Vannoy, Gary Hilton, Charles Heathcock, Sharon Heathcock and Paul Bonner.

That leaves 40 openings. If any other HABA members want to get on the list, please call Kip or me. The word is going out about Heiner's Workshop in the next Texas Forge Review that should hit the 'news stand' any day now. The word will also be out at the Louisiana Metalsmith's Association meeting on July 20.

7. The July HABA meeting will be held at the new Coe Forge in Pinehurst, TX July 19. The primary focus of this meeting will be to see demonstrations of power equipment like the Sahinler hammer and the new twister. Bring your forges, Resources to share, Show-And-Tell items, Raffle material and a friend. See below for directions to the Coe Forge.

8. Camp Stew, with a twist, will be on the agenda for the July meeting. That means if you intend to have lunch at the forge, bring \$2 and a can of beans, some kind of bread or BBQ condiments. Jim Wheeler is taking on the BBQ 'cheffing' duties. Lunch will be beans, bread and BBQ.

9. The August HABA meeting will be held at the Tudor Forge, near Magnolia, TX on August 16. Any ideas for this meeting? I suspect the attendance will be a bit low because it will be hard for people to travel to the Magnolia/Pinehurst area two weeks in a row, first for the HABA meeting and the next week for Heiner Zimmermann's Workshop.

## **CAMP STEW**

The Camp Stew was great! Sharon Heathcock seemed to be the chief chef with some help from others. Additional spices carefully added and fresh vegetables from the garden turned a good stew into a pretty darn tasty one...one any profitable restaurateur would be proud to serve.

## **RAFFLE**

The Raffle began with the rain! Spirits were not dampened however. Larry Newbern took on the duties of getting the most for each of the items. Charles Heathcock and Jim Wheeler collected

money and handed out tickets. The system evolved into Charles handling the tickets and Jim collecting the money.

We had some really wonderful Raffle items: Bill's work including a humming bird, wizard, swan, sea horse, flip-back heart and a guillotine hardy fuller: a camp utility knife with sheath from Paul Bonner, a hold-down clamp by John Soares: a camp spoon by Ed Cotton, a double tapered rasp from Gaylon Holderrieth and the Pinehurst Trade Center: a 36" Rigid pipe wrench from Troy Stallones: and four copies of the *Triple-S Steel Supply Co. Catalog # 10* and their *Metal Products Reference Book* from Bruce Stein.

When it was all done Jim Wheeler and Larry Hoff did the final accounting of all the day's proceeds. The HABA proceeds for the day were: Raffle \$149, Camp Stew \$42, HABA Hat \$38 and a special pass- the- hat for Bill Epps' expenses of \$67. After some discussion the group decided to offer Bill Epps \$100.

### **IDEAS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

During the Raffle, some of our collective creativity crept to the surface again. The discussion seemed to focus on ways to create hands-on forging competitions for anyone wanting to get involved. It seems these ideas also provide the opportunity to generate additional revenue. Here are the ideas for everyone to consider.

1. *Let's Twist* - Kip Coe would like to see each person interested in the competition given a piece of rod. The rod would be twisted and returned for judging. The winner will be determined based on criteria like originality, craftsmanship, etc.
2. *Nailed* - Jim Wheeler has a bucket of railroad spikes. He proposes to sell them for \$1 each to anyone wishing to accept the challenge of creating something unique from one spike. The \$1 would go into a HABA *Nailed* hat. The recreated spikes would be returned for judging. The winner of the competition could split the proceeds with HABA.
3. *Iron Pyramid* - Dave Koenig has an idea to take one piece of iron and to create something unique by many smiths. For example, Bill Epps forged a wizard head at the end of a three foot rod. That piece could be the beginning of something else. The person winning a HABA auction bid for the wizard for example would have the right to take that piece and add another element. The new piece would be returned for another HABA auction. The winner of the next auction would add another element and so on until the present owner thinks the piece is done.

The result would be a sample of many smiths' work...sounds like a collectors item. The auction proceeds would go to HABA or some other organization in need.

Another idea has to do with your contributions to the monthly letter. So far the HABA letters included primarily my observations and interpretation of what transpired at our meetings. The proposal is to invite you to input your thoughts and observations. This can be accomplished by simply describing on paper something that really got your attention at the meeting...something

maybe from a demonstration, a conversation, the Reference table, etc. Give me your comments and I will use them to help me create the next letter. By the way...spelling, grammar and penmanship don't count. Ideas count.

## **CONCLUSION**

The fifth meeting of HABA was well attended not only by HABA members but by members of the East Texas Blacksmith's Association. HABA is off to a productive start. We are beginning to draw upon more and more of the talent within the group to perform the tasks needed to keep things going. The ability of the group to pick up the tasks of the organization is critical in my opinion. By sharing the load we will learn that there are many different ways to accomplish what needs to be done.

You and I will need to expend some effort to remain open to accepting different ways of doing things. Like all good humans we will want to gravitate toward what 'feels good'. What 'feels good' however will box in our creativity. This cumulative creativity is what brings us together in the first place and will ensure our future growth.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

To Kip Coe and Bill Epps for teaming up on a great series of demonstrations.

To Marilyn Koenig for taking care of the paper work.

To Howard Owen for helping us get started on the right foot.

To Paul Bonner, Larry Hoff, and Charles Heathcock for bringing their forges.

To Sharon Heathcock for organizing the Camp Stew.

To our visiting smiths: Billy Vannoy, Charles Majors, Neil Goza, Ed Cotten, Tom Bennett and guests of our members: Mathew Burns, Ralph Block, and Bob Lance for coming and contributing.

To all the contributors of Raffle items and most importantly to all those who continue to bet on their luck.

## **NOTICES**

1. Heiner Zimmermann's Workshop is confirmed for August 23 and 24. The Workshop will take place at the Coe Forge in Pinehurst, TX. The cost for the two days is \$50. Reserve a place by calling Kip Coe, at 281-356-3267 or Dave Koenig 281-855-2869. Enrollment will be limited to about 50 people.

2. Larry Newbern is looking for volunteers to demonstrate blacksmithing at the George Ranch Blacksmith Shop on October 25 and 26. Demonstrators are able to sell too. Call Larry for more details at 409-793-4362.
3. Steve Joslyn of Syracuse, NY will be demonstrating this fall at the Sid Richardson Scout Camp on Lake Bridgeport, TX. Stay tuned for more information and take a look at the Spring 97 issue of The Anvil's Ring. Steve is pictured with one of his chandeliers.
4. Peter Ross will be featured at The Louisiana Metalsmith's Association's (LAMA) annual event, *Banging on the Bayou IV*, October 4 and 5. The venue is Bogue Falaya Park in Covington, LA. Contact Buddy Leonard, 504-892-1137 for more information and registration.
5. Be sure to visit the HABA Home Page:  
**'<http://www.toptown.com/hp/dblock/haba/index.htm>'.**

## **THE JULY 19 TH HABA MEETING**

The next HABA Meeting will be held at the Coe Forge, July 19, 1997.

**Be sure to bring a pair of safety glasses with side shields!**

Coe Forge will be open by 9:00. Kip Coe will show you around his new shop and demonstrate some of the equipment.

Soda and water will be provided by HABA.

Camp Stew will be in the form of BBQ. To get in on the action, contribute \$2 and bring a can of beans, bread or BBQ condiments.

Bring your forge, Show-and-Tell items, Resources you would like to share with others and something for the Raffle.

We will break for a business meeting around noon and then dig into the Camp Stew.

After lunch we will continue with the demonstrations.

Some time after lunch we will get the Raffle underway and conclude the meeting.

Directions to the Coe Forge:

The Coe Forge is located west of highway 249 in Decker Prairie, TX.

Take 249 NW from Houston. Travel through the town of Tomball. Decker Prairie is immediately after Tomball. There will be road construction as you enter Decker Prairie. At the light with the

Exxon sign, turn left, west, on Decker Prairie - Rosehill Road and proceed two blocks to the T in the Road. Turn left at the T, remaining on Decker Prairie - Rosehill Road and follow it south past the Decker Prairie elementary school, around the corner to the HMW Water building on the left, and around another corner about 100 yards. The Coe Forge will be on your left, east, side of the road. Once there you can't miss it!

From the intersection of 1488 and 1774 in Magnolia, go south to Pinehurst where 1774 turns into highway 249. Continue south on 249 to Decker Prairie. Turn right at the second light, Decker Prairie - Rosehill Road and the Exxon sign. Proceed two blocks to the T in the road. Turn left at the T, remaining on Decker Prairie - Rosehill Road and follow it south past the Decker Prairie elementary school, around the corner to the HMW Water building on the left, and around another corner about 100 yards. The Coe Forge will be on your left, east, side of the road. Once there you can't miss it!

Enjoy!