

HABA HABA

THE HABA LETTER

The Newsletter of the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association Inc.

To Preserve and Promote the Art and Craft of Ornamental Blacksmithing
Through Education.

HABA Web Site: www.habairon.org

March- May 2002 Edition

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LES COOK NEW HABA VP

JUNE HABA MEETING – BOY SCOUTS

HABA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

KOENIG APPOINTED TO ABANA BOARD

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LES COOK NEW HABA VP

Les Cook was elected by the HABA Board to fill the office of vice president. Larry Newbern resigned from the Board. Les will complete Larry's term that ends in 2002.

HABA members and the board thank Larry for his work over the years and look forward to working with Les in his new role.

The board will hold its annual election of officers when the board vacancy is filled. Any HABA member in good standing is eligible to serve on the board. HABA members who would like to serve HABA as a Board Member should contact Frank Walters, HABA's Secretary. Frank's contact information is listed above.

JUNE HABA MEETING – TUDOR FORGE

JUNE 15, 2002, 9:00 AM

The June HABA will be held at Tudor Forge June 15. The business meeting will start at 9:00 AM and we will begin working with the Boy Scouts from Troop 87 of Spring, TX. Their leader is Buddy Sullivan. HABA is expecting about 7 scouts.

The project for the day is to coach a scout to make a railroad spike knife. We are also expecting Scoutmaster, Don Cullum and his assistant from Troop 1565 to pay us a visit and observe what we do.

What to Bring

A forge and tools to forge a knife.
Safety glasses with side shields and closed leather shoes while working at the forge.

A pair of leather gloves.

Something to eat for lunch or patronize a local eatery.

Any personal items and preferred soda or water.

HABA will Provide

Water and soda.

Railroad spikes

Directions to Tudor Forge

Take 249 NW from Houston. Travel through the towns of Tomball, Decker Prairie and Pinehurst. At Pinehurst 249 changes to 1774. Stay on 1774. About three miles ahead on 1774 look for a Texaco station on the west side of the road. One half mile past the Texaco station, turn left or west on Tudor Way. There is a small white realtor office on the corner. You will find the forge about a mile down the road.

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From the intersection of 1488 and 1774 in Magnolia, go south on 1774 about 4 miles. Look for Tudor Way

just after the Country Jamboree building. If you see the Texaco station you went too far.

HABA MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2002-03

HABA Memberships are due again for the membership year of 2002-03. Those members who attended "HABA Presents Terry Clark" at Texas A&M University already renewed their memberships.

membership for the next year, please do so by completing the attached Membership Renewal form below.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact Dave Koenig.

If you have not already renewed your

Houston Area Blacksmith's Association Inc.

HABA FAMILY RENEWAL FORM 2002/3

Please fill out the renewal form below and send it with a check in the amount of \$20 made out to HABA to: Larry Hoff, Treasurer, 8026 Durklyn, Houston, TX 77070-3747.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____

Home Phone No.: _____ Work Phone

No.: _____

E-Mail Address:

_____ @ _____

Please Check One:

_____ **Yes, I would prefer to receive *The HABA Letter* through the U. S. Mail.**

_____ **Yes, I will retrieve *The HABA Letter* from the internet at www.habairon.org**

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**and save HABA
some mailing costs.**

Your membership is appreciated and important to HABA.

JULY HABA MEETING

The July HABA meeting will be a little different. This meeting will focus on receiving member input to HABA's work.

The Board is looking for an air-conditioned meeting room to make everyone comfortable in the July heat.

The tentative plan is to serve lunch and maybe see a smithing video. The discussion promises to be entertaining as well as informative.

There will be a published agenda with an agreed upon end time.

Suggestions about a meeting location are most welcome.

Any issues you would like to see addressed at this meeting should be sent to the Secretary Frank Walters. This kind of early input will be most helpful to prepare the agenda and design the meeting.

DAVE KOENIG APPOINTED TO THE ABANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Koenig, President of the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association, was appointed to the ABANA Board of Directors May 17, 2002. Dave will complete two of the three-year term vacated by board member Kirsten Skiles.

More particulars about the appointment can be found on ABANA's web site:

www.abana.org. Click on the Business button and look for the May 17 entry.



Dave will get introduced to the ABANA board members next month in LaCrosse, WI. This year the ABANA Board itself is organizing the biannual conference instead of a local chapter. The board gets to

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arrive early, June 2, and go home late, June 11. In addition to helping setup, run and tear down the conference Dave will attend his first Board Meeting.

To all of the Texas ABANA members who signed a petition May 10 to get Dave's name on the 2002 Board of

SUMMARY OF THE TREADLE HAMMER WORKSHOP

Clay Spencer came to Magnolia, TX March 15 - 17 to conduct a treadle hammer workshop at Robert Killbuck's shop. The goal was to complete 30 treadle hammers in three days. The goal was achieved not only with the concerted effort of the workshop participants but with a number of people who came to work and who were not going to receive a hammer.

The 27 paying participants in the workshop are: Steve Green, Les Cook, Brian Bateman, Frank Walters, David Bailey, Vance Burns, Clif Ladd, David Leyendecker, Robert Killbuck, Sue Murray, Tony Ahuero, Gerald Pollard, Guido Schindler, John Korb, Larry Hoff, James Porter, Ruth Carter, Richard Max, Howard Owen, J.B. Allinson, Chris Smith, Stan Timmerman, Bob Collier, Richard Boswell, Charles Williams, Reynolds

Directors ballot, he says thank you for your vote of support. It means a lot.

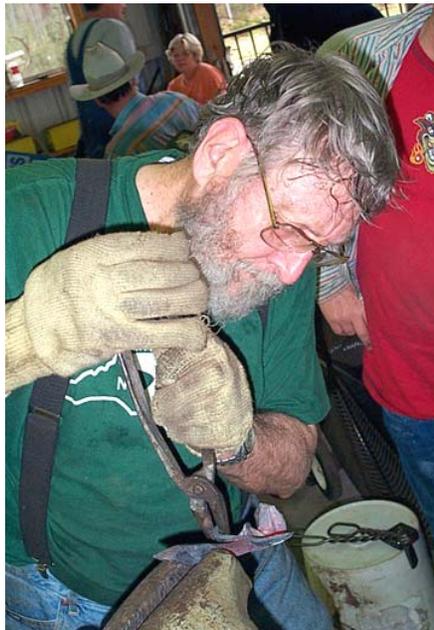
There will most likely be more from Dave about ABANA in *The HABA Letter* as he begins his term in office.

Cushman, Dean Arnold. Of the three additional hammers made, one went to Clay Spencer and two belong to HABA. The two HABA hammers will be spruced up and sold later to raise money for HABA.

Treadle hammer workshops are a big undertaking for any group and for any number of hammers. HABA's workshop seemed to be something special in a number of ways.

Teamwork

For those members who did not participate in any aspect of the workshop from helping out in the pre-workshop, or the workshop or by visiting one of these events, missed an opportunity to see what can be done when people are committed to something. It is amazing to see a group of people who never worked together before accomplish so much. Not everything worked like a Swiss



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watch but than it rarely does in the best of circumstances.

At the end of the first day there was one completed hammer. At the end of the second day there were 12 completed hammers. By the mid Sunday afternoon there were 30 completed hammers.

An hour to so later about half of the hammers were loaded and headed down the road towards the Hill Country and Dallas/Fort Worth.

After the initial loading Clay Spencer spent another hour or so to demonstrate what the hammer could do with some simple tooling. Any observer could see that people were just a little tired.

By 6:00 or so the last hammer was loaded and heading out of Robert's driveway.

Workshop Size

According to Clay this is only the third time that thirty hammers were attempted and the second time they were all completed at the end of the workshop. Texas now has the most new inline treadle hammers using the 2 7/8-inch bar stock for the ram. The total is forty-eight hammers.

Cost Per Hammer

The cost of the workshop was something special too. Each of the 27 paying participants paid \$375 to receive a hammer. For this each one received the following:

- A finished hammer.
- BBQ dinner Saturday evening and (leftover BBQ for Sunday lunch).
- A T-shirt commemorating the event.
- An etched brass plate which says "Clay Spencer Treadle Hammer "with Clays mark and "Houston Area Blacksmith's Association Treadle Hammer Workshop, Date and Serial No."
- A \$25 dollar refund.

Frank Walters was the person in charge of purchasing everything. With a lot of work getting quotes from area suppliers, he was able to bring the materials cost in around \$335 per hammer. According to Clay this is the lowest cost per hammer in a number of years.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Frank for his success in procurement! And, another thanks is in order because Frank designed and made each brass plate for all 30 hammers.

More Special Thanks



About 20 Hammers

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A BIG SPECIAL THANKS also goes to Clay Spencer for making the trip to Texas directing all the energy that went into the hammers on the last three days. Anyone involved in making hammers knows that following the plans is only part of the process. Knowing how the final product should work is something that cannot be communicated well on a piece of paper.

Clay's eyes and experience caught some pre-work mistakes and guided the correction. He was all over those hammers for three days coaching, directing and helping us avoid problems that would keep us from achieving our goal.

It is hard to imagine accomplishing what we did without his expertise.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Les Cook. Les coordinated much of the logistics of the pre-workshops and the workshop itself. All of the material had to be inventoried then divided up between three shops and brought back together again at

Robert Killbuck's shop.

Les also did a lot of work with Guido Schindler and Brian Bateman to get all 30 bases

ready for the workshop.

Three shops were used to do pre-work. A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Tim Bailey, Guido Schindler and Charles and Sharon Heathcock.

Tim Bailey and Frank Walters drilled the holes in the rams and welded the pin in place. This was a delicate task and it was completed as planned.

Guido Schindler's shop was the place where the base plate, anvil and rear column all came together. Guido spent many hours designing and perfecting the jig that was used to assemble these pieces. Les Cook and Brian Bateman did most of the welding. Tony Ahuero even came over from San Antonio one weekend to lend a hand.

Charles and Sharon Heathcock's shop is the place where probably thousands of holes were drilled, edges got deburred and the ram guide assembly got put together. Charles and Sharon opened their shop three weekends in a row to get all that done.



Ruth Carter & Dick Max

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Robert Killbuck who not only opened the doors of his shop for the workshop but also made each

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and every treadle for the hammers. Robert also has a forklift that was indispensable when it came time to move the hammers and components around.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Bob Collier. Bob hauled all the hammers from Guido's shop to Robert's and is storing HABA's hammers.

In addition to the welding machines HABA had lined up from Les Cook, Brian Bateman, Robert Killbuck's two and Tony Ahuero's, three more welding machines with professional welders arrived. None of these people were getting a hammer. The machines came with Jeff Lee, Alan Lee and Tim Bailey. It is safe to say that without their expertise and equipment, the treadle hammers would most likely not have been completed Sunday. Here's BIG

SPECIAL THANKS to Jeff, Alan and Tim.

A final BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Louise Green. Louise hosted Jackie Spencer and Jackie Max Saturday. These women had a wonderful time seeing the countryside and shopping in Old Town Spring.

And a BIG THANK YOU goes to everyone who had any hand at all in the HABA treadle hammer workshop.

This was by far the most ambitious of HABA's meetings. HABA and non-HABA members alike pitched in. It was a learning experience that would make it possible for HABA to host Terry Clark of Surrey, England and Tom Clark of Potosi, MO in May.

HAMMERFEST VII, APRIL 5 - 7, 2002

HammerFest VII in Oldenburg, TX was another HammerFest event with mixed results. Tom Lundquist, Charles and Sharon Heathcock, Dave Koenig, Jim Wheeler, Les Cook, Larry Hoff, Robert Killbuck, James and Cathy Porter, Bob and Cathy Collier, Howard Owen and A.J. Garret were all demonstrating



and selling. The weather was not very cooperative again and it seemed to be even more difficult to get customers off of the road and onto the site.

A lot of changes were made to give the site more 'road appeal'. Pennants were flying. Signs were up on the light poles and along

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the road. Parking was encouraged just off of the road and the camping was separated from the demonstration area.

The changes to the site, the enthusiasm of those who set up, the visiting blacksmiths, the potential new members of the smithing clubs in Texas and the warm hospitality of our hosts Kennie and Susan Hall all contributed to a very enjoyable weekend.

The primary purpose of HammerFest though is to sell and trade with the public. It is safe to say that we are all on a learning curve when it comes to selling, be that work we make or tools we want to trade.

Ann Ahuero makes a living displaying merchandise to sell. Her recommendation to HABA is to have a central selling location. To make this work each person wanting to sell needs to have each piece of merchandise marked with his or her name and each price. The advantage is customers can see a number of

items tastefully displayed in one location. If they want, they can visit the person who made a piece they are interested in purchasing. All they have to do is visit the maker in the domo area.

There will be more about the idea of a central selling area in future newsletters.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Kennie and Susan Hall for making all if us feel so much at home during HammerFest, including dinner Saturday evening and all the orange juice you can drink.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes to Kennie's aunt, Violet Mischer, for the delicious peach cobbler to top off the delicious fajita dinner.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS also goes to Nelson Randerman for donating a couple of cases of chocolate and white milk and for distributing HammerFest fliers along his milk route from Victoria to Brenham. (The Oak Farms Chocolate milk did not last long this time!)

HABA PRESENTS TERRY CLARK

On May 11 and 12, 2002, Terry Clark of Surrey, England demonstrated traditional forging techniques on some very large pieces of steel and some quite small pieces of stainless steel. There were 57

paying customers for this event. They not only got to see Terry work but thirteen had the opportunity to work directly with Terry on the big iron.

Terry started the demonstration in



Team One

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a classroom on the campus of Texas A&M University. We had the opportunity to see many of the large architectural commissions he completed over the years. In addition there were many pictures of the work in progress.

The iron started to get hot about noon on Saturday and the first of two teams to work with Terry got organized. The Saturday team included Colin McIntyre, Ed Malmgren, Steve Green, Katherine Kagler, Doc McFadzen, Tom Clark, Rebekah Frank and Harvey Wise. This group worked with two pieces of steel one and one half by two and one half inches by six feet six feet long. They made mortise and tenon joints in this stock that became a back stile and bottom rail for a very large gate.

In addition to making the mortise and tenon joints at the end of the stock they necked down the back stile to an inch and a half diameter. This neck became the bearing surface for a neck and collar hinge.

On Sunday Terry and a new work crew finished a tenon on the bottom rail, ten pickets for a gate or window grill, a stainless steel jam spoon, and two acorns using a top and bottom swage.

The Sunday team included Jeff Lee,

Ed Malmgren, Alan Lee, Frances Hernandez, Ray Hinnant, Tom Clark, David Bailey, James Honig and Harvey Wise. The finale for the team was to turn out the ten pickets. It was amazing to see this crew work together to accomplish the work.

Terry's ability to choose people at random, make them feel at home in front of a crowd, teach forging techniques and to produce finished work was really impressive. It is a great teaching tool not only for the people involved on the teams but for the people in the bleachers.

"HABA Presents Terry Clark" also included special demonstrations by Tom Clark of Potosi, MO. Without Tom's involvement it is safe to say that there would not have been any Terry Clark demonstration.

Tom Clark brought two 100 pound Sayah pneumatic hammers and tooling to College Station. In addition to the hammers came the anvil, swage block and all the other tooling necessary for Terry's demo.

Now here is a tip for future demonstrations. Come early and stay late!



Team Two

Terry Clark and Tom Clark both were demonstrating Friday afternoon to get ready for Saturday. Tom left the

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demonstration around midnight Friday. This was an opportunity to ask questions one on one and to hear stories from all present. The same happened Saturday evening.

On Saturday evening, Tom was teaching a class on making nails and the hammering techniques necessary to get good at it. Tom is a three-time nail maker winner from the Tannahill conferences in Alabama.

Tom also made some nails, anvil forks and nail headers Sunday morning for those who did not see the process in the evenings.

You will also note that Tom was on each team. He was a key person making sure the hammers were tooled correctly and it was Tom who did the critical striking jobs.

It will be a long time before any of us see a better forging demonstration by two separate, and the same two smiths and a team of novices. The learning and teamwork that happened at Texas A&M University May 11 and 12 was amazing.

A BIG SPECIAL THANKS goes

to the following people:

To Sally and Terry Clark for making the trip to Houston for a most creative and informative forging demonstration. (See Terry's web page: www.artsmith.co.uk.)

To Tom Clark for his indispensable equipment, his demonstrations and the energy he put into making everything flow.

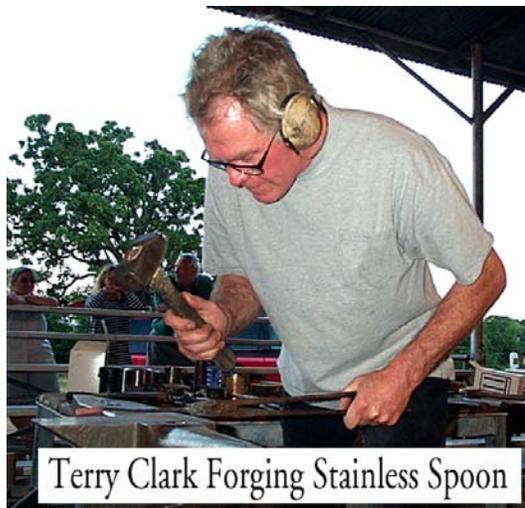
To Ray Hinnant for coordinating site activities and for making the Texas A&M facilities available to HABA.

To Howard Owen who rewired the demo site to power the hammers, lights and other equipment.

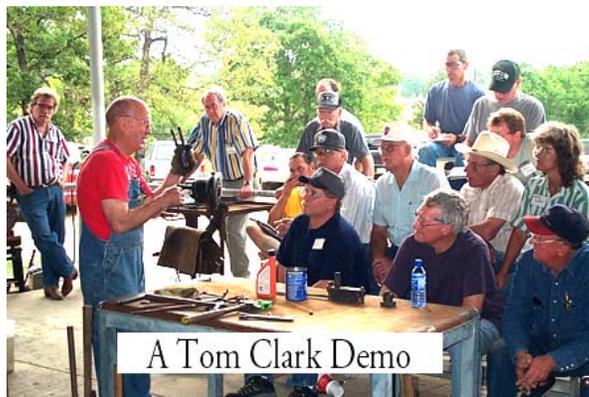
To Harvey and Helen Wise for working the demo site Friday through Sunday, their pictures and food setup.

To Tim Cowden for making sure the food got ordered and delivered Saturday evening.

To James Honig, Gary Hilton, Harvey Wise, Jeff Lee, Alan Lee, Greg Schuman, Robert Killbuck, Ray Hinnant, Les Cook Bob Collier, Charles and Sharon Heathcock and Frank Walters for making forges, welding machines drill presses,



Terry Clark Forging Stainless Spoon



A Tom Clark Demo

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grinders and tools large and small available. The site was not lacking for any tool.

To Les Cook and Dave Koenig for chasing down the steel and to Les for capturing the demonstration on video.

To Jess Stuart of the Langham Creek YMCA for the use of the bleachers.

To Bob Collier for hauling the bleachers and Les Cook, John Soares, Dave Koenig, Charles Sherburn and James Porter for helping to load and unload.

To Frances Trahan, Steve and Louise Green and Robert and Betty Killbuck for making sure Sally and Terry Clark had transportation and good night's sleep.

To Dean Arnold for hosting Tom Clark Thursday night and then turning his

home over to Tom Clark, Dave Koenig and Les Cook for the weekend.

To Helen Wise, Ed Malmgren, Tom Clark, Dave Koenig, Terry Clark, Bill Jones, Ray Hinnant and Robert Killbuck for contributing items to the Auction.

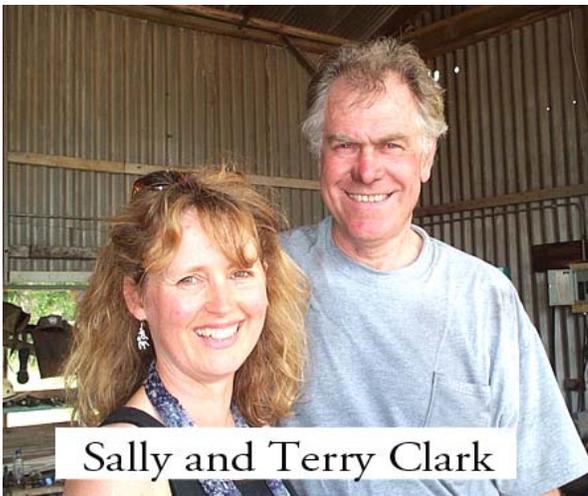
There were a large number of people involved in this event, probably the largest number to date for HABA. This speaks highly of the organization.

Those who attended the demo are asked to send electronic pictures and a few paragraphs about their experience to Dave Koenig for use in a future article.

THE FINE PRINT

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Dave Koenig



Sally and Terry Clark

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