

HABA HABA HABA HABA HABA

THE HABA LETTER

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

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

HABA Web Site: www.habairon.org

February 2005 Edition

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Happy Ninth Birthday HABA

2005 Meeting Schedule

Membership Renewal

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Happy Birthday HABA

HABA turns nine years old this month. It started like many other organizations. A handful of people came together for a common purpose. In HABA's case the purpose was to preserve and promote the art and craft of ornamental blacksmithing.

HABA grew quickly. Three years later, February, 2000, HABA was incorporated as a Texas nonprofit corporation. In July of 2002 HABA received a letter from the IRS stating that HABA is exempt from paying federal income tax as described in the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (3).

Section 4.01 in HABA's Articles of Incorporation says this:

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

These activities will include, but not be limited to educational purposes including informing the Houston area community about blacksmithing, offering hands on experience, researching and passing on skills for the preservation of the art and craft of ornamental blacksmithing, demonstrating the art and craft of ornamental blacksmithing to the public at venues such as public parks, schools, museums, and

local festivals. Charitable activities will include, but will not be limited to creating ornamentally backsmithed work for non-profit organizations and public agencies and institutions on a pro-bono basis.

HABA has a very productive start and a very bright future. Opportunities abound and HABA needs to choose well. HABA has a continuous need to expose people to the craft for the first time, to teach the craft to people with interest and to grow the knowledge of the more experienced smiths.

The HABA board is looking to the future. For example, the board just created an Advisory Committee. Section 9 of the HABA Bylaws says:

The function and purpose of the advisory committee shall be to advise the board of directors on matters relating to the purpose of the organization and to suggest projects that the corporation may undertake.

The Board is quite anxious to begin working with this new committee. The Advisory Committee members are: **David Bailey, Brian Bateman, Christian Darce, Gary Evensen, Rob Kirby and E.J. McCann.**

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The Board of Directors is also looking at two other ways to preserve and promote the craft. One is creating and funding a HABA Scholarship Program to encourage members to obtain professional training in order to expand their blacksmithing skills. Two is budgeting money for matching grants in order to secure funds for educational programs like after school programs in Harris County or weekend blacksmithing workshops at Washington on the Brazos State Park.

Each of you past and present HABA members contributed to HABA's growth and its success to date. The present Board of Directors thanks each of you for

your financial, time and knowledge contributions which bring to life, nurture and grow the various ways HABA fulfills its charitable and educational purposes in the Houston area.

Below is a schedule of meeting events for 2005 as we know it today. It is hoped that after reviewing this schedule you, who are no longer members, will be motivated to renew your membership. You contributed to HABA's success in the past and it is the Board's desire to have you contribute again in 2005. Memberships can be renewed online at www.habairon.org and with the attached renewal form.

FEBRUARY HABA MEETING BLACKSMITHING BY DESIGN

With Mark Finstad

February 26, 2005

HABA returns to Mark Finstad's urban shop to learn how he designs and applies the design to the steel world. Mark will show us the process he went through last year to design and build a large candlestick holder. Useful items are often inspired by need, as was this project. Mark's wife brought home a beautiful but large candle and suggested Mark's handiness might make something to display it on. So inspiration was transformed via perspiration to a wonderfully handsome piece. Mark will share his notes and procedures used in

creating this beautiful and functional item.

The program is "**From Design to the Product**" and Mark plans to lead us through a project from conceptual drawings, reading drawings, the flat layout to a completed element forged to spec.

Everyone is invited to bring their forges and work. However, if it is raining at the site, we have a big timeout because it is all outdoors!

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Visit our web page for more information at **Blacksmithing Design** : habairon.org/Feb05/

block south of Richmond on Greeley in Houston.

When : Saturday , February 26

- **8:30 am** : Sign in and setup
- **9:00 am** : HABA Meeting and Announcements
- **9:30 am** : Begin Demo
- **12:00 am** : Lunch break
- **12:30 am** : Continue forging
- **4:00 pm** : Conclude and clean up

Where : Finstad Forge, 4309 Greeley, Houston 77006

4309 Greeley is 4 blocks east of Montrose on Richmond and house/shop is one



What to Bring for February 26 : HABA Blacksmithing Design

Bring safety glasses with side shields. This is a requirement!

Bring a chair to sit in.

HABA Members are invited to bring their forge, anvil and tools.

You do not have to be a member to attend our meetings! Bring a Guest! Minors are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Gloves and hearing protection are highly recommended.

HABA will provide water and soda.

Do not forget about lunch. Pack a lunch or decide to have lunch at one of the many restaurants in the immediate area.

HABA's MEETING AND OTHER EVENTS SCHEDULE 2005

HABA Meetings	Other Events
<p>JANUARY January 15 - <u>Annual Knife Workshop</u> with Rob Kirby and James Porter at Components in Houston.</p>	<p>Jan 21 - Feb 6 - <u>HABA at Houston Grand Opera.</u></p>
<p>FEBRUARY February 26 - <u>Blacksmith Design</u> with Mark Finstad at Mark's shop in Houston.</p>	<p>February 19-20 - Balcones Forge - Uri Hofi <u>Demonstration</u> at Marbles Falls, TX.</p>
<p>MARCH March 19 - <u>Forging a Fireplace Set</u> with Rob Kirby at Harold Borup's shop in Lake Jackson, TX.</p>	<p>March 12-13 - LAMA's Conference - "<u>Banging On the Bayou XI</u>" is at Beaver Park in Lafayette, LA.</p>
<p>APRIL April 1-3 - <u>Spring Blacksmithing</u> at Oldenburg, TX.</p>	

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MAY May 21 - Power Hammer Demo featuring Tim Bailey in Tim Bailey's shop in Houston.	
JUNE June 11 - Forging Eleven Smithing Tools/Polishing Demo with Brent Bailey at Robert Killbuck's shop in Magnolia, TX.	June 2-5 - IronFest, Regional Blacksmithing Conference , See Ironfest.org for details, Grapevine, TX.
JULY July 16 - Power Hammer Building with Vince Lusco at Bob Collier's shop in New Waverly, TX.	
AUGUST August 20 - HABA Plans Ahead Stress Engineering in Houston.	
SEPTEMBER September 17 - Horse Shoeing with Tom Stovall at Katy Prairie Forge in Katy, TX.	
OCTOBER October 7-9 - Fall Blacksmithing at Oldenburg, TX.	October 29 and 30 - " Smithing in Texas ", Barrington Living History Farm at Washington on the Brazos State Park
NOVEMBER November 19 - Metal Sculpture from Found Objects . with A.J. Garrett at, Lake Houston Outboard Marine in Houston.	November - Spanish Tracks and Trails at Goliad State Park
DECEMBER December - No Meeting.	Happy Hammer Holidays!!!!

HABA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please be a part of HABA in 2005!

To receive your Membership Card and to update your records please fill out the form. Send it along with a check made out to HABA in the amount of \$20 to: James Porter, 1925 Anchor Way, Dickinson, TX 77539. James' phone number is: 281-337-5384.

Member Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please Check One:

_____ Yes, I would prefer to receive The HABA Letter through the U. S. Mail whenever it is published.

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

Please Check One or More:

_____ I am a member of the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, ABANA.

_____ I am interested in serving on the HABA Board of Directors.

_____ I am interested in serving on the HABA Advisory Board.

_____ I am interested in serving on Other HABA Committees.

THE FINE PRINT

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