

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

June 2005 Edition

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NEW MEETING LOCATIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

JULY - NEW WAVERLY, TX

AUGUST - BEAUMONT, TX

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July 16, 2005
HABA Meeting

Power Hammer Building and Use *with* ***Vince Lusco***



Vince Lusco and Bob Collier are teaming up for a unique monthly meeting in New Waverly, TX!

Schedule

The schedule looks like this, rain or shine:

- **8:30 am** : Sign in and setup
- **9:00am** : HABA Meeting and Announcements
- **9:30 am** : Begin Demo
- **12:00 pm** : Free Lunch
- **5:00 pm** : Conclude

New Meeting Location

The July HABA meeting will be held at a new location, Bob Collier's shop in New Waverly, TX. Bob is long time and lifetime HABA member and a person many members have purchased tools from over the years. While Bob is no longer making a living buying and selling all kinds of tools, he always seems to have a couple of smithing tools for sale.

The July meeting will be an exception. Bob just returned from Colorado with trailer full of smithing tools and is heading to Arkansas before the meeting to see if he can buy a few more. As he says, buying and selling tools is just in his blood and the local smithing community is fortunate to be on the receiving end of Bob's passion.

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Power Hammer Demonstration

In addition to having smithing tools for sale, Bob's good friend and HABA member, Vince Lusco will tell us how he built his own power hammer and show us how it works. Vince is bringing his homemade pneumatic power hammer down from his Center, TX shop. The hammer weighs about 700 pounds and has a 35 pound ram. Vince and Bob will have it hooked up and ready to work in time for the meeting.

This is a Kinyon hammer which many of you heard about through the years. Now will be your chance to see one in action, learn many of the ins and outs of putting one together and then trying it out for yourself. Overall Vince says it is a very doable project for most people.

Vince built his hammer not too long after HABA got started. The hammer was his first or second shot at building a pneumatic piece of equipment. I do not recall if his can crusher was his first or his second project.

In addition to telling you what he knows about building a hammer and answering as many of your questions as he can, Vince will demonstrate how he made the branches, leaves and acorns for an iron oak framed mirror he built. When Vince is done, you will have a chance to work one on one with him and see what you can do with his hammer.

FREE LUNCH with Reservations

Visiting Bob's shop, having an opportunity to buy some old tools, learning about building your own pneumatic hammer, seeing a power hammer demonstration and maybe using one for the first time is just the beginning. Bob and Vince will treat us to brisket and all the trimmings at lunch time. They will also have plenty of water and soda on hand too.

There will be one catch though. You will have to contact Dave Koenig at either 281-855-2869 or tudorforge@sbcglobal.net, like at the last meeting, and let him know if you plan to stay for lunch. There will be no cost to you but Bob and Vince do need to know how much food to prepare and how many drinks to have on hand.

What to Bring

Safety Glasses with Side Shields: These are required at all of our working meetings. If you plan to do some forging, bring any other safety equipment you will need for the job.

Tools to sell: Bob says to bring anything you have to sell too. The more people there are selling, the more people will show up, the more smithing resources will get redistributed and the more the craft is preserved and promoted.

Something to Sit On: Bob has a pretty good selection of chairs but bringing one of your own improves your odds of having one when you need it.

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A Forge: If you want to get in some forge time, there is plenty of room around Bob's shop to set up a forge and work.

A Friend: This will be rather special meeting so invite that new person you just met who expressed an interest in the craft. Let that person know what is planned for July.

Directions to Bob Collier's Shop

Bob's shop is located at 6100 FM 1374, New Waverly, TX 77358. Contact information for Bob is: shop- 936-291-0445 and home - 936-291-3458.

From Houston- Exit I45 at Exit 102

Go north from Houston on I45 and take Exit 102 to the right. Exit 102 is just past the weigh station. Proceed along the frontage road. Go through the first light. Go to the second light. Turn left at the second light onto FM 1374. Go 2.7 miles from I45. Bob's shop is on the left side of the road and has many oil company signs on it. Bob will also have a HABA sign out front.

From Huntsville Exit I45 at Exit 103

Go south from Huntsville on I45 and take Exit 103. Turn right onto FM 1374 and go 2.7 miles from I45. Bob's shop is on the left side of the road and has many

oil company signs on it. Bob will also have a HABA sign out front.

Partial List of Tools for Sale

From James Porter

300 pound Trenton anvil.

150 pound post vise.

From Tim Bailey

140 pound Peter Wright anvil.

50 pound Little Giant Hammer.

From Richard Boswell

~ 5 inch post vise.

Two old motor operated blowers.

From Bob Collier

~ 12 assorted hardies.

~ 45 handled struck tools.

One 30 pound Champion hammer...needs help.

One 25 pound Little Giant hammer ...needs help.

Six assorted anvils.

~ Six blowers.

One good cast iron forge.

One rivet forge with blower.

One leg vise.

Six tongs.

Five Sunbeam gas forges.

One disk sharpener

One tire shrinker

One tire roller.

One firepot.

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AUGUST 20, 2005

HABA MEETING

The Blacksmith Legacy Tree Project

NEW MEETING LOCATION-
Beaumont, TX

The August 20, 2005, HABA Meeting will be a Hammer-in at Beaumont, TX. For several years HABA and LAMA talked about having a joint meeting in the Beaumont area which is about half the distance between the two groups. Jerry Baker identified a meeting location at the shop of Alfonso and Pam Albacete, Extreme Metal Works. Their shop is located in an old feed store and has plenty of space for parking and setting up forges.

Blacksmiths from LAMA, East Texas Blacksmiths' Alliance and HABA, and anyone else for that matter, are invited to bring a forge, make something for a tree, and/or just visit.

At IronFest Jerry Baker introduced Les Cook, Tee Hines and Dave Koenig to Pam and Alphonso. Everyone was excited about the prospect of finally having a joint meeting. In addition to having joint meeting to visit and forge, Alfonso suggested that there be some kind of theme for this meeting. It did not take long for a theme to emerge.

The theme was to build something to put in/on a tree. Whatever is made needs to be no larger than the size of your hand.....leaves, bugs, birds, knot hole, twig and anything else you can imagine ending up in/on a tree. A proposed name for this event is: **The Blacksmith Legacy Tree Project.**

Whatever is made would be mounted on a branch made by Alfonso and the branch would eventually become part of a tree. Each piece would include the makers touch mark or initials, perhaps a stamp identifying LAMA, HABA, etc. and the date. Each branch would also be marked by year.

Alfonso has an idea for making a trunk and the 2005 branch would be the start of what can easily be imagined as quite a tree in 10 or 20 years.

The work on each branch would become a repository of smiths' work and a record of smiths' touch marks. The iron record could be backed up with a picture of each smith, his work and touch mark and mailing address. This information could be included on each participating organizations' web site along with a picture of the latest tree. This would be a great visual example of meeting smithing

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organizations' mission of preserving and promoting the art and craft of blacksmithing.

There appear to be a number of benefits for such a project and a lot of work. The work part includes the storage, care and maintenance of this work of art in progress. Where will it be kept? Who will maintain it? How can this work be best used to preserve and promote the craft?

In spite of the pros and cons which need to be better defined, please make plans to spend a day, Saturday, August 20, 2005 in Beaumont, at Extreme Metal Works, 840 Franklin, Beaumont, TX 77701. Bring or send something for the first branch of the tree or make something there.

We can all lend our thoughts as to how to make this project unique for the

blacksmithing craft and the Louisiana and Texas region.

Directions to Extreme Metal Works.

From Houston

Exit I 10 at the Hwy 90/College Street Exit.

Go South to South MLK Jr. Parkway.

Turn right on MLK Jr. Parkway

Turn left on Franklin Street.

Follow the signs.

From Louisiana or Houston

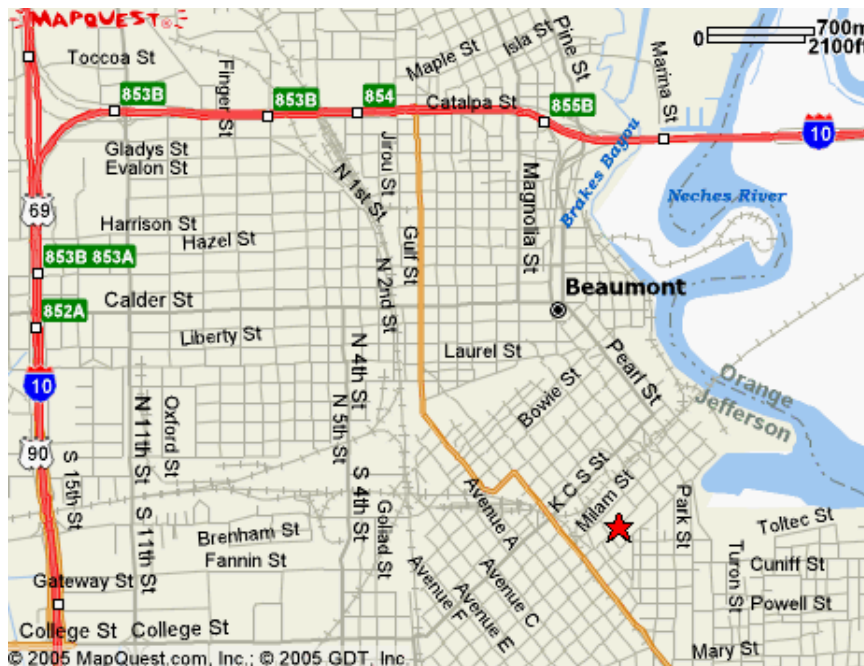
Exit I 10 at MLK Jr. Parkway.

Go South on MLK Jr. Parkway.

Cross College Street/Hwy 90.

Turn left on Franklin Street.

Follow the signs.



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JUNE HABA MEETING

Brent Bailey did a great job of forging. He made a total of eight forging tools from several different kinds of tool steel. Brent used two hammers for almost all of his demonstration, a large eight pound

straight peen hammer and a four pound cross peen hammer. His work was steady, unhurried and very precise.

Special thanks are in order for many people: First for Brent for coming from California to share what he knows about the craft.

Robert Killbuck hosted Brent at his home and HABA at his shop. In addition he prepared the BBQ and made sure we



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all had plenty to eat at noon.

Kent Fowler spent a good amount of time searching the market to locate sources of the tool steel used at the demonstration.

Tee Hines brought his gooseneck trailer to town and Richard Boswell, Frank Walters, and Dave Koenig loaded a set of bleachers at the Copperfield YMCA for use at the meeting and took it back again.

James Porter and Les Cook made sure everyone registered, collected the money and a hundred other things that go with that job.

Richard Boswell made a lot of his personal tools available from large tongs to state of the art grinding and polishing equipment.

Thank you all and everyone who came to make the day so successful!

For Sale - Jim Prevost has a N0.4, 'C' Frame flypress for sale, \$600. Contact Jim at: home 979-690-2758 or cell -979-255-9271.

THE FINE PRINT

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