



HABA

Houston Area Blacksmiths Association
7418 Branch Point, Houston, Texas, 77095-2649
www.habairon.org

June 08, 2004

**Board of
Directors**

Dear Membership,

President
Richard Boswell

HABA has been very busy this year continuing to bring you opportunities to learn and experience the art of blacksmithing. This continues our mission and purpose as a non profit organization run by a completely volunteer Board of Directors and volunteer Members. It is time to pause and check our performance and where we are going, and to find out what you want HABA to be doing for you.

Vice President
James Porter

Secretary
-open-

This year we have had 6 formal meetings to date plus our first ever Art Show, 4 other public demonstrations, a continuously updated web site, and 3 bi-monthly HABA Letters. Our year is available to review on the web site under the Calendar page and it provides the attached summary (Koenig's Spring demo at Washington on the Brazos omitted from attached list – sorry Dave but you forgot to send in the details!).

Treasurer
Cathy Porter

At Large
Lee Oates
Tim Bailey
Frank Walters
Les Cook
Dave Koenig

In June we will feature an indoor educational meeting about metallurgy. July is the national ABANA Conference and a demo at AAA on Hempstead Hwy, and August is our annual Planning Meeting which I hope everyone will participate. Our Fall schedule is under development and the present plan is attached.

These meetings have not cost you anything to attend even as they cost HABA to produce. You have supported these activities by donating and buying at the auctions, buying the kits we assembled, and donating directly. You have renewed your Memberships and encouraged others to join up. And you have reduced our operating expense by reading your newsletters on-line rather than on paper. Thank you all for your support!

I hope you can see that the Board and volunteers are working overtime for you and we want to discuss a recent issue which has distressed some of you. For a number of years Dave Koenig worked overtime to be founding President and our newsletter editor/publisher. Although the club was smaller the effort was still enormous. These and all HABA Letters are still available on our website and I have found that whenever I search for a subject on blacksmithing, a HABA Letters usually shows on the top twenty candidates. We are well known and read throughout the world because of this.

You will notice that our frequency of publishing The HABA Letter has slowed to a bi-monthly pace. Our past performance may have elevated your expectations and if you do not follow our activity using the web you could feel you are being left out. In fact you may have missed meetings because the ground mail is slow or our mail-out list did not include the latest member additions. In some cases your preferences for delivery may need to be changed.

For this we offer our apology. We are implementing new plans to bring you a meeting notice by regular mail in time for you make your plans to attend. A schedule of expected programs is attached.

We have a new Editor/Publisher. David Hoffman has agreed to give it a try and he needs your help. As all editors will testify, they are editors not the authors. Send him short articles about what you are doing, where you went, what you saw, what you learned.

Blacksmiths are very creative and productive people. If you did not enjoy labor and satisfaction from making things you probably would not be doing this. Even if you are easily amused by the process of moving hot metal around, your time is valuable. So how much time does it take to run HABA for a month?

As President and Webmaster, I am guessing it takes me at least 30+ hours for it all. Our VP keeps track of Membership and works closely with our Treasurer. I am guessing they add another 20+ hours. Newsletter Editor probably puts in at least 20+. And the other Board Members probably contribute at least 40 hours total. That's 110+ volunteer hours folks, for one month. And then we spend a day at the meeting, and start over again.

If you will help out with only a few hours that would really be appreciated. For instance we could use some help getting Oldenburg setup for our Fall Hammer Fest. Give me a call or note if you can help out.

And please, give me a call if we can do anything to make your membership more valuable to you.

Sincerely,

Richard Boswell
President

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713-562-2043 cell
rsboswell@mindspring.com

Upcoming Meetings for HABA 2004

Please check web page and mail outs for updates and confirmations

June 19

**Metallurgy for the Blacksmith
Lectures and Videos
10 am - 2 pm
Stress Engineering Services
13800 Westfair East Dr
Houston**

July 7-11

**ABANA Conference
Richmond, Kentucky**

July 17

**Smithing demo at AAA Antiques
with Frank Walters
Wear a period hat and apron for HABA group photo!
9am – 1 pm
AAA Rentals & Supply
14138 Hempstead Hwy
Houston, TX 77040**

August 21

**Annual Membership Meeting and Planning Session
Bear Creek Library
9 am – 1 pm**

September 18

**Anvil and Vice Repairs
with Frank Walters
Otero Forge in Houston
Stafford Cabinet on Hwy 6 @ W. Little York**

October 2

**Fall HammerFest
Oldenburg**

October 30 and 31

**Barrington Living History Farm
"Smithing in Texas"**

November 20

**Aluminum Casting
with Dave Koenig
9 am – 5 pm
Tudor Forge in Magnolia**

Previous Meetings for HABA 2004

Please check web page for more information

| HABA Meetings 2004 |
|---|
| January 17 <u>18th Century Trade Knives</u> with Lee Oates at Bear Claw Knife Shop in LaPorte |
| Feb 11- March 7 <u>HABA Show at HCCC</u> Opening Feb 15, Demo March 6 |
| February 21 and 22 <u>Forging A Head</u> with Bill Epps at C&S Forge in Dobin |
| March 20 <u>Urban Gates and Art Demo</u> with Mark Finstad in Houston |
| March 27 <u>Spring HammerFest</u> at Oldenburg |
| April 3 <u>19th Annual Katy ISD Folklife Festival</u> featuring Frank Walters |
| May 08 Demo at Armand Bayou Benefit with Les Cook and James Porter |
| May 15 <u>Damascus Billet Demo</u> with Mitch Wilkins at Robert Killbucks shop in Magnolia |
| May 16 Demo at MFA Bayou Bend Family Day with Dave Koenig |