

Subject: HABA Update #110
Date: Monday, May 7, 2018 at 9:00:17 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Pete Farrell



You are receiving this email because at one time or another you have had contact or membership with HABA. If you do not wish to receive further emails please send me a message and I will remove you from the list. Likewise, if you want to keep receiving these emails send me a message and I will be sure to keep you on the list.

We will be having our usual meetings this month at Armand Bayou Nature Center and the Magnolia Forge. See below for more information. Both venues are an excellent opportunity to try your hand at blacksmithing.

I receive a lot of requests for classes. Unfortunately, HABA does not yet have a formal class program. If you provide classes or know of someone who does so, please send me contact information and any other information that may be available on the classes. I will put together a referral page on the website to help respond to these requests.

I often receive requests for demonstrators and for blacksmiths who will do work on commission. To help me out in responding to these requests please send me your name, email and phone number stating if you would be interested in receiving information about these requests. I will put together a mailing list specifically for notifying you about these requests. Please note that any interaction with the requesters will be a non-HABA sponsored relationship.

Be sure to check out the [HABA](#) page. The [calendar](#) has been updated with upcoming events.

Most of the events are open to the public and we often team with other organizations such as Armand Bayou, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Barrington Farms (Washington on the Brazos), Lake Jackson Historical Museum, Brazoria County Historical Museum, Magnolia Train Depot (where we have built our own forge shop) and others around the Houston area.

We hold monthly meetings to which the public is invited to observe. If you want to swing a hammer on hot iron bring safety glasses and gloves and \$20 to become a member (membership can be renewed at the end of the year) and covers all family members. All of our members are glad to show a new person the basics and answer questions (there are no dumb questions). Feel free to send me any questions about HABA or Blacksmithing and I will endeavor to find an answer for

you. Comments and suggestions are also welcome.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 12: Second Saturday at ABNC. We will be making a pair of EZ tongs (see attached PDF) and a drift. These will be used in our next month's work to make a bottle opener.

May 26: Last Saturday at the HABA Magnolia forge. Open forging.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 27 - 30: [2018 ABANA Conference](#)

Pete Farrell

pmforging@gmail.com

[HABA on Facebook](#)

[HABA Website](#)



Magnolia Forge, Last Saturday Meetings.

426 Melton Street, Magnolia Texas

General Information

We are located at 426 Melton Street right next to the Magnolia Historical Train Depot. Please be aware that we are an open air, "off grid" shop, with no water, bathrooms or electricity (but we do have a roof!). Please dress appropriately for the outside weather (cotton, linen or wool clothing, leather boots, nothing synthetic that can melt) and bring drinks and snacks for your own comfort.

We meet on the last Saturday of most months. There are 2 exceptions to this: we meet on the 2nd Sat. in Nov. & Dec. due to the scheduling conflicts most of us have with Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We open our doors at 9:00 AM (ish) and wind down in the afternoon - the exact time depends on the projects being worked on, normally around 3.

Schedule:

Start at 9am

Lunch at 12 to 1pm

3:30pm shut down forges and cleanup.

Directions:

From Houston take I-45 North to FM 1488 west about 16 miles into Magnolia then take Melton south two blocks. Park at the civic center. Optional route take beltway 8 to 249 north into Pinehurst where 249 become 1774 continue north into Magnolia take a right at RL Butler Street.

From the West take 290 in to 1488 exit go east into Magnolia then south two blocks on Melton Street.

For more information email Bob Nichols: quenchcrack@gmail.com



Monthly HABA Blacksmith Meetings

2nd Saturday of Each Month

**Armand Bayou
8500 Bay Area Blvd.
Pasadena, Texas 77507**

HABA will be holding a Blacksmithing meeting at Armand Bayou on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The focus of the meetings will be to have a group of interested members work their way through the controlled hand forging progression as a means of learning the basics of forging iron. The progression starts with the basic techniques for moving metal and shaping it. It eventually leads into advanced techniques. Along the way, participants will create various artifacts that are of use both in pioneer societies as well as the modern world.

To participate in the meetings one must be a member of **HABA** which only costs \$20.00 per year. This is to cover liability issues. The public is welcome to observe without charge and we will have displays of items made by members.

The meetings will take place in front of the hay barn next to the wood working shop. We usually have some good shade there and there is plenty of room for working. We will have at least 3 anvils, a leg vice or two and two forges. So if you don't have all the equipment we can share these.

Armand Bayou requests that we limit vehicle traffic between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM. So if you are bringing something that needs to be transported be sure to arrive before 9 AM. Another reason to arrive before 9 AM is to be able to enter the area without paying the Armand Bayou entry fee of \$4.00 per person.

Details of each upcoming meeting will be announced in the HABA Update email. If you want to be put on the list send an email to pmforging@gmail.com.

Schedule:

- Saturday:
 - 8 – 9 AM – setup
 - 9:00 AM – Work through the lesson for the day.
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Continue the lesson of the day or work on individual projects
 - 4 – 5 PM – tear down

Directions:

On Bay Area Boulevard 7 miles east of I-45, approximately 25 miles southeast of downtown Houston, 30 miles northwest of Galveston, and on the southeast boundary of Pasadena. ABNC is the neighbor of



NASA/Johnson Space Center, University of Houston Clear Lake and the Lunar Planetary Institute, the Bayport Industrial complex and is surrounded by significant residential development.

General Meeting Information:

Safety glasses are a requirement! Hearing protection and gloves are recommended.

No shorts or opened toed shoes allowed for your own safety. It is recommended that clothing and glove be either cotton or leather – avoid synthetics.

Bring a chair to sit in.

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.

Bring your Membership Dues if you want to swing a hammer and are not a current Member!

For more information email Pete Farrell at pmforging@gmail.com

"Easy" Tongs



Demonstration by Sean Conner AKA Whitesmith of [Blackstone Forge](#)

April 24, 2002

GURU Sean is 10 years old and this is his second demo. Demo #112 was his first demo on anvilfire, at age 9. :)

His father is a professional photographer and a part time blacksmith. Sean insists on doing his on-line demos without his father's help other than the photos!



Figure 2

Tonight I am going to show how to make a pair of light weight tongs, the easy way. Start with 2 pieces of 1/4" x 3/4" x 20" long flat bar. Drill, or heat and drift, a 1/4" hole, 3 inches from one end, and in the center of the bar. To be sure both pieces match, clamp the bars together and make the hole in both bars at the same time if you use the drilling method.

WHITE SMITH Insert a piece of 1/4" round rod into the hole. Put a vise grip on the handle end to hold the two pieces together.

WHITE SMITH Heat the tong end to orange in the forge.



Figure 3

Place the tong end in a vise. Put a crescent wrench just under the piece of 1/4" round rod and adjust the vise so there is about 1 inch of space between the bottom of the wrench and the top of the vise.



Figure 4

Turn the wrench 90 degrees or 1/4 turn. You are turning BOTH pieces of bar stock at the same time, and in the same direction.



Figure 5



Figure 7

WHITE
SMITH

This shows how it looks from the top and the side.

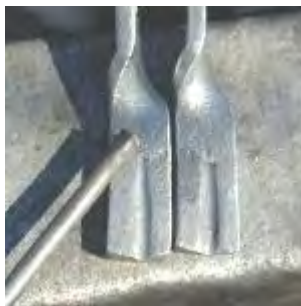


Figure 8



Figure 10



Figure 9

WHITE
SMITH

Remove the rod. Heat the tong end in the forge and then shape it for what you want it to do. This set of tongs was being built to hold 1/4" round stock. The tongs can be taken apart and worked easily in the forge. When you want to see how you did, put them back together with the rod.



Figure 11

When you have the tongs shaped the way you want, heat the end of the 1/4" round rod and put it in the hole in the tongs. Clamp it in the vise and peen the end of the rod to form a rivet head.



Figure 12

Once you have made a rivet head from the end of the rod, cut the other end of the rod off, leaving enough rod to make a rivet head on that side too. Put the whole thing in the fire and get just the end of the rivet hot. You can make the rivet head with the rod cold, but a little bit of heat makes it work a lot better.

WHITE SMITH Put it on the anvil and peen the end over to form a rivet head. Be careful not to get it too tight. You can always make it tighter later, just peen it again, but you can't make it loosen up by hitting it with the hammer.

WHITE SMITH Note: For the rivet, leave about 1-1/2 times the diameter of the rod to make the rivet head.



Figure 13



Figure 14

WHITE SMITH These tongs have just about the right space at the end of the handle to work for me. You can heat and bend the handles to adjust the space to fit your hands.



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 13

WHITE
SMITH These are not heavy tongs, and will not do the work of heavy tongs, but they will do a lot of work and are quick and easy to make.