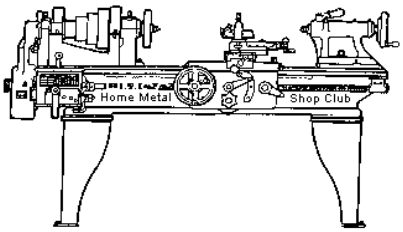
March 2025
Newsletter

Volume 30 - Number 03



http://www.homemetalshopclub.org/

The Home Metal Shop Club has brought together metal workers from all over the Southeast Texas area since its founding by John Korman in 1996.

Our members' interests include Model Engineering, Casting, Blacksmithing, Gunsmithing, Sheet Metal Fabrication, Robotics, CNC, Welding, Metal Art, and others. Members enjoy getting together and talking about their craft and shops. Shops range from full machine shops to those limited to a bench vise and hacksaw.

If you like to make things, run metal working machines, or just talk about tools, this is your place. Meetings generally consist of ***general announcements***, an ***extended presentation*** with Q&A, a ***safety moment***, ***show and tell*** where attendees share their work and experiences, and ***problems and solutions*** where attendees can get answers to their questions or describe how they approached a problem. The meeting ends with ***free discussion*** and a ***novice group*** activity, where metal working techniques are demonstrated on a small lathe, grinders, and other metal shop equipment.

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Librarian
Dean Eicher	*Vacant*	*Joe Sybille*	*Joe Sybille*	*Mark Counterman*
Webmaster/Editor	**Audio/Visual**	**CNC SIG**	**Casting SIG**	**Novice SIG**
Dick Kostelnicek	*Mark Heidorn*	*Martin Kennedy*	*Vacant*	*John Cooper*

This newsletter is available as an electronic subscription from the front page of our website. There are over 1027 subscribers located around the world.

About the Upcoming 12 April 2025 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 12 April 2025 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon) at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 and on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows: Meeting ID = 871 0833 9017 Passcode = 993019. Richard Douglas will continue with the build of his rose engine lathe.

General Announcements

The HMSC has a large library of metal shop related books and videos available for members to check out at each meeting. These books can be quite costly and are not usually available at local public libraries. Access to the library is one of the many benefits of club membership. The club has funds to purchase new books for the library. If you have suggestions, contact the Librarian *Mark Counterman*.

We need more articles for the monthly newsletter! If you would like to write an article, or would like to discuss writing an article, please contact the Webmaster Dick Kostelnicek. Think about your last project. Was it a success, with perhaps a few 'uh ohs' along the way? If so, others would like to read about it. And, as a reward for providing an article, you'll receive a free year's membership the next renewal cycle!

Ideas for programs at our monthly meeting are always welcomed. If you have an idea for a meeting topic, or if you know someone that could make a presentation, please contact Secretary Joe Sybille.

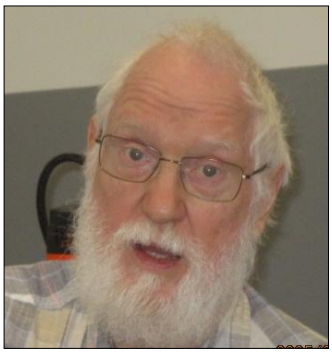
Members are requested to submit to the club secretary the name, address, telephone number, and website address, if any, of any metal or other material stock supplier with whom the member has had any favorable dealings. A list of the suppliers will appear on the homepage of the club website. Suppliers will be added from time to time as appropriate.

The club is looking for a member to serve as webmaster. After over twenty years of service, our current webmaster would like to pass the webmaster torch to a successor. Dean Eicher has agreed to serve as club president. Thanks Dean. Positions still vacant are vice-president and casting special interest group leader.

Recap of the 08 March 2025 General Meeting

By *Joe Sybille*

Seven participants attended the 12:00 P.M. meeting at TxRxLabs (left photo below). Five participants were in person and two participants attended virtually via ZOOM. Among the participants attending virtually was first time visitor Jim Hryekewiez. Welcome Jim. President, Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo below).



Presentation

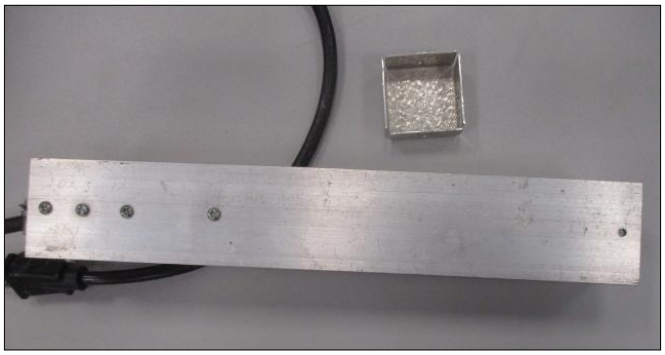
Dean Eicher gave a presentation on a newly acquired magnetic base drill press. The drill press is made by Vevor and includes assorted accessories such as a drill chuck, annular cutters, hex wrenches, and a coolant reservoir. The coolant reservoir is used with the annular cutters. A unique safety feature of the drill press is that it will not power-on unless the magnetic base is engaged to a metallic surface.

Eicher demonstrated its use by drilling first a pilot hole. Afterwards, he used an annular cutter to make a hole through 3/16" steel plate. The hole appeared perfectly round with a smooth wall finish. Eicher used no cutting fluid for the demonstration.

Photos of the tool, a hole made, and a few accessories are shown below.

Show and Tell

John Cooper described how he reinforced a salvaged treadmill frame. See photo at left.



Mark Heidorn showed a heater he made to protect his citrus tree during cold weather. The heater is made from 2x2 aluminum tubing and two 100 watt resistors. The tubing serves as a heat sink for the resistors that are powered by 120 vac. Once the six foot tall tree is covered with a tarp, the heater is placed on the ground near the tree and under the tarp. The radiant heat produced is sufficient to warm the tree when the outside temperature falls to 25 degrees Fahrenheit. See photo at left.

Safety Moment

A participant described how a company had a recall of a stool he purchased recently. The recall pertained to the discovery of defective welds holding the stool together. Within a few days of the recall notification, he received the new stool and was advised to discard the defective stool. The new stool offered no greater comfort than the one with the safety hazard.

Another participant described how, when changing the drill bit in the chuck of a heavy-duty right angle portable drill, he inadvertently failed to remove the chuck key and accidentally hit the power button. The drill powered-on and the drill chuck key took off a few layers of hand skin for his troubles.

Problems and Solutions

A participant sought recommendations for troubleshooting a circuit problem with a bench milling machine. The problem occurred after replacing a pair of wires from the control board to the emergency stop switch. Several recommendations were offered.

A participant wanted to know what could be done with a bent small diameter twist drill bit. The consensus was to discard it, for straightening the bit was not worth the trouble.