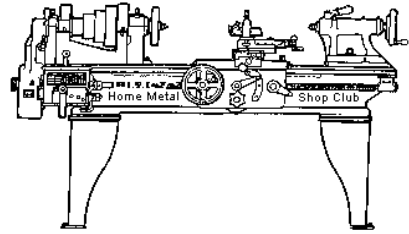




## February 2024 Newsletter

Volume 27 - Number 02



<http://www.homemetalsclub.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 <i>Vacant</i>	Vice President <i>Ray Thompson</i>	Secretary <i>Joe Sybille</i>	Treasurer <i>Joe Sybille</i>	Librarian <i>Ray Thompson</i>
Webmaster/Editor <i>Dick Kostelnicek</i>	Photographer <i>Vacant</i>	CNC SIG <i>Martin Kennedy</i>	Casting SIG <i>Vacant</i>	Novice SIG <i>John Cooper</i>

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 09 March 2024 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 09 March 2024 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 = 843 2289 5259 Passcode = 043945. Rich Pichler will continue his series on tool sharpening.

## 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 Ray Thompson](#).

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 listing 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 ten years of service, our current webmaster would like to pass the webmaster torch to a successor. Also, the club is looking for a volunteer to serve as president.

## Recap of the 10 February 2024 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Ten participants attended the virtual 12:00 P.M. meeting. Vice-President Ray Thompson led the meeting (right photo).



## Presentation

A video on stick welding served as the presentation for the meeting. The title: 'How to Die While Arc Welding at Home - The Top Five Ways' by John Cadogan.

In ascending order, the top five precautions are never clean the parts to be welded with brake cleaner. The reason for this is that brake cleaner contains tetrachloroethylene. And when heated during welding it diffuses into phosgene gas, something harmful to the respiratory system. A better cleaner is acetone.

The next precaution is electrocution. A poor ground and wet skin from perspiration creates an ideal opportunity to receive a serious electrical shock.

The next precaution is melanoma exposure to UV radiation. This exposure is believed to cause skin cancer. To mitigate the effects of the UV radiation one should wear a welding jacket that protects not only the arms and torso, but the neck as well.

Storing containers of solvents on the welding table is another precaution to consider. Accidental contact of a solvent container with the welding electrode creates a dangerous situation often leading to an explosion.

The number one precaution to consider is welding galvanized steel. The fumes emitted from welding galvanized steel contain zinc oxide and lead oxide, both hazardous to human health. One should wear a supplied air respirator to avoid exposure to the fumes of welding galvanized steel.

After the video, there was a discussion on welding experiences by the participants.

## Show and Tell

*Rich Pichler* showed a prototype container to protect lithium batteries transported on seagoing vessels. See photos below.



Joe Sybille showed photos of parts available at Electronic Parts Outlet (EPO) to build 3D printers and other CNC mechanisms. EPO is a local electronic parts supplier at 3753 Fondren Road, Houston, TX 77063 and deserves our support. The location is a few blocks north of the intersection of Westpark at Fondren Road. Store hours are M-F 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Customer assistance is second to none. See photos below.



## Safety Moment

As there was a presentation on using safety precautions while welding, participants shared several personal 'uh oh' lesson learned moments.

## Problems and Solutions

A participant explained the difficulty experienced during the removal of a rusted in place handwheel in the laundry room. The handwheel is on a valve supplying hot water to the washing machine. It has been installed for the last thirty years. Ironically, the handwheel on the cold water supply valve six inches away shows no sign of rust. Suggestions ranged from leaving the rusted handwheel in place to sawing off the handwheel. The participant offered a follow-up to his solution to the problem at a subsequent meeting.