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Newsletter

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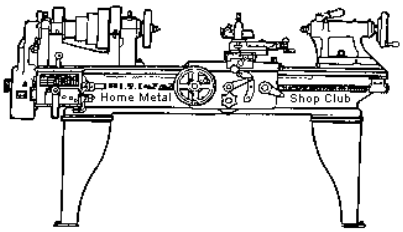

http://www.homemetalshopclub.org/

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*	*Dean Eicher*
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 13 December 2025 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 13 December 2025 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon - Central Standard Time) at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 **and** on-line at Zoom.us

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 *Dean Eicher*.

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 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 11 November 2025 General Meeting

By *Dean Eicher*

Before the meeting, Mark Heidorn showed the box of 500 4"x6" advertising flyer cards that were approved for purchase the previous meeting. Librarian Dean Eicher is working on updating the list of books and periodicals held by the club. Eicher is serving currently as president and as librarian. Three participants attended the 12:00 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) meeting at TxRxLabs, and two attended virtually on Zoom.us

Presentation

Dean Eicher suggested the video TIG Welding in the Home Workshop-Boiler Welding-Part 3 (youtube.com/watch?v=QVRdGLID1IO). This is the third of the welding series shown in previous meetings. The video is by Luke R and detailed methods he uses to fabricate stainless steel boilers. He starts with using a simple jig (cylindrical piece with hole to accept boiler tube) and a spacer to align the end of the boiler tube past the rear tube sheet. He then tightens a set screw on the alignment jig to hold the tube in the correct position for tack welding to the rear tube sheet. After three boiler tubes are tack welded to the rear tube sheet, the front tube sheet is slid onto the boiler tubes, and they are tack welded after the alignment and spacing is achieved. All remaining tubes are inserted, tack welded, and finish welded to the sheets.

Luke then addresses his technique for aligning and welding the steam dome to the boiler barrel. He positions the steam dome in an approximately aligned position in the boiler shell, but with the measurement at the back side of the dome to the top of the boiler barrel at the correct dimension before tack welding at that spot. He then aligns the steam dome to be perpendicular to the barrel in the front – back plane, and tack welds the front of the steam dome to the barrel. He then aligns the steam dome in the side to side orientation, and then places tack welds on both sides of the steam dome.

His technique of tack welding (10 mm long tack instead on more common 5 mm) is repeated through out the boiler assembly. The outer firebox sheet is tacked on the top curved part first, the sheet is then adjusted and clamped before additional tack welds are made. The rolled boiler barrel is clamped before the first tack weld is made. After each tack weld is made, distortions of parts are adjusted, reclamped, and tack welded.

By finish welding lengths of 30 to 40 mm, then welding a similar length on the the opposite side of the assembly, he is able to reduce distortions and keep the assembly square and properly aligned.

Show and Tell

John Cooper showed a video of pig iron produced by the Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, AL.

Emmett Carstens showed a slide hammer nail puller.

Problems and Solutions

John Cooper discussed a problem he had with a stuck bearing.

Dean Eicher discussed the difficulties of removing a dent in a pot.