December 2025
Newsletter

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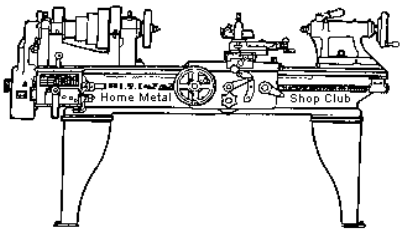


http://www.homemetalshopclub.org/

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 10 January 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 10 January 2026 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.

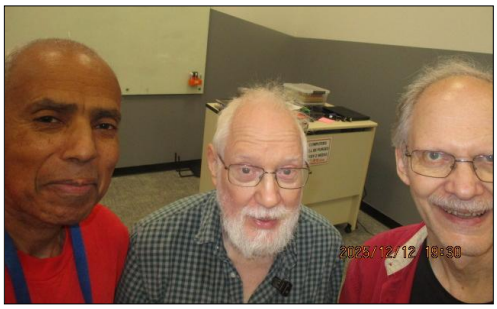
Members are requested to submit to the club secretary the name, address, telephone number, and website address, if any, of any metal or other material stock supplier with whom the member has had any favorable dealings. A listing of the suppliers will appear on the homepage of the club website. Suppliers 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 13 December 2025 General Meeting

By *Joe Sybille*

Before the presentation, club president Dean Eicher revealed the 500 - 4"x6" business cards were ready for distribution to the community at large. The intent of the distribution is to solicit interest in the club and to welcome new participants. The cost for the cards is $78.48. The audio/visual manager, Mark Heidorn, will be reimbursed for the card cost by the club treasurer. Librarian Dean Eicher gave an update on the club's library holdings. Eicher is serving currently as president and as librarian. Seven participants attended the 12:00 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) meeting at TxRxLabs. Four attended in person and three attended virtually on Zoom.us (middle photo). Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo).

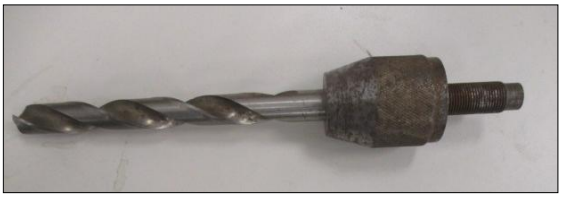


Presentation

Participants at the meeting today viewed a short video on the science of taps and tapping of metal. The video featured a method of tap manufacturing developed by Greenfield Tap and Die Co. At one time, Greenfield was a leading manufacturer of taps and dies. It is generally known that a tool bit in a boring bar can be used to make internal threads, albeit after several passes. Now, imagine several tool bits juxtaposed and mounted together whereby each tool bit after the first takes a slightly deeper cut. This process makes a thread in fewer passes than a thread made with a single tool bit. A tap can be viewed as a series of tool bits on a single shaft, thus shortening the time to make internal threads. The video shown today may be viewed at the link below.

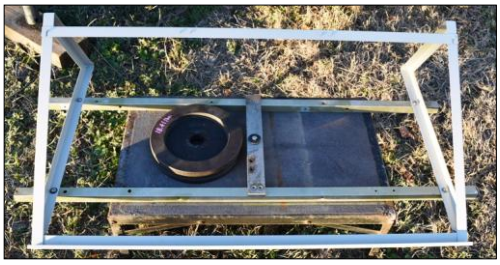
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33wfSMsUbuc>

Show and Tell

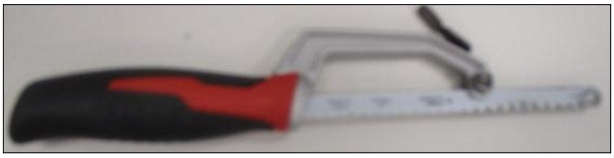


Joe Sybille showed what can happen when a plastic container of machine oil is accidentally knocked over to the concrete floor. Also shown is a drill in what appears to be a chuck. Removal of the drill bit is a mystery. See photos at right and left.

John Cooper showed pictures of a solar array panel used to charge the batteries of his pop-up trailer. See photos below.



Dean Eicher displayed a hacksaw for use is small spaces. Also, he showed a doorbell button, the light of which is no longer functioning. See photos below.



Mike Winkler displayed a gadget turned on a lathe. The axis of the gadget is offset. See photo at right.

Gary Toll showed a screwdriver for which he made a fiberglas handle. See photo below.

Safety Moment

A participant described how a locomotive dragged a SUV that failed to heed railroad crossing warning signals. The driver of the SUV sustained fatal injuries.

A participant revealed how a heavy workpiece flew out of a chuck due to improper mounting.

Another participant revealed, despite a worker's best efforts, one cannot cheat safety precautions.

Problems and Solutions

A participant revealed the disappointment experienced after working hard to remove the wiring from the transformer of a discarded 48V charger. Retrieval of the copper wiring was the goal. To the participant's dismay, what appeared to be copper wiring was actually aluminum wiring coated in varnish. See photos below.