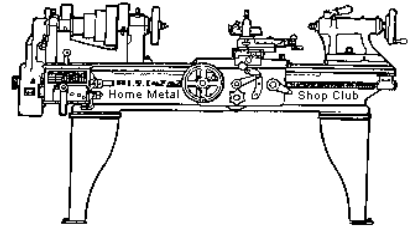




February 2026
Newsletter

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<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.

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Dean Eicher

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary
Joe Sybille

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Joe Sybille

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Casting SIG
Vacant

Novice SIG
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 14 March 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 14 March 2026 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon - Central Standard Time) at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 **and** on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows: Meeting ID = 819 2256 2171 Passcode = 943498. Click for a [link to the meeting](#).

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 14 February 2026 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Before the presentation, club president Dean Eicher distributed several HMSC cards to the in-person participants. These are the new 4"x6" cards discussed at the last meeting. Participants were asked to distribute the cards as they deem appropriate. Six participants attended in person and two attended virtually on Zoom.us. Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo).



Presentation

Participants at the meeting today viewed a short video on a vintage steam engine from the 1830's. The engine operated for many years in a British color and dye factory. Subsequent technological advancements rendered obsolete steam engines of this type. From the factory floor to one museum after another, the steam engine is now a part of Jay Leno's collection of machines of all sorts. The eight minute video may be viewed at [this link](#).

Show and Tell

Chris Kelly displayed castings for sensors for activating railroad track rail switching devices. The red and white molds are 3D printed molds for the silver castings. See photos below.



Joe Sybille showed a disassembled electric staple. He took it apart to remove something rattling about within the casing. It turns out that an internal part had deteriorated over the years. See photos below.



Gary Toll showed pictures of supports he built for his practice golf driving range net. With the setup, he can maintain his superior long range driving swing. Also, he is making repairs to a vintage Montgomery Ward leaf blower. See photos below.



John Cooper showed a picture of a steel pipe modified to hold landscape marker flags. Key to the holder is the weighted insert at the bottom to prevent tip over. See photo at left.

Safety Moment

Club president Dean Eicher revealed, according to OSHA, there are four categories of fatalities; namely, Falls 37%, Lack of proper grounding 8%, Risk of being struck by object 8%, and Moving vehicles & unguarded equipment 5%.

John Cooper spoke of an accident that occurred while charging the battery in a friend's car. John's car and the friend's car faced each other. During charging, the car being charged accidentally jumped in gear and lurched forward. Fortunately, no one was in the path of the moving driverless car. Unfortunately, John's car was damaged in the process. The lesson learned is, when charging the battery in a car, avoid standing in the path of either car, in case one of them moves suddenly.

