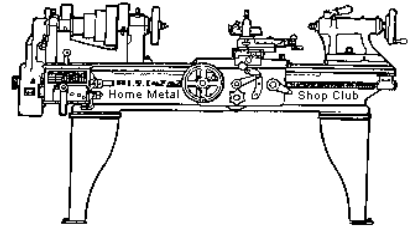




March 2026
Newsletter

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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.

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Dean Eicher

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary
Joe Sybille

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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 11 April 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 11 April 2026 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon - Central Daylight Time) at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 **and** on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows: Meeting ID = 869 2249 0233 Passcode = 314379. [Click here 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 March 2026 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Seven participants attended in person. Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo). Present at the meeting was newcomer Rick Lamprecht. Welcome Rick. We hope that you become a regular participant at our meetings. Also present today was long time member, Ray Ethridge. It was good to see you Ray. Come back when you can.



Presentation

Participants at the meeting today viewed a short video on a Steam Traction Engine made by the Advance Thresher Company of Battle Creek, Michigan. The engine, with its fire tube boiler, is part of Jay Leno's collection of many things mechanical, especially if the thing has wheels and can be driven. Built in 1906, it ran on coal, wood, or straw. Its main use was to farm timber for ships for the US Navy. During WWI, the engine was hidden in the woods to avoid being scrapped to support the war effort. Jay Leno had custom builder Ormand Rawlins restore the engine and convert it to run on propane. The twelve minute video may be viewed by [clicking at this link](#).

Show and Tell

Ray Lamprecht displayed several items he made. There is a penny press fitted into the end of one item. On another item he press fitted a nickel into a recessed quarter. See photos below.



Dean Eicher showed a flat spring used to provide motive force for a device of unknown origin. Eicher also spoke about the acquisition of a used book on the life of test pilot Chuck Yeager. See photo below left.



Joe Sybille displayed pieces of aluminum extrusion he intended to melt into ingots for making other objects. See photo at right.



Safety Moment

A participant discussed how an associate drilled into an electrical junction box, hit a live circuit and melted the drill bit. The associate was unaware of the presence of the junction box. This scenario serves as a reminder to thoroughly inspect the area near the drilling site.

Another participant spoke of workers cutting wood and tile without safety glasses.

Problems and Solutions

A participant described and showed a video of his use of 3D printed pulley belts for his Unimat machine. A Unimat machine is a small lathe that converts, as needed, to a drill press, milling machine, grinder, and thread cutter, among other tools.

Another participant described how a 1/4-20 screw was substituted for a metric screw during the repair of a broken handle.