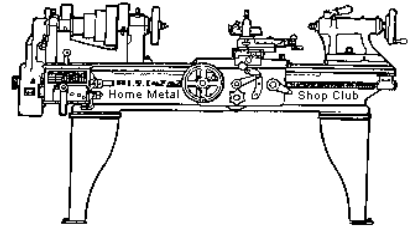




April 2026
Newsletter

Volume 31 - Number 04



<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

Treasurer
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 09 May 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 09 May 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 = 803 324 0248 Passcode = 314379. [Click here](#) to go to the Zoom 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.

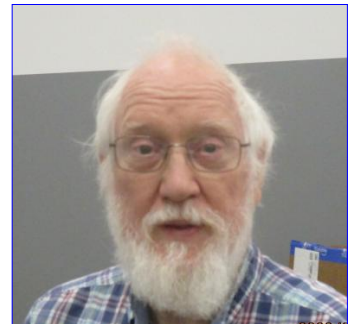
The club is looking for a member to serve as webmaster. After over twenty years of service, our current webmaster would like to pass the webmaster torch to a successor. Positions still vacant are vice-president and casting special interest group leader.

For those wishing to join the Tinkering user group please visit <https://groups.io/g/tinkering> and follow the prompts.

Recap of the 11 April 2026 General Meeting

By *Joe Sybille*

Twelve participants attended the meeting. Ten participants were in-person; two were on-line. Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo). Present at the meeting was newcomer Sid Clark. Welcome Sid. We hope that you become a regular participant at our meetings.

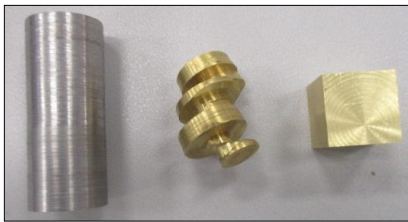


Presentation

Former Home Metal Shop Club (HMSC) president, George Carlson, gave a presentation on the machinery access control system (MACS) at a maker-space he founded with others, the MakerBarn. The system has been in use for about ten years, but replacement parts were no longer available. Consequently, the system required a redesign using available components.

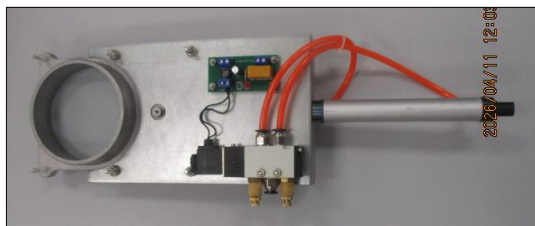
In practice, qualified users receive a RFID card to use a machine for which the user has demonstrated proficiency and proper machine safety protocols. Once the user's RFID card is inserted into the RFID reader, the user is able to turn on the machine to use. In addition to the update on the machine access control system, Carlson shared some of the current activities of the MakerBarn. The newsletter of the MakerBarn may be found at the following link: <https://themakerbarn.org/>

Show and Tell



Ray Lamprecht displayed several items he made. Unique about the device on the far left is the placement of ball bearing within the device. The device appears to be a solid piece of cylindrical stock. See photo at left.

Joe Sybille showed parts of a chandelier he intends to melt to make ingots for shaping on either a lathe or mill. The parts are believed to be brass. See photo at right.



George Carlson showed a blast gate typical of the kind installed in the dust collection system at the MakerBarn makerspace. See photo at left.

Safety Moment

A participant discussed how workers at his house used no personal protection equipment (PPE) when using a powered tile cutting saw.

Problems and Solutions

A participant described how changes were made to a recently acquired new lathe to make the machine functional. Out of the box, problems incurred included missing shims, misalignment of parts, and poorly finished mating surfaces.



A participant discussed the difficulty in using a tool bit to get a smooth surface on a machined part. Recommendations to resolve the problem included changing the radius on the cutting tool bit. See photo at left.