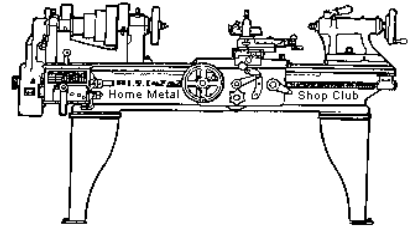




**May 2026**  
Newsletter

Volume 31 - Number 05



<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.

President  
*Dean Eicher*

Vice President  
*Vacant*

Secretary  
*Joe Sybille*

Treasurer  
*Joe Sybille*

Librarian  
*Dean Eicher*

Webmaster/Editor  
*Dick Kostelnicek*

Audio/Visual  
*Mark Heidorn*

CNC SIG  
*Martin Kennedy*

Casting SIG  
*Vacant*

Novice SIG  
*John Cooper*

## About the Upcoming 13 June 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 13 June 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 = 819 4283 5153, Passcode = 110485. [Click here for a link to the meeting.](#)

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## 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.

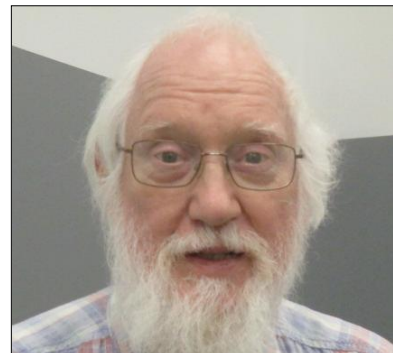
The club is looking for a member to serve as webmaster. After over twenty years of service, our current webmaster would like to pass the webmaster torch to a successor. Positions still vacant are vice-president and casting special interest group leader.

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

## Recap of the 09 May 2026 General Meeting

By *Joe Sybille*

Eight participants attended the meeting. Five participants were in-person; three were on-line. Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo). Present at the meeting were newcomers Steve Nolin and Tom Pelkey. Welcome Steve and Tom. We hope that you become regular participants at our meetings.

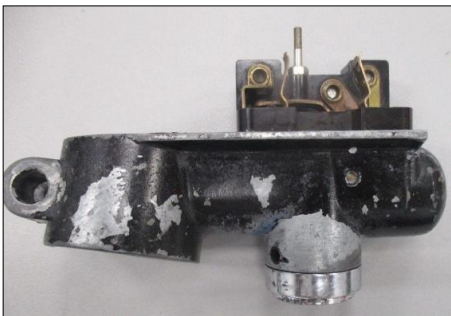


## Presentation

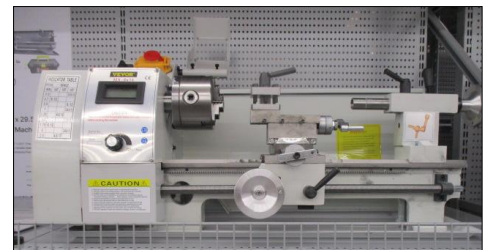
There was no formal presentation today. Instead, Club president, Dean Eicher, talked about the engine driving the cotton gin at the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton, Texas. Built in 1911 by the Tips Engine Works in San Antonio, Texas, the engine ran on steam. After several years of service, the owners converted the engine to run on oil from different sources. Initially installed without a muffler, when running, the engine could be heard for miles. Later, with the muffler installed, local residents were pleased with the not so loud operation of the cotton gin. Tours of the engine and cotton gin are offered year round. Once a year, the engine is started, and, some say, it is a spectacle to behold.

## Show and Tell

*Tom Pelkey* displayed a steering column ignition switch and lock for a 190 SL Mercedes automobile. Another similar ignition switch has a broken sleeve that fits around the steering column. Pelkey is interested in discovering the best way to repair the cracked sleeve. See photos below.



*Joe Sybille* showed images of lathes at a new machinery supply store on the north side of Houston. See photos below.



## **Safety Moment**

A participant discussed how a color blind electrician wired incorrectly a three-phase 480V delta connection. This resulted in an injury to a worker and equipment.

## **Problems and Solutions**

A participant described how he cut apart a bathroom vanity faucet valve stem. After cutting the plastic housing, he saw several different metal alloys joined together to make the valve. He requested suggestions on how the manufacturer may have assembled the valve stem. Several suggestions were offered.

Another participant wanted to know the best way to replace the rubber handles on a found set of lineman pliers. Several suggestions included PlastiDip, shrink wrap, and replacement handles softened in hot water, among others.