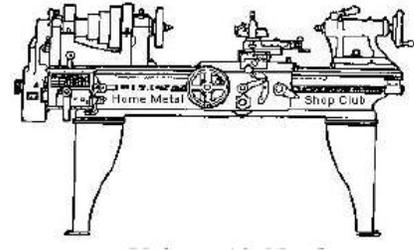




June  
2007

## Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 6



Visit Our Home Page [www.homemetalshopclub.org](http://www.homemetalshopclub.org)

**Statement of Purpose:** *Membership is open to all those interested in machining metal and tinkering with machines. The club provides a forum for the exchanging of ideas and information. This includes, to a large degree, education in the art of machine tools and practices. Our web site endeavors to bring into the public domain written information that the hobbyist can understand and use. This makes an organization such as this even more important.* -- Founder - John Korman (deceased)

<b>President</b>	<i>John Hoff</i>	<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Dick Kostelnicek</i>	<b>Webmaster</b>	<i>Gene Horr</i>	<b>SIG</b>	<i>Dennis Cranston</i>
<b>Vice President</b>	<i>Dennis Cranston</i>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Emmett Carstens</i>	<b>Librarian</b>	<i>Dennis Cranston</i>	<b>Coordinators</b>	<i>Richard Pichler</i>

### Next Meeting July 14, 2007

To Be Announced.

### Minutes of the June 9, 2007 Meeting

by Gene Horr

#### Business Meeting

The business meeting was held at Lyndons BBQ prior to the regular meeting. No business was discussed.

#### General Meeting

Due to a special function at Collier Library the meeting this month took place at the Houston Area Live Steamers club site at Zube park. Despite the last minute change and the increased distance for many we still had a decent turnout of about two dozen members and a couple of visitors.

Larry Powell from Rutlands was the main speaker. For many years Rutlands had a special relationship with this club being a premier local tooling and machinery supplier who offered discounts to club

members and had a friendly and very knowledgeable sales staff. In addition they used to have regular scratch & dent/overstock auctions that were very popular with the club members.

But changing ownership and staff changes has placed a dark pall over company. It started stocking less and less items and reach the point where they wouldn't even have common cutting tools in stock. Then the best known of the staff left and their replacements were not as well trained. Most members started

wandering over to competitors and Rutlands turned into a four letter word in some member's minds.

To Mr. Powell's credit he acknowledged the problems of the past. They are trying to work to build the company back to the quality of days past. He talked about what Rutlands is doing to improve things, primarily at first to build the stock back up to where it should be.

Despite murmurs of tar and feathers when the meeting was originally announced the club was polite and most members appeared to be willing to give them another chance.

Rutlands is offering a 10% discount off catalog price to all members as they did in the past for all club members. For June this discount will be 15% for everything but machinery and special orders.



In the future he is trying to bring back the Saturday auctions. These will be by invitation only for their best customers which include club members.

Dennis Cranston then gave a presentation discussing the history of HALS and a tour of the facilities. You can find more information with better pictures at <http://www.hals.org>.

The small scale track is the latest addition. Here it is in operation with a live steam engine:



The roundhouse and turntable:



Car storage building:



Photo showing both scale and the detail on the cars:



A train in action:



Looking into the engine storage building:



Doug Blodgett showing off parts for his 1/8 scale Mikado steam locomotive:



Gasoline driven engine with its clothes off:



Visitor Scott Vegte of DSE is showing a product from his latest venture, a machine that does 3D prototyping.



The meeting finished with a live metal casting demonstration by Ray Etheridge. As the final product was to be a surprise I did not get pictures of the mold forming process.

The furnace was a model of simplicity and economy. It is a standard turkey fryer/crawfish boiler setup with the bottom cut out of the pot and everything filled in with fiberfax.

Final steps on the mold:



Putting the furnace together:



Light the fire, put in the crucible, then add ingots:



Let cook for 15-20 minutes:



Dress in armor, stirring occasionally, and dip out the dross. Allow those more foolhardy types to peer closely:



Remove when ready and pour in your mold:



Be sure and have somewhere to dump the leftover!



The final product:



An aluminum toy Luger, from using an original 50's era toy!

Doing this will leave the sweat dripping off of your nose:



## Polishing Hints

By Rick Dulas

Problem: You've turned a beautiful arbor in the lathe, sanded it with 220 and 400 grit cloth-backed sandpaper, and now you want to polish it.

Potential solutions:

Take the piece to the buffing wheel and try not to put any dings or flat spots on the shaft while you hand hold the arbor against the buffing wheel(s).

Tell yourself "No one will see this but me, so why bother with polish?"

Polish it while it is still chucked in the lathe. Yeah, but we know what happens to polishing rags, (and the hands holding them) when they caught up in a spinning chuck.

Hint: The front of the sandpaper used to bring the arbor to a satin finish can also be used to polish the arbor.

Once you have applied the sandpaper to the piece and it is finished enough to polish, grab your bar of buffing compound. (Use whatever you think will do the job, tripoli, red rouge, white for stainless, black for "rough" work.) Apply a little of the buffing compound to the arbor that you want to polish. Turn the lathe on and use the **BACK** of the sand paper as the polishing rag.

The woven material that holds cloth-backed "sandpaper" together is very tough and the glue holding the sanding particles is built to take high temperatures. So there is no problem with strength and there are no loose ends that can be caught by the spinning chuck.

But you don't have any cloth-backed sandpaper? Do you have a belt sander? What are you doing with the old belts? Are you throwing out lots of good polishing cloth?