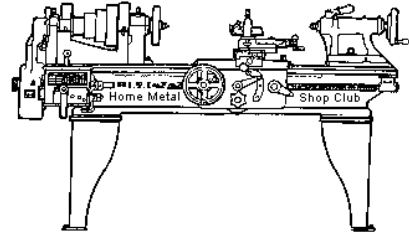




## September 2019

Newsletter

Volume 24 - Number 09



<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.

President  
*Brian Alley*

Vice President  
*Ray Thompson*

Secretary  
*Joe Sybille*

Treasurer  
*Gary Toll*

Librarian  
*Ray Thompson*

Webmaster/Editor  
*Dick Kostelnicek*

Photographer  
*Jan Rowland*

CNC SIG  
*Martin Kennedy*

Casting SIG  
*Tom Moore*

Novice SIG  
*John Cooper*

This newsletter is available as an electronic subscription from the front page of our [website](#). We currently have 1200 subscribers located all over the world.

## About the Upcoming 12 October 2019 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held on 12 October at 1:00 P. M. at the [Bayland Community Center](#), 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77074. Club member Joe Sybille will deliver a presentation on S/S Shieldhall.

Visit our [website](#) for up-to-the-minute details, date, location maps, and presentation topic for the next meeting.

## General Announcements

[Videos of recent meetings](#) can be viewed on the HMSC website.

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 Ray Thompson](#).

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 [Vice-President Ray Thompson](#).

**Reminder:** Annual dues of \$15.00 were due at the September meeting. Treasurer Gary Toll will accept cash or a check made payable to him.

Free for the taking are several items for casting metal. The caveat is that one must arrive by truck and have at least three able bodied persons to haul away the equipment. Available items are as follows: sand muller & 4 buckets of sand, furnace blower, wooden pattern stand, crucible tongs. 1 dozen metal flasks.

4 October 2019 is Manufacturing Day across the country. Consider visiting a local manufacturer or school offering exhibits. Search on-line for participating businesses and schools.

## Recap of the 14 September 2019 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille, with photos by Jan Rowland



Eighteen members attended the 1:00 P.M. meeting at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77074. One new member joined, Brian Sande. Welcome to the club, Brian. There are thirty-four members in good standing with the club.



Vice-President Ray Thompson led the meeting (right photo).

## Presentation



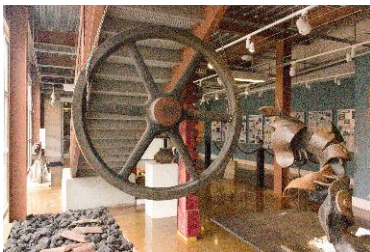
Club member Richard Douglas gave a presentation on his visit to Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, Alabama. Established in 1882 near what is now downtown Birmingham, the furnaces, under several different owners, produced pig iron from 1882 to 1971. Sloss Furnaces benefited from the growing industrial revolution. Pig iron converted to cast iron made practical the molding of complex shapes, such as stove plates, steam fittings, and valves, among other items.

Operation of the furnaces created a pollution hazard to the surrounding communities. Improvements to the furnaces proved too costly to comply with environmental regulations enacted to improve air quality. Economically, the production process could not remain commercially competitive and Sloss Furnaces

closed in 1971.

In 1982, the site of Sloss Furnaces became a National Historic Landmark. Today, visitors can walk through what is left of an industrial site once known as the largest producer of pig iron in the country. On site now is a visitor center opened in 2016. Classes are offered to teach members of the community casting, welding and forging. Special events such as concerts, meetings, banquets, and festivals are held on site. For more information visit: <https://www.slossfurnaces.com/>.

Below are some photos of the visitor and education center as well as rustic remains of the former industrial site. All photos were taken by Richard Douglas.





## Show and Tell



*Martin Kennedy* exhibited a dauber he made recently. On older lathes, daubers were used as an applicator to apply lubricant (usually white lead) to the center point on dead centers or half centers. See left photo.

*Norm Berls* showed an example of how he hollowed out knobs for the grinding jig he is building. See right photo.



*Dick Kostelnicek* displayed a non-contact voltage tester he acquired recently. See left photo.



*Richard Douglas* showed a VFD he acquired recently. The VFD is rated at 2.2 KW/3 HP and converts single phase to three phase at 220 VAC. See right photo.



*John Cooper* explained how he balanced a wheel on his band saw using a motor cycle balancing tool purchased from Harbor Freight. See left photo.

*Richard Pichler* donated to the library a paper copy of the club's Machine Tool Practices book along with a scanned copy of the book on a USB drive.

## Problems and Solutions

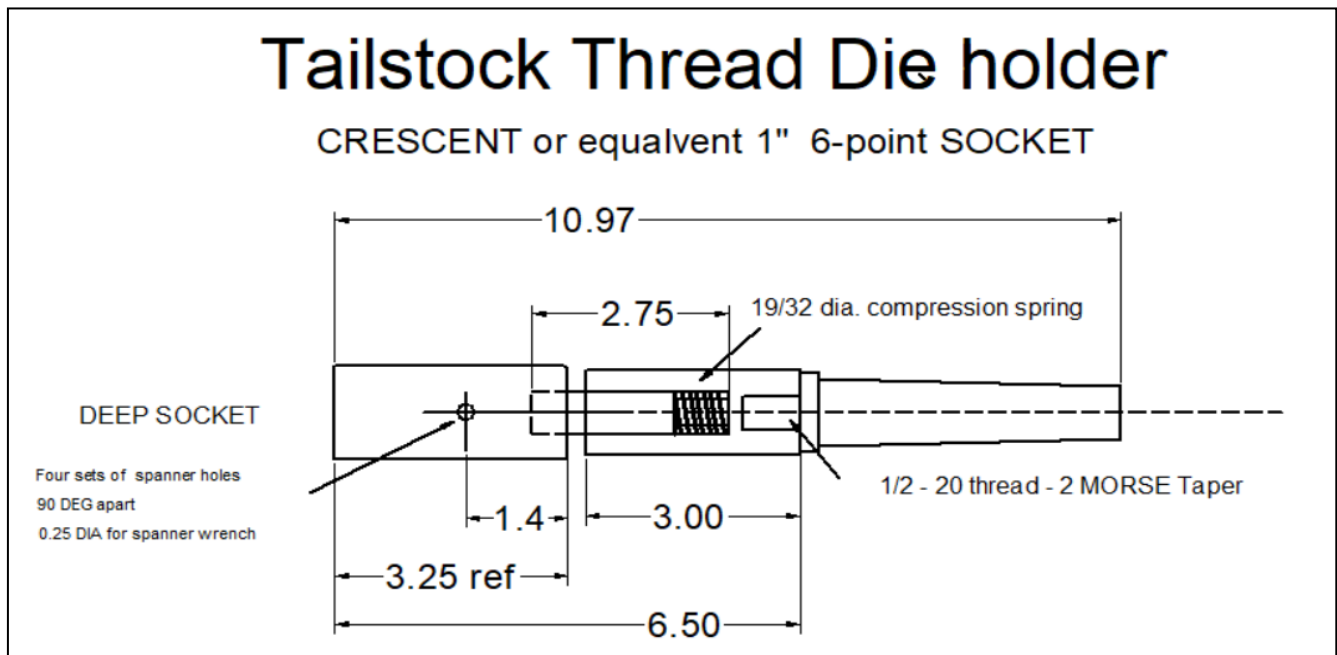
A member wanted to know the best lathe speed for cutting 1018 mild steel. Several suggestions were offered.

## Articles

### 1-Inch Die Tailstock Holder

By Ken Johnson - Bellefonte Pa

Cut down a Craftsman  $\frac{1}{2}$  in extension drive and a Crescent or equivalent 1 inch 6-point socket.





Sleeve used to position the die in the socket. (right photos)

The cut down spring is a great help in positioning the tailstock and die against the work. (photo below)



Use with either a standard or deep socket. You can use a spanner wrench or make a handle as shown in the previous version. (left photo)

My previous version: Had the handle thru the socket extension. (photo below)

