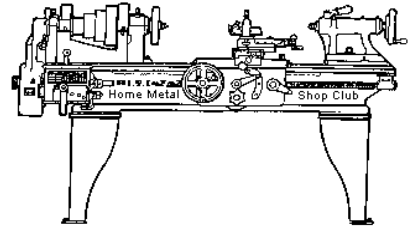




**January 2025**  
Newsletter

Volume 30 - Number 01



<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 <i>Vacant</i>	Vice President <i>Vacant</i>	Secretary <i>Joe Sybille</i>	Treasurer <i>Joe Sybille</i>	Librarian <i>Mark Counterman</i>
Webmaster/Editor <i>Dick Kostelnicek</i>	Audio/Visual <i>Mark Heidorn</i>	CNC SIG <i>Martin Kennedy</i>	Casting SIG <i>Vacant</i>	Novice SIG <i>John Cooper</i>

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 08 February 2025 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 08 February 2025 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon) 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.

## 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 Mark Counterman](#).

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. Also, the club is looking for a volunteer to serve as president, vice-president, and casting special interest group leader.

## Recap of the 11 January 2025 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Ten participants attended the 12:00 P.M. meeting at TxRxLabs (left photo). Eight participants were in person and two participants attended virtually. John Cooper led the meeting (right photo).



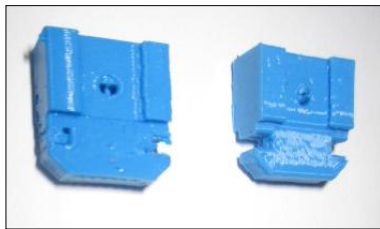
The treasurer's report on the current finances of the club was presented. Dues are still suspended until further notice.

## Presentation

There was no formal presentation. Instead, there was a discussion among the meeting participants pertaining to what changes the club could make to attract new members. In the end, the participants requested that Mark Counterman investigate how the club could benefit from an association with an on-line blogger.

## Show and Tell

*John Cooper* described and showed a part he made for a rock cutting saw (right photo).



*Mark Heidorn* explained and showed a part he 3D printed for a slide projector he repaired (left photo).

*Dean Eicher* showed another modified C-clamp for hinge pin removal. He replaced the original threaded rod with one having sturdier threads and shaped one end to receive a wrench socket for easier tightening of the clamp. Then he described the difficulty he experienced removing threaded fittings on a metal support from a piece of furniture (right photo).



## Safety Moment

A video showed an inexperienced person using a hack saw to cut wood. Chips were not flying toward the person's unprotected face, but the metal cutting hack saw blade was likely becoming clogged with sap, rendering it useless for cutting metal.

## Problems and Solutions

A participant revealed a mistake made years ago with the purchase of a small plastic container of Liquid Wrench. After a few years of use, the container spent more time resting on a shelf than it did in

use. During a recent use, the participant accidentally knocked over the container causing it to land on a cement floor. Upon landing, the container shattered into pieces spilling its oily contents. The participant requested suggestions on how to avoid this scenario in the future. Suggestions offered included purchasing like products in metal cans.

## Article

### **Tool and Project Creep, a story of a fence** *by John Cooper*

Background: I married Jill, my second wife, sold my house and moved into her house. The house had a two car carport with a small workshop and tool shed attached to it as well as a greenhouse that covered the patio and pool. I took down the carport because the gravel roof kept leaking, and I also removed the workshop and tool shed. We had an 825 square foot garage put up that abutted the greenhouse. Later, I noticed that the wood rafters were rotting because the fiberglass roof was leaking so I took down the greenhouse. First tool purchase: a Milwaukee Sawzall to be able to cut through the 4" x 8" rough cut wood beams.

Since we no longer had the greenhouse to keep out prying eyes we needed to put up a tall fence. The greenhouse was supported by a 12" wide x 18" deep footer, and I thought I would rent a magnetic hole drill and 6" diamond hole saw to make holes in the footer for the fence posts. However, I had no way to hold the mag drill to the concrete, so I ended up putting the fence posts on the inside edge of the footers, as putting them on the outside would have exceeded the easement line. Next purchase: a posthole digger. First project creep: When I started to dig the first hole I discovered that the cement had gotten under the bottom of the form boards for the footers. I was going to have to remove the cement so my next purchase was a Bosch SDS hammer drill. Shortly afterwards, I found out that the available punches for the hammer drill were not long enough so I purchased a long rock chisel. I dressed the end of the rock chisel and, using my Smithy Lathe Mill Drill, drilled a 1/2" hole 3 inches deep into the rock chisel. The working end of the air hammer punch is 4" long. I was now able to insert the working end of the air hammer punch into the rock chisel and weld them together. Doing so gave me a rock chisel 18" long. My next purchase was a fence post level which used a rubber band to keep it attached to the post. I also bought a line level.

Everyone who has installed a cedar fence is aware that the cedar pickets shrink over time. There are many ways to overcome the problem, but I chose to rabbet each picket so they overlapped – it was a cleaner look. I had purchased a router and router table to make wood boxes, but I found it made short work of getting the pickets done. My router got quite a workout as I ran over 3000 feet of lumber through it. I am not very good at making square cuts with a Skil circular saw so my next purchase was a DeWalt chop saw, and it surely came in handy in cutting off the dog ears on the approximately 190 pickets.

When I started putting the pickets up I discovered that there were some hard areas in the pressure treated wood, and I could not put in the aluminum nails without bending some. I was going to have to drill holes for every nail (next project creep). Trying to work with a corded drill and extension cord

around a swimming pool can be done, but I decided to get a cordless 12V DeWALT drill instead. I almost completed all the fence nailing before I had to charge the drill battery.

Now we come to my latest project involving the fence: making supports for the fence posts after the last hurricane caused the fence to lean worse than it had from previous storms. Previously, I had attempted to pull the fence upright by screwing shed hold down anchors in the dirt and running a ratchet strap to the fence and anchor; however, heavy rain softened the soil so much the anchors pulled out. One of the anchors was replaced by drilling a hole in the footer and installing a forged screw eye in a drop-in anchor. The other two locations would require digging fairly large holes beside the footers to put in anchors so I propped up the fence with 2 x 4s until I could weld up something. I had not gone to very much trouble to put up something to have the 2 x 4s push against when the last hurricane caused the supports to come loose, as I only used wood screws to hold the angle iron in place.

While I did not need to purchase another tool for this latest fence project, I bought a battery powered DeWALT 20V SDS hammer drill as I already have batteries and chargers. In order to straighten up the fence, I had made extensions for my Harbor Freight (HF) version of a Porto-Power (previous show and tell). I originally had put up some perforated angle iron to use for something to push against with the HF ram. It turned out to be too flimsy, and I ended up using my HF horizontal band saw to cut up some heavy angle iron and my mill to drill the holes for the lag screws. I made great use of my new 3/8" DeWALT impact gun to drive the lag screws; however, I had to use it with care as I twisted off the head of the first (Chinese?) lag screw.

My revised plan to hold the fence up uses columns bolted to the footer and tied to the fence posts with all thread. Some additional purchases helped with aligning the hole in the fence and drilling the hole through the picket and fence post: I recently bought an adjustable miniature level, which helped line up the drill bit horizontally, an 8 inch drill bit acquired as part of a bin full of drill bits, and a 12" drill bit purchased for a previous project.

