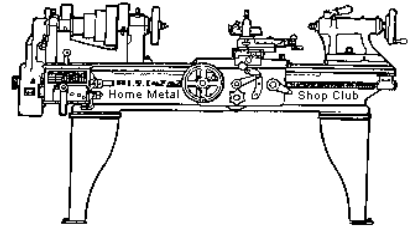




**June 2025**  
Newsletter

Volume 30 - Number 06



<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  
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*Dick Kostelnicek*

Audio/Visual  
*Mark Heidorn*

CNC SIG  
*Martin Kennedy*

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 12 July 2025 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 12 July 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 = 821 6983 6641 Passcode = 037027.

## 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. Dean Eicher has agreed to serve as club president. Thanks Dean. Positions still vacant are vice-president and casting special interest group leader.

## Recap of the 14 June 2025 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Five participants attended the 12:00 P.M. meeting at TxRxLabs. Three participants were in person and two participants attended virtually via Zoom. President Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo).



## Presentation

Two YouTube videos were shown today. The first video gave a brief comparison between joining techniques of a copper boiler for model railroad engines. Two techniques were compared, silver solder and TIG welding. See the link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fbD\\_SvF\\_f0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fbD_SvF_f0)

The second video described the challenges of a person determined to make a BBQ grill scrubber from American made parts. Despite his good intentions and after four years of construction and testing, he could not do so. Of the nine parts for the scrubber, one part was still made outside the country. See the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZTGwcHQfLY>

## Show and Tell

*Mark Heidorn* showed two short videos clips. One depicted a novel way of creating a whirlpool bath and the other featured a slow tractor race. That's correct. The slowest one to the finish line wins!

*Joe Sybille* showed a video depicting the construction of Renzetti Blocks. These support blocks are similar to 123 blocks, but they have additional features useful in the shop. For more information, visit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxVPM08jnGM>

## Safety Moment

A participant described how forgetting routine procedures can lead to disastrous results. As an example, the participant shared the story of the ill-fated landing of an airplane previously granted clearance to land. When on the landing approach, the control tower told the pilot to abort and to circle the airfield until debris could be removed from the runway. When given final clearance to land, the pilot forgot to lower the landing gear and, consequently, landed the airplane on its belly.

A second example of failing to follow routine procedures almost got someone seriously hurt. At a military air show, where visitors were allowed to touch the airplanes on exhibit, someone forgot to disable the ejection seat controls. Needless to say, when a visitor unknowingly pushed or pulled the wrong lever, and the ejection seat activated, someone could have been seriously injured.

## Problems and Solutions

A participant described how a split cotter works better to hold a fixture on a round column. A picture of a split cotter is shown at right.

