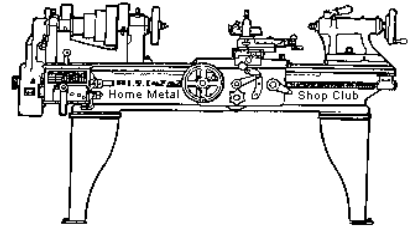




September 2025
Newsletter

Volume 30 - Number 09



<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.

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Dean Eicher

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary
Joe Sybille

Treasurer
Joe Sybille

Librarian
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Webmaster/Editor
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 11 October 2025 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 11 October 2025 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon - Central Standard Time) at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 **and** on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows: Meeting ID = 863 5448 5429 Passcode = 907180. A link to the meeting is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86354485429?pwd=Y60BZab9UqEpbzGHLUTuSyxyssFOIz.1>

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!

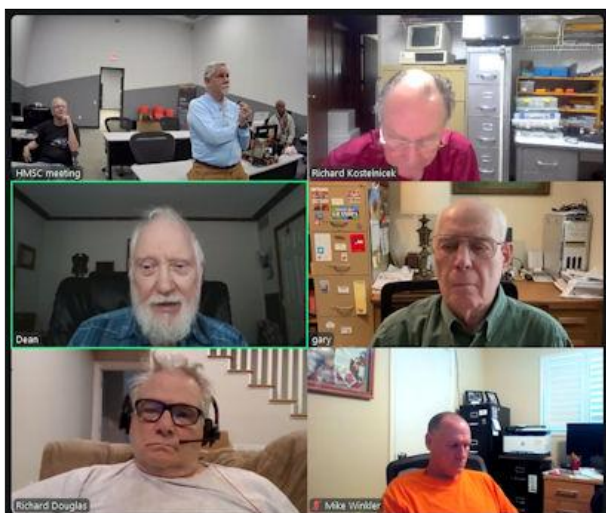
Ideas for programs at our monthly meeting are always welcomed. If you have an idea for a meeting topic, or if you know someone that could make a presentation, please contact [Secretary Joe Sybille](#).

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.

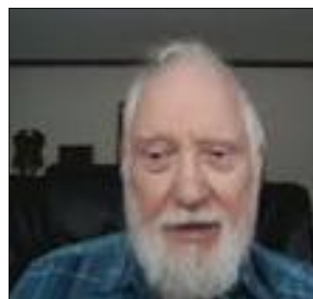
The club is looking for a member to serve as webmaster. After over twenty years of service, our current webmaster would like to pass the webmaster torch to a successor. Dean Eicher has agreed to serve as club president. Thanks Dean. Positions still vacant are vice-president and casting special interest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

Recap of the 13 September 2025 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille



Nine participants attended the 12:00 P.M. (Central Daylight Time) meeting online and at the TxRxLabs facility. Four attended in person and five virtually on Zoom.us (left photo). Dean Eicher led the meeting (photo below).



Presentation

John Cooper gave a talk on the experiences he enjoyed during a recent road trip. While on the road trip he visited several museums. Among those visited were the WWII museum in New Orleans, LA, the Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, AL, the Wright Museum in Dayton, OH, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force near Dayton, OH, and the exhibit of a Landing Ship Tank in Evansville, IN.

At the WWII museum, Cooper saw a replica of a landing craft that was used during WWII. He showed a short film about the landing craft. At the Sloss Furnaces, he learned how iron had been produced there for nearly a century. Also, he learned the differences between coke and coal, even though the two are similar in appearance. At the Wright museum, Cooper saw vintage metalworking machinery such as a powered hacksaw and a belt driven drill press. At a site in Evansville, IN he saw a landing ship tank that saw service in WWII. See photos are shown below.



Show and Tell

Joe Sybille showed a small steel mallet that came with a storage shelf unit. The mallet served to assist with the assembly of the shelf unit. Unique about the mallet is that the end faces are screwed into the head and are replaceable. See photos at right.



Richard Douglas showed pictures of new chuck jaws he made from a grinding wheel. Also, he shared pictures of a lever arm he made for a vintage 36" planer. See photos below.



Dean Eicher spoke about the challenges he faced when replacing the CPVC piping to a water heater pressure relief valve.

Mark Heidorn showed a picture of a restored Santa Fe 484 coal fired steam locomotive. He took the photo at the Science & Technology Museum of Albuquerque, New Mexico. See photo at right.

Safety Moment

A participant described how a relative's car became engulfed in flames after a test run following prolonged storage in a garage. It is believed the fire started in the engine compartment. Nest made by rodents likely served as the fuel for the fire. The hot engine provided the ignition source. The safety lesson here is to ensure machinery that has been out of service for a lengthy period is checked for fitness for return to service.

Problems and Solutions

A participant requested suggestions on restoring to service a condenser compressor motor after a brief shutdown.