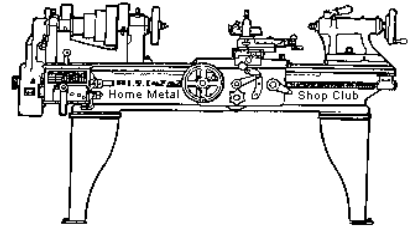




January 2026
Newsletter

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<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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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 14 February 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 14 February 2026 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 = 892 5580 6406 Passcode = 935350 [Direct Web Link](#)

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 10 January 2026 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Before the presentation, club president Dean Eicher revealed he delivered several of the 4"x6" business cards to the owner of Electronics Parts Outlet (EPO) on Fondren Street. EPO sells assorted electrical and mechanical parts and tools for hobbyist and DIYers and deserves local Houston community support. Six participants attended in person and one attended virtually on Zoom.us (middle photo). Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo).



Presentation

Participants at the meeting today viewed a short video on Inconel and how it is made. Inconel is a nickel based alloy that is used in jet engines, nuclear reactors, and deep sea exploration equipment, among other uses. Unique about Inconel is that when exposed to high temperatures it forms a protective oxide layer. Another advantage of Inconel is its high strength to weight ratio. A notable disadvantage of Inconel is its high cost, but that is outweighed by the reliability of the material in extremely hostile environments. The nine minute video may be viewed at the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdd8x_NizEs

Show and Tell

John Cooper displayed a pull back ram tool he will use to straighten the bent metal steps of his pop-up trailer. See photo at right.

Joe Sybille told about a news story reporting a novel way to recycle unwanted electronic devices to recover precious metal such as gold, palladium and platinum.



Safety Moment

Participants viewed a video on a worker who sustained a fatal injury by fashioning a bench grinder from scrap parts and an electric motor. After mounting an unknown defective grinding wheel on the shaft of the motor and starting the motor, the rotating grinding wheel disintegrated and the parts struck the worker causing fatal injuries. Significant about this injury is that it is unknown if the worker tested the grinding wheel for soundness. This is typically done using a 'ring' test whereby the wheel is struck to produce a certain sound. It appears the makeshift grinder had no wheel guard in place to protect the worker in case the wheel disintegrated.

Problems and Solutions

During a welding operation, a participant noticed the electrode feed rate was too slow for proper weld deposition. The participant described the adjustments made to the wire spool friction brake to correct the feed rate.