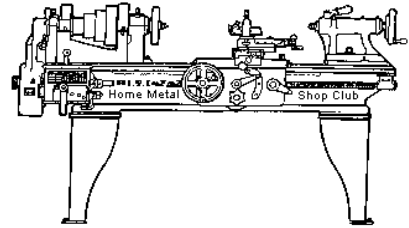




July 2026 Newsletter

Volume 31 - Number 07



<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
Dean Eicher

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary
Joe Sybille

Treasurer
Joe Sybille

Librarian
Dean Eicher

Webmaster/Editor
Dick Kostelnicek

Audio/Visual
Mark Heidorn

CNC SIG
Martin Kennedy

Casting SIG
Vacant

Novice SIG
John Cooper

About the Upcoming 08 August 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 08 August 2026 at 12:00 P.M. (Noon - Central Daylight Time) at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 **and** on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows: Meeting ID = 873 3612 2396 Passcode = 056385. A web link to the meeting is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87336122396?pwd=vzeCRa1ivY4kT9b6YZ0oB3EBWowXJC.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. Positions still vacant are vice-president and casting special interest group leader.

For those wishing to join the Tinkering user group please visit <https://groups.io/g/tinkering> and follow the prompts.

Recap of the 11 July 2026 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Eight participants attended the meeting. Six participants were in-person; two were on-line. Joe Sybille led the meeting. Present at the meeting was newcomer Zack Momin. Welcome Zack. We hope that you become a regular participant at our meetings.



Presentation

The presentation today was a video by Artisan Makes. In the video, the speaker recommended and described six lathe projects for beginners. The projects included a half center, scriber, machinist hammer, tap follower, tail stock die holder, and carriage stop. View the presentation at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkPde5gQYfE>

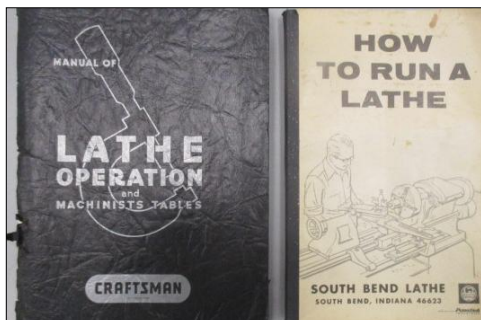
Show and Tell



John Cooper displayed a shock absorbing equalizer and the modifications he made to fit the equalizer to the leaf springs and his travel trailer. In use, the equalizer is used to moderate the affects of road bumps as the trailer rolls along the road. See photo at left.



Mark Heidorn showed a circuit board he populated with surface mount components. See photo at right.



Emmett Cartens showed two books on the subject of using a lathe. See photo at left.

Safety Moment

Participants viewed a short video on the shop safety. The video may be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW6a1TlqjxA>.

Problems and Solutions

A participant spoke about how two mag wheels on the same side of the vehicle were damaged after hitting a curb. Both tires on the wheels were punctured. With two flat tires and one spare tire, what was the driver to do? The solution: Use the spare to replace the damaged rear wheel. Next, use the jack to raise the front axle and remove the wheel. Leave the front axle resting on the jack when taking the two damaged wheels to the shop for replacement and new tires.

Article

Tiny Boroscope

by Martin Kennedy

I bought a new tool last year that I really like. It's a tiny boroscope that works with your cell phone. I have an inexpensive large boroscope with a dedicated display and a long cable snake that I bought to look behind walls. It works well for that, but I tend to use this one more often.



The diameter of the tip is about $11/64$ ", or 4.3mm. The shaft is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long. It has a ring light around the camera. It charges with USB-C.

The boroscope originally had a small spoon made into the tip. It's sold to clean wax out your ear. (In this use, it's called an otoscope.) I chucked it in the lathe, and carefully cut off the spoon.

I downloaded and installed the "SoulEar" software on my Android. There's an iOS version. In use, it talks to the phone using WiFi (not Bluetooth). I thought this might be a problem, but it's very easy to pair, and it releases the connection when it's turned off.



Pressing the single button will take a photo. The pictured at the left is a screw on a rotating shaft inside a housing that has to be aligned with a hole in the housing to tighten and loosen the shaft coupler. It's really dark down the hole, but the boroscope makes it very easy to get it aligned. I've found other uses for it around the shop. I even used it to look in the back of my mouth after I had a wisdom tooth extracted to see how it was healing. Here's a [link](#) to the boroscope on Amazon. You can get them for \$5 - \$10. The one I have is unbranded, but it looks just like ones from other companies.