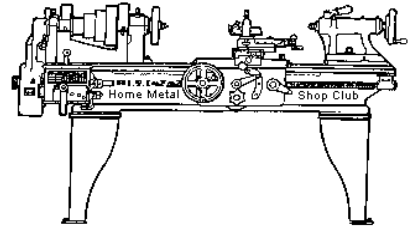




August 2026 Newsletter

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<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.

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Secretary
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Joe Sybille

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Casting SIG
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John Cooper

This newsletter is available as an electronic subscription from the front page of our [website](http://www.homemetalshopclub.org/). There are over 1027 subscribers located around the world.

About the Upcoming 12 September 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 12 September 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 = 839 4869 0031 Passcode = 913646. [A link to the meeting](#)

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 08 August 2026 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

Six participants attended the meeting. Four of the participants were in-person; two were on-line. Joe Sybille led the meeting (standing at left in right photo below). Present at the meeting was newcomer Nathan Rasch. Welcome Nathan. We hope that you become a regular participant at our meetings.



Presentation

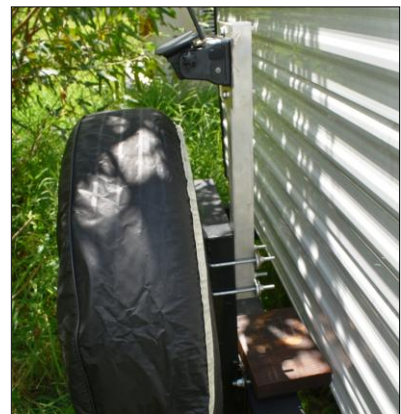
Joe Sybille gave a presentation today on casting aluminum. Pictures were shown of the casting process used. Source materials for the casting were a discarded aluminum automotive engine intake manifold and the remnants of an aluminum framework for a residential shower. Two meltings were conducted, one for the intake manifold and one for the aluminum framework.

The castings created from the intake manifold had a smoother finish than the ones created from the aluminum framework. Even though the finish of both castings was rough, there is a noticeable difference between the surface roughness of the two groups of castings.

The goal of making the castings was to acquire aluminum stock for future projects. The usefulness of the castings has yet to be determined.

Show and Tell

John Cooper displayed a new torque wrench fitted with a digital readout. Also, Cooper explained and showed how he fashioned a support bracket to the spare tire bracket. The support bracket is used to attach a backup camera for his travel trailer. See photos left and below.



Mark Heidorn showed photos of vintage cars. The photos were taken during a recent visit to the Museum of American Speed in Lincoln, Nebraska. See photos at right and below.



Safety Moment

Participants were reminded to use a sacrificial wooden push piece when manually pushing metal into the teeth of a vertical bandsaw blade.

Problems and Solutions

A participant mention the replacement of a malfunctioning a/c control board was the solution to returning a residential a/c system to normal operations. The solution offered by a/c contractors was to replace the entire unit for thousands of dollars.

Articles

Casting Aluminum Ingots *by Joe Sybille*

A no longer needed aluminum intake manifold and a remolded bath shower served as the motivation for this project. The manifold once served atop an engine gifted years ago. A recent bath remodel provided extruded aluminum framing destined for the local metal recycler. Instead of taking the manifold and the framing to the recycler, I chose to recycle the pieces myself by melting them into ingots for future metal working projects. This article recounts the process of making the ingots.

The pieces of the shower framing and the manifold had to be cut into smaller pieces to fit in the crucible. After making the cuts (see photos below), the pieces of the manifold were placed in a crucible, melted, and the molten manifold poured into the flask containing the hollowed shapes for the castings. Details of preparing the flasks have been omitted for brevity. See photos below.



Next, pieces of the shower framing were placed in a crucible, melted, and poured into a another flask containing hollowed shapes for the castings. See those photos below.



There is a difference in finish between the two castings. Even though not apparent to the untrained eye, one can feel the difference in rough surface finish. The castings made from the manifold are smoother.

