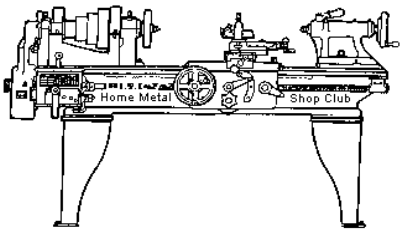
October 2026
Newsletter

Volume 31 - Number 10



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	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Librarian
Dean Eicher	*Vacant*	*Joe Sybille*	*Joe Sybille*	*Dean Eicher*
Webmaster/Editor	**Audio/Visual**	**CNC SIG**	**Casting SIG**	**Novice SIG**
Dick Kostelnicek	*Mark Heidorn*	*Martin Kennedy*	*Vacant*	*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 November 2026 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 14 November 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 = 836 8958 8721 Passcode = 837727 A link to the meeting is: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83689588721?pwd=SgaVdAokr4QeEVQE2mz6mNfHUusHaU.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 10 October 2026 General Meeting

By *Joe Sybille*

Ten participants attended the meeting. Six participants were in-person; four were on-line. Dean Eicher led the meeting (right photo below-third from right). There were two visitors, Brandon Pew and Dennis Baker. Welcome Brandon and Dennis. We look forward to seeing you again at the meetings.





Presentation

There was no presentation today.

Show and Tell



Dean Eicher displayed a battery powered drill by Ryobi that was sold as 'blemished'. Not one of the meeting participants could identify the blemish. See photo at right.

John Cooper described how he made from ABS plastic a replacement lid for a rock tumbler. He began by applying blue painters tape to the exposed side of his lathe mounted faceplate. Next, he applied blue painters tape on one side of a piece of scrap ABS plastic. Using 3M High Strength 90 Contact Adhesive, he bonded together the two taped surfaces. The center of the plastic piece was of little interest, as the main interest was in sufficient plastic stock for the diameter of the lid. Light cuts through the 0.125" thick plastic took patience, no more than two thousandths at a time. After several passes, blue tape appeared at the cutter's edge and it was time to stop. Shown below are pictures of the plastic mounted on the faceplate, the finished lid, and the homemade rock tumbler.







Mark Heidorn showed the bounty of CNC parts he acquired at a recent auction. See photo at right.



Joe Sybille showed and shared with the in-person participants aluminum ingots he made using the foundry at TxRxLabs. He asked those receiving the ingots to finish the surface of the ingots and to share the results with the group. See photo at right.



Safety Moment

Participants were cautioned to be on the lookout for distracted drivers. In today's social climate, drivers are easily distracted by cell phone usage and fiddling with the infotainment screen present in many vehicles on the road.

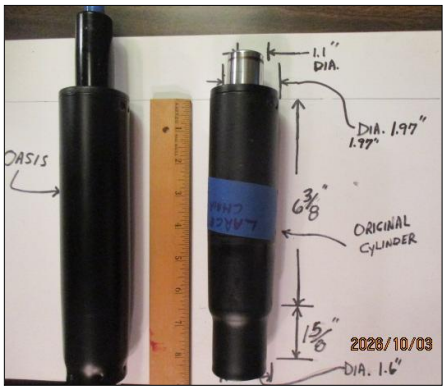
Problems and Solutions

A participant described how tarnished found coins were cleaned by using in a tumbler blasting sand, stainless steel shot pellets, walnut shells, acquarium gravel, and Ivory soap.

The same participant described how a used dryer belt enabled the removal of a left-handed threaded engine bolt. See photo at right.



Another participant described how taking apart a commercially built device can be accomplished without breaking the assembly. The key is to examine the assembly closely and to take one's time.



Another participant described the challenges encountered while trying to replace a leaky hydraulic chair cylinder. Replacement cylinders were requested for two different chairs. Both chairs, even though of different size, used the same size cylinders tapered at one end to fit in the chair base. Shown at left are the original cylinder and a new one. The new one had to be returned for one tapered at the base. It is best to remove the original cylinder completely before requesting a new one. That way accurate size and any tapers can be noted.

Open Discussion

A participant raised the issue of measuring instruments. During the reading of a book 'Midnight in Chernobyl', investigators discovered dosimeters were not designed to read large doses of radiation. The lesson learned here is that one must be aware of the limitations of the measuring device at hand.