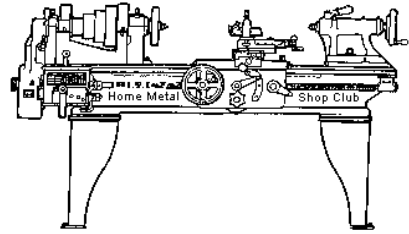




## July 2023 Newsletter

Volume 28 - Number 07



<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 <i>Vacant</i>	Vice President <i>Ray Thompson</i>	Secretary <i>Joe Sybille</i>	Treasurer <i>Joe Sybille</i>	Librarian <i>Ray Thompson</i>
Webmaster/Editor <i>Dick Kostelnicek</i>	Photographer <i>Vacant</i>	CNC SIG <i>Martin Kennedy</i>	Casting SIG <i>Vacant</i>	Novice SIG <i>John Cooper</i>

This newsletter is available as an electronic subscription from the front page of our [website](#). We currently have over 1027 subscribers located all over the world.

### About the Upcoming 12 August 2023 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 12 August 2023 at 1:00 P.M. on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows: Meeting ID = 844 8651 9175 Passcode = 075569 .

## 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 Ray Thompson](#).

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 [Vice-President Ray Thompson](#).

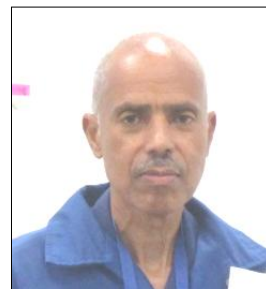
Members are requested to submit to the club secretary the name, address, telephone number, and website address, if any, of any metal or other material stock supplier with whom the member has had any favorable dealings. A listing of the suppliers will appear on the homepage of the club website. Suppliers will be added from time to time as appropriate.

The club is looking for a member to serve as webmaster. After over ten years of service, our current webmaster would like to pass the webmaster torch to a successor.

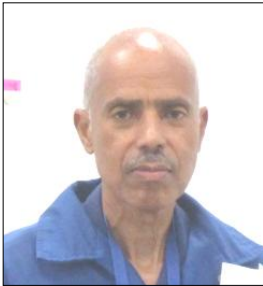
## Recap of the 08 July 2023 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille

There were six participants attending the 1:00 P.M. meeting in person and five attending virtually via Zoom.us. Secretary Joe Sybille led the meeting (right photo).



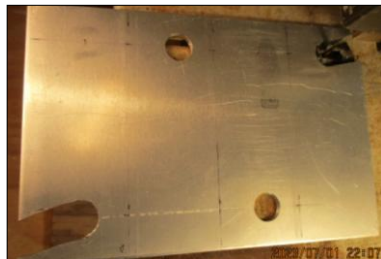
## Presentation



Club member Joe Sybille gave a presentation on his making brackets to mount wire spools between studs in his workshop. A simple project, of course, but necessary to free up corner floor space in his workshop. With a scrap piece of 1/8" thick aluminum plate approximately 5"x8", he marked four 2" sections. Near the ends of each bracket, two contained a slot and two contained a hole. The wire spools have a 3/4" hole in the center. It is through this center hole a one half inch diameter dowel will be threaded to support the wire spools. One end of the dowel would rest in the bracket with the slot and the other end would rest in the bracket with the hole. Small diameter mounting holes were drilled into each bracket. Sybille cut the plate in his workshop with a bench top band saw.

Unfortunately for him, after making the slots, the bandsaw began to slip and would no longer cut the aluminum plate. There was no time to troubleshoot the problem. Out came the reliable jigsaw. With a metal cutting blade installed, two cuts were made without any delay. The third cut posed a problem.

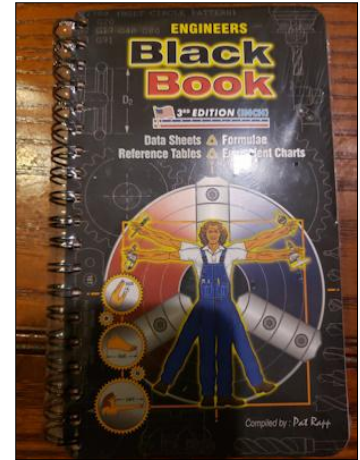
Mounting the aluminum plate on a garden bench proved convenient and, since it was outside in the bright daylight, he had no problem seeing the cut lines to follow. For the third cut, however, mounting of the plate left no room for the baseplate of the jigsaw. Out came a tool that seldom fails, the hacksaw. After the last cut, brackets were screwed to the inside surfaces of adjacent studs. Wire spools were mounted clearing floor space in the corner. See pictures below.





## Show and Tell

*Richard Douglas* showed pictures of a re-organized wall in his workshop, parts for building a power assist for his benchtop mill x-axis, and a copy of the Engineers Black Book he won after entering the on-line sweepstakes for the Bar-Z Summer Bash. See photos below.



*Joe Sybille* exhibited a picture of a high-tech automobile battery charger. The charger has a lithium ion battery that is recharged via USB cable. See photo at left.

*John Cooper* showed additional pictures of the mobile garden seat he modified and a picture of an adjustable pole he made to prop up a leaning fence.

Cooper used two housings from used gas struts along with machined connectors to extend the length of the pole. Keeping the fence upright until the fence post can be repaired/replaced is an adjustable strap attached at one end to a hook at the top of the fence post. The other end is attached to a shed anchor buried in the ground. Cooper made an adapter to use his impact wrench to drive the anchor in the ground. See photos at right and bottom.





*Dean Eicher* exhibited a file he used to assist with shortening the length of 40 studs 1" long threaded 6-32. Thread length was 1/2". Stud material was 18-8 stainless steel and too hard to cut 40 pieces with bolt

cutting pliers. It is likely the pliers would have dulled before finishing the job. His lathe cut-off tools were too wide for the small diameter studs. To shorten the threaded ends, Eicher clamped each stud, one by one, in a 9/64" collet. With the lathe motor off, and using a small double edge knife file, he turned the collet by hand. Within two or three turns, the knife file cut through the fine thread of the stud. Touch up of the cut end with a file ensured easy threading of the stud. See photo at left.

*Rich Pichler* exhibited a 'Do-Nothing' device that had threads on the same shaft that changed from right handed to left handed. A descending nut on the shaft demonstrated the cleverness of the device. See photo at right.



## **Safety Moment**

A participant cautioned others about the dangers posed by using a bandsaw. Stay attentive to the task at hand. Always ensure fingers are kept away from the turning blade.

## **Problems and Solutions**

Recommendations were given to the presenter on other ways the aluminum plate could have been mounted to make the last cut.